

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE	25, 26, 26
ALBION PARK RAIL BYPASS	59
ASSENT TO BILLS	26
ASSISTANT-SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	22
AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS	28
BALMAIN ELECTORATE	56
BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE CENTENARY OF ANZAC COMMEMORATION	57
BATHURST BICENTENARY	52
BATLOW CIDERFEST	50
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	44
CENTENARY OF ANZAC	30, 53
CODE OF CONDUCT	43
COFFS HARBOUR ELECTORATE CROWN LAND	58
COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER PLEDGE OF LOYALTY, OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE	19
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	28
COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION	30
DATES AND TIMES OF SITTINGS	30
DEATH OF PATRICK ALLAN ROGAN, A FORMER MEMBER FOR EAST HILLS	25
DEPUTY-SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	21
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW TEAM	27
DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE	73
FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE	72
FORESTRY ACT: REVOCATION OF DEDICATION	25
GENERAL ELECTION OF MEMBERS	19
GOVERNOR'S SPEECH	25
GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY	45
GREAT OCEAN POOL CRAWL	71
HOLSWORTHY STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE	77
INAUGURAL SPEECHES	30, 60
INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL	29
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSION	27
INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES	27
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON LOOSE-FILL ASBESTOS INSULATION	29
LAKE MACQUARIE ELECTORATE STORM DAMAGE	78
LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL (PRO FORMA)	22
LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE NATIONALS AND THE NATIONALS WHIP	24
LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND OPPOSITION AND DEPUTY OPPOSITION WHIP	24
LEADER OF THE HOUSE, GOVERNMENT WHIP AND DEPUTY GOVERNMENT WHIP	24
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATION	29
MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS	22
MINISTRY	22
MOREE EVERGREEN PRECINCT WATER SKI LAKES	76
MULTICULTURAL NSW	30
NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK	54
NATIONAL SERVICE DAY	57
OFFICE OF TRANSPORT SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS	30
OMBUDSMAN	27, 28
OPENING OF SESSION BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR	25
OPENING OF SESSION	19
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES	23
PARRAMATTA ELECTORATE	72
PLEDGE OF LOYALTY, OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE	19
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER	27
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	50, 71
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	29
REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	23
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR INDUSTRY	29
SENATE VACANCY	26, 26

SESSIONAL ORDERS	30
SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER	27
SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	20, 25
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE AND ETHICS	28
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK AUTHORITY PROTECTED TENANCY HOUSING.....	75
TAMWORTH ELECTORATE	55
UNANDERRA RAILWAY STATION EASY ACCESS	51
VAUCLUSE ELECTORATE CENTENARY OF ANZAC COMMEMORATION	74

NEW SOUTH WALES
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 5 May 2015

The House met at 10.00 a.m. pursuant to the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

GENERAL ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Return of Writs

The Clerk announced the receipt of a list, certified by His Excellency the Governor, of the names of the persons duly elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales at the General Election of Members held on 28 March 2015, together with the writs on which they had been returned.

The Clerk announced further that with His Excellency's certification the writs had been duly returned prior to the day on which they were legally returnable.

OPENING OF SESSION

The Usher of the Black Rod, being admitted, delivered a message from the Commissioners empowered by His Excellency the Governor to open this session of Parliament requesting the immediate attendance of the members of this honourable House in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Commission for the opening of Parliament read.

The members of the House, having attended the Legislative Council Chamber, reassembled.

**COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER PLEDGE OF LOYALTY, OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF
ALLEGIANCE**

The Clerk informed the House that His Excellency the Governor had issued a Commission under the Public Seal of the State authorising the Hon. Michael Bruce Baird, the Hon. Troy Wayne Grant and the Hon. Anthony John Roberts to administer the pledge of loyalty, oath or affirmation of allegiance required by law to be taken or made by members of the Assembly.

The Clerk read the Commission.

PLEDGE OF LOYALTY, OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

All members took and subscribed the pledge of loyalty, oath or affirmation of allegiance and signed the roll.

SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Election

The Clerk announced that pursuant to section 31B of the Constitution Act 1902 the House would proceed to the election of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Having called for nominations, and sufficient time having elapsed, she declared nominations closed and informed the House that one valid nomination had been received: Mrs Shelley Elizabeth Hancock.

The member for South Coast, Mrs Shelley Elizabeth Hancock, was declared elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Mrs Shelley Elizabeth Hancock was then taken out of her place by Mrs Gladys Berejiklian and Mr Gareth Ward and conducted to the chair.

The Speaker-elect, standing on the upper step of the Speaker's rostrum, said: Thank you everyone. It is an honour to be elected for the second term as the Parliament's first female Speaker. Today we have a lot of female firsts in the Chamber, and I would like to acknowledge all of them. I gather we have the first female member for Granville—congratulations to you. We have the first female member for Ballina—congratulations to you. I know I am irritating the males in the Chamber but I will continue anyway. We also have the first female Treasurer and the first female Attorney General—congratulations to them. Assisting me to preside in this Chamber we have the first female Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

In jurisdictions across the country we have females presiding in chambers in the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth parliaments. There is a long way to go but women are breaking down barriers every day in jurisdictions across Australia. I say to aspiring politicians that there is, or should be, no glass ceiling here. Millicent Preston-Stanley smashed through that in this very Chamber in 1925. Since then women have stood up and paved the way. The role of the Speaker is extensive; it extends beyond the cut and thrust of the bear pit, as many members would know.

Over the past four years I have been honoured to work with the most dedicated, loyal and talented men and women. I refer to those who administer the Parliament in the Department of the Legislative Assembly and the Department of Parliamentary Services, led faithfully by Mr Rob Stefanic, whom many members know. Our duties have included overseeing the renewal of office accommodation—the progress of which members have seen—and the restoration and preservation of Australia's oldest and most continuously used public building; dealing with staffing and electorate office issues, and diplomatic engagement; and procedural renewal, all whilst ensuring fiscal discipline. The role is challenging and I pledge to the House that I will dedicate myself to it over the coming term.

I congratulate the Premier and his Ministers on their election. I also congratulate the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Ministers. Of course, I congratulate all the newly elected members of the Parliament. I met almost all of them during the induction process and welcomed and congratulated them on taking the very courageous step of putting up their hand to be a member of this Parliament. It is a privilege and an honour to be a member of Parliament. I am sure that our newcomers will learn a great deal from their colleagues. If members need to speak to me about problems with their parliamentary or electorate offices, they are welcome to knock on my door.

I welcome our guests in the gallery today. I presume they include families and friends who have supported members in their election to this place. Members would not be here without that support, and I am sure they will acknowledge that in their inaugural speeches. I welcome everyone to the Parliament today. I pay particular tribute to my supporters from the South Coast and to my husband, Ossie, who has been behind me over the 12 years since my election to Parliament in 2003. I thank all my supporters in the electorate of South Coast. As I said in my first speech as Speaker in 2011, my first priority is and always will be my role as the member for South Coast. I thank the House for again conferring this honour upon me. As I did when I first took on this role, I pledge to do my best as Speaker over the next four years. Thank you very much.

The Speaker (The Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock) took the chair.

Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) [11.12 a.m.]: Madam Speaker, I congratulate you on your election as Speaker of the Fifty-sixth Parliament of this great State. You

acknowledged many firsts in this Chamber, but every member comes to this place with a passion for their community and for the issues they are championing. We are here to make our communities and this State better, and that can sometimes result in robust debate. Madam Speaker, we have already witnessed your great capacity to control debate in this House while members express their passion. We thank you for the job you have done. We remember the great day when you ejected most members of the Opposition front bench.

The SPEAKER: That was a good day and I am sure there will be many more.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I did not want to say that; that is up to you, Madam Speaker. On a serious note, I congratulate you on this very important election. We know that, as you have in the past, you will do a great job for your community and for the State as Speaker of this House. We congratulate you on your election as the Speaker of the Fifty-sixth Parliament.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Premier.

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) [11.13 a.m.]: Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Opposition I join the Premier in congratulating you on your re-election as Speaker. You are the thirty-ninth Speaker of this place and, significantly, the first female Speaker. I acknowledge the remarks you made about the many firsts that females of this House have achieved. I also acknowledge my friend and the State's first female Premier, Kristina Keneally, who is in the Speaker's Gallery. The immensity of my admiration for you is such that I can say without any shadow of a doubt that in all my time in this place you have been the very finest Speaker under whom I have served.

The SPEAKER: That is noted.

Mr LUKE FOLEY: We have never had a disagreement. You occupy an office of great eminence in our parliamentary democracy and you begin your second term as Speaker with the Opposition's very good wishes. It is our fervent hope that you are independent and objective over the life of this Parliament. Throughout the recent election campaign I sought as a new party leader to demonstrate that one can conduct a robust campaign and be passionate during the great debates whilst maintaining a high standard of civility. The Premier also behaved with great civility. It is my earnest intention that I and my colleagues will bring that approach to this Chamber. Madam Speaker, you commence this term with the very good wishes of the Labor Opposition. I wish you all the best for the Fifty-sixth Parliament. I and my colleagues look forward to serving under you and working with you.

The SPEAKER: That is good news. Thank you.

Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing) [11.15 a.m.]: Madam Speaker, as the Leader of The Nationals and on behalf of my fellow members, I extend our sincere congratulations on your re-election to an office that is vital to the democratic processes of this State and the orderly conduct of this House. This House is in constant service to the people of New South Wales and you have led it in an exemplary manner over the past four years as the first female Speaker. We offer you our warmest congratulations and wish you the very best for this term of Parliament.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Premier.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I inform the House that the Governor will receive the House in the Jubilee Room of Parliament House at 12.20 p.m. today for the purpose of presenting the Speaker.

DEPUTY-SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Election

Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing) [11.17 a.m.]: I move:

That Thomas George be appointed Deputy-Speaker.

Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) [11.17 a.m.]: I second the motion.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

ASSISTANT-SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Election

Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing) [11.18 a.m.]: I move:

That Andrew Raymond Gordon Fraser be appointed the Assistant-Speaker.

Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) [11.18 a.m.]: I second the motion.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

LAW OF EVIDENCE BILL (PRO FORMA)

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Mike Baird.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

The SPEAKER: I report that the House this day attended the Commissioners in the Legislative Council Chamber, where a commission for the opening Parliament was read and a message to the Legislative Assembly was delivered. I lay the commission upon the table of the House and order that it be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—

We have it in command from the Governor, to acquaint you that the Governor desires that you take into your earnest consideration such matters as may be submitted to you.

Members of the Legislative Assembly—

It being necessary that a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly be first chosen, it is the Governor's pleasure that you, Members of the Legislative Assembly, return to your Chamber, and there, after Members have taken the Pledge of Loyalty or the Oath of Allegiance, proceed to the election of one of your number to be your Speaker.

We are further commanded to acquaint you that the Governor desires that measures be taken by you, as may be deemed expedient, to provide for the peace, welfare and good government of the State.

MINISTRY

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I inform the House that on 2 April 2015, with a view to reconstructing the Ministry, I submitted to His Excellency the Governor my resignation as Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Western Sydney and member of the Executive Council. That action involved the resignation of all Ministers. His Excellency then commissioned me to form a new Ministry. On the same day I was sworn in as a member of the Executive Council and as Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney. Twenty-one other members were appointed by His Excellency the Governor as members of the Executive Council and as certain ministerial officers. I table the list of Ministers appointed on 2 April 2015:

The Hon. Troy Wayne Grant, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP
Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations

The Hon. Adrian Piccoli, MP
Minister for Education

The Hon. Duncan John Gay, MLC
Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council

The Hon. Anthony John Roberts, MP
Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy

The Hon. Jillian Gell Skinner, MP
Minister for Health

The Hon. Andrew James Constance, MP
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

The Hon. Bradley Ronald Hazzard, MP
Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing

The Hon. Robert Gordon Stokes, MP
Minister for Planning

The Hon. Dominic Francis Perrottet, MP
Minister for Finance, Services and Property

The Hon. Gabrielle Cecelia Upton, MP
Attorney General

The Hon. Prudence Jane Goward, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The Hon. John George Ajaka, MLC
Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism

The Hon. Stuart Laurence Ayres, MP
Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport

The Hon. Victor Michael Dominello, MP
Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation

The Hon. (John) Giovanni Domenic Barilaro, MP
Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business

The Hon. Paul Lawrence Toole, MP
Minister for Local Government

The Hon. Niall Blair, MLC
Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water

The Hon. Mark Raymond Speakman, SC, MP
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning

The Hon. David Andrew Elliott, MP
Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Veterans Affairs

The Hon. Leslie Gladys Williams, MP
Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education.

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I inform the House of the representation of Legislative Council Ministers in the Assembly:

The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure representing the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight.

The Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing representing the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism.

The Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy representing the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I inform the House that on 24 April 2015 the following members were appointed as parliamentary secretaries:

The Hon. David John Clarke, MLC
Parliamentary Secretary for Justice

The Hon. Richard Hargrave Colless, MLC
Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources and Regional Planning

The Hon. Catherine Eileen Cusack, MLC
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Mrs Tanya Davies, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Youth Affairs and Homelessness

Mr Andrew Robert Gee, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for the Deputy Premier and Regional Roads

Mr Christopher Gulaptis, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for the North Coast

The Hon. Katrina Ann Hodgkinson, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Southern NSW

Mr Matthew John Kean, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Treasury

Dr Geoffrey Lee, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Communities

Mr Scot MacDonald, MLC
Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter and Central Coast

Mr Daryl William Maguire, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans and the Centenary of ANZAC

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC
Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health and Western NSW

Mr Jonathan Richard O'Dea, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Major Events and Tourism

Mr Anthony John Sidoti, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads

Mr Gareth James Ward, MP
Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast

Mr Raymond Craig Williams, MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney

LEADER OF THE HOUSE, GOVERNMENT WHIP AND DEPUTY GOVERNMENT WHIP

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I inform the House of the reappointment on 2 April 2015 of Anthony John Roberts as Leader of the House, the re-election on 1 April 2015 of Christopher Stewart Patterson as Government Whip and the election on 1 April 2015 of Mark Joseph Coure as Deputy Government Whip.

LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE NATIONALS AND THE NATIONALS WHIP

Mr TROY GRANT: I inform the House of my re-election on 1 April 2015 as Leader of The Nationals and the re-election of Adrian Piccoli as Deputy Leader of The Nationals, and of the election on 1 April 2015 of Stephen Bruce Bromhead as The Nationals Whip.

LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND OPPOSITION AND DEPUTY OPPOSITION WHIP

Mr LUKE FOLEY: I inform the House of my re-election on 8 April 2015 as Leader of the Opposition and the re-election of Linda Jean Burney as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and of the election on 15 April 2015 of Noreen Hay as Opposition Whip and the re-election on 15 April 2015 of Nickola Lalich as Deputy Opposition Whip.

[The Speaker left the chair at 11.21 a.m. The House resumed at 12.19 p.m.]

SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**Presentation to the Governor**

The House proceeded at 12.20 p.m. to the Jubilee Room, there to present the Speaker to His Excellency the Governor.

The House returned at 2.30 p.m.

The SPEAKER: I report that today the Legislative Assembly proceeded to the Jubilee Room at Parliament House where I informed His Excellency the Governor that immediately after the opening of Parliament the Legislative Assembly, in the exercise of members' undoubted rights, had proceeded to the election of its Speaker and that the choice had fallen upon me. I presented myself to the Governor as its Speaker, whereupon the Governor was pleased to offer me his congratulations.

I then, in the name and on behalf of the House, laid claim to all members' undoubted rights and privileges, particularly to freedom of speech in debate and free access to His Excellency when occasion should require, and asked that on all occasions the most favourable construction should be put upon their language and proceedings, to all of which the Governor readily assented.

OPENING OF SESSION BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

The Usher of the Black Rod, being admitted, delivered a message from His Excellency the Governor requesting the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Legislative Council Chamber.

The members of the House, having attended the Legislative Council Chamber, reassembled.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

The SPEAKER: I report that the House today attended the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber, where His Excellency was pleased to deliver an opening speech to both houses of Parliament. For greater accuracy, I have obtained a copy, which I lay upon the table of the House and order that it be recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

DEATH OF PATRICK ALLAN ROGAN, A FORMER MEMBER FOR EAST HILLS

The SPEAKER: It is with regret that I have to announce to the House of the death, on 11 February 2015, of Patrick Allan Rogan, a former member of the Legislative Assembly, who served as the member of East Hills, from 17 November 1973 to 5 March 1999. On behalf of the House, I extend to the family the deepest sympathy of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained.

Members and officers of the House stood in their places as a mark of respect.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE

The SPEAKER: I report the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:

DAVID HURLEY
Governor

Government House
Sydney, 20 November 2014

General David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, has the honour to inform the Legislative Assembly that he has re-assumed the administration of the Government of the State.

FORESTRY ACT: REVOCATION OF DEDICATION

The SPEAKER: I report the receipt of correspondence from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, dated 20 November 2014, acknowledging receipt of the resolution adopted by the House on 6 November 2014 regarding the revocation of the dedication of part of a State Forest.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Assent to the following bills was reported:

Crime Commission Legislation Amendment Bill 2014
 Criminal Procedure Amendment (Domestic Violence Complainants) Bill 2014
 Health Practitioner Regulation Legislation Amendment Bill 2014
 Mental Health Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2014
 Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill 2014
 Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (NSW Gas Plan) Bill 2014
 Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2014

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE

The SPEAKER: I report the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:

T F BATHURST
 Lieutenant-Governor

Government House
 Sydney, 2 April 2015

The Honourable Thomas Frederick Bathurst, AC, Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New South Wales, has the honour to inform the Legislative Assembly that, consequent on the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd), being absent from the State, he has assumed the administration of the Government of the State.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE

The SPEAKER: I report the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:

DAVID HURLEY
 Governor

Government House
 Sydney, 3 April 2015

General David Hurley, AC, DSC, (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales, has the honour to inform the Legislative Assembly that he has re-assumed the administration of the Government of the State.

SENATE VACANCY

Resignation of Senator John Faulkner

The SPEAKER: I report the receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor:

DAVID HURLEY
 Governor

Government House
 Sydney, 9 February 2015

His Excellency the Governor transmits to the Legislative Assembly a copy of a despatch dated 9 February 2015, received from the President of the Senate, notifying that a vacancy has happened in the representation of the State of New South Wales in the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia through the resignation of Senator the Honourable John Faulkner which occurred on 6 February 2015.

SENATE VACANCY

Joint sitting

Motion by Mr Anthony Roberts agreed to:

- (1) The House meet in the Legislative Council for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator the Honourable John Faulkner.
- (2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council of the resolution and requesting the Legislative Council to fix a time and place for the joint sitting.

Message sent to the Legislative Council advising it of the resolution.

OMBUDSMAN**Report**

The Speaker announced the receipt, pursuant to section 24 of the Law Enforcement (Controlled Operations) Act 1997, of the report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled "Law Enforcement (Controlled Operations) Act 1997 Annual Report 2013-2014, dated January 2015 and received on 15 January 2015.

Ordered to be printed.

INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSION**Report**

The Speaker announced the receipt, pursuant to section 39 of the Government Information (Information Commissioner) Act 2009, of the report of the Information and Privacy Commission entitled "Report on the Operation of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009: 2013-2014", received on 15 January 2015.

Ordered to be printed.

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER**Report**

The Speaker announced the receipt, pursuant to section 28 of the Small Business Commissioner Act 2013, of the report of the Small Business Commissioner for 2014, received on 27 February 2015.

Ordered to be printed.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW TEAM**Report**

The Speaker announced the receipt, pursuant to section 101K of the Coroners Act 2009, of the report of the Domestic Violence Death Review Team for the year ended 30 June 2013, received on 20 March 2015.

Ordered to be printed.

INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES**Report**

The Speaker announced the receipt, pursuant to section 16 of the Inspector of Custodial Services Act 2012, of the report by the Inspector of Custodial Services entitled "Full House: The growth of the inmate population in NSW", dated April 2015 and received on 20 April 2015.

Ordered to be printed.

PRIVACY COMMISSIONER**Report**

The Speaker tabled, pursuant to section 61D of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998, the "Report of the Privacy Commissioner under Section 61B of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998", dated February 2015, received on 23 February 2015.

Ordered to be printed.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Clerk announced the receipt, pursuant to section 63C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, of the following reports of the Auditor-General:

Financial Audit Report, Volume Nine 2014, received on 26 November 2014 and authorised to be printed.

Financial Audit Report, Volume Ten 2014, received on 28 November 2014 and authorised to be printed.

Financial Audit Report, Volume Eleven 2014, received on 4 December 2014 and authorised to be printed.

Financial Audit Report, Volume Twelve 2014, received on 9 December 2014 and authorised to be printed.

Financial Audit Report, Volume Thirteen 2014, received on 12 December 2014 and authorised to be printed.

Performance Audit Report entitled "The Learning Management and Business Reform Program: Department of Education and Communities", dated December 2014 and received on 16 December 2014 and authorised to be printed.

Financial Audit Report, Volume Fourteen 2014, received on 17 December 2014 and authorised to be printed.

Performance Audit Report entitled "WestConnex: Assurance to the Government; Roads and Maritime Services, WestConnex Delivery Authority, Infrastructure NSW, Transport for NSW, NSW Treasury, Department of Premier and Cabinet", dated December 2014 and received on 18 December 2014 and authorised to be printed.

Performance Audit Report entitled "Security of Critical IT Infrastructure: Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Services, Sydney Water Corporation", dated January 2015 and received on 21 January 2015 and authorised to be printed.

Performance Audit Report entitled "Vocational Education and Training Reform: Department of Education and Communities", dated January 2015 and received on 29 January 2015 and authorised to be printed.

Financial Audit Report, Volume One 2015, received on 20 February 2015 and authorised to be printed.

Better Practice Guide entitled "Fraud Control Improvement Kit", dated February 2015 and received on 20 February 2015 and authorised to be printed.

Performance Audit Report entitled "Managing length of stay and unplanned readmissions in NSW public hospitals: NSW Health", dated April 2015 and received on 23 April 2015 and authorised to be printed.

Performance Audit Report entitled "Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage Program: Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services—NSW Office of Water", dated May 2015 and received on 4 May 2015 and authorised to be printed.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE AND ETHICS

Report

The Clerk announced the receipt of the report of the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics entitled "Inquiry into the Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Presiding Officers and the Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption", Report 3/55, dated November 2014, received on 28 November 2014 and authorised to be printed.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Report

The Clerk announced the receipt, pursuant to Schedule 1 (4) of the Commission for Children and Young People Act 1988, of the report of the Committee on Children and Young People entitled "Volunteering and unpaid work placements among children and young people in NSW", Report 4/55, dated November 2014, received on 28 November 2014 and authorised to be printed.

OMBUDSMAN

Report

The Clerk announced the receipt, pursuant to section 49 of the Surveillance Devices Act 2007, of the report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled "Report under Section 49 (1) of the Surveillance Devices Act 2007 for the period ending 30 June 2014", dated October 2014, received on 3 December 2014 and authorised to be printed.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON LOOSE-FILL ASBESTOS INSULATION**Report**

The Clerk announced receipt of the report of the Joint Select Committee on Loose-Fill Asbestos Insulation entitled "Loose-fill asbestos insulation", dated December 2014, received on 17 December 2014 and authorised to be printed.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR INDUSTRY**Report**

The Clerk announced receipt of the Government Response to Report 1/55 of the Select Committee on the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry entitled "Motor vehicle repair industry", received on 19 December 2014 and authorised to be printed.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND REGULATION**Report**

The Clerk announced receipt of the Government Response to Report 2/55 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Regulation entitled "Report on the management and disposal of waste on private lands", received on 6 January 2015 and authorised to be printed.

INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL**Reports**

The Clerk announced the receipt, pursuant to section 111 of the Water NSW Act 2014 of the report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled "Sydney Catchment Authority Operational Audit 2013/14 Report to the Minister, Water—Compliance Report", dated December 2014, received on 16 January 2015 and authorised to be printed.

The Clerk announced the receipt, pursuant to section 33 of the Sydney Water Act 1994, the report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled "Sydney Water Corporation Operational Audit 2013/14 Report to the Minister, Water—Compliance Report", dated December 2014, received on 16 January 2015 and authorised to be printed.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**Reports**

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following reports:

Government Response to Report 15/55 of the Public Accounts Committee entitled "Examination of the Auditor-General's performance audits April 2012-August 2012", received on 21 January 2015 and authorised to be printed.

Government Response to Report 16/55 of the Public Accounts Committee entitled "Planning NSW Infrastructure for the Twenty-Second Century", received on 27 January 2015 and authorised to be printed.

Government Response to Report 17/55 of the Public Accounts Committee entitled "Examination of the Auditor-General's performance audit reports September 2012-March 2013", received on 6 March 2015 and authorised to be printed.

Government Response by the Attorney General, and Minister for Justice to Report 18/55 of the Public Accounts Committee entitled "Follow up of repeat recommendations from Auditor-General's 2013 Financial Audit Reports", received on 6 March 2015 and authorised to be printed.

Government Response to Report 19/55 of the Public Accounts Committee entitled "Examination of the Auditor-General's Performance Audit Reports May 2013-July 2013", received on 9 March 2015 and authorised to be printed.

OFFICE OF TRANSPORT SAFETY INVESTIGATIONS

Report

The Clerk announced the receipt, pursuant to section 46D of the Passenger Transport Act 1990, of the Office of Transport Safety Investigations report entitled "Bus Safety Report, Bus Fires in New South Wales in 2014", received on 10 February 2015 and authorised to be printed.

MULTICULTURAL NSW

Report

The Clerk announced the receipt, pursuant to section 14 of the Multicultural NSW Act 2000, of the report of Multicultural NSW entitled "Community Relations Report 2013-14", received on 19 March 2015 and authorised to be printed.

COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Report

The Clerk announced the receipt of the Government Response to Report 4/55 of the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission entitled "Review of the 2012-2013 annual report of the Health Care Complaints Commission", received on 23 April 2015 and authorised to be printed.

DATES AND TIMES OF SITTINGS

Motion by the Hon. ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That unless otherwise ordered, the House meet during the 2015 Autumn and Spring sittings as follows:

Autumn Sittings:	May 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 26, 27, 28. June 2, 3, 4, 23, 24, 25.
Spring Sittings:	August 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 25, 26, 27. September 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17. October 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29. November 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 and November 24, 25, 26 as a potential reserve week.

INAUGURAL SPEECHES

Motion by the Hon. ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That the business before the House be interrupted at 5.00 p.m. today to permit the presentation of inaugural speeches by the member for Newtown, the member for Miranda and the member for Epping.

CENTENARY OF ANZAC

Motion, by leave, by the Hon. ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That tomorrow this House take note of the Centenary of Anzac.

SESSIONAL ORDERS

Motion, by leave, by the Hon. ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That the following sessional orders be now adopted:

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 35 shall read as follows:

35. The timing for bells is as follows:

Tuesday
Bells are rung at 11.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 11.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.

Wednesday
Bells are rung at 9.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 9.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.

Thursday

Bells are rung at 9.45 a.m. for 20 seconds and at 9.58 a.m. for 60 seconds.

After lunch

Bells are rung at 2.00 p.m. for 20 seconds and at 2.13 p.m. for 60 seconds.

After dinner

Bells are rung at 6.58 p.m. for 20 seconds.

Division

First bell 10 seconds, pause 10 seconds; second bell 10 seconds, pause 10 seconds; third bell 20 seconds. The doors are locked four minutes after the bells are first rung.

Quorum

One long continuous bell (for up to four minutes until a quorum is present in the Chamber).

House adjournment

Two short bells.

One long bell

A continuous bell rung at the discretion of the Chair.

RESTRICTION ON QUORUM CALLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 45 shall read as follows:

- 45.** Members shall not be permitted to call attention to the want of a quorum:
- (1) During Private Members' Statements or Community Recognition Statements;
 - (2) During Matters of Public Importance or the Discussion on a Petition signed by 10,000 or more persons;
 - (3) During the establishment of and debate on a Motion Accorded Priority; or
 - (4) Before 10.30 a.m. on any sitting day.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 46 shall read as follows:

- 46.** Unless otherwise ordered, the House shall be adjourned without motion moved at 7.45 p.m. on Tuesday, at 10.00 p.m. on Wednesday and at the conclusion of private members' statements on Thursday.

INAUGURAL OR VALEDICTORY SPEECH

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 63 shall read as follows:

- 63.** (1) A motion may be moved without notice, amendment or debate for the business to be interrupted at a specified time (but not so as to interrupt a Member speaking) to permit a Member to make an inaugural speech or a valedictory speech without a question being before the House. Any interrupted business shall be resumed on the completion of the speech.
- (2) The time limit for inaugural speeches or valedictory speeches will be 20 minutes.

REPLY

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 66 shall read as follows:

- 66.** A Member may speak in reply if the Member has moved:
- (1) a substantive motion; or
 - (2) a motion "**That this bill be now read a second time**"; or
 - (3) a motion "**That this bill be now read a third time**".

MATTERS NOT OPEN TO DEBATE OR AMENDMENT

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 80 shall read as follows:

- 80.** The following matters are not open to debate nor amendment:
- (1) Adjournment of debate.
 - (2) Adjournment of the House.

- (3) Extension of time.
- (4) Leave of the House.
- (5) Motion that a Member be suspended.
- (6) Motion that a Message be sent to the Legislative Council.
- (7) Motion that leave of absence be granted.
- (8) To withdraw or postpone an order of the day.
- (9) Personal explanation.
- (10) "That inspection of the paper be restricted to members only and that no copies or extracts thereof be permitted".
- (11) "That visitors be ordered to withdraw".
- (12) "That the bill be considered an urgent bill".
- (13) "That this bill be read at a later time".
- (14) "That the Order of the Day be discharged and the bill be withdrawn".
- (15) "That the Committee report be printed".
- (16) "That the Member for ... be further heard".
- (17) "That the Member for ... be not further heard".
- (18) "That the Member for ... be now heard".
- (19) "That the petition not be received".
- (20) "That the question be put as separate questions".
- (21) "That the question be now put".
- (22) "That the question be not now put".
- (23) "That the Member's speaking time be extended".

MAXIMUM TIME LIMITS FOR DEBATES AND SPEECHES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 85 be amended in part as follows:

Bills (SO 188-239)

Second Reading:

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------------|
| (i) | Introduced by a Minister | |
| | Mover | - unspecified |
| | Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed, next speaking | - unspecified |
| | Any other Member | - 10 minutes† |
| | Reply | - unspecified |
| (ii) | Appropriation Bill | |
| | Mover | - unspecified |
| | Party Leaders | - unspecified |
| | Any other Member | - 15 minutes† |
| | Reply | - unspecified |
| (iii) | Introduced by a Private Member | |
| | Mover | - unspecified |
| | Premier or one Minister deputed | - unspecified |
| | Leader of the Opposition or one Member deputed | - unspecified |
| | Any other Member | - 10 minutes† |
| | Reply | - unspecified |

Bill be now read a third time after consideration in detail (SO 217)

All Members	- 10 minutes†
-------------	---------------

Committee, reports from – take note debate (SO 306)

Chair or Member tabling the Report	- 6 minutes
Any other Member	- 4 minutes each
(Question being put after 22 minutes)	

Community Recognition Statements (SO 108A)

Member making statement	- 1 minute each
-------------------------	-----------------

Consideration in detail of a bill or other matter (SO 240-242)

Minister	- unspecified number of periods limited to 15 minutes each
Leader of the Opposition or one Member deputed	- unspecified number of periods limited to 15 minutes each
Any other Member	- three periods each on any one question not exceeding 5 minutes each

Motion Accorded Priority (SO 109)

Statement establishing priority - 3 minutes

Debate:

Mover - 5 minutes
 Member next speaking - 5 minutes
 Two other Members - 3 minutes each
 Reply - 3 minutes

General Business notices of motions or orders of the day (not for bills) (SO 107)

In each debate:

Mover - 7 minutes
 Member next speaking - 7 minutes
 Four Members - 4 minutes each
 Reply - 4 minutes

Inaugural Speech or Valedictory Speech (SO 63)

Member making inaugural speech or
 valedictory speech - 20 minutes

Matters of Public Importance (SO 110)

Mover - 5 minutes
 Member next speaking - 5 minutes
 One other Member - 3 minutes
 Reply - 3 minutes

Petitions signed by 10,000 or more persons (SO 125A)

First speaker - 5 minutes
 Member next speaking - 5 minutes
 Two other Members - 3 minutes each
 Total - 16 minutes

Private Members' Statements (SO 108)

Member making statement - 5 minutes
 Replies by Ministers - 1 minutes

Re-ordering General Business (SO 106)

Member in charge of the bill or
 notice of motion - 3 minutes
 One other Member - 3 minutes

† A member may request and the Speaker shall put, without debate or amendment, a question that the Member be allowed to continue that speech for a further period of up to 5 minutes.

ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DEBATE (GUILLOTINE)

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 90 shall read as follows:

- 90.** The Premier, or a Minister acting on the Premier's behalf, may at any time state in the House the intention of the Government to deal with any business to a certain stage at a specified time at the next or a subsequent sitting.

Written notification must subsequently be given to the Speaker and the Party Leaders and the notice shall be published in the Business Paper.

To give effect to the notification a Member shall move at the specified time on the date given or at a later time at the same sitting the motion "That the question be now put".

The carrying of this question is an instruction to the Speaker to put to the vote every question necessary to give effect to the notification. No further debate, amendment or reply is permitted.

After the carrying of the closure, the Speaker shall put to the vote any amendments proposed by a Minister provided that the amendments were lodged with the Clerk and printed and circulated by the Clerk at least 2 hours before the specified time.

The closure may not be moved on any question contained in a notification of allocation of time under this standing order.

If the closure under this standing order is agreed to during the second reading stage and there have been no Minister's amendments circulated, the Speaker shall forthwith put to the vote the third reading of the Bill.

PRIVILEGE OR CONTEMPT SUDDENLY ARISING IN THE HOUSE

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 91 be amended as follows:

- 91.**
- (1) A Member may rise on a matter of contempt or a breach of privilege suddenly arising relating to the proceedings then before the House. In order to move a substantive motion immediately or to request the Speaker to have a notice placed on the Business Paper with precedence, the Member must satisfy the Speaker that:
 - (a) the matter is one suddenly arising, relating to a matter then before the House which should be dealt with at the earliest opportunity;
 - (b) there is a prima facie case; and
 - (c) the Member has a prepared notice of motion.
 - (2) When a matter of contempt or a breach of privilege suddenly arising relating to the proceedings then before the House is raised, the business before the House is suspended until the Speaker:
 - (a) determines that there is no matter of contempt or breach of privilege; or
 - (b) defers the matter and either continues or adjourns the business under consideration; or
 - (c) determines that a prima facie case exists and allows a notice of motion to be moved forthwith or have precedence for the next sitting; or
 - (d) takes some other form of action.
 - (3) The maximum time available to a Member to satisfy the Speaker in accordance with paragraph (1) of this standing order is 10 minutes. The Speaker may determine the matter prior to the expiration of the 10 minutes.
 - (4) If the Speaker determines that a prima facie case exists the Member must move a motion seeking either:
 - (a) the declaration of the House that a contempt or breach of privilege has occurred; or
 - (b) the referral of the matter by the House to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics for consideration.

MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE NOT SUDDENLY ARISING

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 92 shall read as follows:

- 92.** Except as provided in Standing Order 91 and in paragraph (5) of this Standing Order, a matter of privilege or contempt shall be brought before the House as follows:
- (1) A Member desiring to raise a matter of privilege or contempt must inform the Speaker of the details in writing.
 - (2) The Speaker must consider the matter within 14 days and decide whether a motion to refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics (the Committee) is to take precedence under the Standing Orders. The Speaker must notify this decision in writing to the Member.
 - (3) While a matter is being considered by the Speaker, a Member must not take any action or refer to the matter in the House.
 - (4) If the Speaker decides that a motion for referral should take precedence, the Member may, at any time when there is no business before the House, give notice of a motion to refer the matter to the Committee. The notice must take precedence under Standing Order 118 on the next sitting day.
 - (5) If the Speaker decides that the matter should not be the subject of a notice of referral, a Member is not prevented from giving a notice of motion in relation to the matter. Such notice shall not have precedence.
 - (6) If notice of a motion is given under paragraph (4), but the House is not expected to meet on the day following the giving of the notice, with the leave of the House, the motion may be moved at a later hour of the sitting at which the notice is given.

ROUTINE OF BUSINESS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 97 shall read as follows:

Tuesdays

1. At 12.00 noon the Speaker takes the Chair
2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)
3. Private Members' Statements
4. At 1.30 p.m. the Speaker leaves the Chair
5. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair
6. Ministerial Statements
7. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence)
8. Giving of Notices of Motions to be Accorded Priority
9. Question Time
10. Ministerial Statements
11. Papers
12. Committees—Tabling of reports and notification of inquiries
13. Petitions
14. Announcement of Matter of Public Importance
15. Placing or Disposal of Business
16. Motion Accorded Priority
17. Business with Precedence
18. At 4.00 p.m. Business before the House is interrupted for Government Business. Any interrupted business lapses except when the House is considering Business with Precedence which shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow.
19. At 7.00 p.m. Business before the House is interrupted for Private Members' Statements. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.
20. Matter of Public Importance
21. Adjournment at 7.45 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance, if concluded before 7.45 p.m.

Wednesdays

1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair
2. Giving of Notices of Motions (General Notices)
3. Government Business concluding at 1.15 p.m. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for a later hour of the day. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.
4. Community Recognition Statements concluding at 1.30 p.m.
5. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair
6. Ministerial Statements
7. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence, and notices to be the subject of a motion to re-order later in the sitting)
8. Giving of Notices of Motions to be Accorded Priority
9. Question Time
10. Ministerial Statements
11. Papers
12. Committees—Tabling of reports and notification of inquiries
13. Petitions
14. Announcement of Matter of Public Importance
15. Re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business (Notices of Motions)
16. Placing or Disposal of Business
17. Motion Accorded Priority
18. Business with Precedence
19. At 4.00 p.m. business before the House is interrupted for Government Business. Any interrupted business lapses except when the House is considering Business with Precedence which shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow.
20. At 6.30 p.m. the Speaker leaves the Chair. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for a later time. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.
21. At 7.00 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair.
22. Private Members' Statements.
23. Government Business concluding at 9.45 pm. Any interrupted item of Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.
24. Matter of Public Importance.
25. Adjournment at 10.00 p.m. or at the conclusion of the Matter of Public Importance if concluded before 10.00 p.m.

Thursdays

1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair
2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)
3. General Business Notices of Motions for Bills (concluding not later than 10.30 a.m.) Any interrupted item of Business shall be set down as an order of the day for tomorrow with precedence of other General Business Notices of Motions for Bills.
4. General Business Orders of the Day for Bills (concluding not later than 11.30 a.m. or after the expiry of 60 minutes from the commencement of General Business Orders of the Day for Bills if commenced earlier than 10.30 a.m.) Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption, a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.
5. General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills) concluding at 1.00 p.m. Any interrupted business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow with precedence of other General Business (not being Bills). If at the time of interruption a division is in progress that division and any other division(s) to determine the matter shall be completed.
6. At 1.00 p.m. consideration of committee reports presented concluding at 1.30 p.m. Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.
7. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair
8. Ministerial Statements
9. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence)
10. Question Time
11. Ministerial Statements
12. Papers
13. Committees—Tabling of reports and notification of inquiries
14. Petitions
15. Placing or Disposal of Business
16. Business with Precedence
17. Government Business
18. At 4.30 p.m. business before the House is interrupted for Business of the House—Petitions. Any interrupted item of Business with Precedence or Government Business shall stand as an order of the day for tomorrow. If at the time of interruption a division is in progress, that division shall be completed.
19. Community Recognition Statements
20. Private Members' Statements after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.

FRIDAY SITTINGS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 98 shall be suspended.

GENERAL BUSINESS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 105 shall read as follows:

- 105.** (1) General Business Notices of Motions and Orders of the Day shall retain their relative places on the Business Paper and be considered in the order in which they are given or set down.

- (2) General Business interrupted by the operation of the routine of business shall stand adjourned and be set down as an order of the day for tomorrow with precedence of all other notices and orders, except any General Business Order of the Day or Notice of Motion accorded precedence for that day in accordance with Standing Order 106.
- (3) General Business Notices of Motions and Orders of the Day not commenced or completed 6 months from the date given shall lapse.

RE-ORDERING GENERAL BUSINESS ORDERS OF THE DAY (FOR BILLS) AND GENERAL BUSINESS NOTICES OF MOTIONS (GENERAL NOTICES)

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 106 shall read as follows:

- 106.** At the re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) in the routine of business:
- (1) Any two Private Members may move to re-order an order of the day for a bill of which they have carriage, to give precedence to the resumption of the debate over other orders of the day listed for the following sitting day.
 - (2) Any two Private Members may move to re-order a general business notice of motion standing in their name, to give the notice precedence over other notices on the following sitting day.
 - (3) The carrying of one motion in (1) or (2) above prevents another Member moving a subsequent motion.
 - (4) On a motion for re-ordering, the Member in charge of the bill or notice of motion shall be permitted to make a statement of up to 3 minutes and one other Member may reply for up to 3 minutes.

DEBATE ON GENERAL BUSINESS NOTICES OF MOTIONS OR ORDERS OF THE DAY (NOT BEING BILLS)

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 107 shall read as follows:

- 107.**
- (1) At the time listed in the routine of business, the House will consider General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills).
 - (2) In each debate the following time limits shall apply:

Mover	- 7 minutes
Member next speaking	- 7 minutes
Four Members	- 4 minutes each
Reply	- 4 minutes

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 108 shall read as follows:

- 108.** The procedure for Private Members' Statements is as follows:
- (1) In accordance with the routine of business, the Speaker shall ask if there are any Private Members' Statements.
 - (2) Up to 47 Private Members' Statements may be made over any one sitting week, within the time allocated in the routine of business, for up to 5 minutes each and replies by Ministers shall be limited to 1 minute each.
 - (3) Private Members' Statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of Members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.
 - (4) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Private Members' Statements.
 - (5) The House shall adjourn without motion moved until the next sitting day:
 - (a) At the conclusion of Private Members' Statements when it is the last item on the day's routine of business of business and concludes earlier than the time set for adjournment; or
 - (b) At the time set by the routine of business for adjournment.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, the following sessional order be adopted:

- 108A.** The procedure for community recognition statements is as follows:

- (1) In accordance with the routine of business, the Speaker will ask if there are any community recognition statements.
- (2) Within the time allocated in the routine of business, Members may give community recognition statements for up to 1 minute each, for a total of 15 minutes.
- (3) Members may not give consecutive community recognition statements.
- (4) Community recognition statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of Members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.
- (5) Community recognition statements must not contain:
 - (a) Matters of policy;
 - (b) Requests for the Government or the House, or another body to take some form of action or not; or
 - (c) Criticisms or negative reflections on any person, including Members, Office Holders, the Government, the Opposition or a third party.
- (6) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during community recognition statements.

MOTIONS ACCORDED PRIORITY

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 109 shall read as follows:

109. The procedure for consideration of motions accorded priority shall be as follows:

- (1) Prior to Question Time on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Speaker shall ask if there are any written notices of motions to be accorded priority over the other business of the House.
- (2) No more than two notices shall be accepted at any one sitting of the House.
- (3) The notices shall be set down for consideration later in the sitting in accordance with the routine of business.
- (4)
 - (a) The Members giving the notices shall each be permitted to make statements of up to 3 minutes as to why their notice should be accorded priority. No points of order regarding the scope or substance of the notice, or a quorum call will be entertained during the 3 minutes provided for the statement.
 - (b) At the conclusion of the 3 minute statements the Speaker shall put the question on the first notice **"That the motion of the Member for ... be accorded priority"**.
 - (c) If the motion to accord priority is carried the Member may proceed to move their motion.
 - (d) If the first motion to accord priority is not carried, the Speaker will then put the question on the second motion **"That the motion of the Member for ... be accorded priority"**.
- (5) When the motion for priority is determined and the motion is moved, the following time limits shall apply:

Mover	– 5 minutes
Member next speaking	– 5 minutes
Two other Members	– 3 minutes
Reply	– 3 minutes
Total	– 19 minutes
- (6) No quorum call will be permitted during the time set aside for a Motion Accorded Priority.
- (7) The motion will lapse at the time for interruption unless a division is in progress whereupon that division and any other division(s) to determine the matter shall be completed.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 110 shall read as follows:

110. The procedure for matters of public importance within the daily routine of business, is as follows:

- (1) The matter, which must be definite, shall be handed in writing to the Speaker no later than 12.00 noon and immediately published.
- (2) The Speaker, in the event that more than one matter is submitted, shall determine which matter is of the greatest public importance.
- (3) At least 30 minutes prior to the time for Question Time—
 - (a) The Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the responsible Minister in the House, Members submitting matters and the Independent Members shall be informed in writing by the Speaker of the matter determined by the Speaker to be discussed.
 - (b) The Speaker, by placing a notice on notice boards, shall inform Members of the matter.
- (4) If the Speaker decides that any matter proposed is in order it shall be announced to the House by the Speaker.
- (5) As provided in the routine of business the Speaker shall call the Member concerned to proceed with the matter. The matter cannot be amended.
- (6) The following time limits shall apply:

Member submitting matter	– 5 minutes
Member next speaking	– 5 minutes
One other Member	– 3 minutes
Reply	– 3 minutes
Total	– 16 minutes
- (7) At the conclusion of the discussion no question shall be put.
- (8) There shall be no dissent from the ruling of the Speaker in relation to the operation of this standing order.

PROCEDURE FOR LODGEMENT AND PRESENTATION

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 123 shall read as follows:

123. The procedure for the lodging and presentation of a petition is as follows:

- (1) The Member must be acquainted with the contents of the petition.
- (2) The Member must ensure that the petition is in conformity with the Standing Orders.
- (3) The Member must sign the front sheet and, if applicable, certify that the petition has been signed by 500 or more persons.
- (4) The petition may be lodged for presentation with the Clerk.
- (5) In the House the Clerk shall announce that petitions have been received.
- (6) The terms of the petition presented shall be printed in Hansard and in the Votes and Proceedings.
- (7) No discussion upon the subject matter of a petition shall be allowed, except in accordance with Standing Order 125A or by way of substantive motion.

PETITIONS DEEMED TO HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 124 shall read as follows:

124. Petitions shall be deemed to be received by the House unless a motion, moved on the next sitting day, is agreed to, without debate or amendment, that a petition be not received.

DISCUSSION ON PETITIONS SIGNED BY 10,000 OR MORE PERSONS

That during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, the following sessional order be adopted:

- 125A.** (1) The subject matter of every petition received by the House and certified by a Member and announced by the Speaker as having been signed by 10,000 or more persons, shall be automatically set down as an Order of the Day for discussion on a future day.
- (2) The Order of the Day shall take place at 4.30 p.m. on the Thursday of the next sitting week.
- (3) Any further petitions received before the first Order of the Day is disposed of shall be set down on succeeding Thursdays in the order in which they are presented.
- (4) The following time limits shall apply:
- First speaker – 5 minutes
 - Member next speaking – 5 minutes
 - Two other Members – 3 minutes each
 - Total – 16 minutes
- (5) If a Member does not seek the call when the Order of the Day is called on, the Order of the Day will lapse.
- (6) The Order of the Day cannot be amended and at the conclusion of the discussion no question shall be put.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 132 shall read as follows:

- 132.** The procedure for written questions is as follows:
- (1) Questions shall be handed to one of the Clerks-at-the-Table or lodged in the Table Office by 12.00 noon.
- (2) A question containing argument, unbecoming expressions or otherwise not conforming with the practice of the House may:
- (a) Under the authority of the Speaker, be amended by the Clerk or divided if it contains matters that are not relevant to each other;
 - (b) Be ordered not to be printed by the Speaker or removed from the Questions and Answers Paper.
- (3) The number of questions able to be lodged over one sitting week are:
- (a) Members-Nine questions per sitting week;
 - (b) Leader of the Opposition-Twelve questions per sitting week.
- (4) Ministers shall lodge answers to written questions within 35 calendar days after the question is first published. On sitting days answers must be submitted by 12.00 noon on the due date, to be published in the next sitting day's paper. Any answers lodged after this time will be published at a subsequent time. Answers must be signed and lodged in hard copy and also electronically.
- (5) If an answer to a written question is not received within 35 calendar days the Speaker, at the next sitting day after the expiry date, shall forthwith inform the House and the Minister shall immediately explain to the House the reason for non-compliance.
- (6) If the Minister, after explanation in the House, has not submitted an answer within 3 sitting days the Speaker shall again inform the House and the Minister shall again be called to explain. The Minister will continue to be called each sitting day until a written answer is submitted.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 133 shall read as follows:

- 133.** (1) A notice of motion for:
- (a) A bill;
 - (b) Government Business;
 - (c) No confidence in the Government, Minister or Speaker, or censure of Member or Speaker;
 - (d) Business with precedence (SO 118) with the exception of motions of condolence and the printing of papers; and
 - (e) A General Notice to be the subject of a motion for re-ordering must be given verbally at the time prescribed in the routine of business.
- (2) General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices):
- (a) May only be given when called for at the time prescribed in the routine of business each day;
 - (b) The period for giving General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) is limited to a maximum of 10 minutes. The Speaker has discretion to allow the giving of notices to exceed this 10 minutes period.

POSTPONEMENT OR WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICES OF MOTIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 141 shall read as follows:

- 141.** (1) A notice of motion shall be postponed or withdrawn at the direction of the Member who gave the notice, or by another Member with the written authority of that Member, during the placing or disposal of business or when called on.
- (2) On any day when General Business is being considered by the House the Speaker has discretion to postpone any notice of motion if the Member is absent from the Chamber.

PREVIOUS QUESTION

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing orders 149 and 150 shall be suspended.

RESTRICTIONS ON DIVISIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 187 shall read as follows:

- 187.** The House shall not conduct a division on any question before 10.30 a.m. on days when the House meets at an earlier time, during Private Members' Statements, Community Recognition Statements, Matters of Public Importance or the discussion on a petition signed by 10,000 or more persons. If a division is called prior to 10.30 a.m. on such days, the division shall be deferred and conducted at 10.30 a.m. and any business then before the House shall be interrupted and recommenced after the division(s).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 188 shall read as follows:

- 188.** The procedure for the introduction and the passage of a bill up to the mover's second reading speech is as follows:
- (1) The title of a bill must agree with the notice of intention to present it, and every clause must come within the title. It shall not be necessary to specify in the long title every Act which it is proposed to amend.
 - (2) A notice of motion shall be given: "**I give notice of motion to introduce the [short title of the bill]**". It is sufficient for the mover to read the short title.
 - (3) The motion to introduce the bill may be moved on the same day notice is given and shall include the long title.
 - (4) The question "**That this bill be now introduced**" shall be put without debate or amendment and the bill shall be taken as read a first time without question put.
 - (5) The bill as introduced shall correspond with the notice of motion.
 - (6) Three copies of the bill shall be handed to the Clerk.
 - (7) The bill shall be printed, with an explanatory note if applicable, without motion put.
 - (8) The motion "**That this bill be now read a second time**" may be moved forthwith or set down for a later time.
 - (9) Immediately following the mover's second reading speech the debate shall be adjourned.
 - (10) The mover shall ask the Speaker to fix the resumption of the debate as an Order of the Day for a future day which shall be at least five clear days ahead.
 - (11) On the reading of the Order of the Day a motion may be moved "**That this bill be now read a second time**", or "**That the order be postponed**" or, on a motion without notice, "**That the order be discharged and the bill be withdrawn**".

PROCEDURE FOR URGENT BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 189 shall read as follows:

- 189.** The procedure for the consideration of a bill as an urgent bill is as follows:
- (1) Sufficient copies being available to Members, the Member in charge of the bill, after making a second reading speech, may declare a bill to be an urgent bill.
 - (2) The question "**That the bill be considered an urgent bill**" is put forthwith, no debate or amendment being allowed.
 - (3) If agreed to, the second reading debate and other stages may be proceeded with forthwith or at any time during that or any future sitting of the House.

COGNATE BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 193 shall read as follows:

- 193.** The procedure for two or more bills to be dealt with as cognate bills is as follows:
- (1) The notice of motion for the bills shall state that the bills are cognate.
 - (2) One motion may be moved and one question put in regard to, respectively, the introduction, the second reading, the consideration in detail stage and the third reading of the bills together.
 - (3) The bills may be considered together in detail.

SECOND AND THIRD READING OF COGNATE BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 194 shall read as follows:

- 194.** An amendment may be moved to a question on the second or third reading of cognate bills to leave out one or more of the bills from the question.

SEPARATE QUESTIONS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 195 shall read as follows:

- 195.** In respect of cognate bills, a Member may move a motion for the question to be put on the second or third reading of cognate bills as separate questions.

DEBATE ON SECOND READING

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 198 shall read as follows:

- 198.** Amendments may be moved to the question "That this bill be now read a second time" to leave out all words after the word "That" and adding words to refer the bill to a committee (as specified).

DISPOSAL OF BILL

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 199 shall read as follows:

- 199.** An amendment may be moved to the question "That this bill be now read a second time" to leave out all words after "That" and adding "this bill be disposed of". No amendment may be moved to this amendment.

AMENDMENT—DEFERRAL OF QUESTION

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 200 shall read as follows:

- 200.** An amendment may be moved to the question "That this bill be now read a second time" to leave out the word "now" and adding a later time.

DISCHARGE OF ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF SECOND BILL

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 202 shall read as follows:

- 202.** An Order of the Day for the second reading (or any subsequent stage of a bill) having been discharged and the bill withdrawn, the House may direct on motion for another bill to be brought in.

PROCEEDINGS AFTER THE SECOND READING

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 203 shall read as follows:

- 203.** After the second reading, the Member in charge of the bill shall move forthwith, without debate or amendment, "**That this bill be now read a third time**" unless:
- (1) A Member requests consideration of the bill in detail; or
 - (2) The Member in charge of the Bill:
 - (a) moves a motion for consideration in detail pro forma; or
 - (b) requests the Speaker to set down consideration of the bill in detail as an Order of the Day for a later time.

PRO FORMA CONSIDERATION IN DETAIL

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 204 shall read as follows:

- 204.** The procedure for dealing with a pro forma consideration in detail is as follows:
- (1) After the second reading, the Member in charge of the bill shall move "**That the House consider the bill in detail pro forma**". The question shall be put without amendment or debate.
 - (2) The proposed amendments, which have been previously printed, shall be put in one question, without amendment or debate, "**That the amendments as printed be inserted in the bill**".
 - (3) If the motion is agreed to the bill shall be reprinted in its amended form, set down for reconsideration and, on reconsideration, be dealt with as if considered for the first time.
 - (4) If the question for the pro forma consideration, or for the inclusion of the amendments is negatived, the bill shall be proceeded with in consideration in detail in the usual manner.

RECONSIDERATION IN WHOLE OR PART

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 217 shall read as follows:

- 217.** After consideration in detail a bill may be reconsidered in whole or in part by amendment to the motion "**That this bill be now read a third time**".

BILL PASSES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 218 shall read as follows:

- 218.** After the third reading no further question shall be put, and the bill shall have passed the House.

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 220 shall read as follows:

- 220.** A bill having been read a third time, the Clerk shall certify, at the top of the first page "That this public [or private] bill, originated in the Legislative Assembly and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Legislative Council for its concurrence."

PROCEDURE IN THE ASSEMBLY FOR COUNCIL BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 229 shall read as follows:

- 229.**
- (1) When the message from the Council forwarding a bill for concurrence is reported, the bill shall be introduced and read a first time without motion put.
 - (2) A message forwarding a private member's public bill or a private bill from the Council cannot be reported until the Speaker is advised which Member of the Assembly will have carriage of the bill. Once reported the bill will be set down as an Order of the Day.
 - (3) A motion "**That this bill be now read a second time**" may be moved forthwith or made an Order of the Day for a later time. Except in the case of a private member's bill which can only be moved when it is called on in accordance with the routine of business.
 - (4) A truncated second reading speech may be given if the bill is received in the same form as introduced into the Council.
 - (5) Immediately following the mover's second reading speech, the debate may be adjourned or proceeded with forthwith.
 - (6) If adjourned, the resumption of the debate shall be set down as an Order of the Day for a later time.
 - (7) The bill shall then be proceeded with in the same manner as a bill originating in the Assembly.

PROCEEDINGS AFTER CONSIDERATION IN DETAIL

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 238 shall read as follows:

- 238.** After consideration in detail, the Member in charge of the bill may:
- (1) Request the Speaker to set down the motion "**That this bill be now read a third time**" as an order of the day for a later time; or
 - (2) Move the motion "**That this bill be now read a third time**" forthwith.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 246 shall read as follows:

- 246.**
- (1) On a motion of a Minister, during the second reading debate on the Appropriation Bill, the House may appoint Estimates Committees.
 - (2) The Estimates Committees shall examine and report on proposed expenditures from the Consolidated Fund for each organisational unit for each Minister listed in the Tabled Estimates, and the corresponding clauses and schedules in the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill which shall stand referred to the appropriate committee.
 - (3) The report of each Estimates Committee shall state whether the votes of each organisational unit in the Estimates and the corresponding clauses and schedules in the Appropriation Bill are recommended or otherwise.
The failure of an Estimates Committee to report on any part of the votes shall be deemed to be a report recommending the proposed expenditure.
 - (4) The Chair of each Committee or a Member deputed by the Chair shall, after the committee has concluded its deliberations and after the question on the second reading of the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill has been agreed to, present the Committee's report to the Speaker in the House.
The Speaker shall set down consideration of the reports in detail with the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill respectively as an Order of the Day.
 - (5) Consideration of a report in detail shall be deemed to be consideration of those clauses and schedules of the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill referred to that Estimates Committee.
 - (6) When considering a report in detail:
 - (a) The Speaker shall put the question in respect of each Committee report, "That the report of the (name of the Committee) be adopted".
 - (b) A Member may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes and the Minister in reply may speak for a maximum of 15 minutes on each of the questions.
 - (c) Those clauses and schedules of the Appropriation Bill and the Parliamentary Appropriation Bill not referred to an Estimates Committee shall be considered as one question, "That the remaining clauses and schedules of the Bill be agreed to".

MEMBER REMOVED FROM THE CHAMBER

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, the following sessional order be adopted:

- 249A.** The Speaker may direct a Member who is grossly disorderly to leave the Chamber for up to three hours. The direction shall not be open to debate or dissent.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 282 shall read as follows:

- 282.**
- (1) At the first meeting of a committee, or if a vacancy occurs, a Chair and Deputy Chair shall be elected.
 - (2) The Speaker, upon being advised, shall report the appointments of a committee Chair and a Deputy Chair to the House.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, TABLING IN THE HOUSE AND DEBATE

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 306 shall read as follows:

- 306.** (1) The report and associated documents of any committee (not being a legislation committee) shall be presented at the time provided in the routine of business, or at any other time with the leave of the House.
- (2) The Member presenting the report may move **"That the document be printed"**. This question shall be decided without debate or amendment.
- (3) Reports from committees shall stand in the order in which they are presented (or reported by the Clerk when received during an adjournment) as Orders of the Day **"That the House take note of the Report"**.
- (4) Such Orders of the Day may be considered between 1.00 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. on Thursdays. Any interrupted item of business shall stand as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.
- (5) Debate on an Order of the Day may be adjourned and the resumption of the debate set down as an Order of the Day for tomorrow.
- (6) When the Order of the Day is called on and not proceeded with, consideration of the report shall be postponed until the next Thursday sitting when reports are considered. If the Order of the Day is called on at that subsequent sitting and is not proceeded with, the question shall be put.
- (7) If a committee has more than one report on the Business Paper, the Chair or Member who tabled the report may move a motion without notice, amendment or debate to facilitate the consideration of two or more of the committee's reports together.
- (8) The Member tabling the report may speak for up to 6 minutes and any other Member may speak for up to 4 minutes to the question **"That the House take note of the Report"** with the question being put after 22 minutes. No reply is permitted.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 323 shall read as follows:

- 323.** (1) Immediately after a motion for a bill to be read a second time has been agreed to, any Member may move without notice **"That the (name of the bill) be referred to a legislation committee for consideration and report"**.
- (2) A legislation committee shall consider and report to the House on amendments to the clauses and schedules of the bill which it considers could be proposed for consideration in detail, together with a schedule of amendments which should be proposed.
- (3) A committee shall have a maximum of six Members—three shall be Members representing the Government and three shall be non-Government Members.
- (4) The Chair and Deputy Chair shall be elected by the committee and shall be Government Members.
- (5) A quorum shall be four Members.
- (6) The Chair shall exercise a deliberative vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, a casting vote.
- (7) A committee may meet during the sittings or any adjournment of the House and shall have power to take evidence and call for persons, papers, exhibits and things and to report from time to time.
- (8) In all other respects a committee shall be conducted in accordance with the general provisions relating to committees.
- (9) A committee shall not travel.
- (10) The Minister having portfolio responsibility for the bill shall provide the committee with such drafting and support services as requested by the committee.
- (11) A committee shall table its final report no later than 6 months from the date of the committee's establishment.
- (12) When the Chair tables the final report of a committee the Speaker shall set down its consideration in detail as an Order of the Day with the bill.
- (13) If the House is not sitting at the time of report the Chair shall forward such report to the Clerk for report at the next sitting of the House.

PRIVATE BILLS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 358 shall read as follows:

358. The procedure for the passage of a private bill on petition is as follows:

- (1) At least 3 months prior to the presentation of the petition, a notice of intention to introduce a bill containing a true statement of the general objects of the bill shall be published once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in the Government Gazette, in at least one major newspaper published in Sydney and in the district affected by the bill.
- (2) The petition, with a printed copy of the proposed bill attached and signed by one or more of the parties applying for the bill shall be presented and received by the House.
- (3) The petition must contain:
- proof of the publication of the notice in the Government Gazette and the newspapers.
 - a true statement of the general objects of the bill.
 - a request to introduce the bill.
- (4) When the petition has been received, notice of motion for the introduction of the bill shall be given, and such bill shall be brought in within 30 days.
- (5) The motion for the introduction of the bill cannot be objected to and the motion cannot be amended or debated.
- (6) Before being introduced and read a first time, the bill shall be printed and sufficient copies shall be delivered to the Clerk.
- (7) Before being introduced and read a first time, and from time to time thereafter, the Clerk shall be entitled to claim such expenses from the promoters of the bill as the Clerk deems reasonable.
- (8) After the first reading, the bill by motion on notice shall be referred to a select committee.

SPECIAL RULES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 360 shall read as follows:

360. In the select committee:

- (1) The committee shall require proof of the allegations contained in the preamble.
- (2) The Chair shall have a deliberative and a casting vote.
- (3) Every petition in reference to the bill shall be deemed to be referred to the committee.
- (4) After taking evidence a question shall be put from the Chair—"**That the preamble be agreed to**".
 - (a) If the question passes in the negative, the committee shall not proceed further with the bill and report accordingly.
 - (b) If the question is resolved in the affirmative the committee shall consider the clauses of the bill and any amendments may be proposed.
- (5) The committee having reported in favour of the bill, it shall be proceeded with as in the case of public bills, and a later time set down for the second reading.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 366 be amended in part with the removal of "251 (1) Suspension of Member".

SUBSTITUTE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, the following sessional order be adopted:

- (1) Where a member of a Portfolio or a Specialist Standing Committee finds they are unable to continue to sit on the Committee temporarily they may stand down for a period of time, or for a particular inquiry, and a member may be appointed by the House as their substitute for the period concerned.
- (2) If the House is not sitting, the member unable to attend a meeting of the Committee may, in writing to the Chair of the Committee, nominate a member to act as a substitute member at that meeting.
- (3) If the member is incapacitated or unavailable, a letter to the Chair of the Committee nominating a member to act as a substitute member of the Committee may be signed on behalf of the member by the office holders responsible for nominating members to the Committee.
- (4) The substitute member has all the rights of a Committee member, including to participate in all Committee proceedings and to vote on any question before the Committee.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Motion, by leave, by the Hon. ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That for the current Parliament, unless otherwise ordered, the following Code of Conduct for members be adopted:

That this House adopt, for the purposes of section 9 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, the following Code of Conduct:

PREAMBLE

The Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council have reached agreement on a Code of Conduct which is to apply to all Members of Parliament.

Members of Parliament recognise that they are in a unique position of being responsible to the electorate. The electorate has the right to dismiss them from office at regular elections.

Members of Parliament acknowledge their responsibility to maintain the public trust placed in them by performing their duties with honesty and integrity, respecting the law and the institution of Parliament, and using their influence to advance the common good of the people of New South Wales.

Members of Parliament acknowledge that their principal responsibility in serving as Members is to the people of New South Wales.

THE CODE

1. Disclosure of conflict of interest
 - (a) Members of Parliament must take all reasonable steps to declare any conflict of interest between their private financial interests and decisions in which they participate in the execution of their office.
 - (b) This may be done through declaring their interests on the Register of Disclosures of the relevant House or through declaring their interest when speaking on the matter in the House or a Committee, or in any other public and appropriate manner.
 - (c) A conflict of interest does not exist where the member is only affected as a member of the public or a member of a broad class.

2. Bribery

- (a) A Member must not knowingly or improperly promote any matter, vote on any bill or resolution or ask any question in the Parliament or its Committees in return for any remuneration, fee, payment, reward or benefit in kind, of a private nature, which the member has received, is receiving or expects to receive.
- (b) A Member must not knowingly or improperly promote any matter, vote on any bill or resolution or ask any question in the Parliament or its Committees in return for any remuneration, fee, payment, reward or benefit in kind, of a private nature, which any of the following persons has received, is receiving or expects to receive:
 - (i) A member of the Member's family;
 - (ii) A business associate of the Member; or
 - (iii) Any other person or entity from whom the Member expects to receive a financial benefit.
- (c) A breach of the prohibition on bribery constitutes a substantial breach of this Code of Conduct.

3. Gifts

- (a) Members must declare all gifts and benefits received in connection with their official duties, in accordance with the requirements for the disclosure of pecuniary interests.
- (b) Members must not accept gifts that may pose a conflict of interest or which might give the appearance of an attempt to improperly influence the Member in the exercise of his or her duties.
- (c) Members may accept political contributions in accordance with part 6 of the Election Funding Act 1981.

4. Use of public resources

Members must apply the public resources to which they are granted access according to any guidelines or rules about the use of those resources.

5. Use of confidential information

Members must not knowingly and improperly use official information which is not in the public domain, or information obtained in confidence in the course of their parliamentary duties, for the private benefit of themselves or others.

6. Duties as a Member of Parliament

It is recognised that some members are non-aligned and others belong to political parties. Organised parties are a fundamental part of the democratic process and participation in their activities is within the legitimate activities of Members of Parliament.

7. Secondary employment or engagements

Members must take all reasonable steps to disclose at the start of a parliamentary debate:

- (a) the identity of any person by whom they are employed or engaged or by whom they were employed or engaged in the last two years (but not if it was before the Member was sworn in as a Member);
- (b) the identity of any client of any such person or any former client who benefited from a Member's services within the previous two years (but not if it was before the Member was sworn in as a Member); and
- (c) the nature of the interest held by the person, client or former client in the parliamentary debate.

This obligation only applies if the Member is aware, or ought to be aware, that the person, client or former client may have an interest in the parliamentary debate which goes beyond the general interest of the public.

This disclosure obligation does not apply if a Member simply votes on a matter; it will only apply when he or she participates in a debate. If the Member has already disclosed the information in the Member's entry in the pecuniary interest register, he or she is not required to make a further disclosure during the parliamentary debate.

This resolution has continuing effect unless and until amended or rescinded by resolution of the House.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Notices of Motions

Motion by Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended on Wednesday 6 May 2015 to permit the giving of notices of motions for government business after the conclusion of the giving of general business notices of motions (general notices).

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Order of Business**Motion by Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:**

That standing and sessional orders be suspended at this sitting to provide:

- (1) For the following routine of business for the remainder of this sitting:
 - (a) the moving and seconding of the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, after which the debate will be adjourned on motion;
 - (b) private members' statements;
 - (c) at 5.00 pm, inaugural speeches;
 - (d) private members statements; and
 - (e) the House to adjourn without motion moved at the conclusion of private members' statements.
- (2) That from the commencement of the Address-in-Reply until the rising of the House, no divisions be conducted or quorums be called.

Pursuant to resolution Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech proceeded with.**GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Parliamentary Secretary) [3.34 p.m.]: I move:

That the following address be adopted by this House, in reply to the Speech which His Excellency made to both Houses of Parliament:

To His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, Companion of the Order of Australia, upon whom has been conferred the decoration of the Distinguished Service Cross and Governor of the State of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency—

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of New South Wales, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our thanks for Your Excellency's speech, and to express our loyalty to Australia and the people of New South Wales.

We assure Your Excellency that our earnest consideration will be given to the measures to be submitted to us, and that we will faithfully carry out the important duties entrusted to us by the people of New South Wales.

We join Your Excellency in the hope that our labours may be so directed as to advance the best interests of all sections of the community.

It is an honour and a privilege to speak in debate on the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's speech.

The SPEAKER: It would be an honour and a privilege if members either took their seats or removed themselves from the Chamber.

Mr MATT KEAN: It is an honour and a privilege to stand here as the re-elected member for Hornsby. I do not take this role for granted. It is a community I love. I do not take lightly the opportunity to serve it and to give something back to that community. I am delighted to contribute to the Address-in-Reply. The Governor's Speech outlines the Government's program, which is outstanding. We have come a long way in four years. When we came to office in 2011, New South Wales was ranked the basket case of the nation. We had the highest rate of unemployment and the slowest rate of economic growth—we were being lapped by Tasmania—and a \$30 billion infrastructure backlog was crippling our city.

Things were not as they should have been in my community either. We have all heard the horror stories about Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital. Every time it rained, nurses and doctors had to put out buckets and towels. We had possums running around in the operating theatres. The communities of Galston and Cowan did not have basic water infrastructure; they were not connected to the sewerage system. The people of the north-west in my community did not have a viable public transport option.

We made some tough decisions, which have not always been popular, but they were made in the best interests of residents across New South Wales. We have repaired the State budget. We have paid down the

debt. This is not an end in itself, but a means by which we deliver better services and infrastructure to people across our community. Most importantly, it is how we deliver for the vulnerable in our society--those most in need.

Today, New South Wales is number one again. It has the highest rate of economic growth in the land. Unemployment is the lowest in the country after 170,000 new jobs were created by this Government in the previous term, many of which were in my community of Hornsby. The State is moving again. Locally we have begun work on the North West Rail Link, we have connected the communities of Galston and Cowan to the sewerage system, and we have almost completed the stage one rebuild of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital. Patients in my community can finally be treated in a modern facility that will be in line with the best teaching hospitals in the State.

But there is far more to do. Our plan to unlock \$20 billion in capital from the State's electricity assets will underwrite this State's economic growth for generations to come. Whilst keeping the asset in full public ownership, we keep the old asset and take the value out of the existing asset to invest in new assets. The capital we are seeking to release will go to building new schools, new hospitals, new roads and rail projects that will improve the lives of residents across this State, but it will underpin economic growth for generations to come. The Government has an ambitious plan for my community. It will complete the rebuild of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital. It has committed \$200 million to complete stage two, which will put Hornsby in line with the State's best teaching hospitals.

We will build an additional commuter car park at Hornsby and Asquith railway stations, which will make it easier for people to use public transport and take additional pressure off our road network. We will fix Pennant Hills Road, regarded by everyone in this Chamber, everyone across the State, as one of the worst roads in Sydney. The NorthConnex tunnel will remove 40,000 cars and 5,000 trucks a day from Pennant Hills Road. I note that the member for Cessnock is particularly delighted because his residents, his community in Cessnock, will be the great beneficiaries of this project as they will no longer have to sit in gridlock every day of the week on Pennant Hills Road.

Mr Andrew Gee: Riding on our coat-tails.

Mr MATT KEAN: I note the interjection of the member for Orange that all residents in Northern Sydney and on the Central Coast who want to see the completion of the missing link in the freeway network will be excited about the NorthConnex project, which will be delivered by this Government; delivered after far too long.

One of the most exciting things for Hornsby is our plan to fix the Hornsby quarry, a big, black hole; a bottomless money pit that generations of ratepayers have paid for. We are going to take the smell out of the NorthConnex tunnel and we are going to turn this prime piece of real estate in the heart of Hornsby into the Centennial Park of our district; even the member for Bankstown might take a taxi up there to check it out. It is going to be something special not only for the residents of Hornsby but also for the residents of Sydney generally. It will be the Centennial Park of our entire region. These are some of the exciting plans that the Government is going to deliver in Hornsby. Indeed, these are some of the exciting plans the Government is going to deliver across New South Wales to build on the fine work it started in its first term.

The ASSISTANT-SPEAKER (Mr Andrew Fraser): Order! I remind members opposite that it is courteous to allow members to speak without interruption.

Mr MATT KEAN: Members from Ku-ring-gai to Bankstown are excited about these plans because they are going to improve not only the lives of their residents but also the lives of residents across this State, whilst underwriting economic growth for generations. I noted a couple of things in the Governor's Speech, particularly given my interest in mental illness. We know that every day of the week six Australians will take their own lives. If six Australians died on our beaches every day there would be a national outcry. The Government's agenda to implement a mental health plan and support it by providing additional funding is welcome news for communities across the State. It is a national disgrace that six Australians die every day by their own hand. We must reduce the devastating impact of suicide in our community. The Government's plan is a step in the right direction to reducing the impact of this scourge on our community.

I note that the Liberal-Nationals Government was the first to sign up to a needs-based funding model for education—it was the first State to sign up to the Gonski reforms. That is something that we can all be proud

of on this side of the Chamber. It was not the only initiative this Government signed up to. New South Wales was the first State to sign up to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which will improve the lives of people living with a disability across the State and that is a good thing. We want people to be able to access services based on their need, not based on their geography or on who their parents are, and that is a very Liberal philosophy.

I am delighted to see the Government's agenda laid out in full today and I am delighted to stand in this place as a member of the Government to support it. A number of projects are going to change not only Sydney but also communities across New South Wales, such as the North West Rail Link finally giving the people of the north-west a viable public transport solution. For decades, as the member for Castle Hill knows, the people of the north-west have missed out on a public transport solution. People are stuck in their cars every day of the week for hours on end, spending time away from their families. This situation has gone on for decades.

Mr Andrew Gee: A great thing.

Mr MATT KEAN: As the member for Orange said, it is a great thing. North-western Sydney is going to be one of the growth centres of Sydney. It is anticipated that another 100,000 people—the population of Canberra—will live in the north-west in the next five years, and it is only reasonable that responsible government provide public transport for those communities. This is not new: The former Government was aware of the demographic changes in north-western Sydney. In fact, it was so concerned about these changes that it promised the North West Rail Link in 1998, but then scrapped it in 1999 before re-promising it in 2001, then scrapping it again. If the former Government had delivered when it said it would, we would now have a fully paid for North West Rail Link delivering for the people of the north-west, but it has taken a Liberal-Nationals Government to do that. The people of the north-west are understandably excited because they again have a viable public transport solution.

Hundreds of thousands of residents are moving into south-west Sydney and they are now getting a public transport solution to their problems, which it is a great thing. It will be completed on time and under budget, again the hallmark of a Liberal-Nationals Government. The WestConnex tunnel, the thorn in the side of the Labor Party, resulted in its losing seats to its bedfellows, the Greens. No-one could understand whether they were for it or against it, whether they wanted people to be able to get into Sydney more quickly, or whether they wanted people to spend more time on the roads. The Labor Party still does not have a clear position and as long as that remains the case, the Greens will continue to cannibalise them in the inner city.

I will move on from the cafe latte set and on to the people across Sydney who are going to benefit from a world-standard convention centre, which should be—I am delighted to hear—completed next year. The centre will provide world-class facilities on our doorstep. It is long overdue. The centre will drive and underpin economic growth in New South Wales for a long time. The New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government is delivering exciting stuff.

This infrastructure could not be delivered without a strong economy, and we on this side of the House believe that a stronger, more competitive economy means more prosperity for everyone. It is how we deliver the infrastructure and services that this State missed out on for too long. It means more money for services and infrastructure for the member for Wagga Wagga, who likes delivering services and infrastructure to his community. He has been the champion of that community for a long time; it was good to hear his community mentioned by the Governor today. That great part of country New South Wales, Wagga Wagga—

Mr Andrew Gee: I was born there.

Mr MATT KEAN: I note the interjection of the member for Orange that he was born there, which shows that some good things can come out of Wagga Wagga. I am very excited about the opportunity that I have as Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer to work with the Treasurer and the Premier to continue to build and strengthen our economy. However, we will face great challenges through revenue pressure and expense growth. When we came to office we knew that the Labor Government had been content to let expense growth exceed revenue growth. What did that mean? It meant that a structural deficit was heading our way that would require us to borrow or to sell assets simply to pay for operating expenses.

The member for Cessnock wants it that way: sell the family silver to pay for salaries and wages. That is not a good way to run a business and it is not a good way to run a State. If the member for Cessnock would like, I am happy to give him a lesson in economics 101 later. This Government has changed that approach. We have

made some tough decisions around the salaries and wages of public servants. We have put a cap on them. It has not been a popular decision, but it was the medicine necessary to get the budget back in order because we understand that having a strong budget and creating a strong fiscal environment is how we deliver for people across the State: the vulnerable and those who have been sitting in this infrastructure black hole for a long time—16 years under the Labor Government.

We make no apology for that, because we understand that taking tough decisions is part of being a responsible government. We are taking tough decisions because that will deliver better outcomes across New South Wales. More tough decisions must be made. We have to unlock the capital tied up in our State's electricity assets so that we can spend on infrastructure—new roads, new hospitals and new schools, including new infrastructure for the electorate of the member for Oxley. I congratulate the member for Oxley on her election to the lower House. She has been a significant contributor to this side of politics for many years. It is good that she can contribute in the lower House, as can the member for Armidale.

Mrs Melinda Pavey: And the member for Northern Tablelands.

Mr MATT KEAN: What a fine member for Northern Tablelands he is. He is in fact my favourite member for Northern Tablelands. There are many challenges to making services more competitive and more flexible, whether that be in education, in TAFE or in service delivery in our hospitals or in our rail network. These are matters that the Government has to consider. We cannot bury our heads in the sand, as the Labor Opposition would like us to do. Members opposite think it can be Christmas forever. They think that the credit card never has to be paid off. But it does. That is why we need to continue to consolidate our budget position. We need to continue to look at opportunities to grow our economy, because we know a bigger and stronger economy has a positive impact on the State's fiscal position. It means more revenue from payroll tax and stamp duties. Look at the boom we have had. The framework and the groundwork that we put in place have resulted in New South Wales having the number one economy again. We have benefited from that. Real estate prices are going through the roof, leading to more revenue from stamp duty. That means we have more to spend on new infrastructure, better services and the generation of better outcomes for people across New South Wales.

The member for Camden is delighted with the Governor's Speech today, because it outlined significant infrastructure improvements for Camden as well. I note that Camden Valley Way is now completed, as is the South West Rail Link. His community knows that an effective local member who campaigns for his community rather than for himself gets good outcomes. That is what this Government is about. I am delighted to stand in this House as the re-elected member for Hornsby. It is an honour and a privilege to serve the community which I love and which has given me so many opportunities. I take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who has been re-elected and the new members of this House.

I recall the first time I walked into this Chamber, surrounded by all its history and all those wonderful people who have contributed to making New South Wales the best State in the Commonwealth. We have a significant responsibility to serve our communities, to do so honestly and with integrity, and to work hard in their interests. I am committed to doing that every day that I am lucky enough to be a member of Parliament or otherwise serving in public life. I know that all my colleagues, regardless of their politics, where they come from and how they got here, have the same commitment to their communities. That is what is great about our Parliament—the diversity and the many different perspectives and backgrounds that members bring to this place. We come together to debate, argue and fight for our ideals, because we know that will lead to the best outcomes and to making New South Wales the best State it can possibly be.

I commend the Governor not only for his Speech today but also for the work he has been doing in his role. He has big shoes to fill. Some would say the shoes of the previous Governor could not be filled. This Governor has worked hard and deserves great credit. Recently he came to my electorate following the death of Trooper Jason Brown. He joined Jason's family and our community in Anzac Day services to remember Jason and the contribution he made to our nation. I, too, place on the public record my sincere gratitude for Jason's service to our country. He risked everything and ultimately gave his life so that we could enjoy the freedoms and opportunities that we have in this country. I am delighted to respond to the Governor's Speech, and I am delighted to continue to serve my community. My focus and my job will be to ensure that the people of Hornsby get the services, infrastructure and funding that we missed out on for too long under Labor. I am committed to ensuring that we never miss out again.

Mr ANDREW GEE (Orange—Parliamentary Secretary) [3.54 p.m.]: I second the motion. It is a great honour to follow the dashing young member for Hornsby and to support this very important motion on this very

significant day. His Excellency has been a wonderful supporter of regional New South Wales and, despite it being reasonably early in his term, he has made a huge effort to get out into country New South Wales, to meet the people, to listen to their concerns and to offer his support. The people of regional New South Wales are very grateful for that. As the member for Hornsby so eloquently pointed out, much has been achieved in New South Wales in the past four years. Indeed, much has been achieved in regional New South Wales in the four years of the Coalition's term in government. This is reflected in the strong vote of confidence that the electors of regional New South Wales gave The Nationals at the recent poll.

We had some notable victories, including that of the member for Lismore, the comeback kid, who timed his run and measured his margin to absolute perfection. But there were others. The member for Bathurst had a thumping victory in his electorate. In the electorate of Oxley, it was the member for Oxley first and daylight second. Who could forget the member for Monaro—the Monaro marvel—and his stunning victory? They will be talking about that around the campfires of New South Wales for decades to come. Among the many other successes was the member for Northern Tablelands, who had a stratospheric primary vote. The member for Tamworth turned that seat into fortress Tamworth. The member for Oatley—not quite a country seat, but we are working on it—enjoyed a resounding victory, built on two important foundations. The first is the fantastic leadership of the member for Dubbo, whose electorate provided another fantastic result in the Central West. Across the board, the Deputy Premier gave huge support to all members, making multiple visits to the Orange electorate and making wonderful announcements, which I will touch upon shortly. There were unprecedented levels of support for all of our candidates.

The second foundation of this marvellous result—an endorsement of The Nationals in country and regional New South Wales—was the great policies of the past four years and the policies to come. Nowhere was this more notable than in the health sector. Regional New South Wales has seen the biggest country hospital rebuilding program since the Second World War. The unprecedented level of New South Wales Government spending saw new hospitals springing up across the State. We delivered health upgrades to Lismore, and from Bega to Byron Bay, from Parkes to Port Macquarie, from Tamworth to Dubbo and from Wollongong to Wagga Wagga. Hospital redevelopments are underway across rural and regional New South Wales. During the State election campaign the Deputy Premier announced \$2 billion for upgrades to Byron Bay—the member for Northern Tablelands will be happy about that—Coffs Harbour, the home territory of Mr Assistant-Speaker, Armidale and the Tweed.

As I speak we are seeing the results of this across New South Wales. Indeed, last week I attended the open day for the Peak Hill Multi-purpose Service, a brand new health facility. The locals love it. It will anchor health services and economic growth in that important town in western New South Wales for decades to come. Gulgong—which was within the former boundary of my electorate—has seen the Government complete its multi-purpose service centre. The member for Bathurst is very excited about that because the centre is near the boundary of his electorate. We are all very proud of that achievement.

The announcements kept coming during the election campaign. The Deputy Premier announced the allocation of millions of dollars to upgrade Mudgee Hospital. Construction of that hospital began in the 1940s and was completed in the 1950s, and we will now finally get a long-overdue upgrade. In March, the comeback kid, the member for Lismore, announced the allocation of \$180 million for a major redevelopment of Lismore Base Hospital. The member for Lismore should never be written off. The member for Cessnock did so and he is now eating humble pie. Those sorts of policies anchored The Nationals' great performance in the recent election. The Government has delivered more than new hospitals. During its first term in office it delivered important upgrades to enterprises such as the 24-hour medical retrieval helicopter service. The member for Bathurst and the member for Oxley are nodding their heads in agreement. Those upgrades are transforming health services in the Central West. A second linear accelerator has also been installed at Orange Health Service. The list goes on and on.

It was not only in the health and hospitals sector that we saw an unprecedented level of activity and spending. We have a wonderful story to tell about road upgrades across country New South Wales. Of course, the big story is about the final stage of the Pacific Highway duplication. Mr Assistant-Speaker, I know that project is close to your heart. It was announced only about a month ago and the communities of the North Coast are rejoicing. When the Woolgoolga to Ballina highway upgrade project is going full steam ahead in 2017 it will employ 4,000 workers along its length, and another 8,000 people will benefit from it across the north and on the Mid North Coast. I drove along that section of the highway recently and was staggered to see the amount of work being undertaken.

The Deputy Premier also announced that \$1.25 billion will be spent to secure regional water supplies. This will help communities to become more drought resilient and it will support population growth. Water security is one of the biggest challenges facing country New South Wales. During the election campaign the Government announced the provision of \$38 million for water security pipelines. One pipeline went from Orange to Molong and then to Cumnock and Yeoval. Those towns have never had reticulated drinking water, but they will under this Government. A pipeline will also go from Orange out to Carcoar in the great electorate of Bathurst.

The scoping study for the new dam at Cranky Rock is also underway. During the election campaign I called on our opponents on the other side of the Chamber to take a bipartisan approach to water security. I asked them to support the Government's allocation of \$38 million for pipelines because we need them, but they would not make that commitment.

Mr Paul Toole: They don't care.

Mr ANDREW GEE: No, they do not care. Members opposite have binned the proposed Cranky Rock scoping study. They have blithely and arrogantly dismissed the project even before the multimillion dollar scoping study is complete. That is extraordinary. Members opposite are treating the people of the Central West with contempt. That was one of the disappointing aspects of the election campaign. The Deputy Premier made another exciting announcement about the new fleet of trains that will replace the ageing XPT fleet. That announcement has been warmly received across country New South Wales.

Mr Daryl Maguire: I chaired the committee that made that recommendation.

Mr ANDREW GEE: Yes, the State and Regional Development Committee recommended that the XPT fleet be replaced, and possibly by tilt trains. The Deputy Premier announced at The Nationals' election campaign launch in Dubbo that tilt train technology would be considered as a way to reduce significantly travel times to Sydney from across New South Wales. We are very excited about that. All of this was made possible by the allocation of 30 per cent of the Restart NSW funding, which is now driving the provision of infrastructure across the State. Regional New South Wales gets 30 per cent of that funding and we are delighted that it is generating investment in our electorates. The Deputy Premier's office is also excited about it because it is supporting the provision of public transport, road upgrades and health facilities across our State.

I note the hour, but before I conclude I will mention a couple of the other wonderful initiatives announced by the Deputy Premier during the election campaign. They include the allocation of \$500 million for the upgrade of the Newell Highway, which is close to the hearts of people in country New South Wales, and \$75 million to boost the Regional Industries Investment Fund. That fund is driving business expansion and growth across regional New South Wales. About two months ago, the Government announced the allocation of \$100,000 to assist in the expansion of a biotechnology firm at Borenore. Who would have thought that a company in Borenore would be leading the world in biotechnology? The Regional Industries Investment Fund is making that possible.

The continuation and expansion of the successful Resources for Regions Program has already seen \$217 million provided to mining communities affected by the recent downturn in mining activity. That program will be expanded to all affected communities. Needless to say, the communities of country New South Wales are very excited about that. I note the agitated look on the Whip's face. I will put him out of his misery by concluding my contribution. Much to the chagrin of members opposite, the Government achieved a stunning election victory. That victory was achieved on the back of wonderful policies which have transformed the lives of people in country New South Wales and will continue to transform them. I commend the motion to the House.

Debate adjourned on motion by Mr Chris Patterson and set down as an order of the day for a future day.

Pursuant to resolution private members' statements proceeded with.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

BATLOW CIDERFEST

Mr DARYL MAGUIRE (Wagga Wagga—Parliamentary Secretary) [4.07 p.m.]: If I were to mention the word "apples", members might respond by mentioning Adam and Eve, Batlow, cider or apple pie. Adam and

Eve definitely will not be at Batlow on 16 May but many people from across New South Wales and Australia will be attending the Batlow CiderFest. This year's festival will be the third such celebration, which has been a great tourist attraction. Growing the perfect apple is only one of many things that the people of Batlow do well. Lush green pastures, rich red soils and abundant beauty welcome visitors to Batlow. The area is punctuated by stunning panoramic vistas of orchard and grazing country and the roadsides are dotted with stalls selling local produce. Batlow is a small township lying midway between Tumut and Tumbarumba.

Batlow boasts four genuine seasons, wildlife, award-winning nurseries and the opportunity to enjoy many outdoor adventures. Visitors can explore the unique heritage and the history of the township or join in one of the many community events. The Batlow CiderFest is one of those wonderful events. Visitors can enjoy gourmet food, local produce and local entertainment while celebrating the apple harvest. One of the favourite local products is cider and the Batlow CiderFest is reminiscent of the European Oktoberfest. People can sample and buy the various local ciders, enjoy the great local food and soak up the atmosphere of the picturesque town of Batlow. Not only does the community gather on 16 May to enjoy the stalls and entertainment but it also hosts a cider conference the day before the festival.

In May the annual cider industry conference is held. This is a great learning and networking opportunity for existing and aspiring cider growers, producers and marketers. Last year's conference was a huge success. Presentations were made on establishing a small cidery, the art of cider making, value adding, and snapshots of the cider industries in New Zealand and Tasmania, as well as an overview of the Australian cider industry. Good-quality cider products are becoming very popular and are the choice of many in trendy city bars and country pubs. Batlow and its surrounding areas offer plenty of accommodation to suit everyone's budget, including Batlow Caravan Park, the Apple Inn, Batlow Hotel, Blowering Forest Camp, Brindabella Farmstay, Laurel Hill Forest Lodge and Wakehurst Hostel or serviced accommodation. People travel to Batlow from Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Sydney and afar to attend this fantastic festival, and this year a theme song encapsulating all that is good about Batlow will be performed.

Mr Andrew Gee: Give us a sample.

Mr DARYL MAGUIRE: When I open the 2015 Batlow CiderFest I will make my debut, together with those at the festival. The Batlow community has been looking for value-add industries—for example, Wayne and Sharon Ford of Tahara Estate, Back Kunama Road, have turned their love of apple pie into a family business. Their Sweetie Pie business was two years in the making and has allowed the Fords to spend more time on their picturesque property while sharing a household favourite: the humble apple pie. Earlier this afternoon the Governor spoke about some of the flagship events of the New South Wales Government. Indeed, the Government has allocated funding of \$10,000 for the 2015 Batlow CiderFest. I encourage everyone to visit the website www.batlowciderfest.com.au for further information, and then go and enjoy the wonderful produce that Batlow has to offer.

UNANDERRA RAILWAY STATION EASY ACCESS

Ms NOREEN HAY (Wollongong) [4.12 p.m.]: I congratulate the member for Wagga Wagga on his private member's statement—he caught my interest as soon as he mentioned apple pie. Today I thank my constituents for re-electing me to this Parliament for a fourth term as the member for Wollongong. My community has come to the fore with rock-solid support for my candidature. I am both grateful and humbled by the support I receive from them, sometimes in trying circumstances. What a year it has been. To date, the St George Illawarra Dragons have had six straight National Rugby League [NRL] wins—eat your hearts out supporters of the other teams—and in June the Chelsea Football Club, my team, will be coming to Australia to play the Sydney Football Club. What a wonderful experience it will be to have the Chelsea Football Club visit my home town. Shortly I will name those who have gone over and above what would normally be expected in supporting me—

Mr Mark Coure: Name them.

Ms NOREEN HAY: Just sit tight and wait. I take this opportunity to congratulate Gordon Bradbery, OAM, Mayor of Wollongong, on his change of mind—

Mr Gareth Ward: Point of order: The member for Wollongong is misleading the House.

The ASSISTANT-SPEAKER (Mr Andrew Fraser): Order! I call the member for Kiama to order for the first time.

Ms NOREEN HAY: —about the installation of easy access lifts at Unanderra station. I am looking forward to working with the new Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast in achieving the installation of those lifts. After the Government reneged on its promise following the 2011 election—

Mr Gareth Ward: What happened to your \$9 million?

Ms NOREEN HAY: —Michelle Blicavs, a Liberal councillor, moved a motion that Wollongong City Council call on the Government to keep its commitment and install the lifts at Unanderra station. However, that motion was defeated in favour of a motion that all New South Wales railway stations should have easy access lifts. I do not disagree with that sentiment but some of those opposite have never before heard me mention in this place easy access lifts at Unanderra station—

Mr Mark Coure: Never.

Ms NOREEN HAY: —and they will probably hear me not mention them a lot more in the future.

Mr Mark Coure: Why did you not deliver them when you were in government?

Ms NOREEN HAY: I have pursued the issue and lobbied for easy access lifts; I do not care if they are installed by a Liberal government or—

Mr Gareth Ward: You were not going to do it.

Ms NOREEN HAY: We were doing it; you lot reneged.

Mr Gareth Ward: What happened to your \$9 million?

Ms NOREEN HAY: You reneged. You could not lie straight in bed.

Mr Mark Coure: Just say sorry.

Ms NOREEN HAY: I will congratulate whoever is successful in lobbying for the installation of those easy access lifts at Unanderra station. I will congratulate the Mayor of Wollongong or whoever delivers them. We should be working together for people with disabilities. Those opposite, particularly the member for Kiama, should not be taking cheap political points and attacking me in this Chamber. I have given them a bit of credit but I will not be doing that again. In conclusion, I again thank the people of the electorate of Wollongong for re-electing me.

The ASSISTANT-SPEAKER (Mr Andrew Fraser): Order! I remind members that it is customary not to interject or to take points of order when a member is making a private member's statement unless there has been a dire breach of the standing orders. If Government members continue to interject they will be directed to leave the Chamber.

BATHURST BICENTENARY

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Local Government) [4.18 p.m.]: What a great honour it is to have been returned to this Parliament as the member for Bathurst. It is a pleasure to be able to serve my community. The Baird Government will deliver the same level of service to all people in this great State regardless of whether they voted for us in the 2015 State election. As the member for Bathurst I will continue to strive to ensure that the voices of all people are heard in this place. Today I inform the House about a significant event that is taking place in my electorate this week.

Bathurst, as we know, is a wonderful city. It has a population of more than 40,000 and is one of the fastest growing inland regional cities. This week Bathurst will mark a huge milestone when it celebrates its bicentenary. This is a big event for the residents of Bathurst and the dignitaries who will attend the celebrations, at which people from far and wide will gather. It was on 7 May 1815 that Governor Macquarie stood on the banks of the Macquarie River and hoisted the Union Jack. A couple of shots were fired and Bathurst was proclaimed a settlement. On Thursday this week the banks of the Macquarie River will be a focal point of the re-enactment of Bathurst Proclamation Day. A new flagstaff will be installed and the flag will be raised in the location where Governor Macquarie stood to hoist the British flag.

At this week's celebrations there will be contributions from local government, the State Government and the Federal Government. The flag-raising ceremony will take place at noon on Thursday. I look forward to attending the ceremony, which will also be attended by the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General The Hon. David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd), along with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon. Warren Truss, and local dignitaries including the Mayor of Bathurst, Gary Rush. Throughout this year there will be a host of events to mark the bicentenary, called the Bathurst 200 celebrations, including community events. On Sunday the "People in Time: A Peoplescape" exhibition, identifying 200 people in the Bathurst community, was launched on the lawns of the courthouse. This exhibition acknowledges people, some living and some who have passed, who have shaped Bathurst and made the city what it is today. The contribution of these individuals is acknowledged in this exhibition.

On Thursday the Historical Society will re-enact the flagstaff ceremony in Peace Park. The re-enactment will show what Bathurst was like in the early days after settlement. That night the inaugural Bathurst Macquarie Heritage Medal will be presented. The prize for this national event is valued at \$25,000 and it will be awarded annually. On Saturday night some iconic buildings in Bathurst will be illuminated so people can enjoy our historical buildings at night. In celebrating the beginnings of colonial development in Bathurst, we also recognise that during the gold rush in the 1950s and 1960s other smaller villages and towns in the area also grew such as Hill End, Sofala, Wattle Flat, Trunkey and Rockley. We have a large agricultural industry in the area, along with government departments such as New South Wales Land and Property Information. Mars Petcare has invested more than \$100 million in the area, with its new development opening next week.

Bathurst offers an affordable lifestyle and great educational opportunities. We have a sister city relationship with Okuma in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, that has continued for more than 25 years. Great car races take place in Bathurst, and I am pleased that Bathurst's heritage is being recognised. It is important to note that the past 200 years have been significant and the next 200 years will also be important for the people of the Bathurst area.

CENTENARY OF ANZAC

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill—Parliamentary Secretary) [4.23 p.m.]: This year our nation commemorated one of its most important historical events—100 years since young Australian soldiers landed at Gallipoli. While the losses in that very first confrontation of war were heavy, through their bravery and sacrifice our young soldiers demonstrated a unique quality: A quality that would define Australians at war through their courage, sacrifice, compassion and mateship. Although 100 years have passed since Australia entered that first theatre of war, never has the Anzac legend and spirit been stronger and more evident. I was incredibly proud to witness this firsthand in my electorate of Castle Hill and throughout The Hills community over the past two months.

Testament to the patriotism of the residents in my electorate of Castle Hill was the 25,000 to 30,000 people who attended the Anzac Day dawn service at Kellyville organised by the Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch. The site for this commemoration service recently received the very appropriate new name of the "Centenary of Anzac Reserve", in recognition of the significance of this day. Nearly 100 wreaths were laid during the early morning service, including one from Graham and Ann Brown whose son Jason was killed in Afghanistan in 2010 while serving with the Special Air Service [SAS] Regiment.

As dawn broke, we heard an outstanding address from commanding officer and Hills local Brigadier Philip Bridie, AM. He spoke about the 540 local Hills residents who fought in World War I—and in particular the 22 who had fought at Gallipoli, including Dural brothers Godfrey and Charles Fuller, who both died there, together with members of my family, the Allens. The Hills paid a heavy price in that first confrontation and the names of many family members from our area now adorn the various memorials across The Hills. Following the dawn service, my wife, Wendy, and I travelled to Kenthurst Park where Kenthurst Rotary hosts its annual Anzac commemoration service. One of its members, Paul Rapp, goes above and beyond the call of duty and this year, through his enthusiasm, he organised an incredible flyover from Williamtown Air Base by three Hornet jets. I also thank Keith McGill, president of Kenthurst Rotary, and Retired Major Bill Duncan, OAM, who delivered a touching Centenary of Anzac address.

On Sunday I attended The Hills Centenary of Anzac barbecue at Balcombe Heights organised by Councillor Jeff Lowe, where we were joined by Local Area Commander Rob Critchlow, Bev Jordan, Tony Eades and many State Emergency Service workers led by Evelyn Lester. During the weeks leading up to

Anzac Day I also attended the Centenary of Anzac Week launch at Bella Vista Farm, which was officially opened by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, AC, DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales. The day included military vehicles, a Light Horse troop, military and pipe bands, and afternoon tea.

On Tuesday 21 April I attended the Centenary of Anzac Schools and Citizens Competition Awards civic lunch hosted by year 11 Anzac ambassadors Austin Rosier from Kellyville High School, Heather Anderson from Marian College, Hannah Kohler from Northholm Grammar School and Stephen Hancock from Hills Grammar School. These young hosts displayed maturity beyond their years throughout this event. On the morning of Wednesday 22 April I attended the Anzac service at Castle Hill Public School followed by a light luncheon with its new principal and school leaders. Jenny Walker, the principal of Kellyville Public School, asked whether I would drop by in the afternoon to view the amazing Anzac display in the school hall, of which the school community should be extremely proud. I congratulate all the parents who were involved in that display.

On Friday 24 April I had the great pleasure of attending a lovely Anzac service at Thomas Pattison School at North Rocks, a school for deaf and blind children. School captains Rima and Jeff hosted the morning with the official Anzac address delivered by Ron Smith, who was joined by his lovely wife, Marion, and Alex Hawke, the Federal member for Mitchell. St Bernadette's Primary School and Our Lady of the Angels Primary School also held touching Anzac Day services in the afternoon. Over two months, and particularly in the week leading up to Anzac Day, there were more than 25 public commemorative events, not including the many local school and community groups that held services and commemorations. For making this possible I would like to congratulate Castle Hill RSL—in particular, board president Major General Warren Glenny and the Castle Hill RSL Sub-Branch—and The Hills Centenary of Anzac Committee, both led by president and retired Colonel Don Tait, OAM, whose boundless determination, effort and organisation assured that all events leading up to and including Anzac Day were an outstanding success.

I thank all Centenary of Anzac committee members, including Melanie Morson; Councillor Dr Michelle Byrne; Bev Jordan; Councillor Dr Jeff Lowe; David Wood; Bryan Mullan; George Cartledge; Graham Handley; Bill Dokter; David Cronan; Mike Yeo; Bill Strutton; Tony Eades; David Hand; Craig Colbert; Jim Taggart, OAM; Gareth McCray, OAM; Steve Brown; Robbie Duncan, OAM; and Keith Rowntree. Each member was integral to the success of all Centenary of Anzac events in our community. I also especially thank and congratulate the Federal Government, and in particular the Federal member for Mitchell, Alex Hawke, who secured \$125,000 in funding from the Federal Government to make these events possible. These funds were essential in delivering the local, community-based events that were at the heart of the community's commemorative activities on Anzac Day.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) [4.28 p.m.]: First of all, I take this opportunity to say how pleased, thankful and humbled I am to be back in this great Parliament as the member for Cabramatta. I thank the constituents of the electorate of Cabramatta for voting for me. I also thank the people who did not vote for me for taking part in the great and wonderful democratic process that we have in this country. I thank all the people of Cabramatta. In March I had the pleasure of attending Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School in my electorate of Cabramatta to celebrate National Catholic Schools Week. Catholic schools are an important part of the Australian school system. It is estimated that approximately 20 per cent of students in Australia receive education at Catholic schools. To narrow it down, there are 615 Catholic primary and secondary schools across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Catholic Schools Week provides an opportunity for the community to recognise the hardworking staff at these institutions. Not only do Catholic schools offer quality education, they provide quality education while staying true to the Catholic faith. In stating that, the Catholic education system is accommodating and is open to all religions—if people of other faiths enrol, they are not rejected. This is one of the major principles of the Catholic faith. This is no truer than for my electorate of Cabramatta, which comprises people from all walks of life and different faiths. It is no wonder that the suburb of Cabramatta has been named Australia's most multicultural postcode.

Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity for Catholic schools to showcase what they do by inviting the wider community to come and experience teaching and learning at its best. I thank Ms Debbie Heckenberg, the outstanding principal at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School, for inviting me to the school and

demonstrating to the wider community what Catholic education offers. I was treated to a series of religious performances and presentations by primary school students, which illustrated that education in the Catholic faith can instil creativity and enthusiasm in the minds of young children.

During my visit I also witnessed the playground of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School covered in colourful picnic blankets and saw families enjoying quality time together. This wonderful display showed the type of environment that a Catholic institution can provide to families seeking this type of education. When these students become adults one day they will proudly look back at their schooling with fond memories. I have been very fortunate to have attended a number of Catholic Schools Week events over the past few years. Other schools in my electorate that provide great Catholic education include: Sacred Heart Primary School, Freeman Catholic College and John the Baptist Catholic Primary School.

Once again I acknowledge the great work undertaken by all staff members, teachers and principals in every Catholic school in my electorate. Their dedication is to be commended and is clearly to be seen in the progress of their schools and the success of their students. I will conclude by wishing all students the very best this year in their studies—especially the senior students at Freeman Catholic College who are sitting their Higher School Certificate exams at the end of the year. I wish them great success in their future endeavours.

TAMWORTH ELECTORATE

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) [4.33 p.m.]: It was an honour and a privilege to be re-elected on 28 March 2015 as the member for Tamworth. I thank communities right across the Tamworth electorate for having faith in the strong plan that I put forward for the next four years. That plan included improving our local health services by upgrading the Gunnedah District Hospital and employing more nurses and specialists to make the most of our new base hospital; growing our economy by supporting small businesses and getting the balance right between farming and mining; investing in transport with a freight rail hub, a new airline flying into Tamworth airport and more money for roads, including the Oxley Highway; and building a stronger, safer community by investing in education, maintaining our record police numbers, including a permanent dog squad based in the Tamworth area to serve the New England and North West regions, and giving police the resources they need to keep our streets safe.

A lot of concerns were raised during the campaign about mining and coal seam gas development. The message to me was clear: We need to get the balance right. Constituents clearly told me that they want jobs in our towns and cities and that mining must be conducted in the right way. We need to protect our farmers, our water, our prime agricultural land and our environment, and I will strive to ensure that we strike the right balance. My local communities still do not accept coal seam gas mining, and I agree with them that much work needs to be done. Like my communities, I am yet to be convinced that it can be done safely without any harm to our precious water resources.

I am proud of what we have achieved together over the past four years; but I know there is more to do and I am committed to making sure that we make it happen. The people of the Tamworth community will always come first and their voice will resonate through the halls of Parliament. I thank my constituents for the honour and privilege of representing them. I look forward to delivering for them and I will continue to ask: What is next?

Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business, in reply) [4.34 p.m.]: The member for Tamworth is a great advocate for his electorate and puts his electorate first and foremost. It is now four weeks since the election in March and I, as Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business, already have travelled to Tamworth at the invitation of the member for Tamworth advocating on behalf of small businesses and the local council.

The member promoted the opportunities for Tamworth such as the upgrade of Tamworth airport and the fantastic collaboration between TAFE NSW and AviSkills. TAFE is working with industry and matching work skills with vocational education and training for the jobs of the future. Some wonderful facilities and sports precinct projects are planned for the region. The people of Tamworth have made the right choice in returning Mr Kevin Anderson as their local member; he is a strong advocate for the electorate of Tamworth. I look forward to working with the member for Tamworth to deliver for that region.

BALMAIN ELECTORATE

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) [4.35 p.m.]: I thank the people of Balmain for the privilege they have granted me in allowing me to return to this Parliament as their representative. I bring to the attention of the House the many important issues that have been raised by people in my community and our plans to respond to those issues. Just as I did four years ago, I stand here determined to represent the values and the priorities of the people of Balmain. I am committed to making their lives better and to delivering a more liveable and more caring community and an environment that is more sustainable.

Unlike four years ago, I am no longer the only Greens member of this House. I now have the support of the member for Newtown and the member for Ballina, two new Greens members of Parliament who are, like me, committed to building consensus in their communities and continuing our record of success with a new type of politics in New South Wales. A major issue raised during the election was the overarching issue of our climate and greenhouse gas emissions. More than 37 per cent of the State's greenhouse emissions come from burning coal and gas to generate electricity. It is not only feasible but also critical that the New South Wales economy be powered by renewable energy. It is part of our plan to have 100 per cent renewable energy, which takes up the climate change challenge and provides for quality, long-term jobs in that industry.

Our plan also takes up the transport challenge. I want to make it easier for people to move around and to spend more time with their families. Residents of the Inner West, and in other parts of Sydney, are frustrated with congested roads that waste their time and result in increased air pollution. While the WestConnex toll road is increasingly being exposed as a weak and economically nonsensical proposal, our alternative plan for investment in public transport is costed, clear and feasible. Buoyed by the enthusiastic community support we have seen for our plan, I will continue to campaign to extend light rail, with particular reference to Parramatta Road and the Balmain peninsula.

Another priority is to fix the toxic legacy left behind by the former Labor Government at the White Bay Cruise Ship Terminal. We live in a first-world city. People should be able to sleep at night and to breathe clean air; children playing in their school playground should be safe from poisonous emissions. On Friday, just a few days ago, I met with the Minister for the Environment to help progress this issue by the use of low sulphur fuels and to look at the building of shore-to-ship power. Of course, healthy communities and liveable cities also need more spaces to play sport and be active. I have committed to supporting seven new sporting fields in the huge 80 hectare Bays Precinct development—90 per cent of this so-called urban renewal project will sit within the electorate of Balmain.

The people in my community, and, indeed, everyone in New South Wales, deserve a best-practice process, not a pre-determined outcome, which was how we ended up with the disgrace at Barangaroo. I can assure the House that my community will continue to be concerned about the Treasurer's slip that 16,000 new dwellings will be crammed along Sydney Harbour foreshore from Glebe to Balmain East. People are well and truly fed up with the Government making arbitrary decisions before proper planning processes have been undertaken. Such decisions may well yield windfalls to big developers but they will be at the expense of the environment and the community.

Mandating affordable housing in new developments is a case in point. The Government should stand up to the development industry and not be intimidated. Importantly, people want to trust that government decisions are accountable, transparent and ethical. That is why I will continue to pursue watertight anti-corruption legislation and electoral law reform. I will also remain a champion for public housing tenants in my electorate. People who have already suffered misfortune, ill health or disadvantage should not be further punished with decrepit or insecure housing. I look forward to working with the new Minister for Social Housing to address the maintenance backlog and the urgent need for more social housing.

The lack of protection for Callan Park is an issue of unfinished business for me in my electorate. I will not rest until Callan Park is secured for the future and is properly funded, not only to protect the open space with all of its historical importance but also to restore the moral heart of Callan Park and to return mental health services to that place. It is clear that the Government's privatisation agenda was not supported by my community. I am standing with the residents of Ultimo and the broader Sydney region to oppose the sale of the purpose-built Powerhouse Museum to property developers and to urge the Government to invest in Western Sydney and in our community with a nationally significant facility of cultural importance in Western Sydney.

I am excited to be able to continue my work with residents in my local community and I look forward to working with all the community organisations, small businesses, chambers of commerce, local governments, parents and citizens associations and all members of this House to achieve our goals of a clean economy and a fair society.

NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) [4.40 p.m.]: Not many will have heard the stories of my days as a national serviceman in the country of my early years: Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. I served with the British South Africa Police and often found myself working in remote bush areas, picking up the morning's Sitrep on the radio, dodging Charlie Tangos—that is, communist terrorists—hunting wild baboons that had raided subsistence farmers' crops, taking people to hospital and advising tribal chiefs. I carried on with my compulsory nine months of national service as it stretched into 12 months, then into 18 months and then indefinitely, as the civil strife continued. Then, suddenly, I was a citizen once again.

Albury has a strong local contingent of national service personnel, and in February I joined them for their annual ceremony. It can be argued that the Nashos were a defining movement within the Australian military—although, perhaps, that was not the government's intention at the time. I have heard that the second era national servicemen blew into the traditional professional military of the mid-1960s like a fresh wind. Many of those who were called up were not typical service material of the past. They came from different, unexpected sources because their selection was not due primarily to ability or desire but according to a factor completely outside their control: their date of birth. They did not see their career and future bound up with military service, as was the way with so many of those around them in the Armed Forces. There were businessmen, musicians, shopkeepers, clerks, plumbers. Some say this brought about a return of the larrikin character, with its high spirits and creative methods of problem solving.

Of course, many Nashos at the end of their required service decided to stay on in the military. They had found their place in life—or perhaps their career had found them. What is clear is that the national servicemen served with honour and distinction. On 15 February this year the national servicemen gathered to celebrate this too in a special place of remembrance established in the centre of Albury. What is truly striking is that, after a shaky beginning, our nation has an ongoing fascination with the Nashos. Work continues on many fronts to tell the stories of national service.

I was interested to read that a joint venture is underway between Australia and the United States of America to develop a Vietnam Veterans Education Centre in Washington, with a proposed opening date in 2019. The Government has requested that an Australian naval vessel be named *Nasho Spirit*, and discussions are underway to establish a scholarship trust with the support of the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Military Medical Association. In June this year a number of activities will take place to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the commencement of the second era of national service. Over the 50 years Puckapunyal, Kapooka and Singleton welcomed an influx of young men—63,735 in all—for their training. More than 15,000 went on to serve in Vietnam, while others headed off to Borneo, Malaya, Papua New Guinea and parts of Australia.

Our children study these momentous events in school. We continue to see artworks and movies inspired by the Vietnam War and read books such as *The Nashos' War* by Mark Dapin, which was published last October. In pubs and clubs across the land one will hear the occasional song ring out about those times and the impact made by national service, whether it is a song by Cold Chisel and Jimmy Barnes, a resurgent Russell Morris or even Bruce Springsteen. There is a danger in this period when the public have once again developed a fascination with Australia's wars and when attendances at Anzac Day ceremonies hit record numbers for the media to bundle up the Nashos into a single entity: a bunch of blokes who went to Vietnam a long time ago. The true story is much more nuanced and individual. Indeed, the first lot of post-World War II national servicemen were sent to Korea in the 1950s.

The story of the Nashos is not one giant river but many streams, creeks and billabongs. It spills out in all directions, combining, separating and recombining in unexpected ways. The story of the Nashos is not all in the past. From my own experience I can say that national service is something you take with you everywhere you go and it stays with you for the rest of your life. We saw things and had to endure things we never set out to experience. Along the way we formed bonds with others that have stood the test of time. It is no wonder that right across Australia national servicemen continue to mark the anniversary of the day the last Nasho completed his Army obligation. That is good and appropriate, and I was glad to join with the Nashos, once again, on their day. I thank president Niel Russell, secretary Brian Gibson and past-president John Bauerle for their leadership of the local association and for developing an appropriate memorial site for National Service Day.

BANKSTOWN ELECTORATE CENTENARY OF ANZAC COMMEMORATION

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) [4.45 p.m.]: It gives me great pleasure today, at the beginning of the Fifty-sixth Parliament, to speak about the Anzac centenary commemorations, particularly in my electorate

of Bankstown. Anzac Day 2015 was a significant day not only for our nation but also for people in the Bankstown electorate. Anzac Day 2015 marked the 100-year anniversary of the landing of our Australian soldiers at Anzac Cove. This year I had the honour and privilege of joining the Bass Hill RSL Sub-branch, Chester Hill RSL Sub-branch, Bankstown RSL Sub-branch and many local schools in my electorate, including Hope Point Christian School and Bass High School, for their respective services.

I also had the honour of attending the Bankstown Anzac Memorial Service at the Bankstown Memorial Oval with the Federal shadow Minister for Communications and member for Blaxland, the Hon. Jason Clare, many sub-branch members, representatives from Bankstown Cricket Club, Bankstown City Council and many schools, and a large number of people in the community who came to commemorate the centenary. The memorial services throughout the day not only highlighted the contribution made by the Australian diggers at Anzac Cove in World War I but also served as a reminder that each community and electorate had soldiers who enlisted to aid in the war effort. On Anzac Day I attended first the Bass Hill RSL dawn service to give my thanks and pray for those who fought so bravely and those who sacrificed their lives for our community.

I take this opportunity to thank the president of the Bass Hill RSL Sub-branch, Mr Ron Duckworth, the president of Chester Hill RSL Sub-branch, Mr William Sellars, and the president of the Bankstown RSL Sub-branch, Mr Jack Bedford, OAM, for their kind invitations. The Bankstown Memorial Oval—named by the Bankstown council in 1920 to honour our returned and fallen servicemen from World War I—was an apt location at which to recognise the sacrifices made by our diggers on the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. During the Bankstown Anzac Memorial Service the Federal member for Blaxland, the Hon. Jason Clare, gave a touching speech with a tribute to the "Bankstown Boys". One hundred years ago approximately 350 soldiers from my electorate embarked on their journey to Gallipoli. A total of 54 men did not return home to their families. As Mr Clare said:

This is not about war. It's about them. The extraordinary sacrifice they made so long ago.

That statement is, of course, true in every respect. Their lives, their stories and their contributions to our country should never be forgotten. I take this opportunity to pay tribute also to the 31 Bankstown soldiers known as the "Bankstown 31" who lost their lives during that period and who will now have a permanent memorial at the Bankstown Memorial Oval. I am extremely proud of the many school students who attended the service, in particular Bankstown Public School students who performed the national anthem. Many of the students were moved by the book entitled *The Thirty-One: The Bankstown Anzacs who never came home*, which was authored by Adam Courtenay and edited by Tim Carroll. The students went on to say thank you to those 31 enlisted soldiers and they remarked that they were proud of their community's history. The book has been endorsed by Jason Clare and the Bankstown City Council and it was distributed to everyone who attended services in the local community. At the northern end of the memorial oval those brave 31 will be forever remembered through a plaque that was unveiled during the ceremony.

I thank Bankstown council's Anzac Working Party, including Mayor Linda Downey, Jason Clare, representatives from Bankstown Sports Club, the Chester Hill, Padstow, Bankstown and Bass Hill RSL clubs and sub-branches, Panania Diggers Club and the Blaxland Anzac Centenary Committee, who all worked tirelessly to make the event a great success. I also thank the leaders from the following schools who attended the service: Al Sadiq College, Bankstown Girls High School, Bankstown North Public School, Bankstown Public School, Bankstown Senior College, Bankstown West Public School, Bass High School, Birrong Boys High School, Birrong Girls High School, Birrong Public School, Georges Hall Public School, Georges River Grammar School, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, St Euphemia College, St Felix's Primary School, St Mary's Primary School and Yagoona Public School.

Each Anzac Day we should unite and reflect upon the brave men and women who endured hardship so that future generations could enjoy the freedoms that this country offers. Anzac Day allows us to pay respect to our diggers and our history. It also allows us to pay tribute to and preserve the memories and stories of our soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice to enable our communities to live freely today. Lest we forget.

COFFS HARBOUR ELECTORATE CROWN LAND

Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour—The Assistant-Speaker) [4.50 p.m.]: I am thrilled to be back in this place for the eighth time following an election. I thank the people of Coffs Harbour for putting their trust in me over such a long period. Today I raise the topic of Crown land and the large number of issues relating to it in my electorate. The latest issue concerns the Coffs Harbour fishing club, which has gone into

administration. It is a licensed facility on probably one of the best pieces of land in New South Wales, overlooking both the harbour and the Pacific Ocean. Having spoken to the accountant, the directors and the administrator I believe we can salvage the club. It offers a great deal to tourists in Coffs Harbour, especially the fishing fraternity.

I believe that the department has managed Crown lands badly not just for the past four years but for decades. Crown Land manages Sawtell Golf Club and Coffs Harbour Golf Club as well as surf clubs, tennis clubs, sporting fields—you name it. The department charges lease fees to those organisations, all of which perform a community service. Unfortunately, many of the Crown lands in Coffs Harbour are managed by Coffs Harbour City Council under a State park facility that was handed to it by the previous Labor Government. Over a number of years I have found myself going cap in hand and begging the council to reduce the rents it charges these organisations.

For example, Coffs Harbour Golf Club pays a reduced rent of somewhere in the vicinity of \$30,000 to \$35,000. The club provides recreation for not only locals such as me—I do enjoy a game of golf periodically—but also visitors to our great region. Clubs that must undertake greenkeeping works such as golf or bowling clubs probably incur the greatest expense of any club organisation because they have to look after the courses and greens. I can tell members that over the past few years the wet weather on the North Coast has increased the expenses of golf clubs enormously.

I have had some success in talking to council and reducing the leasing costs for Coffs Harbour and Sawtell golf clubs. Sawtell Golf Club owns some land but the council has deemed it to be public open space. The club is unable to subdivide three blocks that it could sell to clear its debt and operate under far better circumstances. At the same time the club has a lease from RailCorp. I have been able to negotiate some relief for the club on that lease but the club also has to pay rent to the council under the State park arrangement.

Under former Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner a review was called for and headed by Mr Michael Carapiet. Many of the recommendations in the report say that much of the Crown land should be handed to council for oversight and management. I do not believe council can do that; its heart is not in it. For example, Park Beach and Sawtell caravan parks were established so that locals could holiday next to the surf but council saw it as an opportunity to raise funds to put straight into general revenue.

Thirteen government departments contributed to the recommendations in the report. I would like us to put a halt on the report and look for a better way of managing Crown land. I believe there is a better way to attract private investment in Crown land on a long-term lease basis. It will ensure that the State gets a better return and, more importantly, that members of the local community can utilise Crown land to profit them in a recreational sense. I strongly urge the new Minister in the other place to tear up the report, come and look at the Crown land on the North Coast and assist the organisations that are doing it so tough whilst providing a service to our communities.

ALBION PARK RAIL BYPASS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Parliamentary Secretary) [4.55 p.m.]: Mr Deputy Speaker, I warmly congratulate you on your re-election to the position of Deputy-Speaker and on your outstanding win in the electorate of Lismore. I am very grateful to have been returned as the member for Kiama and to serve that community for another four years. I take this opportunity to welcome the new members of this place. As I look across to the member for Newtown I am reminded of when I made my inaugural speech four years ago. I was made all the more nervous when then Premier Barry O'Farrell told me, "It's the speech they quote at your funeral." No pressure at all. I wish the member for Newtown good luck. I am very much looking forward to hearing her inaugural speech and to working with her.

As the Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra I could not be prouder to represent the Illawarra, the South Coast and my electorate. Monday 16 March 2015 was an historic day for the Illawarra as I stood next to the Premier as he announced that the Baird Government will build the \$550 million Albion Park Rail Bypass and complete the missing link on the Princes Highway between Sydney and Bomaderry. For 16 long years calls from Illawarra communities for that critical piece of infrastructure fell on the deaf ears of a do-nothing Labor Government. We have announced \$550 million funding to ensure that the full bypass will be delivered and we will get construction underway in this term of government. Members on this side of the House are committed to improving people's lives. This landmark commitment will ensure Illawarra residents spend less time stuck in traffic and more time with their families.

Since coming to office the Baird Government has completed geotechnical work and received community feedback on the preferred design. The bypass will create a 10-kilometre extension of the M1 Princes motorway, providing a bypass of Albion Park Rail between Yallah and Oak Flats and making it easier to get to Dapto, Albion Park and Oak Flats. When the bypass is complete those communities will enjoy a four-lane, free-flowing motorway. Commuters will travel at 100 kilometres an hour and bypass 16 intersections, which will cut travel times by about 30 per cent. This \$550 million announcement has taken the Baird Government's historic commitments along the Princes Highway to well over \$1.5 billion. The announcement is a dream come true for commuters who frequently get stuck in traffic through Albion Park Rail, not to mention residents along the Princes Highway who are fed up with congestion every day.

So many people have said that it could never be done—politicians have promised and talked about the Albion Park Rail Bypass but actions speak louder than words. I acknowledge my friend the Hon. Paul Green in the gallery and thank him for his support for this project. We have delivered on our promises at Gerringong and we are delivering on our promises at Berry. The people of Kiama know that only the Baird Government can be trusted to deliver the Albion Park Rail Bypass. I note the moaning by my shadow opponent on the Opposition benches. Labor had the opportunity to include this project in the 10-year infrastructure plan it took to the last election. Was there any mention of the Illawarra? Not one. The member for Keira should be quiet. This is a major point of congestion, particularly for the members of a large community who travel north to work every day. During 16 years in government and four years in opposition Labor never committed to delivering this project. Indeed, as I said, its 10-year infrastructure strategy did not mention it once.

The Baird Government has made a \$350 million Rebuilding NSW fund allocation for the Albion Park rail bypass. The remaining \$200 million will be funded from the record roads and freight budget. In January 2015 I announced the final stage of geotechnical investigations for the proposed Albion Park rail bypass concept design. This is the third and final stage of geotechnical work for the concept design. Sites that will continue to be tested include the area west of the Yallah industrial area, Yallah hill, the Princes Highway at Yallah, farmland next to the Illawarra Highway, the Croom Regional Sporting Complex and along the east-west link. The work will build on the first two stages of the investigation completed last year to help design the earthwork and foundations for the bypass. The completion of the geotechnical investigations is an important step in planning and designing the future extension of the M1 Princes motorway between Yallah and Oak Flats, and the project is being progressed as quickly as possible.

Other investigations to inform the environmental impact statement have progressed well, including the completion of Aboriginal archaeological investigations and ecology surveys. Further noise monitoring is planned for February, March and April. Last year Roads and Maritime Services lodged a State significant infrastructure application with the Department of Planning and Environment. This was to advise the Department of Planning and Environment of the intention of Roads and Maritime Services to progress this important environmental impact statement. Many of us come to this place to argue for infrastructure projects that will change lives. The Albion Park rail bypass was the most significant project in the Illawarra to which this Government was committed. I am proud to have stood with the Premier to commit to this, and I will be more proud when we deliver it. I call on the Opposition to support the transaction that will assist the delivery of this infrastructure to my community.

Pursuant to resolution inaugural speeches proceeded with.

INAUGURAL SPEECHES

The DEPUTY-SPEAKER (Mr Thomas George): On behalf of the new member for Newtown, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of New South Wales Senator Lee Rhiannon, former New South Wales Senator Kerry Nettle, former member of the Legislative Council Sylvia Hale, local government representatives, family, friends and supporters of the new member.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) [5.02 p.m.] (Inaugural Speech): As a matter of protocol and a mark of respect, I acknowledge that we are meeting on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land. I acknowledge one particular elder who passed away recently. Ray Jackson was a Wiradjuri Warrior, the first president of the Indigenous Social Justice Association and someone who was no stranger to standing outside this place fighting for Koori justice. One case that Ray worked tirelessly on was justice for a young TJ Hickey, who died tragically just over a decade ago. The police continue to prevent his family from placing a plaque in

Redfern to commemorate his death. So until his family's wish for a plaque can be realised, and as a mark of respect to Ray's work, I will read the words on the plaque onto the public record of the New South Wales Parliament:

*On the 14 February, 2004,
TJ Hickey, Aged 17, Was Impaled
Upon The Metal Fence Above.
Arising From A Police Pursuit.
The Young Man Died As A Result
Of His Wounds The Next day.*

Ray, I assure you that we will continue your struggle for justice; and while you are deeply missed, you will continue to inspire us because future generations deserve to live with justice, dignity and respect. Well, here we are. Let us do this. To the people of Newtown who entrusted me and The Greens to represent you, and who reflect our diverse and progressive values in this place, thank you. To those who were part of the Greens for Newtown campaign, many of whom are here or watching the live feed today, thank you. We did it! To those who have been part of the growing New South Wales Greens since that first gathering on the steps of Glebe Town Hall, and to those who have contributed to the Greens movement nationally and globally, thank you.

To those who have been elected and those who have been part of electing Greens to local councils, State parliaments and our Federal Government, thank you. In particular, I thank our former New South Wales Greens members of Parliament Ian Cohen, Michael Organ, Cate Faehrmann and Sylvia Hale. Special mention goes to former Senator Kerry Nettle and Senator Bob Brown. Your action in the Federal Parliament, standing up against George W. Bush, will continue to be an inspiration for me in this place. To those who work behind the scenes and those who continually challenge us to stay focused on our principles and stand together despite the challenges, thank you. You know who you are and you know the contributions you make behind the scenes, and for that I am truly grateful. I feel particularly humbled that Jack Mundey, a man who has contributed so much to our movement and this wonderful city, has joined us in the gallery tonight.

I thank my partner, Kristian, who is my plimsoll line. He has been my life companion for the past 19 years. We declined to have our wedding recognised in law. One day, when the institution of marriage is no longer tainted by discrimination, we will get legally married; until then, we will continue to live in sin. To those who have been part of the progressive movements for social change, in my social circles, study, work and friendship circles, thank you. This year is the Anzac centenary. As such, it is worth noting that Frank Burke, the member for Newtown in 1917, was president of the Anti-conscription Council before being elected. The electorate of Newtown has a radical past that is still evident today. Lillian Fowler, the last member for Newtown in this place, began her inaugural speech to this Chamber in September 1944 by stating:

I have always thought that government meant action by elected representatives and the formulation of ideals for the benefit of people. My ideal government would frown on anything not to the ultimate good of all.

The main issues on her agenda at that time were proposed changes to electricity delivery, local government amalgamations—which she posited were motivated by the Government's desire to seek electoral benefits—along with housing, rents and accessible public transport. It seems that some things will always stay the same. Our community and our neighbourhoods are no strangers to collective action. We have a long and proud history of standing up against injustice, overdevelopment, evictions from public housing, the sell-off of public assets and cuts to public services.

We have proudly contributed to campaigns to save Tasmania's forests and rivers and to stand up for refugee rights. We are some of the most progressive peoples in this State—indeed, in this country—and the common beliefs and values that we share and that define us run deep. We are committed to grassroots democracy, to social equality and economic justice, to environmental sustainability and to peace and non-violence. We have a radical past. We are a strong community, and we know how to activate, organise and campaign to win.

Given this, it seems only appropriate for me to advise those planning to build WestConnex or overdevelop around Petersham Park, those who intend to sell off the Australian Technology Park site or fill the Central to Eveleigh corridor with unsustainable, unaffordable housing, or those who seek to ignore the imperative for Aboriginal housing on The Block to factor in the radical history of Newtown before they act. Also, it seems appropriate for me to encourage any potential investors in WestConnex to look closely at the resolve of the good people of Newtown when preparing to borrow or to lend to this unwanted and unwarranted project.

Even though I did not grow up in a political family, it is clear that my values and beliefs have shaped my political and professional life. As a teenager, I used to get told off a lot by my dad if I asked to use the phone—not because I was not allowed but because the phone was as much mine as his or mum's. You see, in our house we were all equals. What was good for the adults was good for the kids. I am so pleased that my mum, Jan, and my dad, Chris, and my wonderful sister, Tessa, can be here with us today. They were and are my immediate biological family—but our sense of family was always bigger than the four of us. My "blonde sisters", as we call them—the three daughters of my mum's closest friend and my godmother, Libby, who passed away almost 14 years ago, when her daughters Jessica, Sarah and Carlie were just teenagers—moved in to our family home and became part of our family. Our close family friends also became part of our family. The time spent at the incredible Aldinga Beach on summer holidays with the Atkinses, Delaneys and other close friends are some of my fondest memories.

Aldinga Beach in South Australia is perhaps the first place where I came to recognise the immense beauty of our natural environment and the powerful soothing and calming effect it can have on the madness of our world. The importance of family and friends as a collective support and shared responsibility for each other was something that was evident in my dad's upbringing and in my mother's actions. Chris Leong was the youngest of seven brothers and sisters. His family lived in Malaysia and, as the youngest, he was given the opportunity to study in Australia—something made possible only as a result of his older brothers and sisters working to support him studying here. Jan Leong, my mum, looked after all of us forever without praise, and she still does. So it is no surprise that I have a very strong respect for the positive influences of loving families, of whatever shape or size they come in, and it is in that vein I also acknowledge Ros, who is here representing Kristian's Tassie side of the family.

The municipality of Newtown took its name from a weatherboard store called New Town Store. This store was located on the corner of King Street and Eliza Street, where the old Oxford Hotel used to sit. It was at the Oxford Hotel at the age of 19 while living in a share house on Abercrombie Street that I first started to connect with the leftie, radical, creative, intellectual types of Newtown. After I finished working at David Thompson's Sailors Thai restaurant in The Rocks, we would jump in a cab to the Oxford. If you were to peer back in time into the depths of the downstairs bar, you might spy me standing on the sticky carpet—shaved head, leather pants, playing pool, and singing along with a sense of earnestness each time Portishead's *Glory Box* or Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit* came on the jukebox.

Newtown—and the people I met when I moved there—made me an activist. Or at least if I was an activist before—and I am pretty sure I showed signs of it from an early age—it was the people I met when I moved to Newtown who taught me what an activist was. Since then, besides a stint working for Amnesty International in London and in Hong Kong, the area covered by the electorate of Newtown has been where I have lived. It has been where I have worked and socialised. It is my hood—and I love it. I studied at Sydney university—campaigning against Howard's voluntary student unionism—worked in restaurants in Surry Hills, had connections with theatres and artist spaces, joined actions against sniffer dogs and reclaimed the streets. And like so many who live in the electorate of Newtown, I know what it is like to deal with dodgy landlords and live with the threat of rent increases and insecurity—something I am keen to push back against hard while I am in this place.

I have lived with the uncertainty of casual work and at different times I have relied on my union—the Australian Services Union [ASU]—to help with threats to my rights at work while acting as a delegate for them to help with the rights at work of others. I watched the growing number of people sleeping rough on our streets and tried to help others as they struggled on the stairs at inaccessible stations. I have enjoyed many a night out in the wonderful vibrant venues that fill the electorate of Newtown. The people who live in the electorate of Newtown are welcoming of difference and diversity, so it is perhaps not surprising that many come to Newtown to feel accepted, or to have their diversity celebrated even if they do not live here.

After a gap of 65 years, the electorate of Newtown once again has a member in this place. We might be the smallest electorate in the State but our vision for how we want to reshape politics is significant. While it is factually correct that the census ranks us the highest of any electorate in New South Wales that identifies as "no religion", do not be fooled into thinking that we do not share strong common values and beliefs. Perhaps one of the most defining things about The Greens, and by extension those who support them, is the basis on which are made—not on short-sighted, self-serving electoral cycles but on long-term visions.

To the children of the electorate of Newtown who enjoy our playgrounds, pocket parks and the magic yellow bus, and particularly to the mini-ones of my closest friends and comrades—Evie, Flo, Eliza, Beatrix and

Seamus—know that in this place, in the decisions that we make I will have an eye to your future and the generations to follow. The same goes for the young people living in our wonderful city, including my stepson, Eamonn, who has spent time on and off in this part of the world since we first met on Ivy Street when he was just four.

It was the fearless Burmese democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi who said, "It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it". It is clear that for too long, under successive governments in New South Wales, the priorities have been wrong. If the community interest—the good of the people and the planet—were at the heart of the decisions made in this place, then we would see an end to the violence against women; recognising that, just like poverty, it is not inevitable. We would see investment in safe, secure, affordable housing.

Animals and our natural environment would be protected. We would invest in public education—a proven way to address inequality. Abortion would be removed from the Crimes Act, and we would take a harm minimisation approach to drugs and alcohol rather than a "tough on law and order" approach. The rights of workers would be protected, including their right to organise and to strike, as would be the right of activists and residents to protest, without fear of police brutality or intimidation. We would accept our global responsibility to transition this State to 100 per cent renewable energy and we would establish a human rights Act for New South Wales. This is not my agenda. It is our agenda.

If I were standing here alone, starting from scratch, it would be hard even to know where to begin. But I am not standing here alone and I am not starting from scratch. As the member for Newtown I am simply adding one more voice and one more body to the movement for social change and environmental protection. I am joined in this place by two other Greens colleagues and five more who are working to advance the same progressive agenda in the other place. Jamie Parker—the vanguard for The Greens in this place—serves to represent the people of Balmain with integrity, commitment and compassion. Jamie, your ability to live The Greens principles and practice in our policies by how you serve as a local member will be an inspiration to how I seek to represent the people of Newtown.

Tamara Smith is the new member for Ballina—what a pleasure it is to have not achieved the goal of being the first female member of The Greens in this place! Because of that, we are both here. To our upper House colleagues, whom I have known and been inspired by for many years, thank you—Jan, Mehreen, John, David and Jeremy. I look forward to working with you. Thank you to our Federal colleagues led by Christine and Adam, including the dedicated and tireless activist, Senator Lee Rhiannon. I am so pleased that you are here in the gallery tonight. But, more importantly, we are backed up by you: the members and supporters of The Greens and the people in Newtown, in New South Wales and beyond, who do not want to accept that things have to be this way. Lee Rhiannon said in her inaugural speech to the Federal Parliament:

History demonstrates that while parliaments make the laws, people are the driving force for social change ... one of the great strengths of the Greens is our constructive parliamentary work, combined with our commitment to amplify in this place the voice of progressive people's movements.

Tonight I stand here in this place having gained almost 46 per cent of the primary vote, the highest Greens vote in the country—at least for now. This result was achieved by an incredible campaign run by the amazing Emma Bacon. But this achievement is not just one by or for the people in the electorate of Newtown. The fact that I am standing here today is a testament and tribute to the past collective struggles that have been fought. It is pretty unusual for someone like me to be standing in this place. I have been a feminist for many decades, but like William Yang—the Sydney-based artist—says, I did not come out as a Chinese Australian until later in life. As a teenager, like many others, I wanted to fit in; I did not want to be different. So much so that I researched eyelid surgery that I heard was possible to make you look more western. When I was asked, "Where are you from?"—something that still happens today, which I now handle very differently—I would get a knot in my stomach and clench; I would feel as though I did not belong in my own country and I would say defensively, "Adelaide".

I am now proud to be able to share my cultural heritage and my background. I would like to thank those from the Chinese community who have been welcoming to an "ABC" like me—particularly Daphne Lowe-Kelly who is in the gallery tonight. It seems both that the glass and the bamboo ceilings have cracks, and that is surely a good thing. But it is crucial that lawmakers do not add to the barriers that people face to equal participation in our society. It is pretty clear that simply trusting the government of the day to do the right thing is not going to be enough. Slippery words and excuses that continue to allow human rights to be violated are a tacit endorsement of racism, sexism and discrimination.

During my time in this place, I look forward to working collaboratively with others—in the Parliament and on the streets. It is the only way that we will ever achieve change. While I am here I will work every day to put an end once and for all to discrimination entrenched in our laws, to ensure the enforceable protection of human rights and our environment, to stop public money being wasted on polluting tollways and put towards ending inequality and injustice so that all the lefties, radicals, feminists, unionists, activists, human rights defenders, environmentalists and all those who are part of our compassionate and progressive communities—past, present and future—are here with me in this place. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the presence of New South Wales Senator the Hon. Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Services, Mr Craig Kelly, MP, Federal member for Hughes. I also extend a warm welcome to Dr Stavros Kyrimis, Consul General of Greece. I welcome all the family, friends and supporters of the new member for Miranda to the Legislative Assembly.

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) [5.32 p.m.] (Inaugural Speech):

How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world,
That has such people in't!

Albeit seemingly far removed, this extract from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* goes to the namesake of my electorate. With the opening of the Crown land sales in the shire from 1856, Thomas Holt invested in a large way, purchasing some 12,000 acres stretching from Sutherland to Cronulla. In a 1921 letter, James Murphy said:

The name Miranda was given to the locality by me as manager of the Holt Sutherland Company which I formed in 1881. I thought it a soft, euphonious, musical and appropriate name for a beautiful place.

Today, Miranda's northern boundary is defined by the southern shore of the Georges River from Alford's Point in the west to Taren Point in the east. The southern boundary of Miranda is generally north of President Avenue between Kirrawee and Caringbah, therefore boasting an abundance of rivers, parks and bushland. The proximity to beaches and the Royal National Park in the adjoining shire electorates ensures that Miranda, and our shire, is truly a lifestyle choice for its residents. Despite the undoubted natural aesthetic of Miranda, it is not only the physical attributes of the electorate that characterise it as beautiful. Shakespeare's character delights at the wonder of people, a sentiment that I share towards my new constituents and our local community.

Madam Speaker, as I stand here today in this place as a proud Conservative, a Christian, before this historic institution, I say thank you to the people of Miranda for your support. I am deeply humbled and honoured to be afforded the privilege of representing the community in which I have been raised. I will work tirelessly to fight for you and for our electorate, and I promise that I will never take you for granted.

To my predecessor, Barry Collier, I sincerely thank you for the 13 years you committed to public life for our community. I wish you and your family well in your future endeavours. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the popularity of our Premier and thank him for his support. Dare I say that, as the former Federal member for Cook, his father, Bruce Baird, is slightly more popular in my electorate. Either way, I would welcome you both to visit Miranda at every opportunity.

There is one local issue that has outlived the tenure of any politician—that is, the overwhelming support for an F6 motorway. For too long, shire residents have endured congested local roads as an unavoidable part of their daily routine. The only way to truly ease congestion is to get through traffic off our local roads and onto a new motorway across the shire to complete the missing link between Sydney and the Illawarra. I eagerly await the outcome of the \$11 million feasibility study, and will advocate for our community to ensure that this vital piece of infrastructure is finally delivered to our shire.

As a result of the shire's ageing population and its young families, access to quality healthcare is paramount. I am proud to have been part of the team that recognised the need to bolster local health services and invested in our hospitals. Early works are underway for upgrades to St George Hospital at a cost of more than \$300 million and the \$60 million upgrade to Sutherland Hospital. This is a significant win for my electorate and for adjoining ones, reinforcing once again that the Baird Government is delivering where it counts most.

It is bad government to be reactionary and to merely throw money at the problems. With an active lifestyle being embedded in the shire's culture, I am concerned about the increase in childhood obesity across the State. We need to give our children the right tools from a young age to keep them out of the health system. A comprehensive program of exercise and nutritional diet across our school system needs to be assessed with a

useful medical index to ensure that we are moving in the right direction. The National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy [NAPLAN] is designed to test the scholastic skill set amongst students. Surely the time has come to balance this with an assessment of our children's overall physical health.

Consistent with our enviable lifestyle in the shire, I take this opportunity to commend the Sutherland Shire Council, local sporting clubs and private operators who have delivered magnificent synthetic sporting fields aimed at maximizing better health outcomes and significantly improving accessibility for numerous sporting codes. This is another practical way of delivering improved amenities to meet a growing demand whilst promoting active participation. The final report of the New South Wales Independent Local Government Review Panel recommended that Sutherland Shire Council should stand alone, but the same cannot be said for many smaller metropolitan councils. I urge these councils to seize the moment to amalgamate and enhance their long-term viability.

Foundations, both past and present, intrinsically inform ideology. It is my values that shape the way in which I will represent Miranda and our State. The first value is cultural. It is steeped in the sacrifice and history of my family. My maternal grandfather, Nicholas, boarded a ship in Greece and docked in Melbourne in 1955. He came to Australia in search of a better life with a single suitcase to his name. It was two years later that he waited patiently at the port in Sydney, only a photograph in hand, searching for his soon to be wife, Chrisoula. Together they settled in Surry Hills and had three children; my mother Marianna being the middle child.

My paternal family's journey to Australia commenced in 1961 when my father, Alexander, then 6, came to Sydney with his parents, Aaron and Helen, and his two younger siblings. They too came by ship to their new home, which brought hope for a fresh start and new opportunities. Settling in Surry Hills, they shared a single terrace house with two other families. Eventually they moved to our shire, living in the same premises as the fish shop they ran at Sylvania and my father attending Gympsea Technology High School.

At the core of both families was a tireless work ethic. Both grandfathers worked during the day, with my grandmothers choosing shifts of an evening to ensure that the children always had a parent present. Like so many other Greek migrants, they found labour-intensive work as an excavator and seamstress in the case of my paternal grandparents whilst my maternal grandparents were factory workers. Both families had humble roots and a modest lifestyle. They lived within their means. They did not jump the queue. They did not ask for handouts or have an entitlement mentality. They celebrated their Greek heritage, but not to the detriment of mainstream Australian values. The Australian dream materialised, and they eventually achieved home ownership and education for their children. Australia changed the course of their lives and, like many migrants, they enhanced the rich tapestry of our society.

Today, more than 40 per cent of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was. This is our multicultural reality. Significantly, the historic ties between Australia and Greece remain and are celebrated. On 24 April 2015 we commemorated 100 years since the Anzacs left Mudros Harbour in Lemnos for the Gallipoli landings. During World War II thousands of wounded were brought to the hospitals on Lemnos. As an Australian of Greek heritage, I am proud of the role that the island my family descended from played in our Anzac story and acknowledge the almost 1,300 Allied soldiers who lay at rest within its military cemeteries. I am thankful for the foresight of my family. Without their sacrifice I would not be in this place and I am immensely pleased that I have my two grandmothers, my parents and my siblings here with me this evening.

My second value is individual freedom. It is steeped in my party. For 37 years my father has been in small business as a chiropractor. I spent my childhood admiring that my father was a successful business owner, understanding the responsibility, red tape and regulatory burden that came with it. It is this experience that showed me from an early age that government should not stifle free enterprise. As the founding father of our party, Sir Robert Menzies, said:

... any business should be open to all. This [is the] system we wish to protect.

Privately imposed restraints which ... submit the small trader to oppressive limitations should be eliminated.

Small business is a vital part of our local and New South Wales economy. There are 680,000 small businesses in New South Wales, comprising 96 per cent of all New South Wales businesses. In the Sutherland shire local government area there are 20,455 small businesses, which make up 96.7 per cent of the total businesses in this area. With half our workforce in New South Wales employed by small business, it is incumbent on government to encourage growth and yet our State operates within the confines of an archaic regime of penalty rates that stifles that exact growth and discourages business owners from keeping their doors open on weekends and in the evening.

There are several industries that rely on the hard work and creativity of individuals. Hospitality is but one industry that cannot survive without this human element. We want to encourage tourism to Sydney and promote it as a vibrant and global destination, and yet we cannot expect small businesses to operate with flexibility under the stringent confines of penalty rates and government levies that compromise our competitiveness. Clearly this will require Federal and State cooperation. Tax reform goes to the heart of my belief in small government. The individual is best placed to determine where they should spend their money, not government. It is generally incumbent upon us to reduce taxes and encourage economic growth. Because a strong civil society hinges on a strong economy, we should encourage the aspirations of the individual to grow so that we can dedicate more resources to those who truly are unable to look after themselves through no fault of their own.

Comprehensive tax reform linked with expenditure restraint could help rebuild budget resilience at both State and Commonwealth levels, and increase the financial independence of the States. There also could be a gain in economic growth from changes to the tax landscape if Australia relied more on consumption (GST) and less on corporate and personal taxes, stamp duty, taxation of insurance and payroll taxes in their current form. This was the revolutionary objective of John Howard and Peter Costello. Currently a housing boom is boosting our coffers, but as we saw in Western Australia with its mining boom, nothing lasts forever. We need a comprehensive shake-up to shift the current tax burden, lift economic growth, productivity, and provide room to boost participation on a sustainable basis. If New Zealand can achieve this, why can't we?

The third value is merit. It is steeped in the core traditions of liberalism. My gender is very unremarkable. It is the same as 50 per cent of the population and yet all too often it seems to be the quality used to define or characterise me. The political gender debate centres on whether women need more assistance to seek public office, implicitly requiring special treatment above their male counterparts to overcome a disadvantage. I have always violently objected to the proposition that I need to be propped up and am capable of attaining only a tokenistic position. I believe in a system based on merit. I believe in choosing the best person for the job. Accordingly, quotas have no role to play in determining the best candidate for the role. They stifle and eliminate competition and promote not the best but the best-gendered candidate.

Quotas address the objective without tackling the steps necessary to achieve it. Certainly female participation in politics is important, but this should be achieved through mentoring the right candidates. It was 10 years ago to this day that my mentor and former employer, Senator the Hon. Fierravanti-Wells, was chosen by the Parliament of New South Wales to fill a casual vacancy and represent our great State in the Senate. I am incredibly fortunate to have the benefit of her wisdom and guidance, and I acknowledge and thank her for her presence in this place today.

As I am the only new Liberal female to enter this Fifty-sixth Parliament, clearly we do need to do more. Whilst I have been vocal in my disapproval of quotas, an aspirational target for women at least stimulates thought, discussion and movement on the issue. If we are serious about seeing a change in our Parliament, it is time to embrace renewal in our party. By empowering each party member with a vote, greater diversity of opinion is considered when selecting the best candidate for the seat. That is why I support the proposed Howard reform model for the New South Wales division of the Liberal Party and encourage party reform to be at the forefront of our agenda moving forward. Similar to targets set for government board positions, I would also advocate that the New South Wales Division of the Liberal Party set an initial aspirational target of 30 per cent female member of Parliament representation following the 2019 State election.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the people who have assisted me on my journey to Parliament. Through the tumultuous rollercoaster of the past few months my parents, Alexander and Marianna, my grandparents, Helen and Chrisoula, and siblings, Christie and Aaron, provided the emotional support and physical manpower to persevere. I also acknowledge Nick Gavriniotis, Susie Ganis, Joe Agadakos, Bill and Penny Petinos, Denise Kalls, Riad and Roula Sfeir, and the Petridis and Gavriniotis families for their contributions. It has been said to me that there are no friends in politics. I respectfully disagree. This journey would not have been possible without the guidance and encouragement of the Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox, MLC, Richard Shields, and the member for Wollondilly and my friend Jai Rowell, together with my amazing campaign manager, Chris Rath, and deputy campaign manager, Nathaniel Openshaw.

I similarly extend my thanks for the fantastic help received from the Young Liberals who tirelessly assisted me during the campaign. Additionally, I particularly single out and acknowledge the unwavering support of the former vice-president of the New South Wales division, Peter Poulos. Peter is one of the best

strategic thinkers and campaigners in our party. Numerous candidates across all tiers of government have successfully benefited from his wisdom and special talents. I, too, am one of them and I remain forever thankful. Returning a blue tide in the shire required a concordant of cooperation amongst elected Liberals.

In this respect, I particularly thank the Hon. Scott Morrison, MP, for his leadership, and Craig Kelly, MP, along with my State colleagues the Hon. Mark Speakman, Lee Evans and Melanie Gibbons. I thank the member for Holsworthy for encouraging me at every opportunity. Under the direction of Mayor Kent Johns and Deputy Mayor Carmello Pesce, I acknowledge the fantastic efforts of the Sutherland Shire Council team, most notably Hassan Awada, Tom Croucher and Tracy Cook. Your collective efforts are not forgotten.

To the members of the Liberal Party and others who have supported me, and without whom I would not be here, namely, the State director, Tony Nutt, State president Chris Downy, Emeritus Lord Mayor John Chedid and his team, Ann and Mervyn Youl, Justin Owen, Renate Britton, Mary-Lou Jarvis, Will Nemesh and Matt Cross; to all the members of the Miranda conference, headed up by the very dedicated president, Andrew Monsif, Marie Ficarra, Magdi and Mona Mikhail, John and Monica Tawadros, Paul Parris, Elias and Eleftheria Sioutas, Constantine and Vasiliki Sdrolilias, Mike Sheedy, Matthew Wallis, Justin and Louise De Domenico, as well as shire locals Glenn Gorrick, Scott Chapman, Diane McInerney, Lorraine Johnson and Paul Signorelli, I extend my thanks and appreciation.

As Odysseus skilfully navigated his ship past the dangers of Scylla, I too am embarking on my own political odyssey supported by my staff. There are certain risks and some of us may not complete the journey together. But ultimately what matters most is that you chart a course and remain steadfast in your pursuit of reform, your values and doing what you know is right. I will live by this creed in the service of my party, the Miranda electorate and the great State of New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: I congratulate the member for Miranda on a wonderful speech. I welcome the family and friends of the new member for Epping, in particular, the former member for Epping, the Hon. Greg Smith.

Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) [5.59 p.m.]: (Inaugural Speech): I commence tonight with a confession—I have no ability as a singer. Unfortunately, the constituents of my electorate and this place are deprived of one of the great talents of my predecessor.

It is appropriate that I commence by acknowledging the great contribution of Greg Smith. I had the privilege of working as Greg's chief of staff for three years while he was the Attorney General. For many years longer than that we have been friends. Greg is truly a rare human being who is utterly without malice. With all who meet him he is the same: honest and sincere. He has always displayed a genuine concern for all his colleagues and opponents alike whilst a member of this Parliament. It was his character to look at his work environment and see human beings first and politicians second. I am fortunate indeed to follow him and Andrew Tink as the member for Epping. They are large shoes to fill.

I thank the electors of Epping for voting to return the Baird Government and electing me as their representative. Epping is a wonderful and increasingly diverse electorate. It is a microcosm of all the issues that exist to a greater or lesser degree in every electorate. Chief amongst those issues is congestion and management of development and associated infrastructure. In addition it has some particular problems and concerns which are the product of the delivery of two major infrastructure projects, namely, the North West Rail Link and the Epping to Thornleigh third track. For some, these projects are a blessing which should have been delivered a generation ago whilst others are more critical, choosing to focus on the negatives. That is politics.

On top of that the closure of the swimming pool at Dence Park at Epping is an issue of great concern which must be addressed with a well thought-out plan for the future. Similarly, the preservation of the Byles Creek Conservation Area is causing much anxiety to the residents of Beecroft and they are looking to Hornsby Council and the Government to find a solution to protect the wildlife in the area, as well as the environmental heritage which has been enjoyed by so many. There is clearly a demand for increased housing in Sydney and this is a topic I will return to shortly. The response to this demand is to identify areas that are suitable for high-density development. I can understand that; however, high-density development must be kept in perspective.

Beecroft and Cheltenham, which form part of my electorate, are historical suburbs and together comprise part of the heritage of the metropolis of Sydney. As such they are part of our heritage. I will be

campaigning to retain the heritage nature of those suburbs, for in just the same way that we can identify individual heritage houses we should also identify heritage suburbs and preserve them from inappropriate high-rise development. I acknowledge the good work done by the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust in making this case. I make the point, however, that community organisations achieve the best results when they seek to work consultatively with the Government.

In the same vein, there is pressure to open up areas of South Dural for future housing development. While I recognise the force of this proposal, we should be wary of repeating the sins of the previous Labor governments of establishing new housing suburbs without sufficient thought being given to the delivery of appropriate infrastructure. It was absurd to allow development out to Rouse Hill without building the North West Rail Link simultaneously. Those planning decisions have meant that we now have to deliver the project retrospectively. Similarly, it would be inappropriate to develop areas of South Dural without first relieving congestion on New Line Road, which in some places is a single-lane road.

This leads me, of course, to the delivery of the North West Rail Link. Recently I had the opportunity of attending on site as the tunnel-boring machine, called "Elizabeth", made its appearance at Bella Vista. Besides the project being a remarkable engineering success, the day was made more memorable by the large assembled workforce who had come to witness the event. It was clear to me that each and every one of them enjoyed their job and took great pride in the results they had a hand in producing.

This, in my view, is a true reflection of what good government can achieve. For too long we have been subject to a version of history which paints the Labor Party as the deliverers of social justice. That narrative is deceitful. The condition precedent to providing any form of true social justice is to recognise the inherent obligation to pursue the dignity of human beings, to seek to ensure that we all have an opportunity of reaching our potential. I submit that the starting place for this true program of social justice is to recognise that we all fundamentally are dignified through work. On the ninetieth anniversary of the papal encyclical *Rerum Novarum*—which those opposite are fond of quoting—Saint John Paul II in his encyclical *Laborem Exercens* says this:

Work is a good thing for man—a good thing for his humanity—because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfilment as a human being and indeed, in a sense becomes more a human being.

There is the key to true social justice, and that is to recognise that the most appropriate way to dignify all of us is to provide jobs. Our task should be to ensure that we create an environment that delivers a job in every family. The example of work is the living example of human dignity. It is for this reason that I am proud to be a member of the Liberal Party and the Baird Government. It is the party which understands that true social policy involves programs and projects which put people in work and this is why the Baird Government's commitment to projects such as the North West Rail Link, the NorthConnex and the WestConnex are so important. Deloitte Access Economics, in reviewing the impact of these projects in its report on Rebuilding NSW, predicts that they will deliver an additional 122,500 full-time jobs by 2035.

The election campaign was dominated by a concentration on infrastructure projects and the manner in which they will be delivered. However, I would like to touch on three other issues which the Government will need to address in the current term of Parliament and hopefully in respect of which I can make some contribution: Firstly, it is undeniable that Sydney and New South Wales have become the most desirable place to live in Australia. Probably that is a reflection of the perceived good government in this State. The consequence has been that we are seeing a crisis in housing affordability for young families.

With median house prices for a modest three-bedroom home in Sydney now in excess of \$900,000 and mortgage repayments comprising in excess of 50 per cent of couples' after-tax income, one has to say, how do young couples ever afford to own a home and start a family? There is no easy answer to this question. The Commonwealth may be able to provide some relief through its inquiry into income tax, which will look at superannuation and negative gearing. From the State's perspective, however, there needs to be careful consideration of the manner in which land is released and the delivery of planning reforms. Both those measures may deliver lower costs for new housing developments.

One of the most common complaints I heard during the election campaign was that the cost of housing was being impacted by foreign buyers in the market who were better resourced than Australians. Indeed, last Friday the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that the level of foreign investment in the Australian housing market had trebled to \$16.4 billion. In my legal practice it was not uncommon to deal with clients who had

attended seven or eight auctions and always came second. The complaint was that they were not playing on a level playing field. One possible remedy would be to increase the stamp duty rate for non-permanent residents to a flat rate of 20 per cent, accompanied by a greater imposition of land tax.

The second issue I would like to touch on is the Government response to the increasing use of the drug crystal methamphetamine, colloquially referred to as "ice". If there is ever an issue that is tearing families apart it is this. The Commonwealth Government has established an inquiry into the criminality and importation of this drug. This follows a very substantial report by the Victorian Government in September 2014. This report is remarkably comprehensive and its recommendations bear examination by the New South Wales Government and a response. A fundamental question that arises is whether we are genuinely serious about the so-called "war on drugs" or we have put up the white flag and just accepted that drug taking is a fact of life and we just need to move on and allocate no resources to its detection and prevention. I, for one, have not. I cannot accept that we can condone a culture that says it is okay to allow the demeaning of individuals through drug reliance and addiction. Fundamentally we are less human when our freedom to act is dictated to by dependency on drugs.

The taking of prohibited substances requires a renewed program of deterrence. Additionally, the penalties for those intent on destroying the lives of young people should reflect the social damage that is being inflicted on us all. The approach that I would suggest is twofold: first, a new focus on the criminality of drug taking; and, secondly, an acceptance that drug addiction is a medical condition that needs to be addressed in the criminal justice system. Once someone faces court charged with a criminal offence that has any connection with drug taking then that condition needs to be treated. Courts need the flexibility in sentencing to require people to deal with their drug addiction. It appears to me entirely self-defeating to release offenders back into the community without having properly addressed the addiction that brought them before the courts in the first place.

My predecessor in his capacity as the Minister for Justice identified this need when he introduced the intensive drug treatment program into Corrective Services. This was a well thought-out program, which understood the necessity that inmates leaving jail should be drug free. Indeed, the New South Wales Drug Court is also a success story in relation to the many cases with which it deals. However, the court and the intensive drug treatment program are only touching the surface of drug addiction. There is a crying need to resource the court more and to establish it in many more locations. I would also add that as a government we cannot be seen to cooperate with the moral evil surrounding drug addiction and dependency by continuing to support the drug injecting room. It may appear to be compassionate to do so but the message is wrong and I call for it to be closed.

Finally, in this term of government we will need to respond adequately to the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sex Abuse. No-one in this Chamber can be unaffected by the scandal of child abuse in the community, which has destroyed the lives of so many children who have had their childhoods stolen and trashed and have had to lead adult lives traumatised in the manner that has been disclosed. There is no proper compensation that can restore the lives those victims should rightly have had. Although the royal commission has not yet reported, it is self-evident that its findings will be uncomfortable for us all. We have already had a precursor to those findings to the extent that they have been dealt with by the Victorian parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Organisations.

The response that I envisage must address the following issues. First, the process for properly investigating and dealing with allegations of abuse must always be independent of the organisation against whom the complaint is made. It is never acceptable to have these allegations dealt with internally. Secondly, a compensation fund must be established to ensure that victims have access to suitable levels of compensation. Thirdly, we should adopt the Victorian inquiry recommendation of a separate criminal offence of placing a child at risk. Fourthly, we must ensure that organisations cannot ever be protected by legal structures that can be used to deter victims or place the protection of assets ahead of the primary responsibility to compensate victims. These are only some suggestions that will need to be worked through in order to develop a proper response to the royal commission. But let me be clear, it will be my goal in this place before I leave it to ensure that all children have the proper protection of the law and that we never again have to endure the testimony of victims whose lives have been destroyed by the actions of those with authority over them and in other cases the inaction of those who should have known better. This is a goal that we should all support.

It is self-evident that I come to this job a little later in life than many. This, in my view, is worthy of being celebrated for a number of reasons. First and foremost, I come with the benefit of having raised a family,

with all that this involves. I know firsthand the day-to-day struggles of young families paying off a mortgage and struggling to provide an education for their children. I have practised as a solicitor in a suburban office for more than 30 years, and in that regard I acknowledge the great partners that I have had in that endeavour: Michael O'Hara, Paul Marsh and, for the great bulk of those years, Tony Gagliano. All of them were wonderful lawyers and great friends. We practised law as it was meant to be practised, that is, by always putting the interests of our clients first. I am indebted to all of them, and in more recent times to my son's partner and mentor, Myer Solomon.

I have had wonderful and loyal clients over the years. Some stretch back to the first days I started in practice, and some are here today: Tony Mouawad, Leo and Simon Chan, John Mouawad, Joe Baini, Abboud Baladi, George Kazzi, Dominic Sorbara, Laurie Weston and Mark Ivancic. All of them are more than clients; they are good friends. I reserve special mention for Tony and Lorraine Kazzi. These are two people who have been my partners in the childcare businesses that we established. Both are truly inspirational in their dedication to hard work. Tony was the first person I know who saw the relationship between the provision of child care and the delivery of an educational product. It was his idea that the very best place for the delivery of child care was proximate to schools so as to avoid the double drop, which was crushing many parents.

The point I wish to make is that there is no replacement for the experience that comes from having worked in business and having shared with your clients and partners the day-to-day struggles of life. That experience will be invaluable in the years ahead in the contributions I hope to make here. The second point I would like to make about being older is the message it sends that we are not a spent force in our working lives once we pass 50. The evidence is that the people who find it hardest to find work are those with no experience, the very young, and those who lose their jobs through restructuring or otherwise after they turn 50. These are the people who have perhaps the most to offer in terms of both commitment and experience.

Finally, I would suggest that arriving here late in life demonstrates that we should never lose the ability to dream and seek to do more for others. If my father were alive today he would be very proud. At the same time he would be struck by the irony of his son being elected as a conservative member of Parliament. His father, my grandfather, was the secretary of the Maritime Services Union and would be aghast at the prospect of his grandson standing on this side. Equally, his sister—my aunt—was Doc Evatt's private secretary. My father carried out his initial Air Force training with Gough Whitlam, with whom he remained in correspondence. Thankfully, he crossed the Rubicon and was a great supporter of Robert Menzies and John Howard.

My mother, who is 93, is here today and I pay tribute to her. She raised a large family in a country town. She embodied a great devotion to her family that was based on her strong Catholic faith, which she passed on to us all. To her, family is everything, and even today she is not short on advice for her children. I acknowledge the great support that I have received throughout the campaign. I have a wonderful State Electoral Conference led by Ross Barwick. Ross is an institution in the Liberal Party, and his support and advice were always valuable and perceptive. Others, too, I cannot thank enough: John Little, Sue Carter, Rob Kennaugh, Michael McAuley, Wallace Donald and many more—too many to name—gave so much of their time and encouragement.

My campaign team was amazing: Gerald Keane, Tim Abrams, Scott Gumley, Liam Garman and Damian Wilks. All of them were tireless. Then there was Agnes Kang. Not only did she run my campaign but she also had a hand in four others. Agnes is truly indefatigable. With her there is never a moment of doubt or lack of self-belief. It is all about just getting the job done. To my many friends to whom this day is very special, we started this journey many years ago with long nights planning at my home, which my family will not readily forget and which often involved raised voices. They always believed this day would come—but perhaps they would have preferred it come a little earlier. I also extend my thanks to Gary Doherty, Tim and Gerard Abrams, Ric Allogia, Dom and Charlie Perrottet, Noel McCoy and my son Tom.

With that, I come to my family. Members have probably heard that it is large. Each of my children has his or her own talents and abilities, but they are glued together by the love and affection they have for each other. And yes, I do remember their names and those of their spouses: Patrick and Renee, Clare and Jason, Tom and Caroline, Monica, John and Daniella, Madeleine, James, Anna, Lucy and my granddaughter, Lily. I am exceedingly grateful to you all. Finally, to Diane, their mother—

All members: Hear, hear!

Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: She has always encouraged me in this endeavour and offered the occasional word of realism to ensure that I always came back to earth. Her advice for tonight and for the years ahead was, "Never lose your sense of humour." I thank the House for its indulgence, and I thank all those who have come here to support me tonight.

The SPEAKER: Order! I offer my congratulations to the member for Epping and welcome his family and friends to the gallery. Thank you very much for your attendance in the House.

Pursuant to resolution private members' statements proceeded with.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

GREAT OCEAN POOL CRAWL

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) [6.27 p.m.]: Like other members, I acknowledge the support of my constituents, the men and women of the electorate of Keira, in returning me to this place at the recent election. I also acknowledge Phil Murray, who is a champion in my community. Phil is a Corrimal real estate agent, but he is much more than that. He has spent many years without much acknowledgment working tirelessly to raise money to support those dealing with cancer. Cancer is an insidious disease that has touched each and every one of us in this place. It has touched our communities, our families and our friends.

For some years Phil has organised the Great Ocean Pool Crawl. Some notable members of the local community and I participated in this year's event in the lead-up to the election—in fact, just one week out from the election. It was great to be able to be part of this terrific event. To date, it has raised about \$24,000 to support locals in our community living with cancer and those caring for them. The crawl goes through the beautiful Illawarra northern beaches. It starts in Coalcliff and then goes to Wombarra, Coledale, Austinmer, Bulli, Woonona and then to Towradgi. That is a beautiful part of the world, with magnificent rock pools. The aim of the challenge is to raise money, with participants swimming a couple of laps in each of the beautiful pools, enjoying the wonderful Illawarra and, of course, supporting people living with cancer.

Phil's team at Bevans and Cancer Council sponsors and supporters are right behind him. I thank them on behalf a grateful community, which continues to rely on the money that is raised by people like Phil Murray to ensure that cancer, its treatment and prevention, and looking after those who care for people with cancer remain priorities in our communities. Phil continues each and every year to push local members of Parliament to advocate for his community and to ensure that we all know that this is an important cause. As the local member of Parliament and as a member of a very grateful community, I thank him for his efforts.

There are many Phil Murrys in our respective communities. Many people like him fly under the radar while doing great work. Like other members, I like to use my privileged position in this place to acknowledge men and women like Phil Murray who do so much for our communities and those who are going through such difficult times. I hope that we continue to use the time for private members' statements, notices of motions and community recognition statements to draw attention to those important men and women—the heroes and champions of our community—in the oldest Parliament in this country.

We must continue to recognise the tireless efforts of people like Phil Murray who make the great electorate of Keira an even better place in which to live. The work of such people is not easy but we will continue to stand with them. Importantly, we will continue to support those suffering from cancer and those who support them in working towards the common goal of a cancer-free world.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Parliamentary Secretary) [6.32 p.m.]: I most genuinely congratulate my friend, the member for Keira, on his re-election. I offer this important piece of advice to new members: it is important to reach out across the Chamber on the issues that unite us rather than focus on the issues that divide us. I knew the member for Keira before coming to this place and it is good to have a broad understanding of people's views. The member for Keira and I recently spoke at a Cancer Council function where we were asked how best to lobby government. We have both had experiences with cancer, and I commend Phil Murray on his contribution in that regard. Indeed, we all know someone who has been touched by cancer. I lost my grandfather and uncle to cancer and on the Sunday following the election my mother informed me that she had again been diagnosed with cancer. I again congratulate the member for Keira, Phil Murray and all those around this State who make a contribution to eradicating this most insidious disease.

PARRAMATTA ELECTORATE

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Parliamentary Secretary) [6.33 p.m.]: Mr Deputy-Speaker, today I begin my contribution by congratulating you on your re-election as the member for Lismore and reappointment as Deputy-Speaker. I also acknowledge and thank the people of Parramatta for re-electing me as the member for Parramatta. It will be my honour and privilege to serve them for another four years in this the Fifty-sixth Parliament of this great State. Four years ago in my inaugural speech I spoke of the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead for Parramatta. Indeed, I asked the vital question: What do we do with Parramatta?

Parramatta was set up to be the capital of New South Wales from the first day of colonisation. That goal did not reach fruition as Sydney overtook Parramatta in prominence. But today we proudly call Parramatta the capital of Western Sydney, a goal we have achieved together through hard work and forward thinking, prudent decision-making and targeted investment. Four years ago I said that great cities provide integrated and convenient public transport systems. Fast forward and we are now on track for a \$1 billion investment in the world-class Parramatta light rail to connect residents to more jobs, universities and entertainment and recreational precincts. Four years ago I said great cities have vibrant arts and cultural precincts. The Powerhouse Museum is relocating to Parramatta. This will create the foundation for a new and exciting precinct to showcase local talent and bring innovation and education to the doorstep of our community.

Four years ago I said we must preserve our historic buildings and sites and offer the choice of city living or leafy green suburban streets. Today the Parramatta Heritage Precinct master plan is well underway. This \$2 billion project will restore and adaptively reuse Australia's finest collection of European and colonial assets. It will create a new community with heritage at its heart. Four years ago I said I would fight for a greater share of resources for Parramatta. Four years later we have 180 new nurses in the Westmead Hospital Precinct, 430 additional train services each week from Parramatta station, 39 new police officers in the Parramatta and Rosehill local area commands and funding of more than \$1.4 million for 60 local community projects.

Four years ago I said I would be knocking on Ministers' doors and asking for more funding. The \$1 billion upgrade of the Westmead Hospital Precinct, a \$29 million upgrade of Parramatta Stadium and a record \$16 million upgrade of Parramatta Park, the green heart of our city, have now begun. Four years ago I said we would see the Sydney central business district stretch to Parramatta. Parramatta is now creating its own economic arc, which reaches into Camellia and Sydney Olympic Park, up into the Macquarie enterprise hub, and joins with Sydney's global economic arc. We have seen Parramatta continue to thrive, be named the most liveable suburb in New South Wales, grow its vibrant night-time economy and power ahead with more jobs as we cement our place as a knowledge hub and grow our service-based economy.

The importance of Parramatta cannot be underestimated as Western Sydney continues on its incredible growth trajectory and becomes home to millions more people in the coming decades. Parramatta has always been about potential—a potential that was often unfulfilled. Realising its potential has been not only a goal for the people who live in our great city but also a necessity to create a dynamic and vibrant capital, a stand-alone full-service city that generates its own economy as the beacon for all of Western Sydney. As one walks around Parramatta one can feel the energy brewing—that is our pride and passion and our high hopes for the future. We have come a long way and have more to do, but the groundwork has been laid for future prosperity. Indeed, we are moving forward with confidence as we work together to build a better tomorrow today.

Four years ago I said, "When I think about Parramatta I think about opportunity." Today that could not be truer; the opportunities are endless. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the people of Parramatta and I will continue to give all that I have as we continue to forge a strong and bright future for Parramatta. Finally, I again thank the people of Parramatta. Special thanks go to my team at Parramatta who helped me in the lead-up to the last election, including campaign manager Chris Bailey, Nick Karam, Melissa McAulay, Kevin Costello and Vicki Kimber, and staff members David Paddle, Marsha Mannot, Dianne Abboud and Lorraine Doyle.

FAIRFIELD ELECTORATE

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) [6.38 p.m.]: On Saturday 28 March 2015 the people of New South Wales voted in the 2015 State election and Fairfield remained a strong Labor seat, maintaining its record of 62 years of continuous Labor representation in the area. Labor received 68 per cent of the two-party preferred vote in Fairfield—an overall positive swing of 16 per cent. This has taken our margin to 17.8 per cent on the New South Wales election pendulum. These results are reflective of a traditional grassroots campaign, with

assistance from a number of volunteers dedicated to the Labor cause and what Labor stands for. The Fairfield pre-poll site was extremely busy, with well-staffed volunteers distributing how-to-vote cards. The solid pre-poll results are indicative of the hard work and commitment of all Fairfield Labor volunteers. Strong results like these were echoed across the State, with Labor picking up 14 additional seats in the Legislative Assembly.

Our campaign emphasis was on connecting with residents in the local area through community stalls, festivals, door knocking and listening to their concerns at mobile offices throughout the electorate. We had an incredibly strong presence on the day, with more than 150 volunteers distributing how-to-vote cards across the Fairfield electorate. As votes were being counted on election night it became evident that an overwhelming number of voters had once again given Labor the opportunity to represent Fairfield in this Parliament. I take this opportunity to thank all my volunteers for their unwavering dedication and support for my campaign during the 2015 election. This outstanding result would not have been possible without their help and I am incredibly grateful to them.

I also acknowledge and thank members of my campaign team for standing beside me every step of the way and giving their all, including my campaign coordinator Ms Nour George for her relentless work; Mr Joshua Robertson for his outstanding work with social media and community engagement; Mr Nathan Alexander for providing invaluable strategy and communications expertise to many aspects of my campaign; and last, but not least, Mr Carlos Fortunato who dug deep and has an outstanding rapport with the multicultural communities of the Fairfield electorate.

Further, I thank those who volunteered with me at the pre-poll centres in Fairfield and Cabramatta for the final two weeks of the campaign: Mr Johnson Hillany, Mr Ross Zangari, Mr Albert Mooshi, Mr Gilbert Yanez, Mr Gavin Abrahams, Mr Tsang, Mr Dinh Kien Nugyen and Ms Cynthia Suhanek. I thank all the booth captains, the remarkable volunteers who helped me to staff the booths on the day, members of the Fairfield State Electoral Council [SEC] and, of course, family members. Over the course of the campaign they all worked so hard to fight for what we believe in and to keep a strong community voice in this Parliament. Special thanks go to Melissa, Tahlia, Christian, Lorida and Nicola for holding the fort at home during the campaign—I love them dearly.

I am deeply honoured to have been elected into the Fifty-sixth Parliament of New South Wales, and I will never take it for granted. The solid swing back to Labor is very humbling, and I will use the next four years to work as hard as I can to champion the cause for the people of Fairfield. Over the next four years, we need to hold the Government accountable and continue our push for services affecting our electorate. TAFE has become so unaffordable at the hands of this Government that many constituents in Fairfield have been left without any means to attain tertiary education or a formal qualification. This must change. There is no justification for pricing education out of the affordability range of so many people. No person in New South Wales should be denied an education.

The Government needs to provide Fairfield Hospital with adequate funding to improve the emergency department and to get rid of trolley block. Local residents should not be stuck lying in a bed in the hospital halls or waiting on top of one another in the emergency room as a result of penny pinching from this Government. Finally, mobility access must be installed at Canley Vale, Carramar, Villawood and Yennora train stations. The New South Wales Baird Government does not believe our local residents need mobility access at these stations but the fact is that so many residents in the Fairfield electorate are in desperate need of and are crying out for this service.

DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoynes—Parliamentary Secretary) [6.43 p.m.]: Mr Deputy-Speaker, I congratulate you on your reappointment; it is great to have you back. As the member for Drummoynes, I am proud and inspired, for many reasons, to do more, to make my community proud and to deliver infrastructure that changes people's lives, particularly those in my electorate. I am humbled by the help that was provided to me by Liberal Party members, people outside the party, many friends and, of course, my loving family. I particularly thank my wife and kids and my mother and father who have been my rock.

I am also humbled by the great result in my electorate. I have always put my community first and my party next. Why? If one puts one's party first, one will come and go with the tide. No-one could say that Sidoti will not have a go. I always represent the interests of my community. Members must listen to the concerns of their community. Sometimes we may not agree with their views but we must act on them.

With the many achievements of the Government in the inner west, there were also some sore points. Challenges bring opportunities, and there are many challenges in the inner west. With the growth in development across Sydney, there is a critical need for open space and sporting facilities, and these issues will be a priority in the next four years. The overwhelming majority of my constituents told me that they believe that much progress has been made over the past four years. More new schools were delivered in those four years than I have seen in my lifetime. One was as a result of a wonderful partnership with the City of Canada Bay Council, delivering a \$35 million primary school in Concord West.

The council, particularly individual councillors—I could even say opponents—threw a lot at the last campaign. They had vested interests, but their attempts to muddy the water with talk of amalgamations failed. In 2000 the same people voted for the amalgamation of Concord and Drummoyne councils to form the City of Canada Bay Council when 80 per cent of the constituency was against it. Now they oppose amalgamation. Why? They are feathering their own nests while they hold council positions.

The highlight of the last four years of government has been the delivery of much-needed infrastructure within my electorate. My constituents say that WestConnex should have been built yesterday, and I could not agree with them more. I look forward to seeing that project progress quickly. My constituents are also happy that \$2 million has been spent on the Bay Run, a wonderful piece of infrastructure where people can walk, run, keep fit, cycle and so forth. It is enjoyed by my community and by the community at large.

I look forward to many more wonderful infrastructure projects, particularly in public transport. I have said on numerous occasions that transport is the backbone of my electorate, particularly west of Five Dock. In Concord and Concord West there is a great need for better public transport into the central business district. I will work with the Government and others, including the Opposition, to improve public transport in the inner west to ensure that people travel efficiently to and from work and leisure activities so they are able to spend more time with their families. The commute to the city from the Concord area takes too long. As the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads, I look forward to working with the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, the Hon. Duncan Gay, and the Minister for Transport, the Hon. Andrew Constance, to deliver transport for the community of New South Wales. Finally, I thank my staff and the volunteers, many of whom made themselves available to work on weekends during the election. They were fantastic.

VAUCLUSE ELECTORATE CENTENARY OF ANZAC COMMEMORATION

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse—Attorney General) [6.48 p.m.]: Over the past few weeks, I have attended a number of Anzac Day services in my electorate to pay tribute to Australian soldiers who lost their lives in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions around the world. This year was a very significant commemoration as we marked 100 years since the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps soldiers landed at Anzac Cove for the start of an horrific, eight-month campaign against the Ottoman forces. The reported estimate of Australian casualties in the Gallipoli campaign was staggering. Mostly young men, they set out to the war on the other side of the world fighting to protect our way of life in Australia. These courageous soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

The Anzacs arrival at Gallipoli and the subsequent campaign have become a symbol in Australian society for the bravery and sacrifices of our Armed Forces. Some say that the Gallipoli landing marked the true birth of Australia as a nation and it certainly paved the way for a greater sense of national pride. I am proud that each year my local Returned and Services Leagues, councils and residents in the Vaucluse electorate join together to organise ceremonies that capture that spirit and pay tribute to our servicemen and servicewomen.

This year the commemorations began early, on Sunday 19 April, with a march starting at Club Rose Bay, home of the Rose Bay RSL Sub-Branch, travelling down New South Head Road and arriving at the Rose Bay War Memorial in Lyne Park. I thank Rosemary Stockley, OAM, honorary secretary of Rose Bay RSL, and Darvill Malcolm, president, for holding this service each year for local residents. The next event was a service at Waverley cenotaph, which borders my electorate and that of the member for Coogee, Mr Bruce Notley-Smith. This was a special service as it not only commemorated Anzac Day but also rededicated the cenotaph following its recent refurbishment, which was funded in part by the New South Wales Government. This service was jointly organised by Waverley Council, Bondi Junction Waverley RSL, Bronte RSL, North Bondi RSL and the Eastern Suburbs Legion Club. I thank them for all their efforts and for conducting the service.

On Friday 24 April I attended an Anzac Day service at Emanuel Synagogue in Woollahra. It was good to have the involvement of local Jewish community groups, including the NSW Association of Jewish Ex

Servicemen and Women, and the 3rd Rose Bay (Judean) Scout Group, which is led by Scout Leader Leon Waxman. I thank Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins and Emanuel Synagogue Board President Louise Thurgood-Phillips for allowing me to share in that commemoration service. On Anzac Day the dawn service at North Bondi attracted more than 10,000 people. It must be the largest dawn service ever held there. I joined my Federal counterpart, the member for Wentworth, Malcolm Turnbull, to pay our respects. It was a truly moving ceremony. There was a great sense of camaraderie as the community gathered together. Afterwards there was a barbeque breakfast. I thank North Bondi RSL president Robert de Graaf, office administrator Kate Cass, past president Norbert Keough, and the volunteers and friends who made it such a fitting ceremony.

Next there was a service at Waverley cenotaph, organised by Waverley Council with the various RSL clubs in the eastern suburbs, including North Bondi RSL. Later in the morning I attended a service organised by Woollahra Mayor Toni Zeltzer at the cenotaph at Steyne Park in Double Bay. I joined Mayor Zeltzer, Malcolm Turnbull and all the councillors. I read an excerpt from that wonderful poem *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon. I thank Mayor Zeltzer and Woollahra Municipal Council for organising this second annual Anzac Day ceremony in Double Bay. It was only the second such ceremony but it is a tradition to continue. The large turnout of people at Anzac Day services this year was certainly reflected in the attendance at eastern suburbs services in the electorate I represent. It was fantastic to see so many Australians, especially younger Australians, commemorating the spirit of Anzac. Judging by this enthusiastic turnout 100 years on from the Gallipoli campaign, we can surely say that the Anzacs have not been, and will not be, forgotten. Lest we forget.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK AUTHORITY PROTECTED TENANCY HOUSING

Ms JODI MCKAY (Strathfield) [6.53 p.m.]: I never thought I would be standing in this Chamber again looking up at the Deputy-Speaker, not because I did not think he would retain his seat of Lismore but because I did not think I would ever return to Parliament. I bring to the attention of the House the situation faced by the residents of Welfare Street and Flemington Road at Homebush West. I became involved in this issue during my campaign for Strathfield. In December last year a story appeared in the real estate section of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Real estate agent Strathfield Partners boasted about its sale of 12 properties in Homebush West, which fetched \$10 million for developer Centennial Property Group. Fortunately, journalist Rose Powell of the *Sydney Morning Herald* decided to take a closer look at this story and exposed a deal involving the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Strathfield Partners and Centennial Property Group that has put business and making a profit on the sale of government assets ahead of people.

In short, Centennial Property Group made \$4.7 million in six months after purchasing the government-owned housing from the Sydney Olympic Park Authority [SOPA]. I read Rose's story and reached out to the residents. In response to my inquiries, the Minister indicated on 5 February that the houses were sold because they were not required for SOPA's business operations. Unfortunately, no consideration was given to the people who lived in these houses. It appears they were expendable when SOPA considered what was best for its business operations. They should have been front of mind in any decision made by SOPA and the New South Wales Government because those tenants were in fact protected under the Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act 1948. But they were not front of mind; they were expendable.

Strathfield Partners gave the tenants 30 days to move out and Centennial Property Group made almost \$5 million by doing nothing except onselling the government assets. Led by resident Lyn Begnell, the tenants refused to leave and set about challenging the sale, the later subdivision application and the actions of SOPA. It is worth noting that when the houses were sold the land was on a single title, and remains so today. The residents are currently challenging the subdivision application in the Land and Environment Court. Investigations by journalist Wendy Bacon revealed that SOPA still held the title to the land two weeks after the auction took place—so the investors did not even own the properties when they were sold. As Wendy Bacon pointed out in her online blog, "You can't sell a title you don't possess."

What has been forgotten in all the deals involving these 12 houses are the people of Welfare Street and Flemington Road. John Higgins has lived in his house since he was a baby. He is now 67 years old. As the child of the original leaseholder, his father, he is entitled to stay in the property. Bruce Begnell has lived in the Welfare Street house for 50 years. He is legally blind, has diabetes and is cared for by his wife, Lyn. Along with Bob Telfer and Bob Rolls, John and Bruce worked at the State-owned abattoir, which closed in June 1988. They were given protected tenancies and affordable housing in return for a hard day and night's work and minimal income. They believed they had a home for life; they should have had a home for life.

I again refer to Wendy Bacon's online blog. She has raised two pertinent questions: Why did SOPA not deal honestly with its tenants? In fact, bar one letter, SOPA wiped its hands of these people. Why were the

properties auctioned in such a rush before the subdivision had taken place? I add to those questions: Who told Strathfield Partners to evict the residents? Was this callous action instigated by it alone? Why did Housing NSW not take the properties, given the shortage of affordable housing in New South Wales? Were the final buyers of the homes, who to this day remain mysterious, aware these tenancies were protected? And why were the tenants not offered alternative accommodation by the New South Wales Government? These questions remain unanswered today.

I particularly mention Lyn Begnell in this House. She has led the campaign to save not only her home but also those of her neighbours. Lyn and her son, Kurt, have become advocates and have taken on SOPA, Strathfield Partners and Centennial Property Group. Their home is at stake and they are refusing to give in, and I say, "All strength to them." The matter remains unresolved. I urge the New South Wales Government to step in and to support these tenants.

MOREE EVERGREEN PRECINCT WATER SKI LAKES

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) [6.58 p.m.]: I speak this evening about how the community of Moree in the west of the Northern Tablelands electorate is working to turn the tide—and I mean literally turning the tide of wastewater from its thermal pools into a world-class sporting facility and tourist attraction. The Moree Plains region is a vibrant part of the world, and I am always amazed by the indefatigable optimism of many sections of the community. Following the recent election I travelled to Moree on several occasions to catch up with a few locals that I missed seeing during the campaign and to have a closer look at some of the major industries in the region. A wonderful project is currently underway in Moree. In what I think epitomises the Moree psyche, it is an example of a negative situation being turned into a positive one. Most members of this House would have heard of the world-class Moree artesian spas—

Mr Geoff Provost: I've been there.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: The member for Tweed has been there, as has the member for Myall Lakes. People from around Australia and the world flock to Moree to sit, float, bathe and dive in the therapeutic and mineral-rich hot waters that bubble up from deep in the Great Artesian Basin. In fact, with good reason Moree Plains is known as the artesian spa capital of Australia. A few years ago, the NSW Environment Protection Authority decided that, with the growing popularity of the spa baths, the amount of wastewater being expelled into the Mehi River system was not in the best interests of the river's long-term health. This threw up a real problem for the Moree Plains Shire Council and the community—what to do with 600 million litres of spent artesian pool water each year if it could no longer be discharged into the river.

There is an old saying: If someone is given lemons they should go ahead and make lemonade. And that is exactly what Moree did. Moree Plains Shire Council, in conjunction with the Moree Water Ski Club, came up with an exciting plan. Why not reshape the planned wastewater evaporation ponds just south of Moree that the NSW Environment Protection Authority required into a world-class waterski lake? And why stop there? Why not have three lakes? Construction of the Moree Evergreen Precinct Water Ski Lakes is now well underway, and I was absolutely astounded by the scale of the project when I recently inspected the site with council and Moree Water Ski Club representatives.

The lakes complex comprises three separate competition standard and recreation lakes. One is 800 metres long and built in compliance with international and Australian waterskiing standards, with jumps and all sorts of paraphernalia to be installed shortly, and the major lake will be 1.2 kilometres long, over 200 metres wide and is designed as a circuit lake for all manner of water sports, both competition and recreational. Plans for a clubhouse, boat ramps and jetties are well underway. Fundraising and marketing plans are well advanced, with plans for raffles, merchandise, websites, tournaments and sponsorship already in place. A five-year business plan has been completed and is being enacted. It is fair to say that all we need to do is add water.

The enthusiasm for this project is plain to see. I am looking forward to helping the community maintain that enthusiasm and perhaps tracking down some State Government funding in order to make the finishing touches to this magnificent project. It is always rewarding to help communities that are already providing their own solutions and endeavouring to help themselves. This waterski park has been six years in the making and with expert advice along the way, including from national groups such as the Australian Waterski and Wakeboard Federation, Moree will become a water sports mecca. Of course, when all that exertion on top of the water gets too much, the artesian spas are the perfect place to relax under the water and, of course, to enjoy a quiet lemonade or two.

I would like publicly to acknowledge a few key people in this project: David Aber, the outgoing general manager of the Moree Plains Shire Council; the effervescent mayor, Katrina Humphries, the project manager, John Carelton; members of the Moree Water Ski Club executive; and Councillor James von Drehnen, whose dream this was and who has pursued it with such passion. I commend all those people who have worked hard on this project to get it to this point; it has not been easy, but they have taken a serious environmental problem and turned it into a winning economic and tourism opportunity for Moree Plains and the wider region. Well done Moree.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Parliamentary Secretary) [7.03 p.m.]: It is my great privilege and pleasure to congratulate my friend the member for Northern Tablelands on his outstanding re-election. I commend him for his constant pursuit of economic development, growth and jobs in his electorate, which he frequently speaks passionately about in this House. I particularly acknowledge the work that Moree council is doing with respect to encouraging waterskiing in its community and the development of the spa baths.

In the past many members for Northern Tablelands have been all froth and no substance but it is clear that when it comes to these projects they have a member of substance in the member for Northern Tablelands who, coming from his local government beginnings, knows how to make government work for local communities. He did it incredibly successfully as a mayor and now he is using every avenue in this place to pursue growth and jobs and every opportunity open to him. I have no doubt that the people of Moree will be delighted to have a hardworking and diligent representative in the member for Northern Tablelands in this Fifty-sixth Parliament.

HOLSWORTHY STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) [7.04 p.m.]: Mr Deputy-Speaker, I welcome you back to your position as Deputy-Speaker—a position that suits you well. Today I recognise and acknowledge the tireless efforts of our local State Emergency Service [SES] volunteers, particularly those in Liverpool, for their work during the recent storms and for the subsequent clean-up. My lawn is still waterlogged—I have my own troubles resulting from the floods and the storms—and our sporting fields are still struggling to dry out following the horrendous storms that lashed Sydney in April. But my troubles are nothing compared to what many members of my community struggled through and I want to bring that to the attention of the House today.

We had wind, water and even hail, particularly on Anzac Day, thrown on our suburbs. Some areas fared better than others but some copped the brunt of it. My electorate of Holsworthy has the Georges River, which is notorious for breaking its banks after heavy rain, and it did so again. We also have the Cabramatta Creek, which flows through the new sections of the electorate in Prestons and Lurnea. Thankfully, there are not many homes along the banks of the river and those homes that are close to the river are mainly prepared for the rising floodwaters. However, flooding obviously has an impact on the people who live there and during the heaviest rainfalls the floodwaters closed a number of local roads, including some particularly popular routes for local residents in their day-to-day travels and in getting to and from work.

My office and I tried to help keep the community informed through telephone calls, and Twitter and Facebook came in handy to communicate messages. I particularly thank those people who shared my statuses and promoted theirs so that everyone knew what was going on; it was a great way to keep them informed and to let people know what areas to avoid so that we could take some of that traffic off the road and ease the pressure on our emergency services. Our Liverpool SES volunteers were flat out responding to calls from residents relating to fallen trees, leaks and water damage to their homes. The volunteers took an incredible amount of time off work. One volunteer said to me he could now count the hours he had slept as opposed to the hours he had worked but in the days during the storm he could only count the hours he had slept on one or two hands.

The volunteers have to go back to their own jobs and catch up on the work that they have missed. Our thanks go to the bosses for giving them the time off to help their communities. As the river rose, the SES volunteers helped to evacuate homes surrounded by floodwaters in Chipping Norton, particularly along Riverside Drive, Newbridge Road, Rickard Road, Arthur Street and Davy Robinson Drive. They did a wonderful job evacuating residents and I thank the residents for calmly leaving the area. An evacuation centre was set up in the Moorebank Community Centre but no-one went to it because all the residents were prepared and knew what to do and where to go in the event of flooding.

I am incredibly thankful that no-one was harmed during the flooding. I know that the SES did all it could to ensure that those residents were able to return to their homes as soon as it was safe to do so. I thank our

local community groups for manning that evacuation centre. I also thank David Butchman and Michael Rou, both of whom give their time to the Liverpool SES, for keeping me in the loop by keeping my phone ringing, by informing me of what was going on, by telling me how I could help and by telling me how I could help to inform the community what was going on.

Last Friday I had the pleasure of joining our new Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General the Hon. David Hurley, AC, DSC—who was with us in Parliament today—in visiting the flood-affected areas, particularly Chipping Norton, and speaking to the residents who had since returned to their homes. Seeing the mud and debris left behind by the flood in the days after the storms was eye-opening, but it was a wonderful chance to thank our SES volunteers for the work that they had done and to sympathise with the residents for what they had been through during the storms. Once again, the preparedness of our residents meant that the damage locally was kept to a minimum and I am incredibly thankful for that.

Every step of the way I was able to follow the updated road closures and warnings through the New South Wales Government's Live Traffic website and app. That is a brilliant way to keep in the loop about what is going on. I thank members of my local community for staying off the roads as much as they could and for avoiding the reported areas that were flooding. We all know how people can get into trouble and I am pleased that, largely, people listened to the warnings being issued and stayed out of harm's way. I express my sympathies to the friends and families of those who lost their lives in the flood and to those who lost their homes. We will offer what help we can to their communities. I thank the energy companies, our emergency services and our SES for all the work that they do.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Parliamentary Secretary) [7.09 p.m.]: It is my great pleasure to congratulate the member for Holsworthy on her stunning election victory on 28 March. The House joins her in congratulating the Liverpool SES volunteers on the contribution that they made during those difficult times. I inform those who are not aware of the work of the member for Holsworthy that she has been a tireless advocate for community services and the volunteer sector. I have no doubt that she genuinely appreciates the extraordinary service of volunteers not only in her electorate but also right around the State. I commend her for bringing the extraordinary work of volunteers in her electorate to the attention of this Parliament.

No doubt, like many areas of the State that were suffering through those terrible weather conditions, the SES in Liverpool worked tirelessly to ensure that residents got their lives back together as quickly as possible. It is an absolute credit to the member for Holsworthy that as her first matter of business she brought the tireless efforts of volunteers to the attention of this House today. I congratulate her and I am delighted to see her serving again in the Fifty-sixth Parliament.

LAKE MACQUARIE ELECTORATE STORM DAMAGE

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) [7.10 p.m.]: Mr Deputy-Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your re-election and reappointment to the position of Deputy-Speaker. Following the member for Holsworthy, I too wish to speak about the storm and tempest in April. I use my first speaking opportunity in this new Parliament to inform the House about the impact of the recent east coast storm in my electorate and region and to pay tribute to the volunteers and emergency services personnel who worked tirelessly to help people recover from the damage and disruption brought by the unexpectedly savage storm.

I was in Sydney preparing for the resumption of Parliament when the storm hit. Although I had been aware of weather forecasts of high wind, as the Premier noted on his visit to affected areas of the Hunter afterwards, the ferocity and duration of this weather event caught us all by surprise. Driving home along the M1 on Tuesday in the still intense winds and driving rain, I was stunned to see the impact of the previous night's tempest. I have since learned that winds reached up to 135 kilometres an hour and that between 300 millimetres and 400 millimetres of rain fell on parts of the Hunter during the critical period. The force of the storm was equal to a category 2 cyclone and it blacked out some 225,000 properties.

Close to my home the extent of local damage became apparent: there were huge trees across roads; powerlines were down, leaving suburb after suburb without power; and parks and green spaces were a mess with uprooted trees and widely strewn branches. It was immediately apparent that this was going to be much more than a 24-hour crisis. Reassuringly, however, amid all the chaos an army of emergency workers in distinctive high-vis vests had already begun to amass. Tarpaulins were being stretched across gaping holes in roofs and people with chainsaws were clearing driveways and cutting toppled trees into manageable pieces. Meanwhile, electricity teams that were hoisted high in cherry pickers busied themselves at the top of power poles, defying the threatening winds and, later that week, electrical storms.

The volunteer army alongside our professional emergency services did an outstanding job to restore order and sanity to our region over the following week. As is typical, many of the volunteers and workers left their families at home in the cold and dark while they tended to the problems of others. Neville and Sandy Koch from Mandalong Rural Fire Service, a couple I know well, were at the height of the storm out clearing the M1 of fallen trees and debris. They spent the rest of the week helping others before finally pausing to assess the considerable damage to their own small acreage that was caused by flooding and the uprooting of 28 large trees.

In terms of resources and requests for assistance, this was an unprecedented storm and flood event. It exceeded all other events on record, including the June 2007 *Pasha Bulker* storm and the 1999 Sydney hailstorm. The State Emergency Service [SES] received more than 8,000 requests for assistance across the region, including 2,947 in Lake Macquarie. In my electorate the Cooranbong unit alone received 770 requests for help. The SES drew on the services of around 700 volunteers in total, including some from interstate and other emergency services. Lake Macquarie Rural Fire Service volunteers assisted the SES with 1,743 jobs. Crews from Ausgrid, Essential Energy, Hunter Water, local councils and other government agencies also worked tirelessly. In some cases they are still on the job.

But a crisis like this is not just about physical damage. With power out for up to a week or longer in some places, people began to run low on food. For many, the isolation of being stuck in a blacked-out home without the electrically powered devices that keep us in contact with the world began to take its toll particularly on young parents and the sick or elderly. Some local community groups really stepped up to the plate in this regard. I make particular mention of the Southlake Neighbourhood Centre at Morisset, which invited members of the community in for cups of tea, hot soup and sausage sizzles. It also organised food parcel distributions, offered its single shower to anyone in need of a hot soak and allowed people to charge their mobile devices and use its computer facilities. Local gyms and clubs opened their facilities to people without power. The Bonnells Bay Salvos, led by Captain Tim Gittens, held a "pot luck" dinner with donated dishes, and OzHarvest and Lifeboat Community Services distributed food parcels. These small but significant gestures meant a lot to people.

Understandably, the experience exposed some gaps in the response process. I think it is important that community groups and government now regroup after the event to review procedures. That is not to detract from the outstanding efforts of those who contributed to this recovery, but if we can draw from the experience to improve our capacity to cope when next confronted by a similar emergency situation then all the better. Fortunately, there were no fatalities in Lake Macquarie as a result of the storm event; however, there were fatalities in other areas. I speak for the people of Lake Macquarie when I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in Dungog and Maitland. I again express my thanks to those who contributed to the recovery and congratulate them on a job well done. I wish retired Brigadier Darren Naumann, who is heading the Regional Recovery Committee, all the best and I thank the Government and the Premier for instituting this response.

Finally, things have moved quickly since 28 March. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the supporters who helped with my election campaign and those electors who saw fit to give me the privilege of continuing to work for the people of Lake Macquarie.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Parliamentary Secretary) [7.15 p.m.]: It is an absolute delight to congratulate the member for Lake Macquarie on his emphatic re-election. It is by no accident that he enjoys the biggest margin of any Independent in this House; it is because of his many years serving the community as mayor. The people of Lake Macquarie are lucky to have him in this place. On behalf of Government members I join with the member for Lake Macquarie in expressing our sincere regret and sadness over the loss of lives in Dungog and Maitland. When I was briefed by the deputy commissioner of the State Emergency Service at the Wollongong headquarters I saw the maps of his part of the world. I can only imagine what his community went through. My community has experienced similar conditions in the past. A total of 2,497 callouts in an electorate is an extraordinary number. I am sure it is not an accident that the member's first act in the new Parliament was to congratulate the hard work and diligence of volunteers in his electorate. On behalf of the Government, I commend his comments. The people of Lake Macquarie are very lucky to have the member as their servant in this House.

SMART AND SKILLED REFORMS

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) [7.16 p.m.]: The date 1 January 2015 was an important day for all of us. I will use my first private member's statement this year to talk about Smart and Skilled in New South

Wales. As the implementation of the Smart and Skilled reforms lurches on, stories continue to emerge of people of great experience and quality being forced out in a ruthless purge of institutional knowledge and experience. In its desperation to fund the North West Rail Link—and by default make educational attainment harder for the people of this State—the Government has removed basic human decency from the staff management practices of TAFE NSW.

I recently received a piece of correspondence from a former TAFE NSW outreach worker. His story is another example of the arrogant, black hearted and utterly unprofessional culture that Smart and Skilled has fostered in our TAFE system. Our correspondent described his role as an "entry point", a conduit between our community's disadvantaged young people and the TAFE system. He would speak to school leavers and, importantly, at-risk students and young people about their options. He would encourage them to seek further education and he tried to foster the belief and confidence they needed to do it. His complaint to me, like almost all those I have heard from former TAFE employees, was not grounded in retribution and was not an attempt to get his job back. It was simply borne out of a deep concern for due diligence, transparency and genuine process for TAFE staff being sacked.

His troubles began in August last year when, in response to the Smart and Skilled reforms, a change management process was commenced in his section. The five existing outreach positions that offered so much to at-risk young people were spilled, with only three to be reoffered. The application process was in equal measure shambolic, dishonest and mean spirited. That is putting to one side that offering only three outreach positions for the entire Hunter region is a failure before the journey begins just by definition of the geography and land mass size. Only one month before all this our correspondent had undergone a performance management meeting in which his manager had given a completely positive appraisal of his efforts and told him there were no issues of concern. Imagine the shock when that same manager then wrote our correspondent a referee report—essentially to apply for his own job—that was dripping with negative feedback. Are we to believe that his performance had deteriorated so much in the space of a month?

When questioned, the manager apologised for the report whilst at the same time seeking to justify it. He said that he needed to write the reports "with an eye to the future as well as the past" and that the performance management meeting was only a "casual chat". Worse yet, the manager who wrote the referee report then sat in on the selection interviews. So we have the one person both writing the reports and then using them to assess the candidates. Not only that, the same person who gave positive feedback one month, a negative referee report the next month and referred to the formal performance review process of TAFE as a "casual chat" was now empowered to make decisions that would affect the future of employees and their families.

Unsurprisingly, our correspondent was not selected for one of the three new positions. This may sound like sour grapes, but it is not. This is a question of an appalling process inflicted on a collective of unsuspecting TAFE staff who have been deemed "must go" by a decimated TAFE system. One of the options offered was a job matching process. I describe it now. First, he could not get any guidance on what was involved in the job matching process. When he finally did, he learned that of the positions listed as possible options none had any future beyond a few months. Picking a role from the list at random, he was told, "That position won't exist after term one." So he chose another one and was told, "That role probably won't be available either." And on it went. He signed the voluntary redundancy instead.

A wholehearted servant of TAFE New South Wales, who had spent nearly a decade finding education paths for young people who would otherwise have been cut from education completely, was now given a choice between redundancy now or redundancy later. Apparently this is the way of Smart and Skilled. No amount of rationalising bureaucratic drivel will absolve the Government and its members of this absolute shame. Not only has the Government deserted the young and old seeking a TAFE education; it has decimated the fibre and morale of existing staff by imposing on them an appalling mockery of fairness and equity.

Private members' statements concluded.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 7.21 p.m. until
Wednesday 6 May 2015 at 10.00 a.m.**
