

ALEX NEWSOME AUSTRALIAN UNDER 20S RUGBY UNION SQUAD SELECTION	1535
ASSENT TO BILL	1507
AUSTRALIAN ENERGY REGULATOR DETERMINATION	1508
AUSTRALIANS FOR NATIVE TITLE AND RECONCILIATION	1537
BATLOW CIDERFEST	1538
BLAYNEY-DEMONDRILLE AND KOORAWATHA-GREENTHORPE RAIL LINES	1492
BLUE MOUNTAINS PUBLIC TRANSPORT	1552
BOWRAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL	1548
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	1469, 1469, 1471, 1507, 1520
CALLAN PARK	1488
CAMDEN ELECTORATE CRICKET CLUBS	1544
CAMPBELLTOWN COLLEGIANS ATHLETICS CLUB	1533
CBD AND SOUTH EAST LIGHT RAIL PROJECT	1516
COAL SEAM GAS	1519
COFFS HARBOUR INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT	1542
COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS	1533
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES PROGRAM	1510
COOTAMUNDRA ELECTORATE RESERVE TRUST MEDAL RECIPIENTS	1533
DISSENT	1522
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	1470, 1472, 1486
ELECTRICITY NETWORK ASSETS (AUTHORISED TRANSACTIONS) BILL 2015	1476
ELECTRICITY NETWORK ASSETTS (AUTHORISED TRANSACTIONS) BILL 2015	1469
ELECTRICITY PRIVATISATION	1507, 1515, 1519
ELECTRICITY RETAINED INTEREST CORPORATIONS BILL 2015	1469, 1476
FAIRFIELD ANZAC DAY SERVICES	1549
GOODWIN VILLAGE, WOOLLAHRA	1536
GOULBURN HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT	1551
GRACE KEEPING, KIDS CANCER PROJECT FUNDRAISER	1536
HOLROYD CITY COUNCIL SWIMMING POOLS UPGRADES	1546
HUNTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT	1542
INGLEBURN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	1533
INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY	1540
JENNY SILLAR, SENIOR POLICY OFFICER, OFFICE OF NSW PREMIER	1520
KIAMA ELECTORATE HEALTH SERVICES	1550
MID-NORTH COAST AGRICULTURAL SHOWS	1543
MOREE RECONCILIATION AWARDS	1539
NEVILLE MCINTYRE, MASTERS ATHLETICS CHAMPION	1503
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, FAIRFIELD	1535
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES	1531
PARRAMATTA ROAD URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT	1496
PETITIONS	1531
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	1537
QUESTION TIME	1507
RECONCILIATION ART AWARDS	1547
REGIONAL INVESTMENT	1512
RETIREMENT OF LOUISE VOIGT	1535
ROCKDALE POLICE STATION	1547
RYDE ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY EVENTS	1541
SALAMANDER AND RAYMOND TERRACE FIRE AND RESCUE NSW OPEN DAY	1535
SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD APPEAL	1537
SEVEN HILLS FIRE AND RESCUE NSW OPEN DAY	1536
SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT	1517
SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS (EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE) BILL	1532
STUDENT ORIGAMI PROJECT	1534
SYDNEY SECONDARY COLLEGE BLACKWATTLE BAY CAMPUS SCHOOL LEADERS	1536
TAFE ILLAWARRA NOWRA CAMPUS MAJOR AWARDS	1536
THIRLMERE RURAL FIRE SERVICE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY	1535
TRANS-TASMAN HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS	1534
VIETNAMESE INVALID VETERANS ASSOCIATION	1534
VISITORS	1507

WESTCONNEX VENTILATION STACKS.....	1514
WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE CITY TEAM	1534

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 4 June 2015

The Speaker (The Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock) took the chair at 10.00 a.m.

The Speaker read the Prayer and acknowledgement of country.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Notices of Motions

General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) given.

ELECTRICITY NETWORK ASSETTS (AUTHORISED TRANSACTIONS) BILL 2015

Message received from Legislative Council returning the bill with amendments.

Consideration of Legislative Council's amendments set down as an order of the day for a later hour.

ELECTRICITY RETAINED INTEREST CORPORATIONS BILL 2015

Message received from Legislative Council returning the bill without amendment.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Bills

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy) [10.13 a.m.]:
I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to:

- (1) Interrupt the business before the House at 11.00 a.m. for the consideration of the amendments.
- (2) Not entertain any motions under Standing Order 153 to separate the question on the amendments.
- (3) Provide for the following speaking time limits:
 - (a) Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations—one period of up to 10 minutes;
 - (b) Leader of the Opposition, or member deputed—one period of up to 10 minutes;
 - (c) two further members—one period of up to five minutes each; and
 - (d) Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations, in reply—10 minutes.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) [10.14 a.m.]: The Opposition does not agree with the motion. Paragraph 1 is wholly redundant because it was dealt with in a suspension motion that was agreed to in the House yesterday. The whole tawdry business that has attended the transaction of the electricity privatisation legislation through this House continues. The Baird Government is continuing to act in the same arrogant and ham-fisted way that it did when the bills were introduced in this House.

New members in particular will recall that when the bills were introduced they were deprived of the opportunity to have the bills sit on the table for five days so they could take it back to their communities, the stakeholders and the people of New South Wales who will have billions of their taxpayer dollars locked away in these transactions. They were denied the opportunity to do a very simple thing that is their right, not a privilege, in this House, that is, to consult with their communities on legislation. Every member was deprived of that

simple and fundamental right because Mike Baird made a sweetheart deal with Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile and he did not care what this place, the Legislative Council or that sham of a committee said. No wonder he was bored; the committee was a sham.

How do we know this? Last night, upon speaking to the bills in the other place, Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile let the cat out of the bag and said that this had turned out exactly the way that he and Premier Baird had gamed it. What a shocking, deceptive and tawdry deal. The Premier has not been clean with the people of New South Wales. He stitched up this deal with Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile weeks ago. Since the stitch up his every utterance and action regarding the electricity transactions in this Parliament and in public has been a complete deception, charade and act. The Premier has deceived and misled the people of New South Wales into believing that active, earnest and constructive considerations were underway about their concerns relating to the content of these milestone bills.

In fact, there was no constructive dialogue about their concerns. There was no listening and there was no consultation. The Premier was only pretending—as he always does—that he is a nice guy who cares about people and that a genuine process was underway. He pretended that he was listening to the Parliament and the people's representatives in respect of their concerns about the electricity transaction. He listened to none of it. To know that everything I have just said is true, we only need look at his and his Government's conduct in this place, which has been punctuated by this unnecessary, silly and arrogant motion.

The Government agreed to certain of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile's amendments in the other place last night. Unless I am mistaken, the Opposition also agreed with most or all of them. But that is not sufficient for this Government. It wants to exercise more gratuitous violence upon the conventions of this place by slamming these bills through and restricting debate on the amendments to 40 minutes. I do not think that the debate would take anywhere near 40 minutes, but still the Government wants to restrict the number and time limits of speakers in order to slam its legislation through this place. That punctuates one thing: the Premier of New South Wales does not care what anyone says about any legislation he brings before this place, he will do as he damn pleases. The Opposition will not accord with that sort of arrogance. We oppose the motion.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy) [10.19 a.m.], in reply: I thank the member for Maroubra for his contribution to debate this morning. As we are all aware, last night the Legislative Council passed bills that originated in this place allowing for the lease of 49 per cent of the State's network electricity assets. These bills are in line with a commitment that the Government gave the people of this great State at the last election. The Government has run the most transparent reform process in this regard. We told the people of our plans, we sought a mandate and we acted on that mandate. The bills have been debated extensively by both Houses of this Parliament. This suspension motion will ensure the timely passage of these bills and deliver on our commitment to the people of New South Wales.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put.

Division called for and, pursuant to sessional order, deferred.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) [10.20 a.m.]: I move:

That this House:

- (1) Supports the Government's appointment of the State's first Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
- (2) Supports the Government's stance against domestic violence with the legislation that gives police new powers to investigate these crimes, including the use of video evidence obtained by police.
- (3) Recognises the lifelong harm to women and children that must not be tolerated and the community stance that "enough is enough".
- (4) Acknowledges that at a local level the NSW Police Force is aware of issues in relation to domestic violence in the Forster/Tuncurry and Manning communities and is working with various community groups to raise awareness and the reporting levels of such crime.
- (5) Commends the provision of additional emergency accommodation for people who are the subject of domestic violence in partnership with the Samaritans.

I am extremely proud to bring this matter to the attention of the House and to move this motion on an extremely important issue in our community of New South Wales. The issue is so important that this year Rosie Batty was named Australian of the Year. From my personal experience as a psychiatric nurse, often women would attend for admission as a result of domestic violence issues. As both a uniform police officer and a detective I investigated many crimes relating to domestic violence. As a solicitor I represented many women who were victims of domestic violence. My colleagues and I are totally opposed to this scourge and we are seeking to do something about it. Some years ago I became a White Ribbon ambassador because I recognised the importance of standing up and saying, "I am opposed to domestic violence of any form."

The statistics show that over the past 12 months on average one woman has been killed each week as a result of intimate partner violence. Violence against women is estimated to cost \$14.4 billion to the Australian economy per annum. Intimate partner violence is the leading contributor to death, disability and ill health of Australian women aged 15 to 44 years. From memory, there have been 35 deaths in New South Wales so far this year that are attributable to domestic violence. Domestic violence is a scourge. It often goes unnoticed or unspoken. That must stop. It is time for men to stand up and say, "Enough is enough". It is time for men to tell other men, "Enough is enough".

I have briefly outlined my background. I have seen what domestic violence does to families and to women. I have represented women. In a sense, much of my life has been helping women who have experienced domestic violence. My plea to men, not only in this place but in all communities of New South Wales, is that they stand up and say, "Enough is enough". If we suspect that a mate or a colleague may be doing the wrong thing, do not ignore it, speak up. If we are at a pub or a club having a drink with our mates or colleagues and become aware of an issue, do not ignore it, speak up. If as a community we are aware of domestic violence next door or in a friend's home, do not ignore it, speak up. Even if our friend who may be a victim says, "Don't say anything", we must raise it because that woman may be too scared to do so herself. She may not know where to go to get help.

If we do not stand up and say something, domestic violence will continue. If communities across New South Wales decide to stand up, speak out and raise the alarm when the alarm bells are ringing in our minds, we hopefully will achieve something. Naming Ms Batty Australian of the Year, implementing programs and distributing glossy brochures are positive initiatives, but if we do not change our culture and behaviour, domestic violence will continue. That is one of the reasons I raise this issue today.

I congratulate the Premier on appointing the Hon. Pru Goward as the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. I also congratulate the Government on bringing forward an examination of initiatives that have been proposed in Britain to address domestic violence. In the United Kingdom a woman will be able to request the history of her partner or her potential partner for the purpose of discovering whether there is a criminal history. The proposal is that such a request will not constitute a breach of privacy. Women will be able to access information on their partner's background and then will be able to make decisions based on that information.

In my electorate, particularly in the local government area of the Great Lakes Council, domestic violence is a tremendous issue. In Taree there is a women's refuge, which is now managed by the Samaritans. The Samaritans do a fantastic job there, as they do in many areas of New South Wales. The refuge is for women only—no men are looked after there—and the staff are trained. Consideration is now being given to the establishment of a women's shelter in the Forster area. I have spoken with Annabelle Daniels, who is the chief executive officer of Women's Community's Shelters. In a few weeks, I will be hosting a meeting of all stakeholders, including NSW Police, the Department of Family and Community Services, Annabelle Daniels, domestic violence advocates and liaison officers in my electorate office, with a view to establishing in Forster a community shelter for women. [*Time expired.*]

Pursuant to sessional order business interrupted and set down as an order of the day for a later hour.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Bills

[*Deferred division.*]

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will now proceed with the deferred division on the question: That the motion be agreed to.

The House divided.**Ayes, 47**

Mr Anderson	Ms Goward	Mr Provest
Mr Aplin	Mr Gulaptis	Mr Roberts
Mr Ayres	Mr Hazzard	Mrs Skinner
Mr Barilaro	Mr Henskens	Mr Speakman
Ms Berejiklian	Ms Hodgkinson	Mr Taylor
Mr Conolly	Mr Humphries	Mr Toole
Mr Constance	Mr Johnsen	Mr Tudehope
Mr Coure	Mr Kean	Ms Upton
Mr Crouch	Dr Lee	Mr Ward
Mrs Davies	Mr Maguire	Mr Williams
Mr Dominello	Mr Marshall	Mrs Williams
Mr Elliott	Mr Notley-Smith	
Mr Evans	Mr O'Dea	
Mr Fraser	Mrs Pavey	
Mr Gee	Mr Perrottet	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr George	Ms Petinos	Mr Bromhead
Ms Gibbons	Mr Piccoli	Mr Patterson

Noes, 38

Ms Aitchison	Ms Harrison	Mr Piper
Mr Atalla	Ms Haylen	Mr Robertson
Mr Barr	Mr Hoenig	Ms K. Smith
Ms Burney	Ms Hornery	Ms T. F. Smith
Ms Car	Mr Kamper	Mr Warren
Ms Catley	Ms Leong	Ms Washington
Mr Chanthivong	Mr Lynch	Ms Watson
Mr Crakanthorp	Dr McDermott	Mr Zangari
Mr Daley	Ms McKay	
Mr Dib	Mr Mehan	
Ms Doyle	Ms Mihailuk	
Ms Finn	Mr Minns	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Greenwich	Mr Park	Ms Hay
Mr Harris	Mr Parker	Mr Lalich

Pair

Mr Mike Baird

Mr Luke Foley

Question resolved in the affirmative.**Motion agreed to.****DOMESTIC VIOLENCE****Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) [10.37 a.m.]: I am proud to be the first Labor member to hold the shadow portfolio of prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. In this role I hope to find areas where the Government and the Opposition can work together to shine a light on the often unspoken cases of domestic violence and sexual assault, and create solutions. The reality of domestic violence has recently received significantly increased media and public attention. While, in the past, the media has been reluctant to delve into what some considered private family matters we are now seeing the stark and brutal reality that lies behind closed doors. The prominence of this issue has been increased, in particular, by the work of the Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, whose personal experience shocked the country and whose courage in speaking out forced this issue onto the national agenda. As Ms Batty said:

Family violence may happen behind closed doors but it needs to be brought out from these shadows and into broad daylight.

She said:

To the women and children who are unsafe, in hiding or living in fear, who have changed their names, left their extended families and moved from their communities to find safety, you do not deserve to live a life that is dictated by violence.

Yesterday, outside this place, more than 100 women carried 39 coffins representing 39 women killed across this country as a result of domestic violence. These women could be heard from inside this Chamber chanting, "Stop the deaths now." I welcome the motion from the member for Myall Lakes but I seek clarification on some of the figures he provided, in particular, to the deaths per week and the deaths year to date in New South Wales. More is needed to support women and while I recognise the Government's efforts in implementing the Safer Pathways and Staying Home Leaving Violence program, the fact that this Government is also closing the safe spaces run by women for women is disgraceful. From across the State I have heard from refugees facing closure under this Government's Going Home Staying Home policy, a policy title which is deeply disturbing for women whose home is not a safe place to go to. And of those women's shelters that are still open, I hear too often of women in need being turned away.

Current reports for refugees across this State mean that almost every second woman seeking refuge is turned away. If we are unable to provide a safe place for women in their time of incredible need when they leave their violent partner, then we are failing. In Hornsby, the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter had to turn away 70 requests for accommodation in the two months after it opened in February. This is a tale I am hearing from centres up and down the coast and throughout regional New South Wales. Miranda-based Crossroads Community Care Centre is another centre that has had to turn women away. Managers at the centre report a 400 per cent increase in the number of women seeking refuge following this Government's changes to funding arrangements for service providers.

Across the State a number of women-run women's refuges have had to close their doors. From the Blue Mountains-based Blue Gum Housing, which closed last October, to the Killara in Randwick, which closed last July, there is no part of this State that has been left untouched by these changes. Sydney hairdresser Leila Alavi is reported to have been turned away from overcapacity women's shelters at least 80 times before she was killed by her husband earlier this year. This Government's attitude of combining women-run refuges into general homeless services is failing women in need. There are concerning reports of women being asked to pay for their refuge accommodation, being placed in the same accommodation as women who are homeless due to substance abuse rather than domestic violence or being placed in mixed gender shelters. The Government's policy fails to recognise the unique situation of women escaping domestic violence. Instead, it is placing additional barriers before women.

If Going Home Staying Home is to work, specialist support services need to be provided by homelessness services to cater for those people who have suffered domestic violence. I note the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research report which found that in Bathurst reports of domestic violence increased by 21 per cent; in Canterbury they were up 23.7 per cent; in Moree up 20.4 per cent and in Tweed up 20.8 per cent. While the total number of reports in Glen Innes remains small, the 200 per cent increase in reports of domestic violence in that town is deeply disturbing. The highest rates of domestic violence per head of population were in Bourke, Walgett and Moree Plains.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Adam Marshall): Order! I remind the member for Balmain that it is disorderly to have conversations with members of the public who are seated in the gallery. If he wishes to have a private conversation he should do so outside the Chamber.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Domestic violence is found in every city and every region of this State. Looking at these figures I can only hope that these increases are due to the efforts of support workers encouraging women to report these crimes, and society's increasing awareness and willingness to discuss this issue, which would previously have been dismissed as a private matter to be kept behind closed doors. I join the member for Myall Lakes in recognising the work of police officers on the ground, who support women as they make these reports and, in particular, the domestic violence liaison officers who lead the way in supporting these women.

From speaking with police officers recently I understand the unenviable task they face in responding to domestic violence cases and the burden that this places on them. Domestic violence represents the largest volume of crime the New South Wales Police deal with. Officers also spoke about the court system which makes prosecuting domestic violence cases so difficult. Labor proposed a specialist domestic violence system. This is certainly an area of difference between the Government and the Opposition. I encourage the Government to use the upcoming budget to establish domestic violence specialist courts to support survivors and victims of

domestic violence in not having to retell their harrowing stories to multiple different agencies and different legal entities. I hope the current media focus on domestic violence is maintained. It will force us to have difficult conversations and confront a reality we would rather ignore. But it is a reality we must address and I am committed to working with the experienced women in this field to develop solutions.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) [10.44 a.m.]: I support the important motion of my colleague the member for Myall Lakes on the prevention of domestic violence. All levels of crime in the Tweed-Byron area over the last reporting period have fallen except for domestic violence. Domestic violence has risen by 20.8 per cent. Local domestic violence officers and various agencies consider this figure, on the one hand, to be encouraging as it appears to reflect women being empowered to come forward. Domestic violence is a terrible scourge on our community and all members would agree that we should do everything in our power to stop it. I was fortunate to be involved in the debate that gave police officers the power to use video cameras and for those videos then to be admissible in court. That was an important step forward. Following the passing of that bill many agencies contacted me to say that this would help stamp out domestic violence. On the other hand, the 20.8 per cent rise is discouraging as it shows that domestic violence is a growing problem, one that has been swept under the carpet for far too long.

Domestic violence takes many forms. It can be physical, sexual, mental, emotional or even financial. White Ribbon Day, Australia's campaign to stop violence against women on a national level, has the motto "It Stops Here". Members have all been active participants of White Ribbon Day and agree that prevention is better than cure. The Tweed holds programs to educate and inform women on a local level. Tweed police officer education programs such as Against Violence Community Training relate to young Aboriginal women affected by domestic violence and assault, while programs such as Strong Aboriginal Women and Supporting our Aboriginal Youth are specifically designed to break the silence and to support and empower those affected by domestic violence in the Aboriginal community.

The Tweed police domestic violence team, Jacqui Moroney, Claudia Allcroft and Beck Couch, were nominated in the top three of the 2014 Sabine Altmann Memorial Award for NSW Police Domestic Violence Practitioner of the Year. The Tweed Shire Domestic and Family Violence Committee had a vision for the Tweed where domestic and family violence is not tolerated. On Track Community Programs, the Tweed Valley Women's Service and the Family Centre offer support and services committed to the elimination of violence against women and children. The On Track Community Program collaborates with nine other organisations across the North Coast to lead the delivery of specialist homelessness services for women who experience domestic and family violence and for Aboriginal people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

The objective of the service is to assist individuals and families to secure safe and sustainable housing through the provision of four core responses, namely, rapid rehousing, early intervention and prevention of homelessness, crisis and transitional housing, and intensive support to address complex needs. This is a great service and I fully support it. I have been a great supporter, particularly of our domestic violence police officers. I am sure with continuing support we will do all in our power to stamp out this terrible scourge on our community.

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) [10.48 a.m.]: In 2014 domestic violence claimed the life of one Australian woman every week. This year the pace has accelerated—two women have been killed almost every week. As of 25 May 2015, according to Counting Dead Women Australia, 39 Australian women were killed as a result of violence this year. The statistics are very troubling. We are in the midst of an epidemic. Family and domestic violence is a festering wound on our national psyche. Australian of the Year and domestic violence campaigner Rosie Batty said:

The systems are not working, the governments know that from the statistics ...

We must act. It is commendable that the Government has appointed a Minister for the prevention of domestic violence but more money and resources are needed, such as expanding police powers to crack down on domestic violence. The member for Myall Lakes detailed explicitly the long-term pain and suffering that domestic violence inflicts on its victims. This Government's track record must improve. Its actions so far have had an impact on schemes such as Going Home Staying Home. Refuge shelters in my electorate have lost funding as a result of the Baird Government redirecting funding from small organisations to larger generic organisations and homelessness service providers, particularly those exclusively for women, have had to close. Moo Baluch, chief executive of Domestic Violence NSW, stated:

There's not enough money in the sector, and a study showed one in two couldn't get into a refuge.

Domestic violence prevention has been a passion of mine since I was elected. I have met with stakeholders from a variety of groups in the Hunter, including non-government organisations such as Jenny's Place, which is a shelter in Newcastle, and last year I hosted a roundtable forum in Lambton about domestic violence. I have learnt a lot about the issue and the impact it has on our families and women, particularly in the Hunter and Wallsend. The domestic violence prevention policy that Labor took to the election has merit and the Baird Government would do well to consider adopting it. The policy provides for specialist domestic violence courts, restoration of funding to levels before Going Home Staying Home was introduced, and an overhaul of the weak penalties for persons who perpetrate domestic violence. I applaud the member for Myall Lakes for his motion and remind all members that this crisis has far from ended. Society has taken only the first steps in its journey to stopping this scourge. We must act now. Too many women have already lost their lives.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) [10.52 a.m.]: I acknowledge the good work of the Tamworth Family Support Service. Amongst its numerous services it offers a women's domestic violence court advocacy service, which ensures that women have legal representation in court if they want it; it advocates for women to ensure that the apprehended domestic violence order meets their needs; that women are accompanied to court and supported through the process; and it refers women to services that can assist them, such as housing, Centrelink and counselling. I applaud the Tamworth Family Support Service for convening a community meeting recently in Tamworth. Approximately 70 people attended to discuss domestic violence issues. As a result, a community action plan will be put in place to tackle the issue and will provide information about protection and support for victims of domestic violence.

The Tamworth Family Support Service also offers a program called Love Bites, which is aimed at teenage boys in schools to raise their awareness of poor behaviour as well as teaching them to take responsibility for their own actions. This program should be applauded if it can instil in children how to behave correctly and that it is wrong to commit any form of violence, particularly domestic violence on women. I encourage schools that have the funding to pick and choose their programs under Local Schools, Local Decisions to provide the Love Bites program to teenage boys. The Tamworth Family Support Service will provide a coordinator and program officer to help implement the program.

The police advise that each month in Tamworth they respond to 250 to 300 domestic violence-related incidents, which is an extraordinary number. We must bring that number down. The Government is working to reduce the number of domestic violence incidents and has introduced new reforms. Victims of domestic violence will be assisted by one reform which allows pre-recorded video statements to be used as evidence in court so victims will not be traumatised by reliving events in court. Other reforms are assisting police. We must promote the services that are available to protect victims of domestic violence. We must do more. We must talk about domestic violence continually and provide better services to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. I applaud the member for raising the matter in the House today.

Mr JOHN ROBERTSON (Blacktown) [10.56 a.m.]: I pay tribute to Australian of the Year Rosie Batty. She has shown great courage in difficult circumstances by continuing to talk about domestic violence. She is ensuring that conversations about domestic violence take place not only in Parliament but also across our communities. It is long overdue. We need more than a conversation; we need action. It is encouraging to see that this issue is being discussed, but a series of things need to be done urgently to address the issue. Domestic violence should be above politics but, sadly, when we talk about funding, the reality is that there are fewer women-only refuges available in this State as a result of policy decisions that have been made. Some women-only refuges have operated for 40 years helping women leave domestic violence situations. Yesterday, I attended a rally outside Parliament with a number of my colleagues.

The frontline service providers said they were struggling to do simple things such as answer phones, particularly taking calls throughout the night. This issue must be addressed if people are serious about tackling domestic violence. Police should receive more funding to enable domestic officers to be available. Currently in New South Wales domestic violence officers man police stations from Monday to Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Domestic violence does not occur during business hours. It is perpetrated mostly outside business hours, but our police stations do not have the staff to deal with this difficult issue. I know domestic violence officers in my electorate of Blacktown are doing a fantastic job. They are committed to addressing domestic violence and hold fundraising events to highlight the difficulties. Domestic violence must be addressed urgently if there is to be a change. There must be action, not just talk.

My colleague the member for Wallsend spoke about actions the Government can take to address domestic violence, such as specialist domestic violence courts that will ensure the perpetrators of domestic

violence are dealt with appropriately. We must ensure that more resources are being provided to deal with this issue because the fact is that while we talk about these matters women are dying, and women and children continue to live in violent situations in their homes—the place where everyone should feel safe. But because of domestic violence, they do not feel safe.

This might be controversial, but it is worth making the point that this year 37 women have died as a direct result of domestic violence. If 37 people had been killed between 1 January 2015 and 3 June 2015 as a result of terrorist attacks, we would have seen real action. We would not simply be having conversations; we would be taking action. Specialist police would have been put in place and better resourcing would have been made available. The fact that 37 women have died as a direct result of domestic violence should motivate us to take real action. I recommend that everyone in this place read a copy of the briefing paper on domestic and family violence from the Parliamentary Research Service. It concludes with a very compelling statement, which time does not allow me to put on the record. I urge everyone to read it.

Pursuant to resolution debate interrupted to permit the consideration of amendments to the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Bill 2015.

Item of business set down as an order of the day for a later hour.

ELECTRICITY NETWORK ASSETS (AUTHORISED TRANSACTIONS) BILL 2015

ELECTRICITY RETAINED INTEREST CORPORATIONS BILL 2015

Consideration in Detail

Consideration of Legislative Council's amendments.

Schedule of amendments to the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Bill 2015 referred to in message of 3 June 2015

No. 1 Independent review of economic impact report

Page 6. Insert after line 35:

9 Independent review of economic impact report

As soon as reasonably practicable after the commencement of this Act, the Treasurer must commission and publish an independent review of the Deloitte Access Economics report entitled "Economic Impact of State Infrastructure Strategy—Rebuilding NSW" published in November 2014.

No. 2 Post-transaction independent review

Page 6. Insert after line 35:

9 Post-transaction independent review

Within 12 months after completion of the last authorised transaction under this Act, the Treasurer is to commission and publish an independent review that:

- (a) reviews the powers of the Price Commissioner under this Act (with the review to include consultation with stakeholders), and
- (b) determines whether network charges have increased as a result of the authorised transactions.

No. 3 Consequential

Pages 11 and 12, clause 20, line 30 on page 11 to line 26 on page 12. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead:

20 Arrangements for transferred employees

- (1) On the transfer by order under this Part of an employee's employment from one employer (*the current employer*) to another employer (*the new employer*) the provisions of this section have effect.

- (2) If the employee is an apprentice or trainee under the *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act 2001*:
 - (a) the new employer must apply under section 20 of that Act for approval to the transfer of the apprenticeship or traineeship to the new employer, and
 - (b) consent to the transfer is not required to be given by the apprentice or trainee or the current employer (despite section 20 (4) of the *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Act 2001*).
- (3) An employee is not entitled in respect of the same period of service to claim a benefit under this Act and another law or instrument.
- (4) The Treasurer may in connection with the operation of schedule 4 give a certificate in writing as to the extent of the accrued rights to annual leave, extended or long service leave or sick leave that are retained by the employee under that Schedule, and such a certificate is evidence of the matters certified.
- (5) Nothing in the *Long Service Leave Act 1955* prevents payment in connection with the transfer under this Act of the employment of an employee to the employment of a private sector entity of the monetary value of long service leave in lieu of an entitlement to that leave accrued as a networks employee before the transfer of the employee's employment.

No. 4 **Employment guarantee period**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

Schedule 4 Employment guarantees

1 Employment guarantee period

For the purposes of this Schedule, there is a 5-year *employment guarantee period* starting on 1 July 2015 and ending on 30 June 2020.

No. 5 **Salary**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

2 Salary

A continuing employee's salary under an enterprise agreement cannot be varied during the employment guarantee period except in accordance with the *Fair Work Act 2009* of the Commonwealth.

No. 6 **Minimum number of employees**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

3 Minimum number of employees

- (1) For each relevant period during the employment guarantee period, the number of full time equivalent employees of a network operator must not be less than the appropriate staffing level for the relevant electricity network SOC.
- (2) The *appropriate staffing level* for an electricity network SOC is the number of full time equivalent employees that is sustainable in the context of business revenue resulting from the AER Final Determination for the SOC as determined in accordance with the business practices of the SOC, being:
 - (a) for Ausgrid—3,570 full time equivalent employees, or
 - (b) for Endeavour Energy—2,100 full time equivalent employees, or
 - (c) for TransGrid—1,000 full time equivalent employees.
- (3) For a network operator that is not an electricity network SOC, the *relevant electricity network SOC* is the electricity network SOC whose former distribution or transmission system is controlled or operated by the network operator.
- (4) If a relevant amendment is made to the AER Final Determination for an electricity network SOC, the Treasurer must engage a suitably qualified and independent person (*the independent expert*) to determine whether any adjustment to operating expenditure allowance or capital expenditure allowance resulting from the relevant amendment would be applied in accordance with the business practices of the SOC as an adjustment to the appropriate staffing level of the SOC.

- (5) The Treasurer must give effect to any determination of the independent expert for any adjustment to the appropriate staffing level for the SOC by notifying the adjustment by order published in the Gazette. The adjustment then has effect for the purposes of this schedule at the beginning of the next relevant period.
- (6) A *relevant amendment* is:
- (a) a change to the AER Final Determination resulting from a merits review or judicial review of the AER Final Determination (including any appeal from such a review) that changes the operational expenditure allowance or capital expenditure allowance for the network operator, or
 - (b) a new determination of the AER for the regulatory control period following the regulatory control period to which the AER Final Determination applies that results in a change to the operational expenditure allowance or capital expenditure allowance in the AER Final Determination for the network operator.

Note. This clause does not override or otherwise interfere with the rights of any individual employee in relation to termination of employment or redundancy that arise under a law of the Commonwealth or an industrial instrument made under a law of the Commonwealth.

No. 7 Voluntary redundancies

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

4 Voluntary redundancies

A continuing employee may be offered voluntary redundancy in accordance with the terms and conditions of an enterprise agreement or a redundancy policy that applies to the employee.

No. 8 Forced redundancies

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

5 Forced redundancies

There are to be no forced redundancies of continuing employees during the employment guarantee period, except by agreement between the affected employees (or a person authorised to act on their behalf or on behalf of a majority of them) and the employer, or in accordance with the *Fair Work Act 2009* of the Commonwealth.

No. 9 Leave entitlements

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

6 Leave entitlements

An employee whose employment is transferred under this Act retains any rights to annual leave, extended or long service leave or sick leave accrued or accruing immediately before the transfer (except accrued leave for which the employee has, on ceasing to be an employee of the current employer, been paid the monetary value in pursuance of any other entitlement of the employee).

No. 10 Recognition of service

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

7 Recognition of service

The continuity of the employment of a continuing employee is taken not to have been broken by a transfer of employment under this Act, and service of the employee with the employee's current employer (including service deemed to be service with that employer) that is continuous service up to the time of transfer is deemed for all purposes to be service with the new employer.

No. 11 Enforcement of obligations

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

8 Enforcement of obligations

- (1) The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the obligations of an employer under this schedule.

- (2) In addition, a relevant employee guarantee is enforceable by an affected employee or a person authorised to act on behalf of an affected employee or a majority of affected employees. A *relevant employee guarantee* is a guarantee provided by this Schedule (except clauses 3, 9 and 15).
- (3) The Tribunal may direct an employer to take, within a specified time, any action that the Tribunal determines to be necessary to remedy any failure by the employer to comply with its obligations under this Schedule or to prevent the continuance or recurrence of such a failure.
- (4) An employer must comply with a direction of the Tribunal under this clause.

Maximum penalty: 5,000 penalty units.
- (5) This section does not limit the persons who are entitled to enforce the terms and conditions of an enterprise agreement under the *Fair Work Act 2009* of the Commonwealth.

No. 12 Existing locations

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

9 Existing locations

- (1) A network operator must, for the duration of the employment guarantee period, maintain an administrative office, depot or other administrative centre within the vicinity of an existing administrative location that is in the area of operations of its distribution or transmission system.
- (2) An *existing administrative location* is an area in which an existing administrative office, depot or other administrative centre is operated by an electricity network SOC on the commencement of this Act.

No. 13 Relocation policies

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

10 Relocation policies

- (1) Any employee relocation policy (*the existing policy*) that was applicable to continuing employees on the commencement of the employment guarantee period must be maintained in its application to those employees for the duration of the employment guarantee period.
- (2) The existing policy cannot be amended during the employment guarantee period except by agreement between the affected employees (or a person authorised to act on their behalf or on behalf of a majority of them) and the employer, or in accordance with the *Fair Work Act 2009* of the Commonwealth.

No. 14 Enterprise agreements

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

11 Enterprise agreements

An enterprise agreement cannot be varied in its application to a continuing employee during the employment guarantee period except in accordance with the *Fair Work Act 2009* of the Commonwealth.

No. 15 Superannuation

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

12 Superannuation

- (1) A continuing employee is entitled to continue as a contributor, member or employee for the purposes of any superannuation scheme in respect of which he or she was a contributor, member or employee as an employee of an electricity network SOC on the commencement of this Act and remains so entitled subject to any variation to that entitlement made either by agreement or otherwise in accordance with law.
- (2) The employer of the continuing employee is taken to be an employer for the purposes of any superannuation scheme in respect of which the employee continues as a contributor, member or employee pursuant to an entitlement under this clause.

- (3) The employer of a continuing employee is not entitled to access funds deposited in a superannuation account of the employee unless that access is permitted by a law of the State or the Commonwealth.
- (4) The operation of this clause is not limited to the employment guarantee period.

No. 16 **Disputes**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

13 Disputes

Any dispute that concerns a relevant employee guarantee may be resolved in accordance with the *Fair Work Act 2009* of the Commonwealth or any dispute resolution process applicable to the employee. A **relevant employee guarantee** is a guarantee provided by this Schedule (except clauses 3, 9 and 15).

No. 17 **Existing apprentices**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

14 Existing apprentices

- (1) An apprentice who completes their training while a continuing employee during the employment guarantee period and who meets reasonable business hiring standards of the employer must be offered suitable employment.
- (2) Employment is **suitable** employment if it is employment in a trade that is relevant to the training in which the person was engaged as an apprentice.
- (3) The employment of a person pursuant to an offer of employment under this clause cannot be terminated for a period of 2 years after that employment commences (even if that 2 year period extends beyond the employment guarantee period); except:
 - (a) for serious misconduct, or
 - (b) pursuant to the proper application of reasonable disciplinary procedures, or
 - (c) by agreement with the employee.

No. 18 **Future apprentices**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

15 Future apprentices

- (1) If the number of full time equivalent employees of a network operator for the final relevant period of a financial year within the employment guarantee period is less than or equal to 110% of the appropriate staffing level for the network operator, a sufficient number of apprentices must be employed during the following financial year (as new employees of the network operator) to achieve the guaranteed apprenticeship intake for the relevant electricity network SOC.
- (2) The **guaranteed apprenticeship intake** is:
 - (a) for Ausgrid—25 apprentices, or
 - (b) for Endeavour Energy—10 apprentices, or
 - (c) for TransGrid—5 apprentices.
- (3) For a network operator that is not an electricity network SOC, the **relevant electricity network SOC** is the electricity network SOC whose former distribution or transmission system is controlled or operated by the network operator.
- (4) The following financial year to which a guaranteed apprenticeship intake applies need not be within the employment guarantee period.

No. 19 **Cadets, trainees and graduate engineers**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

16 Cadets, trainees and graduate engineers

A person employed as a cadet, trainee or graduate engineer is an employee for the purposes of this Schedule (including for the purposes of employee guarantees under this Schedule).

No. 20 **Fixed term employees**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

17 Fixed term employees

- (1) A fixed term employee is an employee for the purposes of this Schedule (including for the purposes of employee guarantees under this Schedule).
- (2) In this clause, *fixed term employee* means an employee whose terms and conditions of employment are provided by an individual contract that provides for a fixed term of employment and not by an award, agreement or other industrial instrument (under a law of the State or the Commonwealth) that provides for the terms and conditions of employment of employees.

No. 21 **Contract employees**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

18 Contract employees

- (1) A contract employee is an employee for the purposes of this Schedule (including for the purposes of employee guarantees under this Schedule).
- (2) In this clause, *contract employee* means an employee whose terms and conditions of employment are provided by an individual contract and not by an award, agreement or other industrial instrument (under a law of the State or the Commonwealth) that provides for the terms and conditions of employment of employees.

No. 22 **Machinery provisions**

Page 36. Insert after line 7:

19 Proceedings for offences

- (1) Proceedings for an offence under this Schedule may be dealt with summarily before the Local Court or before the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction.
- (2) If proceedings for an offence to which this clause applies are brought in the Local Court, the maximum penalty that the Court may impose in respect of the offence is, despite any other provision of this Schedule, \$50,000 or the maximum penalty provided by this Schedule, whichever is the lesser.
- (3) If proceedings for an offence to which this clause applies are brought in the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction, the Supreme Court may impose a penalty not exceeding the maximum penalty provided by this schedule in respect of the offence.

20 Interpretation—employees of network operator

- (1) A person is an employee of a network operator for the purposes of this Schedule if the person carries out work solely or primarily in connection with the business of the network operator and is employed by:
 - (a) the network operator, or
 - (b) an associated entity of the network operator, or
 - (c) an entity that provides the services of the person exclusively to the network operator on an ongoing basis.
- (2) An entity is an *associated entity* of a network operator if:
 - (a) the network operator has an ownership interest in the entity or the entity has an ownership interest in the network operator, or
 - (b) another entity has an ownership interest in both the entity and the network operator.

21 Calculation of number of full time equivalent employees

- (1) The number of full time equivalent employees of a network operator for a relevant period is to be calculated for the purposes of this schedule as $F + A/B$, where:

F is the average number of full time employees of the network operator during the relevant period.

A is the total number of hours worked during the relevant period by all part time employees of the network operator.

B is the average number of hours worked during the relevant period by all full time employees of the network operator.

- (2) To calculate the average number of hours worked by full time employees of an employer, overtime is to be excluded.

- (3) In this clause:

full time employee means an employee whose standard or average hours of work per week is 35 hours or more.

part time employee means an employee who is not a full time employee.

22 Obligations of controller and operator as single entity

If the controller and operator of a distribution or transmission system are separate entities (with the result that each is a network operator of the distribution or transmission system), an obligation of the network operator under this Schedule is an obligation of the controller and operator combined, as if they were a single entity.

Note. For example, the minimum number of employees provided for by this schedule applies to the total employee numbers of both the controller and the operator.

23 Definitions

In this schedule:

AER Final Determination for an electricity network SOC means the determination of the AER for the electricity network SOC published on 30 April 2015.

continuing employee means:

- (a) an employee of an electricity network SOC, or
- (b) an employee whose employment is transferred under this Act.

employment guarantee period means the period of 5 years starting on 1 July 2015 and ending on 30 June 2020.

network operator means each of the following:

- (a) Ausgrid,
- (b) Endeavour Energy,
- (c) TransGrid,
- (d) any public sector agency that becomes a network operator of the distribution system or transmission system of Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy or TransGrid for the purposes of an authorised transaction,
- (e) an authorised network operator (meaning an entity that controls or operates a transacted distribution system or transacted transmission system).

relevant period means a period of 3 months commencing on 1 July, 1 October, 1 January or 1 April in each year.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations)
[11.01 a.m.]: I move:

That the House agree to the Legislative Council amendments.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) [11.01 a.m.]: Madam Speaker—

Ms Gladys Berejiklian: Where's Luke?

Mr Mike Baird: Where's Luke?

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Your suspension notice said "Leader of the Opposition or member deputed". I am the member deputed. You are the Treasurer—

Ms Gladys Berejiklian: We asked you where Luke was.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: This is a Treasury bill. I am your opponent. My name is Michael Daley.

Ms Gladys Berejiklian: We asked you where Luke was.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Luke Foley is not your opponent. Mr Mike Baird, could you sort Ms Gladys Berejiklian out? She is a failed transport Minister, proving to be a failed Treasurer in waiting as well.

The SPEAKER: Order! Government members will come to order. The shadow Leader of the House has the call.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: I have plenty to say about the behaviour of Government members who attended these transactions on several occasions. I will not traverse that ground. The question before the House is whether the House agrees to the amendments that have been returned from the Legislative Council. The Opposition does not support the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Bill 2015, even as amended, but as they are the only amendments before us for consideration, the Opposition will support them.

However, this legislation, even as amended, fails to properly protect the rights of electricity customers—the households and businesses across New South Wales that are yearning for prices to come down. The Opposition promised amendments that would ensure the reduction of power bills for all electricity consumers in New South Wales this year and every year, and force the electricity transmission and distribution companies and the Government to abandon their challenge to the Australian Energy Regulator's [AER] final determination. The Labor Opposition was the only party in this Parliament to stand up for lower power prices.

[*Interruption*]

I can hear laughter—it is faux indignation from the Government. To educate themselves as to the veracity of the statement I have just made, Government members need only read yesterday's *Hansard* from the other place and the amendments moved by the Hon. Adam Searle—

Mr Andrew Gee: A racist campaign!

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: I acknowledge the interjection of the member for Orange—my friend, you are a silly man. Read the amendments moved by the Hon. Adam Searle—amendments the Government voted against in the other place. The amendments before the House fail to provide the full range of protections promised to electricity workers by the Premier prior to the election. Workers affected by other like transactions that have been legislated in this place—the ports privatisation and the sale of the generators and the retailers—received these protections in full measure. These workers will not get those protections. These measures were recommended by the Legislative Council's Nile Select Committee on the Leasing of Electricity Infrastructure. What a sham that was! The Government and Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile walked away from these commitments without giving any explanation to the people of New South Wales or any of their own workers.

I acknowledge the five-year job protection and other measures designed to secure entitlements for people who have worked but not yet been paid. These measures are a tribute to the Opposition. I congratulate Opposition members, led by the Hon. Adam Searle in the other place, and the unions, who have worked very hard to secure these entitlements. However, the Government leader in the Legislative Council, the Hon. Duncan Gay, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council, refused to give a commitment that electricity companies will not move to terminate workers' industrial instruments while they are negotiating a new deal. That would have afforded protection to those workers while they negotiate a new deal.

This Government has a history of sneaking up on workers in the dark and removing their rights—in fact, gutting them. An example is the workers compensation legislation, which is still a stain on this Government. If the Government proceeds with this bill, the effectiveness of the work protections in this legislation will be undermined. This bill leaves a lot to be desired. There are questions that are not answered. There are more questions in the bill and about the bill than there is detail in the bill. The Opposition will vote for these amendments, but the people of New South Wales should be under no illusion—even with these amendments, we do not support this legislation.

Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) [11.07 a.m.]: I will make a few brief comments on the amendments to the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Bill 2015. It has been a long road to this point. We all know the history of this policy and this topic over more than two decades. The Government is proud to finally bring it to a resolution. We are proud because, despite what we hear from members opposite, members from all sides of politics know that this is the right thing to do. I am proud that we were prepared to stand up for what we knew was right for the people of this State, to do it openly and honestly, to argue for almost a year on the merits of this policy—and we received a mandate to get on with it.

We stood against the biggest scare campaign undertaken in the history of State politics. We had to face that to reach the outcome we are achieving today. But we did do that, and we are very proud that we went through that. Not only that, we have an opportunity to make a significant difference in people's lives, because that is what this is about. We see a great opportunity to deliver great things in infrastructure. The funding on the back of this bill will provide a change in our schools, our hospitals, our rail network, our roads, and our sports and cultural facilities that otherwise would not happen. The shadow Treasurer spoke about prices. I will put this on the record for the last time—I feel as though I have done it about 197 million times.

I will try to say it so that he understands it. In the election campaign, the Opposition argued against private sector investment. They were against this lease. The experience in South Australia and Victoria shows that in real terms costs came down under private ownership—in Victoria, 18 per cent, and in South Australia, 17 per cent. The experience for the same period in New South Wales under public ownership is that costs went up 122 per cent. That is the reality of electricity prices. That is why there is a benefit not only in terms of the infrastructure but also in downward pressure on prices. We are very proud to stand up and do that. I note that those opposite oversaw a 60 per cent increase in prices over five years.

Mr Michael Daley: It was 54 per cent under your Government in three years.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: It is worth highlighting that the shadow Treasurer does not understand the regulatory reset. There was a determination that ran for five years from 2009. That was under the previous Labor Government. We have taken every action possible since we came to Government. From 2014 under this Government we have seen electricity prices start to come down, and that is what will continue. We have seen this with water prices and now with electricity. We understand that cost-of-living pressures are critical, and we are delivering a lower cost of living—compare that to what we inherited from those opposite when they were in government.

My final point is that the Opposition should be under no illusion here—it is on the wrong side of history. Opposition members are in a position where they will have to explain to their electorates why they are against the funding of the second harbour rail crossing. The member for Campbelltown will have to explain to his electorate why he does not want \$300 million spent on upgrading the Campbelltown Hospital. Opposition members have been happy to say "No, no, no" to every road, rail, sporting facility and health facility project—that is what those opposite do best. They have not seen an infrastructure project that they do not want to cancel; they have not seen an infrastructure project that they can fund.

The great news for the people of New South Wales is that this Government is joining the dots—that is, to build infrastructure you have to have the funding to go with it; and that is what the Government is doing through this legislation. I congratulate Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile on bringing forward some sensible amendments as part of the debate on this legislation. The Government is happy to support his amendments, which go to protecting workers, giving opportunities to apprentices, and supporting and maintaining regional locations. We are happy to support those amendments; they are sensible additions. We are proud to present these bills to the House.

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) [11.12 a.m.]: I apologise to the Premier for missing the first part of his contribution to this debate on the amendments to the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Bill 2015. There has been just one small thing wobbling around in my head during the course of this debate, and it is this: In the past few minutes the Premier has assured us, yet again, that electricity prices will go down as a

result of this transaction. Members opposite should ask themselves the following questions, if they have the capacity. I do not know if many of them have that capacity, but some do—this is partly in response to the hard time I was given the other day by the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, but I am getting over it.

I draw the attention of members to part 2 section 8 (1) (a) on page 5 of the Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Bill 2015. The questions are: If this transaction is going to put downward pressure on prices then why do we need to legislate that the authorised network operator's total network charges for the financial year ending 30 June 2019 have to be lower than the network operator's total network charges for the financial year ending 30 June 2014? If it is true that prices are going down then why do we have to legislate that they will go down? One would think that we would not need that particular part in the bill. Perhaps the Treasurer could respond to those questions, because they have been wobbling around inside my head. It seems to be inconsistent and illogical.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) [11.13 a.m.], in reply: I acknowledge the brief contributions made by both the shadow Treasurer and the shadow finance Minister, which is more than I can say for the Leader of the Opposition. He said during the election campaign that it was a referendum on this issue, yet he is not in the Chamber to argue his case. I will dwell on the positives today because it is an historic day for this State. Most importantly, it is an historic day for the people of New South Wales.

Let us contrast the absence of the Leader of the Opposition with the leadership that the Premier has shown the people of New South Wales for the past 12 months. He had the courage and the integrity 12 months ago to stand up and to tell the good people of this State in an open and transparent manner what the Government's plans were and what it would do if it had their support. The people of New South Wales supported him, and the Government is now delivering on that strong mandate. This stands in stark contrast to the Leader of the Opposition. He has not even shown up this morning.

Today is a significant day because this legislation will allow our economy to grow, infrastructure to be built and jobs to be created. Every person in this State, whether they live in the regions or in Sydney, will benefit from this transaction. We should not underestimate that. Every time there is an opportunity to support jobs, those opposite vote against it. Every time there is an opportunity to build infrastructure, those opposite vote against it. Today is a positive and historic day for our State.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in the debate in a constructive way and all those who demonstrated faith in this significant legislation. I stress that we have ensured, by enshrining in legislation, that we have downward pressure on prices. We have all the conditions that the people of New South Wales would expect us to impose on those involved in the future of these assets. Today is the start of our delivering unprecedented infrastructure investment worth \$20 billion to build the projects that the people of New South Wales need so desperately. I thank especially our colleagues in the upper House who debated this issue at length. I acknowledge the work of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile and the committee inquiry, and his contribution to strengthening the legislation through the amendments he introduced in the other place last night.

I pay tribute to the Premier and everyone in the Government who has championed this cause from day one. Most importantly, I thank the people of New South Wales for trusting this Government to embark on the important initiatives that will ensue from this historic legislation. The passage of this legislation is historic. I note the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, but I note the presence of our great Premier, Mike Baird. He put this issue to the people 12 months ago. With integrity, courage and conviction he argued the case. I thank the public who supported us. Now the real work can begin. I commend the bills to the House.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

Legislative Council amendments agreed to.

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

Consideration in detail concluded.

Pursuant to resolution general business notices of motions (general notices) proceeded with.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) [11.18 a.m.], by leave: I thank the member for Myall Lakes for moving this motion and other members for their contributions to this debate. Domestic and family violence is an all too common crime. Today I acknowledge the victims and survivors of domestic and family violence, and those who have for many decades provided care and support to women and children experiencing violence and abuse. Just over 40 years ago a brave group of women took refuge in an abandoned house in Glebe. Through hard work and commitment they established Elsie's Refuge for Women and Children in 1974.

Riding the crest of the wave of the women's liberation movement, those pioneering feminist activists squatted in that house and set up the first women's refuge in response to the lack of services and support available to women and children suffering from domestic violence. Initially they received no support from government. Staff at the centre had to provide security with props such as cricket bats. It was not until 1975, under the Gough Whitlam Labor Government, that funding was granted to the service. The refuge was the first of its kind and it served to inspire other women around the world to re-create the service model in their areas.

Following my inaugural speech I have been contacted by women, men and children from the Blue Mountains and across the State who were moved by my public testament to the importance of safety, refuge and support services for women and children experiencing domestic violence. Many of those people experienced suffering at the hands of a violent perpetrator—someone who should have been there to protect them, not terrorise them. Yesterday, along with some of my Labor colleagues, I attended a rally outside Parliament House organised by a number of service providers. The service providers are calling on the Government to act swiftly and decisively to reduce the mounting domestic violence death toll. Whilst it is good for us to talk more and continue to raise awareness of domestic violence, it is absolutely pointless if we do not provide funding for the phone referral and advice lines, or the services women and children need when they have to leave their homes.

Yesterday the group called on the Government to view the number of women dying as a state of emergency that requires an emergency response. They want adequate services for women and children that are easily accessible in times of danger. Police should be provided with the necessary resources to act on breaches of apprehended domestic violence orders and make arrests. We need an immediate inquiry into the impact that the Going Home Staying Home reforms are having on women's safety. We call upon the Government to reinstate funds that were cut or spread across a wider client target group as a result of the so-called Going Home Staying Home reforms to ensure that those funds are quarantined specifically for domestic violence support and safe accommodation. I acknowledge that there are many people in this place who will work together on this important issue.

Ms NOREEN HAY (Wollongong) [11.22 a.m.], by leave: All violence is unacceptable, but domestic violence and violence against women is a particular scourge on our society. In this debate it is important to note the situation facing a domestic violence counselling service in my electorate of Wollongong. The group fields approximately 300 inquiries a month and has been threatened with having its funding withdrawn. The Lake Illawarra Family Violence Support Service, which operates out of the Lake Illawarra police station, is now facing an amalgamation of sorts and is due to be rolled into an existing service. The service will no longer have the resources it needs to continue working at its current capacity.

This issue is important because the facilities the service needs already exist at the police station. As the local member I provided funding through the Community Building Partnership program so the service could purchase furniture and create a separate space where the children of domestic violence victims can be looked after while their mother talks to the counsellor about what she has been subjected to. Whilst Australian of the Year Rosie Batty is raising awareness of violence against women and children and violence across the board, we also need services that are designed specifically to provide the necessary support and counselling. The service at Illawarra is one such service. As I said, the service provides approximately 300 people a month with either counselling or referrals and it is doing a very successful job.

When people are in fear of domestic violence or in fear for their lives the police station is often the first place they run to. It therefore seems appropriate to have the domestic violence counselling service based in the new police station funded by the former Labor Government. I call on members on both sides of Parliament to take seriously the question of delivering additional resources and finances to family violence support services.

The number of counsellors should not just be maintained, it should be increased because they are doing a magnificent job. It is clear that more and more people are now prepared to report what is happening to them. We need additional services to accommodate those people who run for their lives and need support for not only them but also their family members. Nowadays young men are seeking counselling as well. This is a serious issue that requires addressing and investment. I call on the Government to re-examine the domestic violence support service provided at the Lake Illawarra area command and reconsider continuing and increasing its resources.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) [11.26 a.m.], in reply: I thank the member for Charlestown, the member for Tweed, the member for Wallsend, the member for Tamworth, the member for Blacktown, the member for Blue Mountains and the member for Wollongong for their contributions to the debate. It is clear that members on both sides of the House are genuinely concerned about domestic violence and are advocates for eliminating its scourge on our community. However, the member for Blacktown decided to make the debate a bit more political. Before I respond to his remarks it is important to acknowledge that we, as leaders in our communities, are talking about this issue. The member for Blacktown might not think that talking means much, but one of the best ways to tackle domestic violence is through communication. It is good that members from both sides are talking about it.

The member for Blacktown said that we need real action. Let us look at what the Government has done. Despite what members opposite might say, the Government has increased funding and resources significantly in this area. We have increased penalties and improved the collection of evidence by allowing video recordings to be used as evidence. Previously, police who attended a domestic violence incident would receive a complaint from the victim at the scene and sometimes the perpetrator would make admissions. But when the matter went to court the victim would not appear and the perpetrator would plead not guilty because there could be no case without the victim being present. Even if the victim attended court the perpetrator might change his evidence on the day. The Government has made video evidence of what the victim and perpetrator said to police at the time of the incident admissible in court whereas previously it was inadmissible. That change, which has now been implemented, will make the task of police so much easier and the conduct of cases so much more efficient.

The second initiative is the domestic violence disclosure scheme. The commission of domestic violence is not generally a one-off incident. Often it is part of a course of conduct that can continue with more than one partner. Through the disclosure scheme, we hope to be able to assist victims. This Government has appointed a Minister who is dedicated to the eradication of domestic violence and has improved police training in this area. All of the initiatives I have outlined amount to real action that has been taken by this Government. The incidence of domestic violence will not be turned around overnight, but the initiatives that have been implemented by this Government will have an effect over time. We are proud of that. We have shelters that are dedicated for women only—no men—across New South Wales and we have increased funding to those shelters. The Government has increased penalties in relation to domestic violence.

Ms Noreen Hay: What about the counselling service? You cut the funds.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: If there are issues in places such as Wollongong, I would be concerned about the local member. Perhaps the local member should get off her backside and do something.

Ms Noreen Hay: Point of order: The member for Myall Lakes is attempting to impugn my reputation through his comments.

The ASSISTANT-SPEAKER (Mr Andrew Fraser): Order! The standing orders allow for robust debate. There is no point of order. The member for Myall Lakes has the call.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD: In conclusion, I reiterate that the Government has taken real action. The Government has increased funding, resources and penalties and has improved police training. The Government has appointed a Minister who is dedicated to the eradication of domestic violence and has developed a domestic violence disclosure scheme. I encourage people to examine the discussion paper and have their say so that reforms can be introduced.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

CALLAN PARK

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) [11.31 a.m.]: I move:

That this House calls on the Government to secure the future of Callan Park by:

- (1) Implementing a Callan Park Trust.
- (2) Working with the trust to finalise a Callan Park Master Plan noting the principles of the current draft Callan Park Master Plan.
- (3) Ensuring that the Callan Park Master Plan includes a sustainable long-term funding model to secure the protection of Callan Park in perpetuity.

The issue of Callan Park is unfinished business for this Parliament, for me, and for the community. Callan Park covers approximately 61 hectares on the southern side of Iron Cove on the Parramatta River in Sydney's inner west. The area was once part of the land of the Wangal people whose lands extended from present-day Leichhardt to Concord. Callan Park is a jewel in the crown of the inner-west community as well as an impressive and important site for the whole of Sydney. The issue of Callan Park has been a contentious and difficult one.

When I was first elected to Leichhardt Municipal Council in 1999, Callan Park was a hot issue in the community. The former Labor Government put forward a range of proposals to sell and subdivide the land, which included retirement villages and large-scale residential development. In 2002 the site was the subject of a proposal by NSW Health. A draft master plan released by the former Labor Government proposed the development of a mental health unit of Concord Hospital, the sale of approximately 20 per cent of the 61-hectare site for development and the creation of a park. That proposal involved significant disruption to and deterioration of the site's heritage value. The sale and development of the site was strongly opposed by the community and all parties represented on the Leichhardt Municipal Council.

In December 2002, after a very strong campaign, the former Labor Government introduced the Callan Park (Special Provisions) Act, which was supported by all parties in this Parliament. Every political party represented in this Parliament agreed that Callan Park should be protected, its heritage value should be maintained and that its use by non-government organisations [NGOs] and for education and mental health purposes should continue on the site. Unfortunately, the former Labor Government failed to take the next important step, which was to introduce a Callan Park master plan for the care, control and management of the site. As a result, the site languished for many years until Leichhardt Municipal Council, together with the community, the Friends of Callan Park and other stakeholders, developed the Callan Park Master Plan. The master plan was subject to widespread consultation. It was adopted by Leichhardt council and, almost four years ago, presented to the former Minister for Planning the Hon. Brad Hazzard.

The purpose of today's motion is to progress the matter. The master plan will protect Callan Park from overdevelopment. It will result in the site being opened up to the community and the community becoming engaged and involved in Callan Park. Most importantly, it will restore the moral heart of Callan Park by the reintroduction in a systematic manner of mental health services. Mental health services, such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation, are already provided at that site and activities are undertaken by mental health NGOs and others. But the challenge is funding that model. Leichhardt Municipal Council, which developed the master plan following extensive community consultation involving just about every agency imaginable—government agencies, land managers and landowners—has stepped up to the plate to secure the protection of Callan Park once and for all.

I am proud to say that when I was mayor on Leichhardt council I was involved in ensuring that the council upgraded the Glover Street playing fields and the construction of new playing fields. The council spent almost \$1 million on upgrading facilities and playing fields. Leichhardt Municipal Council now seeks support to establish new youth facilities, such as a skate park on that site, for which the council has set aside \$107,000. The council is encouraging the Department of Health to progress that development. This motion focuses on the implementation of a trust. Like many great spaces in the city of Sydney, Callan Park—in common with Centennial Park and Parramatta Park—needs a strong and independent trust to oversee its management in the future. I note the presence in the Chamber of the member for Parramatta, who well knows the benefit of a trust to his own community. Leichhardt Municipal Council and the community want a trust for Callan Park. I emphasise that the main protagonists of this proposal are the Friends of Callan Park, the executive of which comprises a range of people including Greens, Liberal and Independent members.

Mr Lee Evans: Really? No, they would not be Liberals. That is an absolute outrage!

Mr JAMIE PARKER: There certainly are Liberals on the executive. This is not a political issue. Rather it is an issue of protecting an important piece of our cultural and built history as well as providing open space for the benefit of all in our community. We have moved beyond what was the Frank Sartor-planned massive expansion of the site. We fought off the plans by the former Government in 2008 to rip up the Callan Park Act and redevelop the site under former Minister Sartor's plan together with the University Sydney. That brings us to the point where Callan Park and its future are integral to the community and the city, which has experienced significant urban consolidation. We need quiet places for recreation and active sporting facilities. We need the type of mental health facilities that are envisaged by the Callan Park Master Plan. All of those things go to the heart of the vision of the Friends of Callan Park whereby Callan Park becomes a regional park.

As outlined by the council and the trust, we should implement the objectives of the Callan Park Act and ensure that the Indigenous and European heritage origins—such as middens, buildings, gardens, relics and landscapes—are conserved and maintained. We should ensure that indigenous flora and fauna are protected and enhanced. As well, the site has sufficient capacity for the extension of education services and mental health treatment. I acknowledge that some of the inappropriate buildings should be removed and that the volume of vehicular traffic should be reduced whilst controlling pedestrian traffic to ensure safety and amenity. The site should be carefully integrated with other open spaces in our community.

Callan Park is on a site that also accommodates the Sydney College of the Arts. It is an incredible site for Sydney and deserves protection. This motion calls on the Government to follow through on its commitments. The Coalition has been very good towards Callan Park in recent years. We must ensure that the trust is implemented, the master plan is finalised and the site is funded into the future.

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.38 a.m.]: It is with pleasure that I participate in debate on the motion moved by the member for Balmain. I congratulate the member on his interest in Callan Park, which is a site of exceptional cultural and natural heritage significance. The site reminds me of the Parramatta North Heritage Precinct, which exhibits similar beauty and similar buildings and sites which are unique to Australia and which reflect the role of the area in the formation of modern Australia as we know it today. If time permits, I will further discuss our country's heritage. I commend the member for Balmain for moving this sensible motion, which demonstrates his care for his community.

I welcome to the gallery today the wonderful students who are learning about our democratic processes. The House is debating a motion moved by the member for Balmain. As I said, Callan Park is a site of exceptional cultural and natural heritage significance. Covering more than 60 hectares, it is the third-largest open space in the inner city, coming behind only Centennial Park and Moore Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Domain. It is highly valued by a range of users, from sporting groups and local residents who use its playing fields and running tracks to students at the Sydney College of the Arts to the government and non-government organisations that currently lease buildings on the site, including health-related operations such as the NSW Ambulance headquarters.

The site has a unique heritage character, including an array of significant buildings related to its historic use as a mental health facility. However, many of these buildings are in a state of disrepair—not dissimilar to the Parramatta North precinct that I alluded to earlier. There is no question of the importance of the site, not only to the local community but also to Sydney as a whole, and of the need for appropriate management of the ongoing use of the site. It is important that the Government get it right. The values of the site should be preserved and enhanced but, equally, they should not be unduly constrained. The site should continue to be used by a wide range of groups, with adequate funding in place to support its diversity of uses and to provide for repairs and maintenance of heritage buildings.

Leichhardt Municipal Council's draft master plan for the site, which was lodged with the Government in November 2011, contains a number of positive elements and a diversity of uses. It is used by sporting groups, non-for-profit organisations and small-scale commercial businesses, such as cafes. Proposals have been made to enhance the site's heritage value through the refurbishment of heritage buildings and the removal of intrusive non-heritage buildings. The draft master plan also proposes the establishment of a trust for the ongoing care, control and management of the site.

While these elements have merit, they must be properly considered, both in terms of their ongoing financial viability, broader public benefits through a range of uses of the site, and legislation currently applying

to the site. The ongoing use of parts of the site by NSW Ambulance as a health and education training facility is another critical consideration of the future use of the site and potential funding sources. The establishment of a trust for Callan Park would be consistent with the Government's models for other substantial open space areas, such as Centennial Park and the Royal Botanic Gardens—and I point out that Parramatta Park has its own trust. However, any such trust must be equipped to examine thoroughly and to make decisions on a potential range of uses which would maximise public benefits, which would be consistent with broader government policies, such as mental health provisions, and which would be financially sustainable. This could include a review of the council's draft master plan to ensure that it is consistent with these principles.

The Government will further investigate the establishment of a Callan Park trust as a means of managing the park, which will enable the site to be used for a variety of purposes in a financially sustainable manner. Clearly, the debate on the role of Callan Park is very similar to the debate that we are currently having on the Parramatta heritage precinct in North Parramatta, where we have some of the oldest and largest collections of early colonial and European buildings in Australia. They are all in the one precinct. The Parramatta Park Trust looks after some 150 acres of land. A master plan is being developed by UrbanGrowth, and we have been consulting with the community for two years. That plan has raised some controversy in the community, but at the end of the day it is all about preserving our heritage.

Buildings are falling apart. In the past 20, 30 or 40 years, successive governments on either side have ignored that precinct and the buildings, which are in a terrible state of disrepair. The difficulty that the Government now faces is the need to strike a balance between the preservation and adaptive reuse of those buildings for community purposes and the financial ability to do so. We have to strike a balance between the \$100 million needed to invest in that precinct and the need to develop parts of that land to encourage a vibrant community on that site that will enhance the community feel and the liveability of the Parramatta CBD.

I believe that UrbanGrowth goes some way in doing that. It has worked very hard over the past two years to develop a proposal. There are groups and people who do not support that, and I acknowledge those people. A wonderful thing about our system is that they have had an opportunity over the past six months to make recommendations. The Department of Planning is now in the final stages of looking at those recommendations with a view to presenting final recommendations to the Minister. We certainly look forward to a resolution. We do not want Parramatta North to be a project like Callan Park, which has been mired in political controversy for the past 20 years. In fact, we need to take steps to ensure that the North Parramatta heritage precinct becomes fully operational.

The ASSISTANT-SPEAKER (Mr Andrew Fraser): I welcome to the gallery today student leaders from across New South Wales who are attending the Secondary School Leadership Program conducted by the Parliamentary Education Unit. This is an historic day for New South Wales as the Government's legislation to lease 49 per cent of the poles and wires, the proceeds of which will fund infrastructure projects, has been passed by the Parliament.

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) [11.46 a.m.]: Callan Park could and should be the Centennial Park of the inner west. I am very pleased to speak this morning in support of the motion moved by the member for Balmain. We must secure the future of Callan Park for the people of the inner west and, indeed, for the people of Sydney. That is best done through a properly constituted and resourced trust, as outlined in the Callan Park Master Plan. It has been almost four years since the Callan Park Master Plan was delivered to the then Minister for Planning, the member for Wakehurst, in 2011. Not only has the Government not established a Callan Park trust or implemented the award-winning master plan, it has not even offered a response.

The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority has looked at the master plan and made recommendations to the Government about it, but successive planning Ministers have been silent about their intentions. Perhaps the new Minister, the member for Pittwater, will take a different approach. I hope this motion today encourages him in that direction. At the moment, the Government's do-nothing approach to Callan Park is an example of how it has neglected the electorate of Balmain since 2011. The people of Balmain are being taken for granted in this Parliament. Unfortunately, we have seen that again and again.

Under the leadership of a Labor mayor and councillors, Leichhardt Municipal Council has taken action. It has built new sporting fields and facilities at Callan Park, which have been to the benefit of the local community. We have seen quality open space and community facilities provided in that area. Unfortunately, under this Government it has been the burden of local government to do that. Open space is very precious in the inner west. Sporting clubs are in desperate need of more fields and facilities to cater for the ever-expanding

number of community members participating in organised sport. We want our kids to be active and involved in their community, but they cannot do that without the space to play. The Callan Park Master Plan was produced by Leichhardt Municipal Council with widespread community input. It contains very sensible proposals that could see new non-government organisations making a home in Callan Park. It could see heritage buildings repaired and sport and recreation facilities built to benefit the whole region.

As I have said, we are in desperate need of those spaces. The Government's do-nothing approach to rehabilitating the site not only misses these opportunities but also threatens the continuation of current tenancies. Only last month the University of Sydney refused to rule out the withdrawal of the College of the Arts, which operates in a cluster of beautiful historic sandstone buildings inside the park. Instead of a future that should be about a vibrant sporting and arts community hub in Callan Park, unfortunately we have the prospect of it going backwards. That is devastating for the people of the inner west, and indeed for the people of Sydney. Without action from the New South Wales Government the park will continue to suffer demolition by neglect and the inner west will suffer as a result. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) [11.50 a.m.]: I speak on the motion relating to Callan Park. Although Heathcote is a long way from Callan Park, I am a qualified chef and I did some of my training at Callan Park cooking for clients at the mental institution. So I have knowledge of how that site runs and what it looks like. Therefore, I appreciate the member for Balmain moving the motion. Callan Park is a jewel in the inner west and one of the largest open spaces near the inner city. It is part of the city's green grid, as identified in the Metropolitan Strategy the Government released last year. Leichhardt Municipal Council has developed a master plan for Callan Park which is currently being considered by the Government. The master plan has potential implications for current users of the site and public access. The master plan has many interesting features, but challenges have also been identified. Obviously the Government needs to consider these issues very carefully before a final decision can be made.

The establishment of a trust for Callan Park, in consultation with the community, will provide the framework for developing a sustainable long-term plan for this precious site. The Baird Government is working with the member for Balmain, and I congratulate him on being re-elected. The Government will deliver a solution in perpetuity that will achieve public access, heritage protection and sensible utilisation for this valuable open space. The member for Summer Hill referred to the Government's inaction over the past four years. Labor delivered 16 years of uncertainty on this historic site's future. In 16 years Labor only ever came up with one plan: to sell off 20 per cent of the park to developers for multistorey residential housing.

The recent election result speaks volumes about the local community's confidence in whether Labor could deliver on this important issue. The community deserves better and I acknowledge the strong and passionate advocacy of the member for Balmain on this issue over a number of years. Unlike those opposite, the Government is committed to working with the community and council to ensure a sustainable long-term outcome. Protecting heritage and public access on this site in perpetuity is possible and we will achieve it.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) [11.53 a.m.], in reply: I thank the member for Parramatta, the member for Wollongong and the member for Heathcote for their contributions. In particular, I am pleased that members have outlined their support to secure Callan Park in perpetuity. What we see here today is what we see in our communities. Parks do not happen by accident, rail lines do not happen by accident, infrastructure does not happen by accident—they are fought over, debated and interrogated. Today we want to see the Callan Park area protected in perpetuity. This issue should not be politicised; we should all work together because we can fund Callan Park without selling buildings or destroying the site. There should be an expression of interest for so many of those vacant buildings that will be taken up by so many organisations during the master plan process.

When I was mayor at Leichhardt Municipal Council I was approached by dozens of non-government organisations that said, "We would love to take those buildings. We'll fix them and pay some rent. Let's get moving." Instead we have been in a quagmire over Callan Park, with a master plan proposal coming from Leichhardt Municipal Council. It is important that Callan Park is protected into the future. I note the comments from the member for Parramatta about his area and I trust that the Government will protect those heritage buildings as well. Throughout the campaign different positions have been taken by different people. Indeed, I was quite worried last Tuesday night when the mayor at Leichhardt council put forward a motion that council write to the Government and the Opposition in support of this issue. I am pleased to say that the motion was supported by the Independent, the Liberal and The Greens councillors, but for some inexplicable reason was opposed by the Labor councillors.

It is important that we work together on this issue. I call on all people, whether Labor or Liberal, Greens or Independent, to work together because this is bigger than the politics that so often surrounds these issues. In a growing city it is important to have spaces for healing and mental health support services, spaces for active recreation for children to play and spaces for quiet reflection where we can contemplate our role in this world and be close to nature. The alienation of people from the environment and nature is incredibly sad and impacts on people's feeling of alienation.

Support for the motion is a statement that we need to move forward. I have had a meeting with the new Minister for Planning and his staff. I was pleased with his enthusiasm to make sure the projects can be finished. I look forward to working with him to ensure that Callan Park is secured into the future. I will commit to driving this process along and making sure that Callan Park is not left on the shelf because we are presently at an impasse between those who seek to sell and gain from the site and those who seek to preserve and secure the site.

We have seen a lack of movement for almost four years because of the different forces coming to a deadlock. We need to break the deadlock. I hope this motion is part of breaking the deadlock so that we can move forward to protect an amazing site like Callan Park and to fund it in creative and innovative ways. Central Park in New York is overseen by a not-for-profit organisation that seeks philanthropic funds in innovative and creative ways to move ahead. All of the heritage work does not need to happen today. It can happen over time through a strategic plan, with a properly constituted trust that will protect this site for all of Sydney. I thank all members who have made a contribution. I look forward to working with the Minister in a collaborative and constructive way. I commend the motion to the House.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

BLAYNEY-DEMONDRILLE AND KOORAWATHA-GREENTHORPE RAIL LINES

Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON (Cootamundra—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.57 a.m.]: I move:

That this House supports the reopening of both the Blayney to Demondrille and the Koorawatha to Greenethorpe rail lines.

The reopening of both the Blayney to Demondrille and the Koorawatha to Greenethorpe rail lines, otherwise known as the Cowra lines, is an outcome for which I and many others in the Central West have worked strongly to achieve for many years. It is a matter of record that in October 2007 in this place I stated:

I draw the attention of the House this Government's closure of the Cowra to Blayney railway line. I recently met with representatives of the Lachlan Valley Railway Society in Cowra and heard first-hand about the state of the branch line that links the main western and southern railway lines. They showed me photographs of sections of road which have been declared unsafe but which are in perfectly good condition. They were upgraded prior to their reopening by the former Minister for Transport, the Hon. Carl Scully, in 2000. That was only seven years ago. The line is in perfectly good order yet it has been closed. How could the Government have let the line deteriorate so much over such a short period that it must be closed? It beggars belief that the Government can behave in that way.

The following year, despite significant local concern, the former State Labor Government officially suspended use of the Blayney-Demondrille and Greenethorpe-Koorawatha railway lines and withdrew maintenance funding in the November 2008 mini-budget. The lines were allowed to lapse into a disused, non-operational state and were progressively closed between 2007 and 2009. Since then I have advocated strongly on behalf of Blayney, Cowra, Harden, Weddin and Young shires, grain farmers and also the Lachlan Valley Railway to seek ways to have the lines reopened. The suspension by the former Labor Government had significant negative social and economic impacts on the ability to transport local grain harvests by rail and also on tourism, and particularly on the Lachlan Valley Railway Society Co-operative based in Cowra.

I again spoke about this in 2009, voicing the concerns of the Central NSW Councils [Centroc], which covers the local government areas from Lithgow to Lachlan and from Harden to Wellington. The council representatives wrote to me and met with me to express their concerns about the suspension of these lines. They were worried that the suspension of the lines would have massive implications for the shires of Young, Harden, Boorowa, Lachlan and Weddin. The Centroc representatives also stated that grain being transported over their roads and through their communities would have a significant impact on surrounding shires. Time has proven them right.

But the impact of the closure of these lines has had far-reaching implications beyond the five shires of Blayney, Cowra, Harden, Weddin and Young. It is not just local government that was and is worried about the closure of the rail lines. The file in the my Cootamundra electorate office is brimming with media reports and correspondence from concerned farmers, citizens, tourism operators, the Lachlan Regional Transport Committee, Lachlan Valley Railway Society Co-operative and local action committees from my electorate and beyond. People have contacted me to voice their concerns about the closure of the Cowra lines. In 2010 I arranged meetings between various shadow Ministers and the councils. In February 2012 I arranged and hosted a meeting in Boorowa between the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, the Hon. Duncan Gay, and representatives of 10 local government areas during which the ministerial task force report on the reopening of the Blayney-Demondrille railway line was presented.

In 2013, as a result of those strong representations, representatives from Transport for NSW and the councils met and signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a sustainable and integrated regional road and rail freight infrastructure model. As a result, the registrations of interest [ROI] process was developed to test private sector interest and investment in this important project. Based on the outcomes of the 2013 ROI process for the Cowra lines, approval was granted in December 2013 for Transport for NSW to proceed with an open tender for the Cowra lines. In March 2014 Transport for NSW issued the document entitled "Fixing Country Rail Cowra Lines: Request For Tender" to suitably qualified private sector parties to restore, maintain and operate the railway lines on a commercially sustainable basis under a fixed-term licence.

This was an important next step to restoring rail services to this area. This was an innovative project that could have led to the successful tenderer being issued with a licence to operate services on these rail lines by Transport for NSW. It had been a long process, but I was satisfied that we seemed to be making substantial progress towards reversing the problem created by the failure of the Labor Government to properly maintain regional rail assets. I agreed with the media release of 19 March 2014 from the Hon. Duncan Gay, in which he stated:

Transport for NSW's collaboration with local councils on the tender means that if re-opened, the Cowra Lines would be better connected with local roads and intermodal terminals, creating a more integrated freight transport network across the region.

The Hon. Duncan Gay further stated:

The movement of freight is critical for economic growth in NSW. Improving the coordination of regional infrastructure is a key action area of the NSW Freight and Ports Strategy and we're committed to supporting projects in regional areas that help deliver goods to market faster and more efficiently.

We're very excited at the prospect of re-opening the Cowra Lines and their potential to contribute to the local economies across the region.

The request for tender closed on 25 July 2014. In August 2014 Transport for NSW publicly released the names of the two confirmed private sector consortiums—Australian Rail Partners Pty Limited and the Cowra Rail Company Pty Limited—which had submitted tenders to restore, reopen and maintain the 200 kilometre-long Cowra lines. I was optimistic that the potential reopening of the lines would provide additional rail freight capacity for the Central West region and provide a boost to local industries, tourism and economies. The tenders were a positive indication that the private sector saw potential for viable demand for freight, tourism and use of the lines and was willing to invest capital to have them restored and reopened. I was hopeful that one of these tenders would lead to the ultimate successful reopening of the lines.

The New South Wales Government reviewed the private sector responses to determine if they had addressed the essential tender requirements stated previously. The decision on the tender process was originally due in December 2014 but was delayed for three months. Since then there has been significant media interest and my office has been contacted on many occasions by constituents and stakeholders voicing their concerns about the delay and reiterating their support for the reopening of the lines. Recently the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight visited Cowra and met with representatives from Young, Harden, Blayney, Cowra and Weddin councils and the tenderers to brief them on the result of the tender process. It is disappointing to learn that the tender process failed because no tender sufficiently addressed and met the tender evaluation criteria. As a result, the Cowra lines will not open again in the near future. However, I am encouraged by this statement of the Hon. Duncan Gay:

Further options for bringing the Cowra Lines back into service may be explored in the future as part of the NSW Liberal-Nationals Government's Fixing Country Rail program.

I applaud his further statement:

As part of our Rebuilding NSW Plan, the Government has committed \$400 million to the Fixing Country Rail program, while \$153 million will be invested over the next three years to continue fast tracking repairs and upgrades to the 996 kilometres of grain lines across NSW.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) [12.04 p.m.]: I am pleased to talk about the issue raised by the member for Cootamundra. Cootamundra is a beautiful part of the world. I spent a lot of time in Cowra when I worked in Griffith and Hillston in the western Riverina. I have had the pleasure of travelling on the Lachlan Valley Railway line and have enjoyed the historical work that the group undertakes. My friend Craig Sinclair was the principal of Cowra Public School. Craig now runs the Temora Aviation Museum and often sends me messages about returning for a visit. I support the reopening of the line for tourism and freight uses. It is clear that tourism and freight will bring great benefits to communities in those areas. As the member for Cootamundra said, the local councils of Blayney, Cowra, Harden, Young and Weddin are in favour of reopening the lines and they have been lobbying hard for that to happen.

Between 2007 and 2009 the line was progressively suspended from service due to declining freight volumes, high maintenance costs and safety concerns. In 2010 the then Minister for Transport, John Robertson, gave the councils \$50,000 to create a case study to support reopening the lines. I note that the member for Cootamundra has been lobbying for a number of years on behalf of her community to have the lines reopened. Disappointingly, even though tenders were called for in 2014, they were not acceptable to the Government. It obviously wants the lines reopened through the efforts of private enterprise and without government intervention. But to enable the lines to be reopened government intervention is required. The Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight must work with the member for Cootamundra to ensure that the Government commits the necessary funds to enable the track to be fixed.

A private operator will then be able to run the line. The line is in a state of disrepair. I understand that in 2010 a flood damaged a fair amount of the line between Cowra and Young, which must be fixed. In the 1990s the wooden bridge near Holmwood burnt down so there is a history of safety and maintenance issues. The Government needs to look at this carefully and give it high priority. Freight lines for grain are particularly important in rural communities. I worked in Hillston and I have family there. When the line closed there, it forced trucks onto the roads. That puts greater stress on the road networks, which in turn increases the maintenance costs of those roads. Opening the rail line takes that stress off the roads. I have enjoyed a couple of trips with the Lachlan Valley Railway Society Co-operative. Those trips have included dinner amongst other things, and music on one occasion. There is a great capacity for tourism for the area as well, which is of economic value.

It is time for the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, the Hon. Duncan Gay, to put up or shut up and come up with the funds. Whether it is from the Rebuilding NSW fund or the rail infrastructure fund, the Minister needs to make a funding commitment to that local area and support the member for Cootamundra, who is a former Minister and a great advocate for her local area. The Minister needs to back the member for Cootamundra's call to support the five councils and ensure that this line is reopened for the benefit of the local community. From the personal perspective of someone who has lived in regional New South Wales and who has family and friends living in regional New South Wales, I know how important this is. I commend the member for Cootamundra for bringing this issue to the attention of the House. I hope it receives the support required from the Minister to reopen this line.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) [12.11 p.m.]: I support the member for Cootamundra in relation to reopening rail lines in her electorate. I place on the record my support for reopening rail lines not only in Cootamundra but also in other parts of regional New South Wales, particularly the Tamworth electorate. As part of Rebuilding NSW, the Government committed \$400 million to the Fixing Country Rail program, and \$153 million will be invested over the next three years to continue fast-tracking repairs and upgrades to almost 1,000 kilometres of grain lines in New South Wales.

As part of my strong transport plan for the Tamworth electorate, in conjunction with Tamworth Regional Council, we are in the process of constructing a new rail freight centre along Wallamore Road. We need to reinstate rail freight services into Tamworth and the north-west. It is ridiculous to think that a city the size of Tamworth does not have freight rail. It used to run a few years ago. There is a small intermodal freight centre in Tamworth, but the needs and the operational component of freight rail have outgrown it. Trains up to 900 metres long need to come in and load their freight then head straight back out again—north, south or whichever way they are headed—rather than be broken into smaller sections to use the small intermodal freight centre.

We have been working very closely with Transport for NSW, Tamworth Regional Council and the Minister, the Hon. Duncan Gay, to look at how we can build a new freight rail centre for Tamworth. A number of industry areas have made significant commitments to support rail freight—namely, NSW Forests. A significant number of logging trucks use the roads at the moment, taking logs from around Nundle down to the port at Sandgate. NSW Forests wants to get them off the road and on to rail; we will be happy to accommodate it. There are a number of other commodities and goods that can be transported on freight rail.

We also need to bear in mind that a significant number of trucking companies operate in and around Tamworth, both north and south. Truckies carry this country, so we are working very closely with trucking companies to see how they can benefit and value-add to our transport plan for New South Wales. I commend the member for Cootamundra for bringing this before the House. We will continue to work with Transport for NSW as part of Rebuilding NSW to push for the reintroduction of rail freight to Tamworth. I will be pursuing it vigorously. It is part of my strong transport plan for the Tamworth electorate. I look forward to working with the Minister and Tamworth Regional Council to bring this excellent project to fruition.

Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON (Cootamundra—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.15 p.m.], in reply: I thank the member for Wyong and the member for Tamworth for their valuable contributions to this important debate. The rail line I am talking about is a critical link between the main western railway and the main southern railway. Without it, there is no connecting the two. The member for Wyong mentioned the Temora Aviation Museum during his address. It was a bit of a sidetrack, but since he mentioned it I will respond by letting him and other members know that there is a Warbirds Downunder open day at the Temora Aviation Museum on 21 November 2015. Anybody interested in aviation and warbirds history should come to Temora. It is going to be a big day; it will be fantastic. Come one, come all.

Returning to the subject at hand, during my initial contribution to debate on this issue I mentioned that I was heartened when the Minister, the Hon. Duncan Gay, confirmed that the rail lines could be reopened in the future, despite the recent tender process not finding a suitable private sector operator to restore and run the railway. With the long-term lease of part of the electricity assets, there will potentially be a lot of money for freight rail projects within New South Wales.

It will cost approximately \$40 million to get the railway line back into useable order. I call on the Government to allocate that money. It is not an enormous sum by any stretch of the imagination if one considers the length of the railway line and the immense value it will have through getting grains and other goods to port or down south. It is a critical link. It has been logistically difficult to freight grain to port by road. The cartage of the annual grain harvest from the Central West has caused terrible wear and tear on our roads. Also, the more heavy vehicles there are on our roads, the more potential there is for accidents, which do happen all the time. Spills and road accidents happen. These are single-lane roads with often frustrated commuter traffic behind heavy vehicles, which necessarily move slowly, particularly around bends and over hills. It can be frustrating for drivers, and accidents do occur.

I appreciate the hard work that our valuable truck drivers and trucking companies undertake, but it behoves us to get as much on the rail network as possible, for safety's sake. About 230,000 tonnes of grain is being produced annually in the areas around Cowra, Noonbinna, Greenthorpe and Young. While not all of that goes directly to port, the vast majority is trucked off-farm. Timber mill plantations at Bathurst and Oberon truck timber to Visy mills in the Tumut area, going directly through the Central West and my electorate. The New South Wales Government's Freight and Regional Development agency is liaising with NSW Forests in relation to current and future volumes of timber requiring transportation from mills in the central and southern region of New South Wales. I thank them for their consistent effort in this regard.

As I mentioned a moment ago, the State's main western and southern rail lines are linked by the Blayney to Demondrille line, which is the reason the line was originally constructed between 1885 and 1888. I also raised this issue by way of a private member's statement earlier last month, so I ask that members also consider that private members statement in relation to this very important matter. I appreciate the commitment of the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight to work towards a good outcome on this much-needed railway line.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

PARRAMATTA ROAD URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) [12.20 p.m.]: I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes the Government's failure to consult with the people of the inner west and Granville on the Parramatta Road renewal project.
- (2) Notes the Government removed the Transport Plan from the draft Parramatta Road renewal strategy before releasing the plan publicly.
- (3) Notes the amenities improvement plan for Parramatta Road is underfunded by \$200 million.
- (4) Notes that around \$2 million has been wasted by the Government in delaying and then cancelling community consultation activities planned by UrbanGrowth.
- (5) Calls on the Minister for Planning to implement UrbanGrowth's Parramatta Road Urban Renewal community engagement strategy, and fully consult the people of the inner west and Granville on the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal report.

I support the revitalisation of Parramatta Road. Anyone who has driven along Parramatta Road knows it needs revitalising and renewal. However, what concerns me, and what is at the heart of this motion, is the way this project has been managed to date by the New South Wales Government. We know what has happened with the project because in the other place last year there was a Standing Order 52 request for documents. Thousands of documents were produced under that standing order and so we know what did and did not happen with the Parramatta Road renewal project over the 12 months to December 2014.

I refer to paragraph (1) of my motion. We know the Minister at the time went against the advice of her own agency on what was required to engage with the community on this project. The documents show that UrbanGrowth put together a very impressive engagement plan with a wide range of activities to reach the community, including barbecues, shopping centre stalls, school visits and workshops. There was even a plan to have staff walk the entire length of Parramatta Road with iPads talking to residents and business owners.

We have been able to find evidence that at least 170 activities were planned. Unfortunately only two went ahead—an information session at Ashfield and one at Granville. So that means 168 community engagement activities were in fact cancelled. There was no information session in my community, for instance. Some 43 per cent of the 60,000 dwellings proposed for Parramatta Road will be in the electorate of Strathfield. In North Strathfield in particular about 16,500 dwellings are proposed. I believe UrbanGrowth has tried to do the right thing—the community engagement strategy it prepared was detailed and comprehensive. I would even go so far as to say that it was impressive.

But the Minister at the time not only refused to implement what her own agency advised but also deferred the project time and again. So the minimal consultation that did occur happened over the Christmas-New Year period. We all know that when government wants to hide something it schedules it over the Christmas-New Year period. By examining the documents, we can see that the project launch was planned and then cancelled at least five times from May to November 2014. On the last occasion, the Premier's office had confirmed his attendance. But again the launch was cancelled—this time with just four days notice. Of course these delays came at a huge cost. We have been able to account for at least \$2.5 million in waste caused by the Minister's incompetence.

This brings me to paragraph (4) of my motion. I will just touch on some of what we have been able to find out from an expenditure perspective. More than \$990,000 was spent on stakeholder engagement and communication officer roles, \$871,000 for consultation and media advisers, 216,000 for issue management programs and \$186,000 for social media services. Consultants, charging up to \$250 an hour, were put on the payroll and had their contracts extended—all for community consultations that never happened. There was even an interactive audio visual presentation that was developed at a cost of \$229,000 and never used. Those iPads which were to be used along Parramatta Road cost about \$11,000 in hiring fees. They were never used. Paragraph (3) of my motion is about the shortfall in funding for the amenities plan. This plan was proudly announced by then Premier Barry O'Farrell on 19 September 2013. I quote from the media release:

In consultation with local communities, the NSW Government will spend \$200 million on new footpaths, green space, bus lanes, trees and the removal of power poles.

But we know now from the documents that there is at least a \$160 million shortfall and the Minister is going to stump up barely half of what is required. We know this because independent surveyors and consultants calculated the cost of the project at \$360 million. According to the documents, that estimate did not take into account legal and development management fees, compensation to property owners, widening of existing roadways, kerb and gutter replacements, work associated with the National Broadband Network rollout, bus shelters, and the list goes on. I turn now to paragraph (2) of my motion. Put simply, the Premier's office instructed UrbanGrowth to remove the public roads and active transport plans from the draft Parramatta Road strategy.

How do we know this? We have the email from the Premier's office. How can a government possibly release a draft Urban Renewal Strategy that does not have a land use plan, that does not have infrastructure and services and that does not include a transport plan? While all this was going on councils were, in good faith, waiting on a memorandum of understanding from the New South Wales Government. That memorandum of understanding was signed off by Minister Hazzard in April, within four days of receiving the document from his agency. With the change of Minister in early May due to the Independent Commission Against Corruption inquiry, it took Minister Goward more than six months to sign the agreements—even though they were ready to go as early as April last year.

The final paragraph of my motion calls on the Minister for Planning to implement UrbanGrowth's Parramatta Road urban renewal community engagement strategy. This highlights the failure of the Government to consult with the community. I thank Minister Rob Stokes. He in fact has done just that. Minister Stokes agreed to meet with me. He then came to my electorate office. Certainly as an Opposition member I am deeply grateful for the support he has given to this project. This was very badly managed until Minister Stokes stepped in, for which, as I said, I am deeply grateful. We met with the local media on the corner of George Street and Parramatta Road in North Strathfield. We spoke about the fact that this project needs to be a bipartisan effort. All I have asked is that the urban renewal community engagement strategy be implemented. Now it has been. There will be issues over which we disagree but certainly I am very pleased with the response of Minister Stokes.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.27 p.m.]: I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the debate on this motion. The Government opposes this motion. I appreciate that the member for Strathfield has said some encouraging words about the revitalisation and redevelopment of Parramatta Road despite her motion talking about the underfunding of this particular project. A point particularly relevant to this debate and infrastructure funding is that today is an historic day with the passing of the legislation for the leasing of 49 per cent of the poles and wires. Ultimately that will provide up to \$20 billion of funding for Rebuilding NSW. This particular area will receive a significant amount from that money. Why is that? Primarily because the Parramatta Road development will be parallel to the WestConnex project. The WestConnex project is primarily a tunnel under Parramatta Road. Anybody who has travelled on Parramatta Road in the past 10 years, the past 20 years—

Dr Geoff Lee: The past 30 years.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: —or the past 30 years knows about the traffic congestion there. I acknowledge that interjection from the member for Parramatta. It is quite an appropriate interjection because he knows better than anyone how much traffic congestion there is currently on Parramatta Road and that we should do whatever we can to alleviate that. It will be interesting to hear whether the member of Strathfield supports the WestConnex program that will remove traffic from Parramatta Road so that that important corridor can be revitalised.

Parramatta Road can be a vibrant place where people want to work, live and socialise. The transformation of Parramatta Road will take place gradually, and the community and local councils will be involved at every step. The Draft Urban Renewal Strategy identifies eight precincts that are suitable for long-term growth and change because of factors, including their proximity and accessibility to transport, employment and existing infrastructure, and their capacity to support new housing. The preliminary Draft Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Strategy was put on display for community comment for 12 weeks from November last year. That was the beginning of what will be an ongoing consultation and participation process with all involved. More than 1,000 submissions were received during that period.

UrbanGrowth NSW is currently analysing the feedback on the draft strategy. It will be summarised into a community feedback report that will be released publically. The feedback is now informing the planning work

that is currently underway and once the work is finalised the community will have another opportunity to provide feedback. The investment to date in community consultation will be carried forward to the next stage of engagement. Community participation will continue with key stakeholders and residents in the area. UrbanGrowth NSW is working closely with Transport for NSW, and Roads and Maritime Services to reshape the transport system and optimise the use of road space for all users including bus passengers, cyclists and pedestrians.

The project team is working on an integrated land use and transport concept plan, which will be more detailed than the preliminary draft Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Strategy that was displayed. It will also address feedback from the consultation period. UrbanGrowth NSW is currently working with all councils that are affected by the Parramatta Road revitalisation to prepare a business case for the Amenity Improvement Plan. The amenity improvement business case will be presented to Government for approval when the land use and transport concept plan is completed.

The project team has also been working with the councils along the Parramatta Road corridor that agreed to enter into a memorandum of understanding [MOU] with the State Government, as the member for Strathfield said. Seven councils have seconded senior staff to the integrated project team. Those councils now have direct involvement in the development of the next version of the strategy. Councils also participate in the project through the Parramatta Road State Local Partnering Group, which brings together key State Government agencies, including Health and Education, and the councils along the Parramatta Road corridor. Parramatta Road is a long-term project and there will be many more opportunities for stakeholders and the community to have their say in relation to its repurposing. I and the communities in the area look forward to a continuing partnership between State and local government as we work together to bring life back to the Parramatta Road corridor.

As I said, we have a phenomenal opportunity to redevelop and revitalise a very tired area. Along the road there is a continuous stream of cars and, unfortunately, dilapidated buildings belonging to businesses that have gone broke. Parramatta Road creates a huge divide between the communities in the area. From a planning perspective, an important way to remove that great divide is to minimise the flow of heavy traffic along that section of Parramatta Road, which we will do by building a big new tunnel underneath the road through the \$11 billion WestConnex project. That will give us the opportunity to look at the area with a clean slate to see how we can revitalise it with apartment blocks, vibrant commercial and retail areas, and fine dining spaces that will bring the communities back together.

The revitalisation will also provide young finance sector and information services professionals with the opportunity to live in close proximity to city life. They are the growing workforce in the Parramatta central business district as well as the Sydney central business district. People who currently travel from my area of the Hills into Parramatta, Macquarie and Sydney will be able to live in the revitalised Parramatta Road corridor close to their employment. It is a great project. The Government opposes this nonsense motion.

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) [12.34 p.m.]: Parramatta Road is vitally important to the Inner West. The people of Ashfield, Haberfield and Summer Hill rely on it, but they want it to be more than a road. They definitely want it to be more than a parking lot. At the moment Parramatta Road is a desolate, dilapidated dividing line across our community. Unfortunately, the Government is failing the people of the Inner West by putting development first and people last. I agree that the revitalisation of Parramatta Road has been required for decades, but rather than take a consultative, systematic approach to the revitalisation the Government has sown confusion and uncertainty.

Residents endured months of secrecy from the member for Goulburn in her former capacity as the Minister for Planning, only to be left with a blatant grab to build 60,000 apartments with no planned community spaces. There were to be no amenities such as parks, child care centres or schools—the essential infrastructure developments where kids can play, be cared for and be educated. Those are the things that make a community a community, but they were left out of the former Minister's plan to build 60,000 apartments along the revitalised corridor.

We then learnt that WestConnex was no longer connected to the revitalisation plans, throwing residents and businesses along the Parramatta Road corridor into chaos. As the member for Strathfield said, we welcome the change of heart by the new Minister for Planning and member for Pittwater, who has taken a different approach. We hope that his consultations are genuine and will go some way to remedying the community's now

understandable scepticism about the project. Inner West councils and residents want the project to provide genuine opportunities for new investment in community infrastructure, for innovation and for best-practice planning where the needs of commuters are balanced with the needs of residents.

Sydney needs the transformation to create a revived, thriving artery into the city with new homes, businesses and amenities that will make the corridor an attractive place to live, work and travel along. The vision is for a renewed and revitalised gateway to Sydney. That is very exciting. However, to date the Government has not consulted appropriately with the people of the Inner West and has ignored expert and community advice. As the member for Strathfield explained, it has turned its back on councils, businesses and residents. In the process it wasted \$2.5 million after cancelling 168 of 170 community consultation activities and delivering a plan that fails to realise the community's vision.

The latest version of the plan underfunds the amenities improvement fund by \$200 million and fails to deliver on opportunities that the community has identified and is counting on. In the Inner West, the roads-at-any-cost approach of this Government will result in the so-called Newtown nirvana, which the Government's modelling now shows will have no discernible impact on traffic. It now threatens to deliver a Parramatta Road that is clogged with cars and devoid of community life. I am pleased that the new Minister has taken a different approach. I hope it means that there will be genuine engagement and a better approach that balances development with the needs of the people of the inner west.

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.38 p.m.]: I oppose the motion mainly because I am perplexed. The member for Strathfield moved the motion but is recorded in *Hansard* as saying that she now supports the Minister for Planning's consultation process in relation to the changes. If that is the case, I wonder why we are debating this motion.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): Order! I remind the member for Strathfield and the member for Balmain that the member for Parramatta has the call.

Dr GEOFF LEE: I certainly support the Minister for Planning: The redevelopment of Parramatta Road is a wonderful thing. Perhaps the motion is a ploy for the purposes of political grandstanding. I note the presence in the House of the member for Castle Hill—what a fantastic member of Parliament he is—who identified difficulties over the past 40 years of driving along Parramatta Road, which in some places is appalling. The best thing about Parramatta Road is that it actually ends up in Parramatta, which is a great city. It is fantastic that Parramatta Road ends in Parramatta because it ends in a wonderful place.

The Government supports the WestConnex tunnel, which will take all the nasty trucks off Parramatta Road and enable people to enjoy their suburbs. The project is all about re-creating and reinvigorating suburbs that currently are smashed up by the awful way Parramatta Road divides several areas. Anyone who has sat in traffic for hours on end on Parramatta Road knows how appalling Parramatta Road is, and that the road does not help businesses and homes along its route. It impacts upon lifestyle so much that people do not wish to live in the highly developed areas along the road. Under this Government WestConnex presents a real opportunity to create a vibrant series of precincts in which people will want to live, work and socialise. Transformation by the project will take place gradually. It is a big project and we acknowledge that. However, when it is completed, all the areas along Parramatta Road that are obviously in need of redevelopment will be reinvigorated.

The transformation process will be implemented over time and will include the involvement of local councils and local communities at every step of the process. The draft urban renewal strategy identifies eight precincts that are suitable for long-term growth and change, including their proximity and accessibility to transport, employment and existing infrastructure as well as the capacity to support new housing. The preliminary Draft Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Strategy was displayed for community comment for 12 weeks from November last year. That was the beginning of what will be ongoing consultation with the community. As I said earlier, the project is wonderful. The Government is consulting with the community and local councils, and will continue to do that. Community consultation will not stop in 12 months, but will continue for many years. An important focus of the Government is listening to communities.

Ms Noreen Hay: They do not believe you. I think you are misleading them.

Dr GEOFF LEE: I notice that the member for Wollongong does not listen to the community, which is very sad. UrbanGrowth NSW is working tirelessly with Transport for NSW, and Roads and Maritime Services

to reshape the transport system and optimise the use of road space, the areas where people want to live, the places where people work, and opportunities for people to have the lifestyle they deserve—people who have been forgotten by the Labor Party. For the reasons I have stated, I oppose the motion.

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) [12.42 p.m.]: I support the motion, noting that 25 per cent of the new residential apartments proposed in the Parramatta Road strategy are in Granville. While I support the revitalisation of Parramatta Road, this is a flawed, top-down strategy with the number of units proposed seemingly plucked out of thin air. With up to 19,000 units planned for the area around Parramatta Road in Granville, we would have expected detailed consultation and planning for the suburb's future infrastructure needs. Instead UrbanGrowth talks at, rather than listens to, stakeholders. Granville has significantly higher than average concentration of construction workers and property developers who live in the local area, along with dozens of heritage enthusiasts and many other people concerned about this proposal. Yet only 40 people or organisations provided comments or submissions on the proposal, with minimal publicity given to the consultation session at the Granville Town Hall.

It seems UrbanGrowth does not even talk to Transport for NSW, which reduced services from Granville station by 100 per week in 2013, or to Roads and Maritime Services, which acknowledges that the James Ruse Drive entry to the M4 motorway is well over capacity during peak times, with no plans for additional access with the M4 widening project. I am pleased that the Minister for Planning has decided to extend consultation on this important project. Granville was established as Parramatta Junction on the original western rail line. It is therefore no surprise that the area around Granville station and Parramatta Road includes dozens of fine examples of Victorian and federation architecture, which are rightly heritage listed, and an entire heritage conservation zone around the Edmund Blackett designed St Marks Anglican Church. Integration of those buildings has not been properly considered in arriving at the seemingly random target of 19,000 units.

Also, with 19,000 units, it is likely that there would be an increase in population of 30,000 to 35,000 people, including thousands of children. The work carried out so far has not considered the capacity of the local schools to accommodate extra students, and the four schools located within the area identified for extra dwellings have fewer than 1,700 students across two primary and two high schools. It may be the case that the schools could accommodate extra students and, with additional investment in infrastructure, could accommodate many more, but that work has not been done in coming up with the figure of 19,000 units. I have spoken to developers working in the area between Parramatta Road and the western train line—the area identified by almost everyone as most suited to additional development—and even they think 19,000 units would be difficult to accommodate, given it is unlikely that more than 5,000 to 7,000 units could be constructed in the most central location with the lowest concentration of heritage buildings, between Parramatta Road and the railway line.

With its proximity to Granville station and the M4, it would appear to anyone looking at an aerial photograph that Granville has significant capacity to accommodate more apartments. But from ground level, all we see now are cars stuck in traffic, commuters stuck on train platforms, watching trains that used to stop at Granville zoom past, and then cramming into overcrowded train carriages. As I have said, there are no plans to improve local access to the M4 as part of the widening project; nor are there plans to reinstate express train services. Both are needed to enable Granville to achieve its potential. I believe the only solution is to carefully review the capacity of the current infrastructure to support additional development and the capacity to increase train services, improve access to the M4 and construct additional classrooms before arriving at a target number of units in this important precinct.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) [12.46 p.m.]: Parramatta Road is very important for the people in the electorate of Balmain, which includes Leichhardt, Lilyfield, Annandale and Camperdown—areas that are traversed by the Parramatta Road link. Members can imagine how concerned we were about proposals for significant development along that route without necessary and important consultation but, more importantly, without a detailed plan. When the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Strategy was released we received a target of 5,500 new dwellings in Leichhardt and Taverners Hill, 2,400 around Norton Street and a further 2,100 in Camperdown.

The community recognises that when urban renewal takes place, additional housing will be needed. But the challenge presented by the proposal that came to the community was that it had no public transport plans, no additional locations for open space in which kids can play and participate in sports on the weekend and train, no new childcare centres, and no proposals for school or community facilities to support what will be a dramatic increase in population. In the area I have mentioned, the proposal is for a total of 10,000 new dwellings, but not

one new park or one new transport plan has been identified. Therefore it is no surprise that the Leichhardt Municipal Council resolved unanimously to reject the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Strategy proposals for the Leichhardt local government area.

The council noted the fundamental flaws in the proposal such as the proposed high-rise development where there is insufficient open space and under the flight path with the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast 25 to 30 contours, which does not permit increased residential densities without appropriate strategies and ministerial approval. The motion is worthy of support because it identifies the fact that the Government together with UrbanGrowth failed to consult with people in the community. We know through an email that the transport plan was redacted from the Parramatta Road Urban Renewal Strategy. Why did that happen? Why did the Premier's office ask for that to be taken out of the strategy? We think a transport plan is very important. We would like to see the evidence before it is supported.

We know that, because the consultations were flawed, it cost \$2 million. There were 198 separate consultations announced. We said, "Let's get into that; let's be a part of it," and then the Minister, or someone, pulled it. It cost \$2 million to put all that material together so it just seems crazy to pull. I know that there must have been some kind of log jam—I am just speaking honestly—in the Minister's department. I was not even able to meet with someone from UrbanGrowth, because there was some kind of problem getting approval. But in the end approval was granted and I am now engaging with UrbanGrowth. I am concerned by the claim that traffic on Parramatta Road will be reduced under this plan. This claim is contested. SGS Consultants did a report for the City of Sydney, looking at the impact of the reinstallation of the poles.

If putting the poles back in has the impact that the model predicts, the density of traffic on Parramatta Road will not be reduced. But then another model—we have not seen the details of it; it is just like a promise—predicts that traffic density will be reduced. I call on the Government to release the modelling. Let us look at the assumptions that the Government and UrbanGrowth are using to underpin a reduction in traffic on Parramatta Road because that is the key point. If there is a significant reduction in traffic on Parramatta Road it will make a difference, but our fear is that the rat-running and return of poles will mean that that will not happen. I am thankful for the opportunity to make a contribution and I highlight these issues again for the House to consider.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) [12.50 p.m.], by leave: The 50,000 people who live in Balmain are thankful to Government members for giving us the opportunity to speak on this important matter. I thank the member for Strathfield for moving this motion, and I will speak particularly about some of the concerns that we have been raising consistently in this place with respect to UrbanGrowth, Parramatta Road and the dreaded WestConnex. One cannot look at WestConnex—because it goes down Parramatta Road—without looking at urban growth and their integration. I think "integration" is one word that is really missing in this Government's approach to transport infrastructure, housing infrastructure and community infrastructure in this State, particularly in the inner city and Sydney's inner west. There has been a failure to integrate.

I recall being at a meeting at Petersham Bowling Club: It was standing room only. Hundreds of residents were gathered there. They were very concerned that all they had from the WestConnex delivery authority and from UrbanGrowth at that time were some bold, highlighted areas on a map, which covered parks, open spaces and houses. Somehow, from these very vague maps they were supposed to have some idea of how to engage in a consultation process when they were unclear whether they would lose open spaces, parks and other amenities in the area. Integration is very important because people will be open to a conversation about housing density if they can be assured that government is taking an integrated approach to transport and recognising the need for more investment in public education, public hospitals, and community and public services while increasing housing density.

Consistently, plans from UrbanGrowth are nice, glossy brochures and vision statements accompanied by maps that show where the density will increase. Unfortunately, the maps do not indicate where the new high schools and primary schools will be, nor do they indicate a commitment to ensuring that this overdevelopment will not impact on people's open space and green space. There is no recognition of the fact that the greater the housing density in an area the more open space is needed in that area. It is important to recognise that the Save Petersham Park community group organised a public meeting in the park, which brought together hundreds of people to make submissions to the UrbanGrowth process. I believe 420 submissions were made on that day in the park. I was pleased to be able to join them on that day.

Those submissions raised a lot of concerns about the failure of integration between the different elements of housing, infrastructure, transport, planning and the dreaded WestConnex. The community group

also raised questions about whether genuine consultation was being undertaken. While we have seen a re-opening and engagement of UrbanGrowth with the community in recent times, it is understandable that the community that lives along Parramatta Road is concerned about where this Government is headed with urban growth and urban renewal. I hope the Government will prove us wrong, but in the past that has not been the case. The Petersham community remains concerned and thanks the member for Strathfield moving this motion, which we will support.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans): Before we proceed I acknowledge in the Chamber the Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Mr Scott Lloyd. Welcome.

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) [12.55 p.m.], in reply: I thank the members representing the electorates of Summer Hill, Castle Hill, Parramatta, Granville, Balmain and Newtown for speaking on this important motion. I am shocked that the Government will not support this motion, because the Government has delivered what I am speaking about. It is quite extraordinary that Government members do not want to say, "We've done a great job. Hello, let's celebrate." Instead they are saying, "We don't support consultation." The points in this motion are proof of that. It was a motion under Standing Order 52, so we know that what I have said is true. Again, I find it extraordinary that Government members will not support the motion that they are, in fact, supporting through the Minister.

Let me clarify what the Minister has delivered, because that is really important. Obviously the member for Parramatta—and perhaps the Mayor of Parramatta, who is in the Chamber—may not know that last week Minister Stokes greeted me at the corner of Parramatta Road and George Street, North Strathfield. He said, "We didn't do too well at the initial consultation, so we are going to do better on the next draft strategy." He gave us what we want, yet members on the other side of the Chamber are opposing this motion. I just cannot believe it. I am shocked; I am stunned. When people hear that those on the other side of the Chamber have opposed consultation, even though their Minister has delivered consultation, they will be shocked. I suggest that in the two minutes and 19 seconds that I have left to speak, they make sure that they do want to oppose this motion.

Mr Ray Williams: We had better call the Minister.

Ms JODI McKAY: Someone should call the Minister to make sure the Government does want to oppose this motion. I am disappointed that the member for Drummoyne was not in the Chamber for this debate.

Dr Geoff Lee: He is sick.

Ms JODI McKAY: He is sick; that should be the only reason he is not in this Chamber, because a lot of what is proposed affects his electorate. I will deal briefly with what the member for Castle Hill said about WestConnex. It may surprise him to know that this morning his Minister made an announcement on WestConnex. The detailed plans on WestConnex have been released. It is a shame that those on the other side of the Chamber did not know what their Minister was doing today. If they were interested in this project around Parramatta Road and WestConnex they would have found out what the Minister was doing today.

The question in terms of WestConnex is: Where will the stacks be located? Apparently that location has been released today. The next question is: What properties will be compulsorily acquired? That information has not been released by the Government. I believe that information, together with the business case, is in the Government's hands. As the member for Newtown knows, the business case has not been released. In fact, I found out yesterday that it will not be released until the third quarter of this year.

I thank all members who participated in the debate. This is an important project, the most significant urban renewal project in the inner west in the last 100 years and it deserves attention by government. I have offered a bipartisan approach and the Minister for Planning has offered that as well, so I ask: Why is the Government opposing the motion? I thank Minister Stokes for listening to the community. As the motion highlights, this project was mismanaged grossly by the Government until Minister Stokes took over the portfolio. He has realised that and has come to the party in delivering on the UrbanGrowth community engagement strategy, which was impressive and detailed. I thank the Minister and again ask the Government: Why is it opposing the motion?

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put.

The House divided.

Ayes, 38

Ms Aitchison	Mr Harris	Mr Park
Mr Atalla	Ms Harrison	Mr Parker
Mr Barr	Ms Haylen	Mr Piper
Ms Burney	Mr Hoenig	Mr Robertson
Ms Car	Ms Horner	Ms K. Smith
Ms Catley	Mr Kamper	Ms T. F. Smith
Mr Chanthivong	Ms Leong	Mr Warren
Mr Crakanthorp	Mr Lynch	Ms Washington
Mr Daley	Dr McDermott	Ms Watson
Mr Dib	Ms McKay	Mr Zangari
Ms Doyle	Mr Mehan	<i>Tellers,</i>
Ms Finn	Ms Mihailuk	Ms Hay
Mr Greenwich	Mr Minns	Mr Lalich

Noes, 48

Mr Anderson	Ms Goward	Mr Provest
Mr Aplin	Mr Gulaptis	Mr Roberts
Mr Ayres	Mr Hazzard	Mr Rowell
Mr Baird	Mr Henskens	Mrs Skinner
Mr Barilaro	Ms Hodgkinson	Mr Speakman
Ms Berejikian	Mr Humphries	Mr Stokes
Mr Conolly	Mr Johnsen	Mr Taylor
Mr Constance	Mr Kean	Mr Toole
Mr Coure	Dr Lee	Mr Tudehope
Mr Crouch	Mr Maguire	Ms Upton
Mrs Davies	Mr Marshall	Mr Ward
Mr Dominello	Mr Notley-Smith	Mr Williams
Mr Elliott	Mr O'Dea	
Mr Fraser	Mrs Pavey	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Gee	Mr Perrottet	Mr Bromhead
Mr George	Ms Petinos	Mr Patterson
Ms Gibbons	Mr Piccoli	

Pair

Mr Foley

Mr Grant

Question resolved in the negative.**Motion negatived.****NEVILLE MCINTYRE, MASTERS ATHLETICS CHAMPION****Mr ADAM MARSHALL** (Northern Tablelands) [1.09 p.m.]: I move:

That this House:

- (1) Commends Neville McIntyre of Glen Innes, who competed at the Australian Masters Athletics Championships held at Bankstown over Easter and won six gold medals.
- (2) Notes that after earlier winning various events at the New South Wales country and State championships, Neville's outstanding performances resulted in a clean sweep of wins.
- (3) Congratulates Neville on being named the most outstanding athlete at the championships, recording times of 8.71 seconds in the 60 metre sprint, 13.83 seconds in the 100 metre sprint and 28.45 seconds in the 200 metre sprint.
- (4) Wishes Neville all the very best as he trains for the World Masters Championships in Perth in 2016.

Neville's times are incredible because he is 72 years of age. I dare say that running the 100 metres in 13.83 seconds at 72 is quicker than the majority of people in this House would be able to run, including me and possibly you, Mr Acting-Speaker. Neville has been a lifelong resident of the proud community of Pinkett, which is a small locality to the east of Glen Innes. The area is renowned for its high rainfall and good grazing country.

Mr Geoff Provest: Good sheep.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: It is good grazing country and has good sheep and wool. Neville lives and works on the family property with his lovely wife, Gail. Some of his children have expanded residency into the adjoining properties in the district to continue the tradition of grazing and agriculture in the Pinkett district. I understand that Neville generally musters his Angus cattle on foot across hilly terrain. Country members will appreciate that at times that would be in sub-zero temperatures. The temperature this morning in Glen Innes was minus 4 degrees. Neville's gumboots also receive a good workout when the rain comes each year.

It is incredible that Neville is still performing at an elite level at 72. With his wife, Gail, at his side, he competes at the highest level of athletics in Australia, concentrating on track and field events. Recently Neville returned from the Australian Masters Athletics Championships in Melbourne with six gold medals. It is a remarkable effort. I have never won a gold medal in my athletics career. He also won the title of Most Outstanding Athlete at the championships. Neville's accomplishments on the track include running the 100 metre sprint in 13.83 seconds and 200 metres in 28.45 seconds. When talking with Neville recently, he informed me he was concerned that the damp weather slowed down his times because he has recorded quicker times in the past.

For almost two decades he has been a veteran track and field competitor and a year has not gone by without Neville receiving a medal, trophy or award. His trophy cabinet is now a trophy room. He competes locally, nationally and internationally. He is an outstanding ambassador for the Pinkett, Glen Innes and Northern Tablelands region. He is an example that age does not have to weary us and his efforts remind us that having an active life can deliver benefits. He is a local treasure and an inspiration to many young athletes in Glen Innes who benefit from his tutelage and his fine example. For many years Neville has played an important role in developing young sportspeople, including his own children. His granddaughter is showing some of her grandfather's talent on the track and will be one to watch. I cannot say enough about Neville McIntyre's achievements. He is an inspiration for many in the Glen Innes community. He is a well-regarded and respected man who has worked hard. I am sure he will compete at the highest level for many years to come. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) [1.14 p.m.]: I support the member for Northern Tablelands and his ongoing endeavours to enhance the lifestyles of his constituents, particularly the elderly. We know that physical fitness can increase our quality of life and therefore prolong it. We should do all that is possible to encourage physical fitness. The Australian Masters Athletics Championships is an important event that is held at various locations around the country. A number of years ago it was held on the Gold Coast. The championships not only attract a large number of participants from across Australia but also a large contingent of international competitors.

Neville McIntyre's attributes are outstanding. The member for Northern Tablelands indicated that Neville no longer has a trophy cabinet—he has a trophy room. It is important that we recognise significant role models within our local communities, particularly elderly people. I was amazed recently when my 91-year-old mother indicated that she loves going to the gym. It caused some amusement amongst her grandchildren but she told me it was good to do exercises while sitting in her wheelchair. We are never too old to exercise.

Recently Neville won six gold medals and recorded 8.71 seconds in the 60 metre sprint, 13.8 seconds in the 100 metre sprint and 28.45 seconds in the 200 metre sprint. He is hot property. I am a supporter of National Rugby League, in particular the Cronulla Sharks. I note the member for Cronulla is the Minister at the table. Perhaps Neville could run with that team. They need a helping hand, considering their recent results. Perhaps we will see him in the blue, white and black jersey soon. Neville continues to train. The member for Northern Tablelands indicated he is a hardworking farmer. Farmers are the backbone of our nation because they feed us. This morning Jack Frost painted the Northern Tablelands and I can picture Neville in his woollies herding his cows. He is a legend. I am sure his family is proud of his results. Pinkett is a lovely small place.

Mr Adam Marshall: But large in heart.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: I agree with the member for Northern Tablelands. I commend Neville for his excellent work. He continues to train for the championships in Perth. Mr Acting-Speaker, I am sure people from your electorate are planning to travel to Perth to compete. It would be great to see our fellow colleagues competing. Fitness and wellbeing are important to our quality of life. It is important for people to lead a healthy

lifestyle, particularly those living in the regions because they often have to travel far distances to access medical facilities. If one is driving around the Northern Tablelands one will see Neville on the side of the road. He is obviously a good sprinter.

Mr Adam Marshall: Come for a run with him.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: The member for Northern Tablelands has indicated that he would be only too willing for people to go running with him. The member for Northern Tablelands is often seen walking around the electorate or running down the road.

Mr Greg Piper: He's big into quilting too.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: The member for Northern Tablelands is big into physical fitness. He has spent a lot of time on the side of the road, walking. He has probably worn out a couple of pairs of shoes in recent times with the amount of physical exercise and walking he has done. He is a fine role model to the good people of the Northern Tablelands electorate. I applaud the member for Northern Tablelands for bringing this issue to the attention of the House. More importantly, I applaud Neville McIntyre of Glen Innes for his recent successes and wish him all the best in the future in his athletic pursuits.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) [1.21 p.m.]: It is my pleasure to join with my colleagues to support this motion moved by the member for Northern Tablelands commending the incredible effort of Neville McIntyre. Mr McIntyre comes from the community of Pinkett, which is on the eastern side of Glen Innes on the Great Dividing Range and is one of the most beautiful areas in New South Wales. Heading up the Gibraltar Range and driving through the area near the community of Pinkett into Glen Innes is one of the best drives in Australia. It is up there with Waterfall Way in the great electorate of Oxley.

I commend Mr McIntyre. The member for Northern Tablelands has said that Mr McIntyre is one of those genuine, good country people. The member has been to Mr McIntyre's home and has seen the trophy room—it is not just a trophy cabinet. As a former Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Health, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate and salute people like Neville McIntyre. It is paramount for society as a whole to embrace his level of fitness and commitment to good health.

The New South Wales health budget consumes almost one-third of the New South Wales \$60 billion budget. Twenty years ago, it was more like 20 per cent. We have a huge obligation to care for the needs of the people of New South Wales through the State's hospitals and community health. One of our challenges is encouraging a healthy community, a community that takes charge of their health and wellbeing. People like Neville McIntyre are champions because they show that it is never too late to run and to stay fit. To be able to run a 100 metre sprint in 13.83 seconds is an extraordinary effort. He takes pride in his training and competition, as he goes over the hills herding Angus cattle. He is obviously a wonderful role model.

Mr McIntyre's granddaughter is following in his tracks. I agree with the member for Northern Tablelands that she will be one to watch. I have two magnificent children who somehow or other can run. I do not know where they got that from—they did not get it from their mother or their father. They were both cross-country champions every year at their primary school. I am very proud of that record of my children. I have learnt a little about running, and it is a hard task. To have the stamina, the strong muscles and the oxygen capacity to run is no mean feat.

The Masters Games is a magnificent event. It is an economic boost for whichever State holds the event. A very good friend of mine Margie Osmond, who is now the chief executive officer of the Tourism and Transport Forum, was one of the people who brought the International Masters Games to Australia. She was on the governing board of that organisation. It was a great event in Bankstown. Next year the games will be staged in Perth. It is one of those great activities that keeps people fit and competitive. The fitter we are, the more able we are as a society and a community to deal with the many health challenges we face. We are all living much longer than previous generations. We can live longer in a healthy way and have the best quality of life possible by being fit and active like Neville McIntyre. I salute Neville McIntyre. I congratulate him and I thank him for being such a good role model.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) [1.25 p.m.]: I speak in support of this motion. The electorate of Myall Lakes is one of the great nursery grounds of rugby league in this State. Some of the

present-day players who have come from Myall Lakes include Boyd Cordner, who played in the recent State of Origin game. Jarrod Mullen, who plays for the Newcastle Knights, comes from the Myall Lakes electorate. I worked with Jarrod Mullen's father. Another local who played first grade for a number of clubs was Matt Hilder. His sister-in-law Kylie Hilder is an Australian legend in rugby league. She has represented Australia not only in women's rugby league but also in touch football. She has received a number of medals for national and international touch football championships and has also won a championship as a member of the Australian women's rugby league team.

The electorate also has great motorcycle sportsmen including Troy Bayliss and brothers Alex and Damian Cudlin. The Troy Bayliss Classic, which is held every January, brings 6,500 visitors and competitors from all over Australia and internationally to Old Bar, which is just south of Taree. Troy Bayliss is still very much involved in the organising of that event. Alex and Damian Cudlin are presently racing overseas. Years ago when I started the Traffic Offenders Program in the Manning Great Lakes area, their father presented a lecture on defensive driving.

One of the great sailors from our area is Ian Ruff, who won a gold medal in sailing. Rower Errol Braznel—his nickname was "the Rower"—competed at the 1956 Olympic Games that were held in Australia. Another local rugby league player was Adam Woolnough, who played for the Newcastle Knights and Penrith. His father, Dave Woolnough, and I worked together as detectives. I note the Government's Community Building Partnership Scheme contribution to Little Athletics. Through that scheme, Old Bar Little Athletics now has a long jump track and pit that has been constructed to Olympic standard. That is fantastic for the young athletes at Old Bar. Forster-Tuncurry Little Athletics also received Community Building Partnership funding for a long jump track. That club trains and competes at the oval at South Street in Tuncurry.

I want to finish on rugby union, which is a growing sport in the Myall Lakes electorate. In 2003 there was one rugby club, the Manning River Rats. I was a foundation member of that club. Since then, rugby in the area has grown from one club to seven clubs, including Gloucester, Old Bar, Forster-Tuncurry, Nabiac, and Tea Gardens-Hawkes Nest. Young people in the area have a fantastic opportunity to play rugby and keep fit and rugby is also a great sport for networking. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) [1.29 p.m.], in reply: I thank the member for Tweed, the member for Oxley and the member for Myall Lakes for their kind remarks about Neville McIntyre and his extraordinary achievements. Neville is a humble man who will be embarrassed when he reads the comments that have been made about his achievements in *Hansard*. He seeks neither praise nor the limelight but is involved in athletics because he loves the sport and he believes in living a healthy life. Neville believes he can provide a good example of a healthy life for his children, his grandchildren and others in the community. It is important that we celebrate Neville's contribution because he does not seek recognition and such people are the ones we should recognise. He competes because he loves to compete, he loves training and he believes in pushing himself.

As Neville gets older he is still pushing himself to achieve better times and to do more. That is an incredible attitude and it is evident that Neville has an extraordinary spirit. This spirit is infectious and it rubs off on people around him in the wider Glen Innes community and on his family in Pinkett. Glen Innes is now producing a number of capable young athletes. I hope to have the opportunity in the next few years to acknowledge the achievements of these young athletes at the State and, I hope, national level. These young athletes are inspired by Neville's achievements and the coaching that he provides.

I am amazed that at the age of 72 Neville recorded a time of 13.83 seconds for the 100 metre sprint—and that is not his fastest time. His time for the 200 metres was 28.45 seconds. He won six gold medals at the Australian Masters Athletics Championships, an incredible achievement. He is truly an inspirational character and a great country bloke who loves what he does. He is at home on the farm mustering cattle, a very unassuming gentleman setting a great example for everyone in the community. Well done, Neville McIntyre.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

[Acting-Speaker (Mr Lee Evans) left the chair at 1.32 p.m. The House resumed at 2.15 p.m.]

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome to the gallery today Robyn and Murray Alcock from Gerringong, guests of the Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast and member for Kiama. I also welcome to the gallery 20 students and their teacher from Sydwest Multicultural Services, Blacktown, guests of the member for Blacktown; nine students and their teacher from Raffles College of Design and Commerce and nine students and their teacher from the Young Engineers Advisian.

I welcome 50 members of the Mortdale Probus Club, guests of the Deputy Government Whip and member for Oatley. I also welcome Mr Warren Pavey to the gallery, husband of the member for Oxley. Finally I welcome to the gallery Mr Peter Achterstraat, former Auditor-General, and 10 of his brightest engineering students.

ASSENT TO BILL

Assent to the following bill was reported:

Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Amendment (Extension) Bill 2015

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Notices of Motions

Government Business Notices of Motions (for Bills) given.

QUESTION TIME

[Question time commenced at 2.20 p.m.]

ELECTRICITY PRIVATISATION

Mr GARETH WARD: My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier advise the House how the lease of 49 per cent of the State's poles and wires will continue to deliver benefits for the people of New South Wales?

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I thank the member for Kiama for his question. I remind the House that the member for Kiama had a swing towards him at the last election, which reflects his hard work delivering for his electorate. Today is a significant day for New South Wales, and one that this Government is very proud to be part of. We have a new era in New South Wales. We are going to step-change our infrastructure, we are going to march forward and we are going to deliver projects that when in government those opposite only talked about, thought about and dithered over. We are going to deliver those projects.

The legislation that passed the upper House last night gives the green light to the funding that will enable us to deliver these projects. What those opposite never worked out is that when you announce projects you actually need funding to go along with them. That is exactly what we have done, and we are proud of that. We are proud to build on the record we have. What we have delivered over the past four years is significant. We know what we inherited in this State—a massive black hole of over \$5 billion. We know that the economy was ranked last in the nation on every indicator, including jobs and growth.

We know there was a \$30 billion infrastructure deficit but we got on with it and started to turn this State around. We are very proud of what we have done. We have maintained the triple-A credit rating and put in more transport services. We were the first State to sign up to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We have started three major road projects when we said we would start one. In addition, the construction of the North West Rail Link is well and truly underway. Members opposite said they were going to do it then they cancelled it. We are delivering.

In relation to the legislation, it is very clear that we want to do even more if it is possible. That is exactly what we are going to do. Members opposite are on the wrong side of history. They decided to vote against the funding and on that basis they are against the infrastructure that we are building. They are against the

Sydney Metro and what it will do for this great city by improving capacity across the rail network. We are even in the incredible position where the member for Campbelltown has come into this place and voted against the \$300 million hospital redevelopment.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: Clearly the member for Manly has issues with the truth.

The SPEAKER: Order! Is that a personal reflection against the Premier?

Mr Greg Warren: It is a point of order.

The SPEAKER: Order! That was not a point of order. That was a personal reflection.

Mr Greg Warren: The Premier is misleading the House. There has been no vote against the hospital.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The member for Campbelltown will resume his seat. Misleading the House is not a point of order. The member for Campbelltown should read the standing orders.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: Not only is the member for Campbelltown against the hospital but also my good friends from the Illawarra are against the Albion Park Rail bypass. We offered \$550 million and they came in here and said, "No, we don't want it." The member for Kiama and this Government want to deliver it. It is no wonder that Labor's infrastructure plans are in such tatters.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Wollongong is making a personal reflection against the Premier and is using unparliamentary language.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: Their infrastructure policy has not changed much. We can see the problems that are already starting to emerge. The member for Keira recently made his video debut on the *Sydney Morning Herald* website. It is spectacular viewing—everyone should look it up. He explained why Labor changed its position on the light rail in a couple of weeks. I thought I would love watching it because I really wanted to know why that was. He said in very simple terms that it was because he had started to read a lot of serious reports. That is Labor's infrastructure policy.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Keira will come to order.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: Members on this side of the House will continue to deliver the infrastructure the community needs. On the back of the lease that has been supported by this Parliament the New South Wales economy is going to march ahead. We will improve rail, roads, hospitals and schools. That is what we are going to do and continue to do.

Pursuant to standing order additional information provided.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I will make this point: We remember that during the election campaign the Leader of the Opposition said the world was ending. He was like Chicken Little running around saying that the world was going to end and we had to stop the transaction. Yet when the lease legislation came to the Parliament today, did he turn up? No. He did not even bother. Members opposite are about seeking popularity, not about acting in the interests of the State. We are delivering for the State and over the next four years we will continue to do exactly that.

AUSTRALIAN ENERGY REGULATOR DETERMINATION

Mr LUKE FOLEY: My question is directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy. Given the Minister's public support for the Australian Energy Regulator's gas distribution determination, which will deliver average savings of \$96 for households, why does he support that Australian Energy Regulator determination but mount a legal challenge against the electricity determination that would save families more than \$200 a year?

The SPEAKER: Order! Government members will come to order.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: The Government shares the objective of the Australian Energy Regulator [AER] in delivering a safe and reliable supply of electricity to the State's customers at the lowest

sustainable cost. As members have been made aware on a number of occasions, on 21 May the boards of Ausgrid, Essential Energy and Endeavour Energy advised the Government of their intent to lodge a merits review of the AER's final network revenue determinations of 30 April 2015. We have been advised on a number of occasions that the boards have taken that decision because of their concerns with the allowances for operating expenditure, specifically in relation to the impact on vegetation and bushfire risk mitigation programs.

I am advised that they have also taken the decision because they consider the AER did not provide what the network boards regard as a workable transition plan to implement continuing efficiency improvements. Importantly, Networks NSW has made it clear that it will not be appealing the approximately \$730 million in cuts to the capital expenditure budgets that the AER has imposed. The Australian Competition Tribunal will now hear the appeal from relevant parties and make a final decision later this year.

Let me make it clear once again: the New South Wales Government shares the objective of the AER in ensuring a safe and reliable supply of electricity at the lowest sustainable cost for the State's households and businesses. We will deliver those further savings. Understandably, however, Networks NSW will not undermine the reliability or safety of our networks. A recent poll by the *Newcastle Herald* demonstrated that the majority of Hunter customers would prefer better reliability and faster response times to cheaper bills. In the poll, 56 per cent of Hunter customers supported better reliability and safety over reduced bills. As everyone is well aware, last month's storms again served as a timely reminder of the importance of a safe and reliable network.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. I want to know why the Government is cherry-picking rulings. Why is the Government not opposing gas prices, yet is opposing the Australian Energy Regulator [AER] ruling on electricity?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister's answer is relevant to the question he was asked.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Government members understand that last month more than 270,000 customers across the State were without power, and many of them were without power for more than a week. At the peak of the interruption, almost 20 per cent of the entire Ausgrid network base was down. Hospitals, schools, water infrastructure and sewage treatment facilities were knocked out. Many of the State's approximately 30,000 customers who rely on life-sustaining equipment in their homes were without power and were placed at serious risk. For them, it is not a matter of price but, rather, a matter of life or death.

Opposition members are playing politics with people's lives. It is Labor constituents who are affected by Labor's opposition to leasing electricity assets. Labor members will have to answer to them for their actions. Before Labor members start bleating about networks undertaking a merits review, as we remind them time and again they should check the history. I again remind the House that in 2009 Labor's gold-plated capital expenditure [CAPEX] for Ausgrid alone was \$9 billion over five years.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, relevance. I am not sure what the Minister had taken before question time, but could he answer the question?

The SPEAKER: Order! Is that a personal reflection on the Minister? The member for Canterbury will resume her seat. There is no point of order.

Mr Dominic Perrottet: He didn't take nasty pills.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Yes. I did not take nasty pills.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will return to the leave of the question. The Minister should be careful not to make personal reflections.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Under this Government over that same five-year period, the budget is just \$3.3 billion, which represents a reduction of \$5.7 billion, yet Opposition members have the audacity to criticise the Government. Under the Labor Government, union enterprise agreements were gold-plated to include many clauses that rewarded all of Labor's mates. If Opposition members wish to discuss Jemena, I point out that Government members welcome further reductions in gas prices paid by consumers under our Government. Any question with respect to Jemena appealing against any AER decision should be directed to Jemena because it is a privately owned enterprise—one that government has very little, if anything, to do with. I suggest that Opposition members pick up the phone, call Jemena and ask them a question.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Ms LINDA BURNEY: My question is directed to the Minister for Education, whose diary disclosure confirms that he met with the Aboriginal Studies Association on 3 February this year to discuss the review commissioned by the Department of Education and Communities of the Connected Communities program, including the Walgett Community College, and I ask: Will he confirm that a report on the review exists and when, as guaranteed, it will be publicly released?

Mr Jamie Parker: That is a Walgett question.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: I appreciate the Walgett question.

Ms Katrina Hodgkinson: You must have been working hard.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: We have been working very hard in support of Walgett. Today three captains from the Walgett High School were in Parliament with the member for Barwon. We had a lovely chat and took a photograph in the Fountain Court. They came up to the office and I had a discussion with my chief of staff and policy advisers about what is happening in Walgett. Let me just say this about Walgett: We have done more in four years to support that community than Labor did for 16 years.

Ms Linda Burney: Ha! I don't think so.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: I can tell the member for Canterbury that I have personally been to Walgett four times in the past four years.

Ms Linda Burney: Why?

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: Because we support the community.

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

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: There are difficult community issues in Walgett that have been in existence for many decades. The Freedom Ride went through Walgett for that very reason. We chose those 15 schools to be part of the Connected Communities program not because they are easy schools but because they are hard schools. That is exactly why we chose them. They are hard and complex schools in very complex communities, and Walgett is no exception. Walgett, Wilcannia, Brewarrina, Boggabilla and Toomelah are all names that I am sure are familiar to everybody.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order: While I have no argument with what the Minister has said, he is in breach of Standing Order 129. I asked when the report will be released and whether he will stop telling people that it does not exist.

The SPEAKER: Order! I understand the member for Canterbury's point of order. The Minister has been relevant.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: The member for Canterbury may have asked the wrong question. What the Government has done with Connected Communities is something that has not been done before with the schools to which I referred earlier. The Government has given those schools unprecedented discretion to change what they are doing to reflect the needs of those schools. For example, the Moree East Public School changed the opening hour of the school to 8.00 a.m. and closure to 1.30 p.m. in recognition of what the community wanted. I know that not everybody in the community is totally happy with that decision, but the principal made that decision after consulting with the school and Aboriginal communities. Individual schools are doing different things. Moreover, we have allocated \$35 million in capital to support those schools, including spending more than \$7 million at the Walgett High School to upgrade the school's facilities.

Mr Michael Daley: What about the report?

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: I have to say that I went there a year or two after the election and that school was a disgrace. Almost two years ago I referred to the condition of that school in this House.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. On behalf of the Walgett community, the member for Canterbury asked whether a report exists. The Minister is doing contortions to avoid admitting that it does not exist.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The Minister has been relevant.

Mr Michael Daley: The Minister is talking about anything other than the report.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister has remained relevant to the question he was asked.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: Part of the process is carrying out evaluations of how the Connected Communities program is performing. We are conducting evaluations of all our reforms. Over the past four years we spent \$1 million to evaluate our reforms and to ensure that the manner in which we spend money is the most effective use of funds. The evaluation report will be released later this year. I do not think I have ever denied there is an evaluation report. I receive data all the time about the performance of the schools to which I have referred—attendance data and National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy [NAPLAN] data.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled on the point of order relating to relevance.

Ms Linda Burney: It is the same point of order.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled on that point of order.

Ms Linda Burney: It is a specific report done by the Aboriginal Studies Association. It is in the Minister's diary that he was briefed. Where is the report?

The SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled that the Minister has remained relevant.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: I am under no obligation to give the member for Canterbury anything. Ministers receive advice, reports and evaluations constantly. That does not mean we have to provide information simply at the request of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Canterbury will come to order.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: I reserve the right to receive information and for it to be provided to me confidentially.

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

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: I have to say that if a Minister commissions or asks for information, and people know that the Minister will provide that to anybody who asks for it, people will not give information again. Plenty of the information about Walgett and the communities to which I have referred is very, very sensitive. I will not necessarily hand over every evaluation that I ever received to the member for Canterbury, simply because she asks for it. [*Time expired.*]

Ms LINDA BURNEY: Madam Speaker, may I seek additional information?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister's time has expired.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: The standing orders clearly provide the right to any member who has asked a question to seek additional information. While there were still six seconds on the clock—

The SPEAKER: Order! I am not sure that there were six seconds remaining.

Mr Michael Daley: Yes, there were. I was watching carefully.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will take advice on the time shown on the clock.

Mr Michael Daley: The shadow Minister got up from her seat and sought the call with time remaining and while the Minister was still speaking.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have told the member for Maroubra that I will take advice on the time shown on the clock.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: I am happy to provide more information.

Pursuant to standing order additional information provided.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: As I stated earlier, I take Connected Communities very seriously. I have a real personal commitment to Walgett. I took my wife and my two children up there a couple of weeks prior to the election. The community invited me, my wife and my children to visit some cultural sites, and obtain a special and privileged insight into that community. We had a terrific day there. I have enormous personal interest. The director general has been visiting Walgett every second week for a couple of days at a time to examine what we need to do in that community and in those schools to ensure that we deliver for those children.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: I am glad the Minister had a great time, but what is the Minister hiding? The question is very clear: Is there a report, and will he release it? What is the Minister hiding?

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: We get reports and information all the time. That does not mean that I am going to hand it over whenever the Opposition asks for it. An evaluation is being done. When it is finished later in the year it will be made public. As I said, we get information from lots of places. I am proud to say that the leader of The Nationals lived in Walgett for three years: He was a police officer. As a member of Parliament he provides significant insight into the Walgett community and what we can do to support that community.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am finding it very hard to hear the Minister. Members will come to order.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: I repeat, we have done more in four years to support that terrific community in Walgett than the Opposition did in 16 years. When the member for Canterbury was interviewed on TV she went on about how violent and terrible that community is. There is violence in that community, but it is not because the community is violent. Some of the people are violent, but it is a great community that we are very proud to support.

REGIONAL INVESTMENT

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN: My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. How will communities across the State benefit from the New South Wales Government's historic \$6 billion regional investment?

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

Mr TROY GRANT: I thank the member for Upper Hunter for his question. My first answer is that his electorate, by way of example, will receive \$160 million to build bypasses on the New England Highway at both Singleton and Muswellbrook. When we introduced legislation to enable this mass investment we said yes to the needs of regional New South Wales. We said yes. For 16 years, the Opposition said no. You said no on every occasion.

Mr Ryan Park: You said no.

Mr TROY GRANT: You said no on every occasion. You neglected my regional communities and every one of you who voted against that legislation should be ashamed of yourself. The 17 people in the other place should be ashamed of themselves.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Keira to order for the first time.

Mr TROY GRANT: We will never say no to regional New South Wales, like you did. There have been 16 years of saying no. Those opposite should go and have a look at themselves in the mirror.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Keira to order for the second time.

Ms Noreen Hay: Point of order: The Minister is addressing members opposite directly. He is inciting interjections instead of addressing his comment through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Minister to address his comments through the Chair. I ask Opposition members to refrain from interjecting in that manner—in particular, the member for Keira.

Mr TROY GRANT: Those opposite said no to regional New South Wales for 16 years when we have said yes. We will turn the lights on development investment and we will deliver continuously. It is understood that 26,000 heavy vehicles will be diverted out of the CBD every day because of this investment. This is a game changer in relation to heavy vehicles on our busy roads.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Shellharbour will come to order.

Mr TROY GRANT: This is a game changer in the investment in roads right across the community. This will make people's lives safer on our country roads. There will be reliable transport, efficient and economic investment in the roads in Orange, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Myall Lakes, up in the north-west, throughout the New England area, right across regional New South Wales and into the south. This investment—this turbocharge—means that Jillian the builder will be investing \$300 million in health projects in regional New South Wales. Every time those opposite said that they were going to build a hospital in regional New South Wales they promised it and then they said no. We say yes. Yes, we can. Yes, we will. Hospitals have been rising out of the ground for the past four years in Tamworth, Port Macquarie, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo, Parks and Forbes. Every one of those you said no to. You should hang your heads in shame.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: The Deputy Premier has been here long enough to know that he must address his comments through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: I remind the Deputy Premier to address his comments through the Chair. I ask Opposition members to cease interjecting.

Mr TROY GRANT: People in the gallery understand that in regional New South Wales one of the most precious things that we rely on is water. It is one of the most precious things. It sustains life. It provides opportunities for growth. Under this Government there has been record investment in the water security for our regional communities.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Cessnock will cease interjecting.

Mr TROY GRANT: The member for Cessnock, who lives in New South Wales, said no in this House to any investment in regional New South Wales. He should hang his head in shame. Regional tourism has its own fund to drive economic growth and opportunities across tourism, which is helping to drive our economy. It is making our regions stronger and making a contribution to the broader State economy. Jobs are precious. We need water out there and we also need jobs. There have been investments in roads, hospitals and education upgrades under this Minister. The Government has put \$300 million into schools in this regional bonanza. Those opposite said no to schools, like Walgett, for 16 years; we say yes to them because this Minister for Education is dedicated to the regions.

Pursuant to standing order additional information provided.

Mr TROY GRANT: We have had four years of turning the tide of investments in regional New South Wales. Regional members who had spent four years here went to the electorate asking for a vote of confidence and to be returned here. Every one of them was returned to this House. Those opposite ran a fear and smear campaign—the best they had done in the history of their party—and they were rejected outright. The Opposition went to Canberra to make an announcement about Queanbeyan. That is how much they know about regional New South Wales. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity that this side of politics will not miss out on.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Maitland will come to order and cease interjecting.

Mr TROY GRANT: I have one simple, final message for regional New South Wales: While ever there is a Liberal-Nationals Government we will always talk to those communities. We will always listen to them and we will always say yes to them.

On a final note, I ask all members to go back to their communities and make everyone aware of Operation Stay Alert. The June long weekend is a serious time on our roads, when safety is at a premium and when lives are put at risk. I ask all members to go back to their electorates and convey that message to drivers. During the long weekend drivers should not speed and should not be distracted by mobile phones. Drivers should take care of their fatigue by managing their driving hours. I ask drivers, "Please, do not drink and drive. It is not only your life that you put at risk; you put at risk the lives of those around you. We all know that if you drink and drive you are a bloody idiot. If you do it twice your judgement will be questioned."

Mr Andrew Fraser: Point of order: Standing Order 52 says that a member speaking shall do so without noise and disturbance.

The SPEAKER: That would be utopia, would it not? I would absolutely love to have no interjections in question time. I am asking for it and I will continue to ask for it. I thank the member for Coffs Harbour for reminding members that they should not interject while any member is speaking.

Mr Andrew Fraser: Point of Order: Standing Order 131 (4). It is obvious that the Opposition is taking a series of points of order to stop the Minister being heard. I ask that when Opposition members take these spurious points of order the clock be stopped.

Mr Michael Daley: To the point of order: The member for Coffs Harbour seeks to claim that the Opposition is trying to waste Ministers' time by taking spurious points of order. Perhaps we would not have to do so if Ministers answered the questions. I point out that it was the member for Canterbury, an Opposition member, who sought an extension of time. Far from trying to truncate Ministers' responses, we would like them to speak for as long as possible to show how hopeless they really are.

The SPEAKER: Order! The point is taken. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. Was that a personal reflection? Did anyone take offence to that comment?

WESTCONNEX VENTILATION STACKS

Ms JO HAYLEN: My question is directed to the Premier. Will the Premier confirm that in plans released today for construction of the M4 East tunnel, an unfiltered ventilation stack will be built fewer than 50 metres away from Haberfield Public School, which has more than 600 students and teachers?

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I thank the member for her question. Yes, we are getting on with the WestConnex project. We are pleased that construction will get underway. As part of any process there will be negotiation with the community about elements of construction and infrastructure that require sensitive negotiations with the community, and that is one of them. That is exactly what we have done and what we will be doing ongoing. I find it fascinating that we have a new member who is asking reasonable questions, but why on earth is the Leader of the Opposition not asking these sorts of questions?

The SPEAKER: Order! Opposition members should not take offence.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: Yesterday she was asked to ask a question about a region out of her electorate and I pointed out that she did not ask about her electorate, so today she is asking about her electorate and that is great. I am glad that she is interested in her community. There is a simple point in this: Why is the Leader of the Opposition not asking questions? Quite frankly, I do not think he wants the job.

Mr Guy Zangari: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question is about WestConnex and smoke stacks next to Haberfield Public School. The Premier has not referred to that.

The SPEAKER: Order! It was a good question. The Premier will return to the leave of the question.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I have answered that. There is a comprehensive process. We are doing everything we can in terms of world-class air.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Strathfield that interjections are disorderly at all times. She will cease interjecting. The Premier is answering the question.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: It is quite clear that the Leader of the Opposition does not want the job.

Mr Luke Foley: I don't. That's why I'm going to take your job.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: March 28—add them up. I really hope you enjoy your four years over there in opposition. It could not happen to a nicer bunch of people. It is magnificent being in opposition and you are so terrific at it; you are so terrific in opposition.

Mr Ryan Park: I hate it.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: You are actually fantastic at it.

Mr Ryan Park: I don't like it. I've told you before.

The SPEAKER: Order! But you are good at it. The member for Keira will resume his seat.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: The member for Keira is so determined to stay in opposition he is going to spend four years reading serious reports. In four years imagine how many reports he will get through—one after the other. He will change policy after policy after policy. Well may the Leader of the Opposition make such a claim, but I remind members of this House and the people of New South Wales that it was the second-worst result in the history of Labor in this State, so why not take that one?

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier has concluded his answer. Was the point of order in relation to something said by the Premier?

Ms Jodi McKay: It was in relation to the fact he did not actually say anything.

The SPEAKER: Order! Perhaps with all the interjections the member did not hear what the Premier had to say. The Premier said plenty.

ELECTRICITY PRIVATISATION

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: My question is addressed to the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations. How will the lease of 49 per cent of the State's electricity network create a stronger economy for New South Wales?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I thank the member for his question. Before I answer that excellent question I acknowledge how great it is to see that the Leader of the Opposition has woken up after two months in this place. After two months it is good to see that he is actually participating in question time. It is a relief. Coming back to important matters of State, in the late hours of last night and the early hours of this morning the Legislative Council passed historic legislation that will enable the Government to rebuild New South Wales. We will do this through building \$20 billion of vital infrastructure. We will do this by creating jobs and by building a strong economy.

When this historic legislation was passing through this Chamber earlier today it was very disappointing to see that the Leader of the Opposition was missing in action; he did not bother to turn up. That is not surprising because the passage of this legislation will enable this State to move forward, to build on our strong credentials in the first four years of government and to take this State to places it has never been. It is important to remember what we inherited from Labor just four years ago: an economic basket case. New South Wales had the lowest jobs growth of any mainland State. New South Wales had the lowest business confidence of any mainland State. When Labor left office there was a hole of more than \$5 billion in the State budget forward estimates.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Wollongong will resume her seat.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We know, because we have been busy building for four years, that this State had a \$30 billion infrastructure backlog. Because of Labor's poor economic management Labor cut services, cancelled projects and increased taxes. Those are the things that Labor is good at, and nothing has changed. Labor members say they care about jobs, but they voted against the Government's Jobs Action Plan. They say they care about the cost of living, but when in government the prices of everything went up, up, up—well over the consumer price index.

While I am on the cost of living, as members might recall I gave the House an update on the cost of living website. The former Leader of the Opposition featured on the website. I thought I should see what updates were on that website. I am pleased to report there is an update, but regrettably the cost of living website now says, "The page you were looking for was not found". That is how much they care about the cost of living. Not only do Labor members not appreciate what it takes to bring costs down and what it means to create jobs, they do not know how to build anything. I hear the moans from those opposite, but it is the truth.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Fairfield and the member for Wyong will come to order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Labor members do not know what it takes to do the serious planning, to do the work and to get on with building things. That is what Rebuilding NSW is all about. When we say we will build something, we build it. When we say we will create jobs, we create jobs. Since this Government has been in office, it has created more than 180,000 jobs. That is not a bad effort in a little over four years. The New South Wales unemployment rate has been at or below the national average for 17 months in a row. During the Opposition's last 40 months in office, the New South Wales unemployment rate was above the national average.

It is exciting that the Government's plans to rebuild New South Wales will commence from today. The hard work starts now. We thank the people of New South Wales for their support. We appreciate it is hard work. We respect the mandate and we will not let down the people of this State. Whether people live in the regions or the city, they deserve to have jobs, infrastructure and services in order to have a good quality of life. This Government is doing that. I congratulate all members who contributed to the important debate. *[Time expired.]*

CBD AND SOUTH EAST LIGHT RAIL PROJECT

Mr EDMOND ATALLA: My question is directed to the Premier. The Minister for Transport has asked those who will be impacted by traffic congestion during the construction of the light rail in the CBD to change their travel plans and yesterday said that people should avoid peak-hour train services due to overcrowding. At what time are commuters supposed to travel from Mount Druitt to the city?

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

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I thank the member for his question and his interest in his community. The good news for his community is that last night the Parliament passed legislation that will provide for 60 per cent more capacity across the rail network. If the members opposite were interested in their communities and public transport and in this Government delivering for the people of the State, they would have voted for it. But they voted against it. I have never seen a group of people that is more against public transport than this lot. Captain Congestion wants more congestion in this great city. He does not want public transport. He has not seen a public transport project that he does not want to cancel. The member for Keira was almost topped by his own leader. The debate on light rail is now between the hipsters and the nerds.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: The member for Mount Druitt is seeking important information from the Premier on behalf of his electorate. Will the Premier answer the question?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. There is no point of order.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: We have no idea why, all of a sudden, their opinion about light rail has changed. Two weeks ago members of the Opposition were hipsters but today they are nerds. The member for Keira believes it is because he has read some serious reports.

Mr Guy Zangari: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The people of Mount Druitt want to know what time in the morning they need to get up to catch the train.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. Opposition members will come to order.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: The members opposite raised the issue. I have heard in question time they want to be in office. If so, they have to give a clear indication of what they stand for.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Londonderry and the member for Keira will come to order.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: During the election campaign the Leader of the Opposition and each member opposite cried like Chicken Little, "The world will end if we lease poles and wires".

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Londonderry will cease interjecting. I remind members that interjections are disorderly at all times.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: What happened this afternoon?

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 129. The question is what time residents of Mount Druitt have to get out of bed—

The SPEAKER: Order! I heard the question. The Premier will return to the leave of the question.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: Apparently at the next election the member for Strathfield will be the member for Keira because she goes from seat to seat.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kiama will come to order. The House will come to order.

Ms Jodi McKay: The Premier knows that I am no longer the member for Newcastle and, if not, he should read the Independent Commission Against Corruption transcript.

The SPEAKER: Order! No standing order has been breached, if one was raised.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: During the taking of that point of order, I received a note from the member for Wollongong that said she is going to run as the member for Shellharbour.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order: I think I know the problem: the Premier does not know where Mount Druitt is.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The House will come to order. There are too many interjections from Opposition members.

Mr Edmond Atalla: Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 129. What has the Premier got against the people of Mount Druitt? I asked a simple question.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The House will come to order. As usual, the Opposition is in disarray.

SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT

Mr CHRIS PATTERSON: My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business. How is the New South Wales Government incentivising small business to employ more people?

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. There are far too many interjections. Members will be removed for the remainder of question time if they continue to interject, regardless of whether they are on three calls to order. The Minister has the call.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: What a great question from the member for Camden, who runs a family business and has been part of the thriving small business sector for 20 years. He understands small business. There must be something in the water in Camden because at the Australian Small Business Champion Awards this year three businesses from Camden received an award. Well done, Camden. It is a great day to take a question on small business because today our State has been given the green light to turbocharge our economy and to invest in roads, hospitals and schools in our communities. As the cranes pop up around Sydney and the rest of the State, as bitumen is laid on country roads and as concrete slabs are poured at our schools and hospitals, it will be clear that New South Wales is open for business.

Earlier this afternoon the Treasurer introduced a Small Business Grants (Employment Incentive) Bill, which is a key pillar in our Jobs Action Plan. The bill will establish the Small Business Employment Incentive

Scheme, helping the 680,000 small businesses across New South Wales to grow their business and create jobs. This bill will help the Baird-Grant Government to deliver on our commitment to create 150,000 jobs over the next four years. How can the people of New South Wales trust that we can do that? They simply need look at the last four years. We have proved our dedication to working hard for the people, communities and small businesses of New South Wales. We created the jobs with them.

Since we came to office in 2011, we have seen the creation of 188,000 new jobs in the State. New South Wales is now first in Australia's economic performance rankings. We have the fastest growing economy in Australia. Our State has experienced more growth and created more jobs than any other State. The latest data from the Sensis business report on small business shows employment growing strongly at 5 per cent over the last five years in accommodation and food services. On this side of the House, we have an ambitious plan, led by our Premier and Deputy Premier, to make New South Wales a truly great State, as it deserves to be. The contrast between the Government and the hopeless, chaotic Opposition could not be greater. The Opposition could not do anything better for small business. It surprises me no end that small business, which underpins the New South Wales economy, has been completely neglected by "youse", not only in the lead-up to the election but at this time. In fact, I congratulate the member for Swansea—

The SPEAKER: Order! Is the member taking offence to the misuse of grammar?

Ms Noreen Hay: Point of order: Once again the Minister is addressing members across the Chamber instead of speaking through the Speaker's chair.

The SPEAKER: Order! The point of order is upheld. The Minister will address his comments through the Chair.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: I congratulate the member for Swansea on her bravery in breaking the shameful record of the shamolic Sydney Labor Opposition by asking the first question in five years from the Opposition on small business. However, while I congratulate the member for Swansea, I also pause to wonder why the question did not come from the shadow spokesman for small business. I did a bit of research in the hope that the member for "whining"—because he is whining all the time—or the member for Wyong might have some experience in small business. I was thrilled to see that David Harris has been an entrepreneur prior to re-entering this place for his second crack at the leadership. Just as the congratulatory phone call—

Ms Noreen Hay: Point of order: The Minister is seeking to impugn the reputation of members on this side of the House. I ask you, Madam Speaker, to call him to desist.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is an outrage. The point of order is upheld. The Minister will not dare impugn the reputation of Opposition members. They would not do that to the Minister; the Minister will not dare do that to them. The Minister has the call.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: Just as I was on the cusp of making that congratulatory phone call to acknowledge the member for Wyong as a real risk taker, a pioneer for small business and someone who has been the victim of his own success, I googled a little more. Imagine my great disappointment when it turns out that the entrepreneur—that risk taker, that champion of small business—the real David Harris is the proud owner of Harris Farm Markets and sadly not the member for Wyong. But never fear, the shadow spokesman for small business has spoken about small business in this place.

Mr David Harris: Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 52. I am trying to listen to all the good things I am doing and I am finding it very difficult to hear.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: Unfortunately, there were not many good things.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr JOHN BARILARO: That was a timely point of order, because I was thinking about some of the good things the member for Wyong has done. The member for Wyong made a valuable contribution to the economy of New South Wales when he contributed to debate on small business and the Jobs Action Plan. He spoke against the Jobs Action Plan. What a champion for small business! You know you have backed a winner when your spokesman speaks against the 101,000 Jobs Action Plan registrations received and the rebates paid to date totalling \$93 million. Despite the shadow small business spokesman opposing our Jobs Action Plan, the

people of New South Wales can rest easy with the extension of the \$5,000 Jobs Action Plan payroll tax rebates for a further four years until 30 June 2019. But we should not be surprised that the Sydney Labor Opposition does not care about the hardworking mums and dads in small businesses, because they have never experienced it. We have a key plan to help small business.

Mr David Harris: Point of order: Madam Speaker, despite your earlier ruling, the Minister is directly talking to me. If he would like to move a substantive motion—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member's time has expired.

COAL SEAM GAS

Ms TAMARA SMITH: My question is directed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy. Will the Government ensure that if petroleum exploration licence [PEL] 445, which covers vast areas of the Northern Rivers, is not bought back by the end of the scheme on 30 June that it will take steps to cancel the licence?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I thank the member for Ballina for her question and her active interest in this matter. I acknowledge and thank also the member for Lismore for his tireless advocacy on behalf of his community on this issue. Since I came to this portfolio in 2013 the member for Lismore has been proactive in ensuring that I am made aware of his electorate's concerns about this matter. This includes the day that Lucas Energy announced its intention to apply petroleum exploration licence [PEL] 445. With respect to the member's question, I refer her to my answer to her question in this place on 13 May 2015. As per that previous answer, the Baird Government will not approve the transfer of any titles until it has exhausted potential buyback negotiations with the existing and/or proposed titleholder. The acquisition of PEL 445 by Lucas Energy is contingent on approval of the transfer of title from the Division of Resources and Energy, as the member for Ballina would be aware.

I inform the member for Ballina and the House that, to date, no application for a transfer of title has been received. The current buyback scheme has been extended until 30 June 2015. To date, we have reclaimed 12 licences in New South Wales, including two in the Northern Rivers. We have cancelled another three for violation of title. This has reduced the area covered by the footprint of coal seam gas from over half the State under the former Government to 11 per cent. As the member for Ballina is aware, PEL 445 is covered by the scheme we have in place. I look forward to working with the member for Ballina on this important issue.

ELECTRICITY PRIVATISATION

Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: My question is addressed to the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy. How will the lease of 49 per cent of the State's electricity network assist New South Wales households, and related matters?

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: What a great question from a member who cares about lowering energy costs for families and small businesses in his electorate. The people of New South Wales have had a major and historic victory today. The citizens of this great State are going to experience improvements in almost every aspect of their daily lives, despite the intense opposition from Labor. The leasing of 49 per cent of the poles and wires will lead to downward pressure on energy costs for families, small businesses and industry. That is because, as we know on this side of the House, businesses run by private operators are always more efficient than State-run enterprises. That is economics 101. The collapse of the Soviet Union is stark proof of that. Much to the chagrin of those opposite, Karl Marx was wrong.

Today's historic event means the end of union rorts paid for by the people of New South Wales through higher electricity costs. These rorts were endorsed and presided over by the tsars of Sussex Street. They have now come to an end. Electricity customers will no longer have to pay for: 26 per cent super payments for union members; 115 hours of work when only 40 hours are worked; union workers not working; two minutes pay for union members for every kilometre travelled for work; four hours pay for a one-hour callout; and the Electrical Trades Union fleet where 65 out of every 100 union members had a corporate car. Under private operators, New South Wales customers will pay less. Only yesterday the State's privately owned and operated gas network, Jemena, lowered household network charges by a massive 34 per cent.

The Leader of the Opposition has a history of opposing lower prices. He was against the deregulation of retail prices and voted against an automatic 1.5 per cent reduction on electricity bills. He actually thought it

was a stunt and said competition would raise prices; in fact, it has lowered prices. Those opposite argued that we needed to keep the networks with their "massive" dividends. If those opposite had done some homework they would have discovered that the dividends are falling to zero.

The Leader of the Opposition has accused the Government of trying to gag consumer advocates by preventing them from appealing Australian Energy Regulator [AER] determinations. I can inform the House that it was the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government that voted at the Council of Australian Governments [COAG] in 2013 to allow third party appeals to AER decisions. Those opposite need to do their homework. Those opposite claimed that a 43 per cent price rise under the first three years of the Liberal-Nationals Government was somehow our fault. In fact, those price rises were due to the previous AER determinations locked in under—who would guess—Labor. Recently in this place the Leader of the Opposition cited an Essential Energy report on hazard reduction and then said:

Essential Energy distributes electricity to the people of the Blue Mountains.

I have some news for the Leader of the Opposition. Essential Energy does not supply the Blue Mountains; Endeavour Energy does. Again, those opposite have not done their homework. Thanks to the sensible policies of the Liberals and The Nationals, energy costs have receded from their record highs under Labor. Our economic policies, deregulation of the market and the leasing of 49 per cent of the poles and wires will continue that downward trend. We all know the economic philosophy of those opposite is based on the Karl Marx manifesto *Das Capital* where the State runs, or should I say ruins, everything. It seems that the Leader of the Opposition has also studied the philosophy of that other Marx—Groucho Marx. Groucho once said:

Those are my principles, and if you don't like them ... well, I have others.

My advice to those opposite is to stick to the principle of delivering for the people of New South Wales, as we do on this side of the House. On this historic day, we are delivering to the good people of New South Wales \$20 billion, as we promised.

Question time concluded at 3.22 p.m.

JENNY SILLAR, SENIOR POLICY OFFICER, OFFICE OF NSW PREMIER

Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) [3.22 p.m.]: With the indulgence of the House, all of us in this place are honoured to represent our communities and we rely on our staff members to assist us in doing our job. It is a sad day for me because a staff member who has been with me for a large part of the journey, Jenny Sillar, is leaving. I pay tribute to her. She brings incredible compassion, intelligence, fun and good humour. Most importantly, she has a strong desire to make a difference in her community and this State. I am very sad that she is leaving but I am very proud of the decisions she has taken. The House thanks her for all her service.

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn—Leader of the Opposition) [3.23 p.m.]: I concur with the Premier that we are all very well served by our staff. On behalf of Labor members I join him in his thanks. Anyone who has the privilege of working for a Premier of this State should reflect on that with pride. I wish the good lady well, and I would welcome her working for me when I become Premier in 2019.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Dissent from Speaker's Ruling

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy) [3.24 p.m.]: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to:

- (1) Permit the notice of motion of dissent in the ruling of the Speaker given this day by the Leader of the Opposition for tomorrow, to be considered forthwith.
- (2) Provide for the following speaking time limits:
 - (a) Mover—5 minutes;
 - (b) Up to three other members—5 minutes each; and
 - (c) Mover in reply—5 minutes.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) [3.24 p.m.]: The standing orders set out the time limits for a motion of this sort. Those limits provide speaking time limits of 10 minutes for the mover and 10 minutes for any other speakers. The Speaker may truncate the debate at 30 minutes, as the Speaker indicated upon notice being given of the motion. The mover in reply should then get another 10 minutes speaking time. As this Government has done on every occasion of a motion of censure or no confidence, no matter what it might be, it is ducking the debate. It ducked debate on electricity privatisation, workers compensation and other matters. The Government now ambushes the House with this motion to suspend standing and sessional orders. The standing orders accord the Leader of the Opposition 20 minutes to address his serious motion and the motion now before the House seeks to cut that time in half. This is an act of cowardice and we will have no part in it.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy) [3.25 p.m.], in reply: I am very aware of the standing orders, and that is why we are moving to suspend them.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put.

The House divided.

Ayes, 51

Mr Anderson	Ms Goward	Mr Provest
Mr Aplin	Mr Grant	Mr Roberts
Mr Ayres	Mr Gulaptis	Mr Rowell
Mr Baird	Mr Hazzard	Mrs Skinner
Mr Barilaro	Mr Henskens	Mr Speakman
Ms Berejiklian	Ms Hodgkinson	Mr Stokes
Mr Conolly	Mr Humphries	Mr Taylor
Mr Constance	Mr Johnsen	Mr Toole
Mr Coure	Mr Kean	Mr Tudehope
Mr Crouch	Dr Lee	Ms Upton
Mrs Davies	Mr Maguire	Mr Ward
Mr Dominello	Mr Marshall	Mr Williams
Mr Elliott	Mr Notley-Smith	Mrs Williams
Mr Evans	Mr O'Dea	
Mr Fraser	Mrs Pavey	
Mr Gee	Mr Perrottet	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr George	Ms Petinos	Mr Bromhead
Ms Gibbons	Mr Piccoli	Mr Patterson

Noes, 39

Ms Aitchison	Mr Harris	Mr Parker
Mr Atalla	Ms Harrison	Mr Piper
Mr Barr	Ms Haylen	Mr Robertson
Ms Burney	Mr Hoenig	Ms K. Smith
Ms Car	Ms Hornery	Ms T. F. Smith
Ms Catley	Mr Kamper	Mr Warren
Mr Chanthivong	Ms Leong	Ms Washington
Mr Crakanthorp	Mr Lynch	Ms Watson
Mr Daley	Dr McDermott	Mr Zangari
Mr Dib	Ms McKay	
Ms Doyle	Mr Mehan	
Ms Finn	Ms Mihailuk	<i>Tellers,</i>
Mr Foley	Mr Minns	Ms Hay
Mr Greenwich	Mr Park	Mr Lalich

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

DISSENT**Ruling of the Speaker**

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn—Leader of the Opposition) [3.33 p.m.]: I move:

That this House dissents from the decisions of Madam Speaker given on 3 June 2015 when she:

- (1) Failed to uphold Standing Order 73, as the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport imputed improper motives and made personal reflections on a member, namely, the Leader of the Opposition, other than by substantive motion.
- (2) Did not require the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport to withdraw words that were a reflection on a member of the House and personally offensive.

Russell Grove's definitive work *New South Wales Legislative Assembly Practice, Procedure and Privilege* says at section 5.1 that the Speaker "must act with both authority and impartiality". To act with both authority and impartiality is not optional; it is your duty, Madam Speaker, and you failed in that duty yesterday. Standing Order 73 states that imputations of improper motives and personal reflections on members of either House are disorderly other than by substantive motion. The Minister yesterday said about me, "He has said that no-one wants you to come here—if you have the wrong colour, you do not want to invest in our State." I took a point of order pursuant to Standing Order 73. You correctly, Madam Speaker, asked the Minister to withdraw. He could and should have withdrawn the offensive remarks that he uttered.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order. I am listening intently to what the Leader of the Opposition has to say.

Mr LUKE FOLEY: I accept that he did not assist you by refusing to withdraw his offensive remarks, but when he failed to do so it fell to you in the exercise of your duties to—

Mr Brad Hazzard: Point of order: I have no problem with the Leader of the Opposition speaking to his motion but it is not the appropriate method to attack or address the Speaker in the way he is addressing you. He may raise his issue but he is doing it in an improper way.

The SPEAKER: Order! That is okay. I am used to it. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Mr LUKE FOLEY: The test of what is offensive is outlined in Grove at page 105, where he says:

The essential element in such cases is that the words personally offend an individual member ... As such, practice of the House has been that, if a member takes exception to a remark on the ground that it is personally offensive, the Chair will insist on its withdrawal ...

He goes on to say:

... and if a member is ordered by the Chair to withdraw certain words and refuses to do so, the member may, under standing order 250(3), be named ...

That is what the Speaker failed to do yesterday. Standing Order 73 forbids personal reflections. The statement of the Speaker yesterday when she said, "I cannot compel the Minister to withdraw a remark", is dead wrong. She has the power and she has the duty under Standing Order 73. Under Standing Order 74 it is clear that the Speaker may intervene when offensive or disorderly words are used by a member.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order.

Mr LUKE FOLEY: If a comment directed at another member of this House accusing him of being a racist is not disorderly then what is? If that is the standard then it is now permissible for anything to be said about any member of this Chamber. If that is the rule now then it will be Rafferty's rules. You are the custodian, Madam Speaker, of the rights and the privileges of elected members of Parliament. I say to members that the Speaker did not uphold the rights and privileges of elected members of Parliament yesterday. The Speaker did not interpret correctly the standing orders of the House and that is why I take the rare step of moving this motion.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy) [3.38 p.m.]: It is atrocious that this motion has come before the House. Madam Speaker, since your appointment to the Chair over

four years ago, you have discharged your duties with good judgement, appropriate restraint and, most importantly, impartiality. Certainly members on the Government side of the Chamber have nothing but the utmost respect for not only the office you hold but also the way in which you discharge its duties. We know that you do your best to maintain appropriate order in this Chamber whilst ensuring the rights and privileges of all members are respected. We know also that should you sanction members on the Government side of the House, as you have done from time to time, that is because those members have brought the reputation of the House into disrepute. Government members respect your judgement and your sanction. Government members take responsibility for their actions and do not come into the House to move baseless motions like the one being debated now.

We also know that Opposition members are notorious for not doing their homework. They have little awareness of the standing orders of this place. In 1988 Speaker Rozzoli ruled that the Chair has no power to order a member to retract a statement. For that reason an offending member has a right to make a personal explanation to rebut the alleged incorrect statement. Furthermore, in 1995 Speaker Murray ruled that the Chair has no power to direct a member—in that case, the Premier—to withdraw remarks that a member found offensive. In addition, Speaker Kelly in both 1966 and 1977 stated that members should not be over-ready to complain of rugged and forthright criticism.

Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition asked for a statement to be withdrawn. The Speaker rightfully made a similar request of the Minister. It is entirely within the discretion of the Minister whether he wishes to withdraw. Rightfully, the Minister did not withdraw his substantiated statement. The behaviour of Opposition members yesterday in this Chamber was disgraceful. To continually flout the rulings of the Chair, speak over the Chair, and bring the House into gross disorder brings down the reputation of this Chamber in the public eye. The Speaker indeed was right to take action against those involved. This motion and the behaviour of Opposition members is intended to mask the embarrassment of Opposition members at the gross and racist campaign run by their party and the unions in February and March this year.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: I refer to comments made by Mr Mark Latham, who described the campaign as "... a disgustingly racist dog-whistling pitch to Hanson-ite voters" and, with respect to Mr Clements, "... a deeply cynical log-rolling campaign director who masterminded Labor's anti-Chinese advertising blitz".

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Opposition members should not come into this House and try to shout their way out of their embarrassment. Opposition members should not move ridiculous motions like the one we are debating to cover up what they have done. Labor members should hang their heads in shame about that campaign, apologise and condemn those involved. Has Labor condemned the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union [CFMEU]? Will Labor members speak out against the Labor Party secretary Jamie Clements? Of course they will not. The once great New South Wales Labor Party descended during the last election campaign to its lowest level since Labor-aligned unions rattled ammunition on transport ships destined for New Guinea during World War II.

The SPEAKER: Order! Opposition members will have an opportunity to respond. Opposition members will come to order.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Madam Speaker, you have the full support of Government members in this place. You hold your office in the dignity and respect that it deserves. Do not be put off by the desperation of Opposition members. The Government strongly opposes this motion.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH: Madam Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Sydney.

Ms LINDA BURNEY: Madam Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Canterbury may seek leave to speak.

Ms LINDA BURNEY: It is our motion.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Sydney rose to seek the call before the member for Canterbury.

Ms Linda Burney: You have got to be kidding.

The SPEAKER: Order! It may be that the motion was moved by the Leader of the Opposition, but the debate on the suspension of standing orders counted as a contribution from a number of speakers. The call usually would go to the Opposition, but the member for Sydney rose first to seek the call. I will allow the member for Canterbury, through the Leader of the House, to be an additional speaker in the debate.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: If I may assist, the standing orders provide for a mover, up to three other members and the mover in reply.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is not necessary to give the call to speakers from alternate sides of the House. I have indicated that the member for Canterbury will be able to seek leave to contribute to the debate, as I am sure she will.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) [3.42 p.m.]: My advice to the Opposition is to play the ball, not the Speaker. If this motion was about condemning the comments made by the Minister yesterday, it would have my full support. If this motion was about condemning racism and racist campaigns, obviously it would have my full support. But this motion is an attempt at point-scoring. We have sat through question time after question time while a number of very important community issues have not been raised in this place. As I said, we must play the ball, not the Speaker. Rather than discussing the impacts of climate change on the Government's asset sales of the poles and wires, rather than discussing the ripping up of cycling infrastructure, and rather than discussing the damage that the Government's forced amalgamations campaign will have, we are engaging in nothing more than base political point-scoring that is wasting Parliament's time.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Sydney will be heard in silence.

Mr ALEX GREENWICH: The community expects better from this House and deserves better. We must ensure that we do not use the time of the House to distract from the issues we should be dealing with. I am informed that there is no standing order that gives the Speaker discretion to force the Minister to withdraw his comments. It would be a different situation if such a standing order existed. I believe that this motion is a waste of Parliament's time. As I said, the community expects better and deserves better.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Parliamentary Secretary) [3.46 p.m.]: This motion reflects entirely on the Leader of the Opposition and not your rulings, Madam Speaker. I say today that this motion is an absolute disgrace. I have seen bullying before. I have been bullied. This is an example of bullying of the first female Speaker of this Parliament. It is a disgrace. The Leader of the Opposition should be seen for what he is. Not only are you a racist, you are a bully!

Ms Linda Burney: Withdraw!

Mr Ryan Park: Withdraw!

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Keira will come to order.

Mr GARETH WARD: The truth cannot be withdrawn. That is exactly what you are.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: Unless I am mistaken, I am sure that the member for Kiama uttered the words, "Not only are you a racist but you are a bully". That is a bridge too far for my friend the member for Kiama, who is a good parliamentarian. I ask the member for Kiama to withdraw that comment.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. The member for Kiama has been asked to withdraw the remark. Will the member withdraw?

Mr GARETH WARD: I withdraw in the interests of moving on.

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

Mr GARETH WARD: I wish to address Speaker Ellis's ruling in 1966, which is the authority on this matter.

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

Mr GARETH WARD: It refers to fairly and reasonably reflecting on the member's view of what was offensive. Does the Leader of the Opposition indicate in the motion the words that he considered were offensive?

Mrs Melinda Pavey: No.

Mr GARETH WARD: So how could the Speaker be a mind-reader and suggest what he thought was offensive when he did not actually indicate the words he thought were offensive during the debate? This is mock indignation of the worst kind. This is B-grade acting at best from the Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order.

Mr GARETH WARD: This motion says more about the condition of the rabble that sits opposite today than Madam Speaker's rulings. In fact, to describe Opposition members as a rabble is an insult to a rabble. One would need to delve into the deepest and darkest depths of a thesaurus to find an appropriate collective noun to describe the loose confederation of warring tribes that sit opposite Government members. I know that this type of motion would not have been moved by the member for Blacktown if he was the Leader of the Opposition because he is a man of principle and a man of this Parliament. I am sure that a motion similar to the motion we are debating will not be moved by the member for Kogarah—a person to whom Government members refer as Simba—when he becomes the Leader of the Opposition.

Why do Government members refer to the member for Kogarah as Simba? It is because he was held aloft above the Sussex Street Serengeti and told, "One day, Simba, this will all be yours. Everywhere the light touches will be your kingdom." There is one person who wants to thwart his attempts. He is known as Scar, but on this side of the House we refer to him as the member for Maroubra. He is ably assisted by those three hyenas known as the members for Shellharbour, Maitland and Cabramatta. Out of the dark lands, Simba, come the members for Balmain and Newtown. Nothing good can come from them.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: Contrary to what the member for Kiama might believe, Standing Order 73 does apply to this debate right now, as well.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr GARETH WARD: That was tough; I am mortally wounded. The reality is that this is a waste of the Parliament's time. This is an appalling reflection on a Speaker who, I know, works for all sides of the House. Today, the Opposition has sought to do something that will reflect on Opposition members. They have chosen not to use the time in the oldest Parliament of this country to debate issues that are important to the community. They have come into this place to besmirch one of the best parliamentarians in this place, whom they did not oppose when there was a vote for her position only a few weeks ago. The Opposition did not even nominate somebody for that position. The Opposition has moved a motion but has not named the particular words that were offensive. They expect the Speaker to be a mind-reader. Their own Speaker, Speaker Murray, used to make members say what they were offended by.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kogarah will come to order.

Mr GARETH WARD: How can the Speaker assume what the Leader of the Opposition found offensive? I find this motion offensive. It is a waste of Parliament's time. I will not be voting for this, because if we do we will lower the bar just that little bit more. That is what the Opposition is trying to do. I will not allow it. Members of Parliament will not allow it. Madam Speaker, I support you. I support your work in this place and I call on the House to reject this feckless, ridiculous and outrageous motion.

Ms LINDA BURNEY (Canterbury) [3.51 p.m.], by leave: The bottom line is that one member accused another of being a racist in this place. There can be no circumstances where that can be justified or acceptable. I think the Premier should have instructed his members at least to be civil, decent and respectful in this debate but clearly that has not happened. Yesterday, the Speaker of this House failed in her duty to uphold standing orders as outlined by the member for Auburn. The ruling failed the conventions of this House. Your ruling

yesterday, Madam Speaker, also failed the people of New South Wales. Instead of demanding that the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events withdraw his disgraceful reflections on the Leader of the Opposition, you allowed them to stand.

No-one values robust debate more than I. The bills we pass are important, and they must be scrutinised, but that does not give members the right to abuse the privilege of being in this place. That privilege was abused by the Minister yesterday. That those opposite cannot see how personally offensive the accusation of racism is speaks of their lack of understanding in this matter. Racism is not academic. The accusation of racism is not a schoolyard taunt. It is deeply offensive. It is a personal reflection. Perhaps the Speaker and those opposite consider this a trivial matter, but I do not. Those on this side of the House do not believe that this is a trivial matter, and neither do the communities that we represent. There is only one word for the behaviour and comments of the Minister yesterday, and that is "ugly".

The story of our nation and of our State has been one of tolerance, respect, recognition and celebration of difference. For 30 years at least this side of the House has valued multiculturalism. Our party has championed the great contribution that immigrants have made to this place. What is outstanding is that I have also heard many of those on the other side of the House championing that matter. They have also said that they respect multiculturalism. Yesterday we heard the Minister make that comment and today we have had it treated like a trivial matter. That says a whole lot of things.

Yesterday, the standing orders were used unfairly to cast aspersions on the Leader of the Opposition and all members of this place, particularly the Opposition. Yesterday's events demonstrated a total lack of regard for this place and its conventions; it also demonstrated that those opposite—including, unfortunately the Speaker—are incapable of taking racism seriously. The conventions of this place were ignored yesterday. The actions, the laughing and the carry-on today from the other side of the House just make it worse and uglier. How on earth can you possibly think that this is funny? Minister Dominello, Minister Grant and Minister Williams do not think so, because they understand. I can see how embarrassed and mortified they are. And so should you be, Premier. It is clear that the Speaker's ruling yesterday was plain wrong. The Minister made a personally offensive remark and, contrary to the Speaker's comments, it was well within the limits of her power to expel the Minister from this House.

The Minister failed in his responsibility. His over-enthusiastic comments yesterday were beyond the pale. It was not what he should be standing for. The Minister is not a bad person, but yesterday he let himself down, he let this House down and he let down the people and the community that he represents. Despite the way in which the decisions were made in this place yesterday—the lack of convention and the lack of application of the rules that should have applied—the Minister should have had the sense and the maturity to withdraw the words. There was a personal reflection on the member for Auburn, and in that personal reflection there was a reflection on everyone in this House. The Minister and Madam Speaker failed in their responsibilities.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) [3.56 p.m.], by leave: On behalf of The Greens I express our disappointment that we are debating this motion.

Ms Linda Burney: Racism is not important to The Greens?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Newtown will continue, despite that interjection.

Ms JENNY LEONG: The motion raises the issue of dissent from a ruling of the Speaker, when it was actually the actions of the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events and what he said that were the real issue. The member for Kiama just gave us an example of what happens when things get heated in this place and people yell and get a little bit out of control. On those occasions people may say something that they wish they had not put on the record.

The SPEAKER: Order! All Government members could learn a lesson from this.

Ms JENNY LEONG: I think the member for Canterbury may have done something similar.

Ms Linda Burney: I apologised.

Ms JENNY LEONG: That is what I meant. In those circumstances, the Speaker has the ability to ask members to withdraw the statements that they make. It is a heated environment that we work in, and it is

understandable that we may recognise that—as the member for Kiama and the member for Canterbury just did—and withdraw or apologise for the words that we use. Unfortunately, the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events did not see fit to take up the Speaker's request yesterday and withdraw the comments that were made about the Leader of the Opposition. As someone who may have had interesting dealings with the Leader of the Opposition and his involvement in the campaign for Newtown, I was genuinely offended by the accusations that were made about him.

I was really disappointed that the Minister did not take the Speaker's request seriously and simply withdraw the accusation that he made. If he had done that we would not be debating this motion today. The issue of race and racism might be a joke to some Government members, but it is not a joke to me and it is not a joke to the people of Newtown. I say to many of the members who made their inaugural speeches in this place that were linked to racism, their race, their cultural identity and ethnicity that racism is not a joke. It is not something to stir up and debate.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Castle Hill that the member for Newtown has the call.

Ms JENNY LEONG: I say that in this place there is no place for racist jokes or for whipping up racist fear on all sides.

Mr Ray Williams: Point of order: And racist comments should not be made in political campaigns.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Ms JENNY LEONG: I assure everybody—and I have made these comments publically—that when it comes to the privatisation of electricity and the race of the people we are selling that electricity to, the issue is the selling and the privatisation of electricity. Race should not matter. I will call people on that as well, but we are talking about the remarks the Minister made yesterday. The Minister could now stand up and withdraw his comments, just as the member for Kiama did earlier, and then we would not need to debate this motion. Unfortunately, that has not occurred. I hope the Minister recognises that this debate is damaging in this place. It is damaging and hurtful for us to whip up politics and fear, and create divisions on matters on which we should be showing leadership. He should stand up now and seek leave to withdraw the comment so that we can move on with the business of the House.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) [4.01 p.m.], by leave: I thank Government members for allowing me the opportunity to say a few words on this very important issue. On 13 June 2013 the then Chief of Army, Lieutenant General David Morrison, AO, delivered an incredibly powerful speech on unacceptable behaviour. The vast majority of members in this House have never served and never will serve our nation through military service. However, there is something we can all take from the words he delivered on walking away and ignoring something we know is wrong. The Chief of Army asked people to show moral courage and to take a stand against the behaviour of an individual that degrades another.

The electorate of Lakemba is made up of 150 diverse cultural groups. People come from varied lands and have their own stories to tell. They came to Australia to make a new home and to have a better life for themselves and their children. They are hardworking people who participate in all aspects of society. They are good folk, the salt of the earth, and do what they can to make a contribution to this great nation of ours. I felt it was a personal reflection and an improper motive by a Minister of the Crown to accuse members of this side of the House of being racist. I do not know the Minister very well. However, I would hazard a guess that he has never been the victim of racism. He has never seen his parents racially vilified and spat at, and had their loyalty to this nation questioned.

Ms Gladys Berejiklian: A lot of us have.

Mr JIHAD DIB: I said he has not. We all bring our stories to this place. Our stories shape who we are, what we stand for and the reasons we make various decisions. The Minister stood in this place yesterday and unfortunately allowed his wit to get the better of his wisdom. He made comments that were nothing short of disgraceful about our party and indeed about us. This is the very same person who, in his inaugural speech, spoke about not judging people on their "race, creed, religion, age, gender or sexuality". There are many like me who have spent their entire lives fighting bigotry.

I did not enter this place thinking I would see it so blatantly and so early on. It is the bear pit and there is a bit of rough and tumble, but there are certain lines that should not be crossed, and that was one of them. If members opposite want to talk about racism there is no shortage of people on this side who can talk about their personal experiences. Not only was it an insult, it was incredibly offensive to sit here and argue with a fellow member while the mob mentality kicked in. There were jeers, encouragement and indeed one Minister thought it might be a good idea to start clapping.

Mr Gareth Ward: Point of order: My point of order is relevance. This motion is about your actions, Madam Speaker, not the actions of the Minister. The member should return to the leave of the motion.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Lakemba that the motion is about dissent from the Speaker's ruling. I understand that what he is saying is relevant, but the basis of the point of order is that the motion is about dissent from my ruling.

Mr JIHAD DIB: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Not only was it an insult, but it was incredibly offensive. More deplorable was the behaviour of the Minister and the way Government members carried on.

The SPEAKER: Order! The motion is about my behaviour.

Mr JIHAD DIB: Yesterday students were present as part of the leadership program. They were looking at the different ways this House operates. This was a reminder of the worst that we have. We speak of multiculturalism. Multiculturalism starts with acceptance, it starts here in this House; it starts with all of us; and there are good people in here. Leadership is not a badge that we wear. Leadership is shown through our actions. We cannot just stand by, watch this and not be offended. We should make the point if we can under the standing orders. Our constituents and humanity expect us to stand up for what is right. Harmony needs to start with our behaviour in this place. In conclusion, I will go to the words of Lieutenant General David Morrison, then Chief of Army, who said:

The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.

That goes for all of us, but especially for those who, by their rank, have a leadership role.

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport) [4.06 p.m.], by leave: I speak against this censure motion largely because this place has gathered for more than 200 years to debate things that will be vigorous from time to time. I take the words that the member for Lakemba just quoted, the words of a brave Australian soldier, whom we should listen to more often:

The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.

Yesterday, as many people before us in this Chamber have done, we took a stand and said we are not going to accept that. We debate issues from time to time and we run elections. In those elections we put our own values in front of the people of New South Wales. We then do not get to say that we do not accept what we did during that election when we walk into this place. I lay on the table for the information of members, stills from an advertising campaign run by the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union [CFMEU] that clearly show the Chinese flag in both of them.

The stills ran from an advertisement that was, "Selling the electricity network is wrong"; "Selling it to another country is just not on" and then exposed the Chinese flag. Every person in this House, if they were honest with themselves, knows that saying that we do not want to sell this enterprise to a foreign country. That is exactly what they were saying. It was designed to incite a racial motivation. It was designed to reach down into the gutter and find the things that people fear most. Madam Speaker, when you offered me the opportunity to withdraw my comments yesterday I chose not to do so. I chose to use this House to say to the people of New South Wales that that type of advertising campaign is wrong. I also use this House as an opportunity—

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

Mr STUART AYRES: Make no mistake, silence is concurrence in this world.

The SPEAKER: Order! Opposition members should have listened to the comments of the member for Newtown about acrimony in this House. We should have respect for each other. The Minister has the call.

Mr STUART AYRES: I am very clear about the words I used yesterday. I used the word "colour" and that is what set people off.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will have an opportunity to reply to the motion. The House will come to order.

Mr STUART AYRES: We are fond of using big words such as "xenophobia" or "racism", but we know what we are talking about. I will not withdraw those comments. I support the Speaker's offer of an opportunity to withdraw my comments. I chose not to. If the Leader of the Opposition wanted to move a substantive motion, it should have been moved against me. We could have argued in debate whether members on the other side of the Chamber stood up to the people who helped fund their campaign. Labor members had every opportunity throughout the campaign to say that the remarks of the CFMEU—

Ms Noreen Hay: Point of order: The member is not dealing with the motion.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member is dealing with the motion.

Ms Noreen Hay: A previous point of order was upheld that the member for Lakemba was not dealing with your actions when he dealt with what the Minister said. The Minister is now dealing with what he said and is repeating the offensive remarks.

The SPEAKER: Order! I understand what the member is saying. There is no point of order. The Minister has the call.

Mr STUART AYRES: Our truest weaknesses are exposed in our darkest moments. I have absolutely no doubt that if the Leader of the Opposition had his time again, he would have condemned the CFMEU campaign. He has had every opportunity to do so in this House. What I said yesterday was a reflection of what Labor members did throughout the campaign. That is why they failed in the eyes of the people and that is why they have to live with it for the next four years.

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn—Leader of the Opposition) [4.11 p.m.], in reply: I thank members for their contributions to debate on this motion. I draw the attention of the member for Sydney to the ruling of Speaker Ellis on 15 November 1966, in which he stated:

If language is used which is capable of giving offence to a member and he takes objection to it, the Chair will order that it be withdrawn...

Russell Grove, in his definitive work *New South Wales Legislative Assembly Practice, Procedure and Privilege*, wrote:

The essential element in such cases is that the words personally offend an individual member... As such, practice of the House has been that, if a member takes exception to a remark on the ground that it is personally offensive, the Chair will insist on its withdrawal...

That is not optional. Speaker Ellis stated in 1966 and the former Clerk—in his definitive work *New South Wales Legislative Assembly Practice, Procedure and Privilege*—stated clearly:

... if a member takes exception to a remark on the ground that it is personally offensive, the Chair will insist on its withdrawal...

I am moving this rare motion because the Speaker, when she was put in the unfortunate position of having to act—because of the disgraceful failure of the Minister to withdraw his offensive remarks—did not do so. She should have upheld my point of order. It was a personal reflection on me that I took exception to. Standing Order 74 clearly states that when offensive or disorderly words are used by a member, the Speaker can intervene. Yesterday the Minister said I was discriminating against people on the basis of their colour. I have never done that, and I never will. That is why I take offence. The Minister was not talking about the CFMEU or advertisements. He was talking about me. He said:

He has said that no-one wants you to come here—if you have the wrong colour...

He said those words about me. How can that not be a breach of Standing Order 73? If those comments are allowed to stand in the absence of a withdrawal and the Speaker does not act to protect members then anything

goes here—anything can be said. We are sensitive on this side of the House, given what happened to Ed Husic in Greenway in 2004; given what the Liberal Party got up to in Lindsay in 2007; and given what the Liberal Party got up to in Padstow in the electorate of East Hills in 2015.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Point of order: The parameters of this debate are very clear. At the moment the member is seeking to extend it far beyond those parameters. Rationality and what the member for Newtown said should be the guide, and the debate should be strictly about the issue in question, not going back over the past 50 years. That is ludicrous.

The SPEAKER: Order! Generally the Leader of the Opposition is within the leave of the motion.

Mr LUKE FOLEY: Let us be clear: The Liberal Party has peddled racist leaflets against Labor candidates at multiple elections over the past 10 years. The Minister's own party did it in Lindsay.

Mr Anthony Roberts: Point of order: the Leader of the Opposition is introducing new material in his speech in reply. I would like that comment claiming we were distributing racist material withdrawn. [*Time expired.*]

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put.

The House divided.

Ayes, 34

Ms Aitchison	Mr Foley	Mr Minns
Mr Atalla	Mr Harris	Mr Park
Mr Barr	Ms Harrison	Mr Robertson
Ms Burney	Ms Haylen	Ms K. Smith
Ms Car	Mr Hoenig	Mr Warren
Ms Catley	Ms Horner	Ms Washington
Mr Chanthivong	Mr Kamper	Ms Watson
Mr Crakanthorp	Mr Lynch	Mr Zangari
Mr Daley	Dr McDermott	
Mr Dib	Ms McKay	<i>Tellers,</i>
Ms Doyle	Mr Mehan	Ms Hay
Ms Finn	Ms Mihailuk	Mr Lalich

Noes, 56

Mr Anderson	Mr Grant	Mr Piccoli
Mr Aplin	Mr Greenwich	Mr Piper
Mr Ayres	Mr Gulaptis	Mr Provest
Mr Baird	Mr Hazzard	Mr Roberts
Mr Barilaro	Mr Henskens	Mr Rowell
Ms Berejiklian	Ms Hodgkinson	Mrs Skinner
Mr Conolly	Mr Humphries	Ms T. F. Smith
Mr Constance	Mr Johnsen	Mr Speakman
Mr Coure	Mr Kean	Mr Stokes
Mr Crouch	Dr Lee	Mr Taylor
Mrs Davies	Ms Leong	Mr Toole
Mr Dominello	Mr Maguire	Mr Tudehope
Mr Elliott	Mr Marshall	Ms Upton
Mr Evans	Mr Notley-Smith	Mr Ward
Mr Fraser	Mr O'Dea	Mr Williams
Mr Gee	Mr Parker	Mrs Williams
Mr George	Mrs Pavey	<i>Tellers,</i>
Ms Gibbons	Mr Perrottet	Mr Bromhead
Ms Goward	Ms Petinos	Mr Patterson

Question resolved in the negative.

Motion negatived.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Chairs and Deputy Chairs

The SPEAKER: I advise the House, pursuant to Standing Order 282 (2), that:

- (1) On 3 June 2015:
- (a) Damien Francis Tudehope was elected Chair and Adam John Marshall was elected Deputy Chair of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption.
 - (b) Lee Justin Evans was elected Chair and Eleni Marie Petinos was elected Deputy Chair of the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission.
 - (c) Gregory John Aplin was elected Chair and Scot Macdonald MLC was elected Deputy Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety.
 - (d) Michael John Johnsen was elected Chair and Lee Justin Evans was elected Deputy Chair of the Legislation Review Committee.
- (2) On 4 June 2015:
- (a) Kevin John Anderson was elected Chair and Gregory John Aplin was elected Deputy Chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development.
 - (b) Jai Travers Rowell was elected Chair and the Honourable Robert Borsack MLC was elected Deputy Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced that the following petitions signed by fewer than 500 persons were lodged for presentation:

Sydney Electorate Public High School

Petition requesting the establishment of a public high school in the Sydney electorate, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Elizabeth Bay Marina

Petition calling for an open and transparent public tender process for development of the Elizabeth Bay Marina, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Inner-city Social Housing

Petition requesting the retention and proper maintenance of inner-city public housing stock, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Same-sex Marriage

Petition supporting same-sex marriage, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Pet Shops

Petition opposing the sale of animals in pet shops, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Slaughterhouse Monitoring

Petition requesting mandatory closed-circuit television for all New South Wales slaughterhouses, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Pig-dog Hunting Ban

Petition requesting the banning of pig-dog hunting in New South Wales, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Container Deposit Levy

Petition requesting the Government introduce a container deposit levy to reduce litter and increase recycling rates of drink containers, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS (EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE) BILL

Bill introduced on motion by Ms Gladys Berejiklian, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations)
[4.24 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill delivers on the Government's Jobs for New South Wales election commitment to encourage job creation and grow the economy. The bill is designed to incentivise the nearly 650,000 small businesses in New South Wales that do not pay payroll tax. The bill establishes the Small Business Employment Incentive scheme, which will help deliver the Government's target of 150,000 new jobs in New South Wales over the next four years. We as a Government appreciate the importance of job creation to our economy. We will do everything we can to increase jobs. This is a Government committed to making it easier for all employers to take on extra staff. The bill builds on the Jobs Action Plan extension that was passed last week.

Data on the Jobs Action Plan, which provides a \$5,000 rebate for payroll taxpaying businesses that take on an extra employee for two years, shows that up to the end of April 2015, 101,983 registrations had been received. It is disappointing to note that the Labor Party opposed the extension legislation. Its reasons were very flimsy. Its main excuse was that the bill did not consider non-payroll taxpaying businesses. It has no room to move on this. We have a comprehensive plan to keep New South Wales running as the engine room of the Australian economy. We promised to make our State the strongest in Australia, and we have. We took office when the economy was at a very low point and the budget was in tatters. In just over four years we have turned that around. We have created more than 100,000 jobs. This bill will assist in the further creation of jobs.

The Small Business Employment Incentive Grant Scheme will provide a grant to employers of up to \$2,000 per full-time employee. In the case of a part-time employee, the amount of the grant will be pro-rataed based on the number of hours worked compared to the standard hours of the particular employer's full-time employees. Employers will receive the grant in a lump sum after the first anniversary of the hire of a new employee. The grant scheme will apply to new positions filled on or after 1 July 2015 and will continue until 1 July 2019. To obtain the grant, employers will initially register a new employee with the Office of State Revenue within 60 days after the employee commences work. Small businesses have 60 days in which to register. An employer who satisfies the eligibility criteria will be able to apply for payment of the grant after the first anniversary of the date on which the employment commenced.

The eligibility criteria for the grant have been designed to ensure employers increase the number of employees for at least 12 months. Eligibility criteria for the grant include: the employer is an eligible small business, the position must be a genuinely new position, the employment commences on or after 1 July 2015 and before July 2019, the wages of the new employee must not be liable for payroll tax in New South Wales, and the work must be performed wholly or mainly in New South Wales.

While the grant scheme is closely modelled on the existing Jobs Action Plan, there are a number of differences—and that is important to highlight here for the purpose of the passage of this bill. The grant ensures that new employees are not limited to one new position but can be moved within their company, reflecting the flexibility needed in small businesses with lesser staff numbers. Unlike the Jobs Action Plan, which provides a payroll tax rebate for new jobs where the number of full-time equivalent staff increases and is maintained over a two-year period, the Small Business Employment Incentive grant will be paid to businesses where they increase their employee numbers, including part-time and casual, and maintain the increase for one year.

Employers of apprentices and trainees can receive the grant—whereas under the Jobs Action Plan they are not eligible. These criteria ensure that small businesses that take on the additional costs and obligations of hiring apprentices and trainees may receive up to \$2,000. The registration period has been extended to 60 days

to allow small businesses more time to apply. The combination of the Jobs Action Plan and the Small Business Employment Incentive grant scheme are designed to assist the nearly 700,000 businesses in New South Wales to expand and to employ more staff. I find it difficult to comprehend how any member of the House could contemplate not supporting this bill. Since the New South Wales Government came to office, around 188,300 jobs have been created.

This bill provides real incentive for businesses to employ new workers and encourages employers to expand their operations in New South Wales. It is part of our commitment to making sure that New South Wales is the first place not only to do business in Australia but also where people can be assured of the security that having a job brings. I commend the bill to the House. I seek the support of the Opposition and ask those opposite to reconsider the negativity on jobs creation that they have demonstrated in recent weeks in relation to the Jobs Action Plan extension legislation. I ask them to consider supporting this bill. It is a huge boost to incentivise those businesses that do not pay payroll tax in New South Wales to take on more employees and help them to establish their careers, and thus assist job creation in New South Wales.

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

Pursuant to sessional order community recognition statements proceeded with.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS

INGLEBURN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) [4.31 p.m.]: Local businesses are an important part of our community. Last week I had the pleasure of meeting with President Jim Jelich, Secretary Phil Occhiuto and the executive team of the Ingleburn Chamber of Commerce. They are long-term residents of our local community and care very much about its future. These are successful, dedicated people in my local area providing not only employment but also ideas on how to make our community a better place. Their contribution is not limited to commercial enterprise; members of the chamber are also involved in a number of local services, charities and community events. I very much look forward to working with the chamber for many years to come as their local member and take this opportunity in the New South Wales Parliament to acknowledge the role the chamber of commerce plays in making my local community a better place.

COOTAMUNDRA ELECTORATE RESERVE TRUST MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON (Cootamundra—Parliamentary Secretary) [4.32 p.m.]: I draw to the attention of the House the wonderful work done by people working on reserve trusts in this State. In particular, several people in my electorate will soon receive long service awards. They include: Raymond Blackwood from the Young Showground Trust, John Walker from the Young Community Purposes (Cadet Training) Reserve Trust Nonette Brown from the Young Community Arts Centre Trust, and Robert Stewart from the Murrumburrah Showground Trust.

Geoffrey Slavin from the Bendick Murrell Recreation Reserve Trust, Pat Fletcher from the Young Showground Trust, John Sweeney and Michael Drum from the Bribbaree Bush Fire Brigade Trust, Andrew Jarrat from the Bribbaree Showground Trust, Albert Houghton and Albert Trengo from the Koorawatha Showground Trust, Margaret Hall from the Young Community Arts Centre Trust, William West from the Bribbaree Showground Trust, Brian McNair from the Bribbaree Showground Trust, and Kevin Bradford and Neville Alcorn from the Murrumburrah Showground Trust will also receive long service awards. There are many recipients of these medals throughout the electorate of Cootamundra, and these are just a few of them.

CAMPBELLTOWN COLLEGIANS ATHLETICS CLUB

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) [4.33 p.m.]: I am honoured today to ask the House to acknowledge the Campbelltown Collegians Athletics Club, which recently held its annual presentation day. It has been a big year for the Collegians, with a record-breaking 72 athletes representing the club at State level. Many young boys and girls from the club travelled to represent Campbelltown at State level and did us proud. Collegians is an entirely volunteer-run club, with dozens of local parents and caregivers sacrificing their time to give our local kids the opportunity to run, throw and jump every Friday night. I was honoured to

attend the club's presentation night a few weeks ago and was also given the opportunity to present the club's most prestigious awards: junior and senior sportsperson of the year and volunteer of the year. We all know the value of volunteering and the importance of sport for young people in our communities. I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Campbelltown Collegians Athletics Club on a great year, and I wish it many more to come.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY LEAGUE CITY TEAM

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport) [4.34 p.m.]: I congratulate the Wheelchair Rugby League city team on their win over the country team in their inaugural match, held on 2 May 2015 in Wagga Wagga. Captained by Penrith local Nathan Pentecost, the city team defeated the country team by 68 points to 24. The city team was comprised of Nathan Pentecost from the Panthers, Daniel Begman from the Canterbury Bulldogs, Fabian Castillo from the Newcastle Knights, James Lewis from the Panthers and Craig Cannane from the St George-Illawarra Dragons.

Wheelchair Rugby League is an inclusive game and caters to a mix of people with disabilities, as well as able-bodied people so long as they play from a wheelchair. I also note that New South Wales will be taking on Queensland in the inaugural State versus State match to be played in Brisbane in early July 2015. Congratulations to Nathan Pentecost and James Lewis, who represented the mighty Panthers with pride. Nathan does fantastic work advocating for people with a disability and for wheelchair sports in Penrith and the Western Sydney community.

VIETNAMESE INVALID VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) [4.35 p.m.]: On Friday 22 May I was delighted to attend a dinner to assist the fundraising efforts of the Vietnamese Invalid Veterans Association in Canley Heights. For many years now, the Vietnamese Invalid Veterans Association has been supporting ex-servicemen in Vietnam who fought in support of freedom, democracy and human rights during the Vietnam War by sending \$A100 to veterans with permanent physical disabilities. I take this opportunity to commend the efforts of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam [ARVN] of New South Wales and the Vietnamese Invalid Veterans Association and thank the president, Mr Lam Xuan, for his kind invitation to attend the fundraising dinner. Many representatives from the New South Wales chapter of the Vietnamese Community in Australia [VCA], other peak bodies of the Vietnamese Australian community and a number of RSL sub branches from across the region were also in attendance.

TRANS-TASMAN HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence—Parliamentary Secretary) [4.36 p.m.]: I offer my congratulations to Matt Lobsey and Michael Russ, who competed in the Trans-Tasman Masters Hockey championship in which Australia retained the Trans-Tasman Trophy. Matt competed in the men's over 35s, with his team having comfortable wins in their division. Michael competed in the men's over 50s division, where his team had a very hard-fought win over its New Zealand rivals. Overall, Australian won nine of the 13 divisions played. I wish both players continued success, especially in the upcoming Australian championships in Cairns, where they will be aiming for selection in the Australian teams to compete at the world cup in Canberra next year.

STUDENT ORIGAMI PROJECT

Ms NOREEN HAY (Wollongong) [4.37 p.m.]: I place on record today the efforts of three kind-hearted Warrawong High School year 8 students. I read the heartwarming story about these three girls—Caitlin Cooper, Karly Fortier and Jennah Mackay—who undertook the meticulous task of an origami project as a means of providing some hope, happiness and light to their school friend 13-year-old Grace Barnett. Grace is currently undergoing chemotherapy at Prince of Wales Hospital for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

The girls took their inspiration from an old Japanese legend, which promises that anyone who creates 1,000 paper cranes will be granted one wish. The tale, based on a true story, is one of hope, goodwill and peace. I congratulate Caitlin, Karly and Jennah on their thoughtful and selfless gesture for their friend in her time of need. I have no doubt that their actions have brought Grace much happiness and hope. I also extend my very best wishes to Grace for her treatment and her recovery. I recognise her family and her father, Jason Barnett.

RETIREMENT OF LOUISE VOIGT

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson—Parliamentary Secretary) [4.38 p.m.]: I acknowledge the retirement next month of Chief Executive Officer and Director of Welfare of Barnardos Australia, Louise Voigt, after 30 years in the role. Louise has been a passionate and tireless advocate for child protection in Australia who has earned the deep respect of all members of the welfare sector, including senior Government officials and politicians from all parties. In the words of Barnardos chair, Gabrielle Trainor:

Louise has been a pioneer of best practice programs for children at risk or in out-of-home care and she will leave a lasting legacy for the children of NSW and ACT.

Over 30 years, Louise has built a remarkable organisation, widely acknowledged for its strong culture and best practice child protection. Barnardos currently delivers more than 100 programs and services. Louise's simple yet powerful philosophy that "every child deserves to be safe at home" has become the Barnardos mantra. I am sure all members join me in appreciating Louise's enormous contribution to our society.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, FAIRFIELD

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) [4.39 p.m.]: On 21 May 2015 I was invited to Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield, to talk with year 6 students about governments and the role that a member of Parliament plays in their community. I was most impressed with the level of participation by the year 6 students and their eagerness to learn more about how governments work. It was very clear that the year 6 students at Our Lady of the Rosary have a deep understanding of the political system in Australia. I hope that passion continues into the future. I thank the teachers and students of Our Lady of the Rosary, Fairfield, for their kind invitation and warm welcome on the day.

THIRLMERE RURAL FIRE SERVICE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) [4.40 p.m.]: I commend the Thirlmere Rural Fire Service, established in 1940, which last month celebrated its seventy-fifth year of protecting the Wollondilly community. Members of the Thirlmere Rural Fire Service put their bodies on the line attending many incidents a year. As if that service was not enough, they also contribute further to the community by participating in countless local events, field days and fetes, and give safety talks at local schools. The recent growth in membership reflects the determination of people in Wollondilly to selflessly protect life and property within their community. I thank Captain Daniel Rooke and all members of the Thirlmere Rural Fire Service for their continued and outstanding service. It was great to celebrate their anniversary with them. They have my gratitude and the full support of a grateful Wollondilly community.

SALAMANDER AND RAYMOND TERRACE FIRE AND RESCUE NSW OPEN DAY

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) [4.41 p.m.]: Last Saturday I was delighted to attend the Salamander and Raymond Terrace fire stations for the statewide Fire and Rescue NSW Open Day. The stations were filled with families viewing safety demonstrations, climbing into the fire trucks and having a go on the fire hose. At Salamander Bay station it was literally "action stations" when the crew had to leave their open day posts to attend a local fire. I had not appreciated that fire deaths peak in the winter months. I congratulate Fire and Rescue NSW, together with its many workers, on its commitment to educating our communities to minimise risk over the coming months.

I also learned that one of the Raymond Terrace fire trucks was out of action after running into a tree that fell across its path during the height of the April superstorm. It serves as a timely reminder of the dangers faced by the men and women who respond to our calls at times of emergency. I thank Zone Commander Superintendent Gregory Wendeatt for taking the time to answer my many questions and for giving me a guided tour of the impressive facilities at both Salamander and Raymond Terrace. I also thank the fires at the stations for their dedication to protecting lives.

ALEX NEWSOME AUSTRALIAN UNDER 20S RUGBY UNION SQUAD SELECTION

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) [4.42 p.m.]: I congratulate former Glen Innes Elks rugby union player Alex Newsome on his selection in the Australian Under 20s Rugby Union Squad. Alex is currently in Italy with the 28-man squad playing in the World Rugby Under 20 Championship and competing with teams from around the world in pool B. I wish Alex all the best. I note that, since finishing playing with the

Glen Innes Elks, Alex has moved to Sydney and now plays with the eastern suburbs rugby club. He also trains three times a week with the Waratahs while studying commerce at the University of Sydney. Alex is a great product of country New South Wales. I wish him all the very best and look forward to seeing him donning the Wallabies jersey in the next few years.

TAFE ILLAWARRA NOWRA CAMPUS MAJOR AWARDS

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Parliamentary Secretary) [4.43 p.m.]: On Wednesday 29 April I was pleased to attend the annual Nowra TAFE Campus major awards ceremony and to see so many members of the institute in attendance. I congratulate the following two incredible individuals: Cheryl Smee, who received a recognition award for her 30 years of service and for her contribution to local education and training; and Debra Evelyn, who received a recognition award for her 20 years of service and for her contribution to local education and training. I congratulate Cheryl and Debra. We thank them for the work they continue to do in our TAFE system to assist local students to achieve their goals. TAFE is an important part of our education system. It has my support and I am delighted to recognise the outstanding educators who are making a real contribution by providing future pathways for young people in our community.

GOODWIN VILLAGE, WOOLLAHRA

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) [4.44 p.m.]: I congratulate the residents of Goodwin Village in Woollahra. In March this year I joined former Governor Dame Marie Bashir, Woollahra Mayor Toni Zeltzer, councillors and village residents to commemorate the life of Rose Scott, who was an advocate for women's rights and a social reformer who lived at the site of Goodwin Village. Earlier this year we also celebrated 45 years of Goodwin Village—coincidentally while renovations were underway to update the buildings to modern standards. I congratulate the resident committee and its president, Doreen Garrick, who has prepared a history of the village. The active group and its engaged residents continue the activist tradition through their involvement with local issues and their work to protect local safety and amenity. I hear regularly from Goodwin Village residents about issues such as road safety, open space, Edgecliff Interchange access, health services and education funding. I am proud to represent Goodwin Village in this Parliament and am inspired by the residents' active involvement and accomplishments.

SEVEN HILLS FIRE AND RESCUE NSW OPEN DAY

Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) [4.45 p.m.]: On Saturday it was my pleasure to visit the Seven Hills Fire and Rescue station with the Minister for Emergency Services as part of the annual Fire and Rescue NSW Open Day. Our community depends on the hard work of local firefighters, which is why open days are so important. The Seven Hills firefighters gave safety demonstrations, fire prevention advice and tours of the fire station for local children, who certainly enjoyed seeing the fire trucks and firefighting equipment as well as using the 38 millimetre hose. It was a great day and I commend the Seven Hills fire station for its continued community service. It was great to meet with Superintendent Alex Scott, who is the Western Sydney area commander. I thank him for his tireless commitment to the safety of the people of Seven Hills and Western Sydney.

SYDNEY SECONDARY COLLEGE BLACKWATTLE BAY CAMPUS SCHOOL LEADERS

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) [4.45 p.m.]: On Friday 22 May I visited Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus in my electorate to meet with school leaders Myles Houlbrook-Walk, Natasha Ricardo, Erin McKenna and Ryan Bondfield. They are concerned that the school transport travel scheme does not cover school travel on light rail although it covers travel on buses, trains and ferries. This creates extra travel time and inconvenience for students and their parents. Within three days the students collected more than 500 signatures in support of free student travel on light rail. By the time Parliament sits again I am confident their petition will have more than 1,000 signatures. I congratulate the school leaders of Blackwattle Bay Campus and encourage them in their efforts to ensure that students are treated equally regardless of their mode of travel. The students have demonstrated excellent leadership in the school community and in the electorate of Balmain. I thank them for their contribution and look forward to meeting with them again soon.

GRACE KEEPING, KIDS CANCER PROJECT FUNDRAISER

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSON (Upper Hunter) [4.46 p.m.]: I congratulate Grace Keeping of Two Rivers Estate, Denman. A resident of the Upper Hunter electorate, Grace recently raised \$16,000 for the Kids Cancer

Project by shaving her head. That is a phenomenal amount of money for one person to raise. She set herself up at a hotel in Sydney, sold raffle tickets and collected donations at the event. Grace is very passionate about the Kids Cancer Project, which has made significant advancements in lowering the death rate of children fighting cancer. However, there is still a long way to go. That is why Grace accepted the challenge and shaved her head. Her hair was sent to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, which is using it to make a wig for someone who has lost their hair through chemotherapy. I congratulate Grace on her wonderful achievement and thank her for her generous gesture.

SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD APPEAL

Ms LINDA BURNEY (Canterbury) [4.47 p.m.]: I recognise the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal, which occurred over the weekend. I also recognise the wonderful volunteers who doorknock, in particular the three young men who appeared at my door on Sunday morning. They looked wonderful in their school uniforms and were a credit to their school and community. Petro Katerakis, Sam Maley and Peter Kosmas from Newington College spent their Sunday collecting money to help the thousands of people who are in need. Their school should be proud of them. The Red Shield Appeal happens every year and volunteers help the appeal raise much-needed funds. I attended a Red Shield Appeal breakfast with special guest speaker Peter FitzSimons. It was great to see the community taking part and giving hope where it is needed most. Once again, I congratulate those three young men who appeared on my doorstep on Sunday to collect money for the Red Shield Appeal.

Community recognition statements concluded.

Pursuant to sessional order private members' statements proceeded with.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AUSTRALIANS FOR NATIVE TITLE AND RECONCILIATION

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) [4.48 p.m.]: Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, better known as ANTaR, is an advocacy organisation committed to advancing Indigenous rights and overcoming the systemic disadvantage faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. ANTaR is rightly recognised for its formative Sea of Hands campaign in the late 1990s—a powerful symbol of Australians' deep respect for land rights and reconciliation.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with local members of ANTaR about the group's most recent campaign, Change the Record, a joint effort by Indigenous, community and human rights organisations known collectively as the National Justice Coalition. Launched in April, Change the Record throws light on the significantly higher incarceration rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians compared with Indigenous Australians. As ANTaR reminds us, Indigenous peoples make up 3 per cent of the Australian population but 28 per cent of our prison population. Between 2001 and 2010, incarceration rates for Indigenous men increased by 35 per cent and the rate for Indigenous women increased by 59 per cent. That amounts to a rate 14 times higher than amongst non-Indigenous people.

As the incarceration rate increases, so too does the rate of Indigenous deaths in custody and the incidence of violence against Indigenous women and families, as well as a rise in social problems that are the root cause of violence and crime in the first place. When we consider the impact of these rates, it is clear this is a vitally important social justice issue demanding attention and action. ANTaR has circulated a petition, which I am proud to have tabled in the House, calling for a shift towards a justice reinvestment approach. Justice reinvestment means taking the millions of dollars spent each year incarcerating Aboriginal offenders, particularly young offenders, and reinvesting even a portion of those funds directly back into communities—into infrastructure and programs and services that increase community safety and give people the skills to participate fully in community life.

Under this strategy, communities themselves determine the best use of funds. Working together, communities and Indigenous groups find ways to reconnect offenders to culture, education and civic life. This recognises that locals are often best placed to engage their young people and tackle enduring problems like poverty, housing insecurity, mental health and addiction, disability, and lack of access to education. The Change the Record campaign features powerful testimonies to the strategy's success. We hear the stories of inspiring and courageous young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who, with the support of their communities, serve as young leaders, inspiring others and working towards real change.

For example, Rhett Burraston, 23 years old of Campbelltown, won the 2014-15 New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Young Achiever Awards Young Achiever of the Year. He identifies the underlying causes of crime as "entrenched mental health issues, drug and alcohol problems [alongside] intergenerational sorrow and trauma". He argues that, "unfortunately, past government policies haven't put Aboriginal people in the best position". Rhett continues that, "For Aboriginal people in urban areas, I think the solution is to strengthen identity ... and connect them back to their culture ... where they'll learn about positive values. ... That's where communities need to take responsibility ... and where Aboriginal Peoples have an advantage."

Justice Reinvestment calls on communities to make decisions and take responsibility for their own future. It puts communities in the driving seat and represents a genuine partnership between government, communities and Indigenous groups. As well as advocating a justice reinvestment approach, ANTaR also calls for national action to end deaths in custody, with independent investigations into police conduct and independent inspections of custodial facilities. It rightly reminds us that all Australian governments are committed to reducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander imprisonment as part of the Closing the Gap strategy.

The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee recommended in August 2013 that the Commonwealth adopt a leadership role in supporting the implementation of justice reinvestment, through the Council of Australian Governments. I urge this Parliament to show similar leadership, for New South Wales to invest in early intervention, prevention and diversion strategies, and for all members to visit the ANTaR website and join its campaign and the National Justice Coalition in taking the Change the Record pledge.

BATLOW CIDERFEST

Mr DARYL MAGUIRE (Wagga Wagga—Parliamentary Secretary) [4.53 p.m.]: The *Tumut and Adelong Times* headlines of 19 May 2015 cried out "Batlow brews a brilliant day" and "Fun to the core" in reporting on the Batlow CiderFest, an ever-growing annual event that was held this year on Saturday 16 May. It was a brilliant success. The weather was perfect and the normally tranquil streets of Batlow were bustling with some 8,000 visitors for this extraordinary weekend. There were stalls and cider conferences attracting people from across Australia.

This is a great example of a town pulling together to host a festival. The festival began four years ago, sparked into life with only \$100 in its budget. It was the idea of two local men, Harald Tietze and Ray Billing. This year's event boasted six cider companies, two microbreweries, 25 food stalls to tempt the fussiest eater and a plethora of other stalls. The Batlow CiderFest committee has produced a jingle, which we sang at the opening of the ciderfest. I attended the opening with Tumut mayor Trina Thomson and members of the committee as well as community members who joined us in singing the ditty. It was fantastic.

It is hard to believe it was difficult to find a parking spot in Batlow during the festival because so many people descended on the town. A film crew from the magazine *Caravan and Motorhome On Tour* spent the day at the ciderfest and many Batlowlians had the opportunity to promote their products and the area. Former residents of Batlow returned for the festival, including many children of Batlowlians, with some of the young women and men dressing up as apple tarts. Everyone got into the theme of the Batlow CiderFest. Music was supplied by contemporary singers and the Tumut Town Band playing traditional Oktoberfest and beer hall tunes.

I have made many positive comments about the success of this brilliant day, which was supported by Destination NSW. It has become a flagship event and the Batlow CiderFest committee has received funding of \$10,000 per annum from Destination NSW. Next year the committee will receive the third tranche of that funding. I have encouraged the committee to apply for the maximum amount of funding from Destination NSW, which I understand is \$20,000. This event has grown from its inception when the committee had \$100 in its budget. The funding it receives and spends on advertising has helped add to that success, along with the dedicated work of Harald Tietze, Ray Billing and many other volunteers.

Many things need to be done to accommodate this growing event and there are plans to expand the Batlow camping areas and homestay options. There is a need to manage parking in the town during the festival. The committee worked until 2.30 a.m. on the day before the Batlow CiderFest started. The entire town pitched in to help. It goes to show larger towns and cities what can be done by a dedicated group of people nurturing an idea in its infancy and a small budget to make such an event so successful. The *Tumut and Adelong Times* wrote two major features on this event. The features, which wrapped the paper, include colour photographs and

fantastic stories. I urge members to look at the featured article. The event was supported by the community and media across the region. I thank them for helping the wonderful community of Batlow in this great promotion of our region and the apple growers of Batlow.

MOREE RECONCILIATION AWARDS

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) [4.58 p.m.]: Last Friday night my partner, Carolyn, and I headed west to the fabulous western plains town of Moree. The Moree Memorial Hall was looking its best and the more than 250 guests were abuzz with excitement as the 2015 Moree Reconciliation Awards got underway in fine style. It was a great pleasure to join mayor Katrina Humphries, the new general manager of Moree Plains Shire Council, Lester Rodgers, and the community on such an important evening and share in the excitement as each winner of the 18 awards was announced.

Initially, plenty of winners were reluctant to make their way to the stage throughout the night, but then they did so to raucous applause. All were thoroughly deserving winners. Aunty Maureen Newman won the award for the Female Aboriginal Elder of the Year. She was very reluctant to come out for the evening. In fact, at one point she refused to attend, but I believe her grandkids, including a good friend of mine Michael Kirk, who is an Aboriginal gentleman and a member of the University of New England Council, talked her into it. She is very glad he did because she had a wonderful night. I felt really privileged to meet and spend some time with Maureen, who is a truly gracious Aboriginal elder of the Moree community.

The night was a marvellous celebration of community pride and reflected the true meaning of reconciliation in Moree, which, 50 years after the Freedom Ride, is a fine example of how far Australia has come with reconciliation. One of the best lines of the night came from Louise Adamson, who was named as Non-Indigenous Female Elder of the Year. She said in her acceptance speech, "The only colours you need to worry about are the ones you keep separate in the laundry". I thought that was a great comment that typified and encapsulated the whole essence of the evening.

The whole event was put together by volunteers. On the night, we were kept fed and refreshed by a small army of young people, including young women from Sista Speak and lads from the Clontarf program as well as local legends from the Moree Boomerangs Rugby League Club. I make special mention of Cathy Duncan, Glen Crump and all the members of the Moree Reconciliation Week Committee who worked tirelessly to ensure the event's success. It was a fabulous evening of celebrating community pride—not white or black but united as one community.

It is with pride that I now inform the House of some of the people who were recognised for their efforts in creating and promoting a reconciled community in Moree. The Aboriginal Citizen of the Year was Dawn Blanch. Those who know her would acknowledge that Dawn is a very outspoken and active community member in Moree. She has played a key role in trying to get the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment [MERIT] program into Moree to support community members who are battling the scourge of the drug ice.

The Non-Aboriginal Citizen of the Year was Kerry Cassells, who was a very popular winner. I do not know whether words can say enough about Kerry, who is an incredibly passionate woman. She has worked tirelessly for the betterment of Moree for many years. Recently she headed up a petition calling for the introduction of the MERIT program in Moree. She also has worked on the Central North Rugby Committee and has taken young Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to various sporting events and kept them under her wing. The Aboriginal Youth 13 to 18 years winner was Sam Barker. Sam is a member of the Clontarf Academy and recently was a guest of the Governor-General in Canberra. Sam is active in sports and leadership programs at the Moree Secondary College. He is truly an inspiring young man.

The Aboriginal Youth 5 to 12 years winner was Elyne Tighe, who is a member of the Moree Primary School Student Representative Council. Elyne has worked to coordinate activities to bring her peers together. Her school principal described her as "an unstoppable force". The Non-Aboriginal Youth 13 to 18 years winner was Skye Spooner. Skye is the chair of the Moree Plains Shire Youth Council. She has worked hard to bring together the youth of Moree through activities such as pool parties, youth week and other ventures. Skye is a real organiser and one who may have the potential to become a councillor on the local council in the not too distant future. The Non-Aboriginal Youth 5 to 12 years winner was Braith Rohde. Braith has represented his school at Sorry Day activities and Reconciliation Week events and has been a leader for reconciliation through his school. He is a terrific role model. The Aboriginal Junior Sports person 13 to 18 years winner was Jordan McKenzie. The Non-Aboriginal Junior Sports person 13 to 18 years was Thomas Kowalski. The Non-Aboriginal Junior Sports person 5 to 12 years was Shelby Thompson.

The award for Business of the Year was presented to the Moree Plains Shire Council, which has a strong track record in reconciliation and employing Aboriginal people. The winner of the Community Group or Organisation category was the Sisters Group. The Albert Dennison Memorial Caring for Country Award recipient was Jane Humphries and the School-based Trainee Award was won by Chelsea Carter. The award for the Aboriginal Female Elder was won by Maureen Newman; the Aboriginal Male Elder Award was won by Norm "Pop" Sampson; the Non-Aboriginal Female Elder Award was won by Louise Adamson; and the Non-Aboriginal Male Elder Award was won by Reg Jamieson. It was a terrific event on the night. I say well done to all the winners. I conclude by informing the House that all the winners were presented with pieces of artwork from Anne Johnson and Janelle Boyd, which are absolutely beautiful and well appreciated. Well done to the Moree community and the Reconciliation Week Committee.

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence—Parliamentary Secretary) [5.03 p.m.]: I commend the member for Northern Tablelands for bringing to the attention of the House the very important issue of reconciliation by referring to a reconciliation event he attended in Moree. Given that today the House debated a motion relating to racism, it is appropriate to recognise that reconciliation is the objective of this House. Reconciliation is not just a factor in the Indigenous community but for every community in this country. I commend the member for Northern Tablelands for reminding members of the House of the importance of reconciliation.

INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) [5.04 p.m.]: There has been significant media coverage concerning the SBS program *Struggle Street*. SBS claims that the purpose of the documentary was to engender awareness of the lives of residents who live within the Mount Druitt community. But was the program objective journalism or a ratings sugar hit based on reality TV voyeurism? In reality, SBS failed on many fronts in producing this documentary. It failed because it stereotyped and stigmatised an entire community. It failed because it discriminated against the Mount Druitt community when it compared it with Manly. SBS was dishonest in its justification for the production of this documentary as it was clear that its intent was the ratings hit and not to bring awareness of intergenerational poverty, as claimed.

Intergenerational poverty and the failure of both Federal and State governments to adequately address this issue is the subject of this statement. Intergenerational poverty affects many families in communities across this country. We know that; we have the figures to prove it. We also have many dedicated teachers, nurses, community and social workers and others who are working extremely hard to improve the lives of those who live in poverty and who are trying to make something meaningful of their future. In many cases, these dedicated people work hard just to halt families falling into deeper poverty. In some cases, these dedicated people work hard to keep people from dying prematurely.

However, the SBS documentary failed to highlight the lack of resources provided by both Federal and State governments, which have the power to assist the most disadvantaged people in our communities. I believe that education is the key factor in bringing about change to improve the lives and future of the people of Mount Druitt. During my inaugural speech in this place, I explained what I meant by adopting my campaign slogan "Standing up for us". I stated in part:

I will be a strong advocate for the electorate and will fight to secure the services and facilities that our area richly deserves ...
I strongly believe education should be recognised as an investment in our nation's future and not as a burden on our budget.

At this point I emphasise that the provision of a quality education for all is the most progressive act any government can commit in overcoming poverty and realising the potential of all young lives. The future of schooling in this country is at a crossroads because the future of schools funding is an unsettled matter. It is Labor's leadership that led to a schools funding model based on student needs that promises so much to our children, irrespective of which school system they attend. Many know this schools funding reform as the Gonski reform.

The agreement between the previous Federal Labor Government and the New South Wales Government through the Gonski model is a funding uplift across all school systems. The model also provides significant additional funding for schools that have students from low socioeconomic backgrounds—Aboriginal students, students from non-English speaking families and students with disabilities. Those are four target areas of six on which the Gonski model focuses its funding. In reality, those four areas define many schools across metropolitan Sydney and rural parts of New South Wales.

Gonski is working. New learning programs have been developed. Greater numbers of children are benefiting and many parents are noticing the difference, but its future is uncertain. The Abbott Government refuses to fund the fifth and sixth years of the deal. The New South Wales Government has signed for a six-year model. However, the Premier's own Coalition colleagues at the Federal level failed to guarantee the full funding of the six-year Gonski deal. The Premier and this State Government must do more to challenge their Federal colleagues to adhere to this agreement and to commit to providing what is desperately needed in New South Wales. I call on members of the New South Wales Government not only to step up and hold the Abbott Government to account but also to fulfil their obligation as the representatives of the people of New South Wales.

RYDE ELECTORATE ANZAC DAY EVENTS

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) [5.09 p.m.]: "Even though I didn't know any of the 2,000 men and women of Ryde that served in World War I, I feel a certain attachment as they lived in my street, or around the corner or up the hill". Those are the words of Bernard Cox, Ryde District RSL Sub-Branch president, published in the Ryde District Historical Society's publication *Ryde Goes to War*. It is a quote that powerfully vocalises the sacrifices of our diggers. One hundred years have now passed since the start of the Great War but the legacy of the men and women who served Australia in different roles in Gallipoli, France, Belgium and the Middle East unites Australians of all generations and backgrounds. The sacrifices these men and women made are what make Australia the country it is today. They have shaped our way of life and have preserved the freedoms that continue to make Australia such a wonderful home for those who live here, and for those who are yet to come.

One of the great privileges of being the local member for Ryde is witnessing the extensive work of locals and community organisations who keep the Anzac legacy alive. This year Ryde had numerous Anzac Day commemorations including services at the Ryde Cenotaph, Ryde Hospital and North Ryde RSL. In addition, local schools have all played a role in remembering this significant chapter in our country's history. For example, Ryde East Public School, Denistone East Public School, Eastwood Public School and Melrose Park Public School have all constructed memorials of some form, from Anzac gardens to Anzac plinths. The contribution of these schools, progressed by the leadership of local principals like Luke Whitney and Kim Lloyd-Jones, is particularly important to not only educate our children about the Anzac tradition but also teach them the qualities of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice that define the Anzac spirit.

In addition, the efforts of local groups to identify local connections to the Anzac tradition have provided an invaluable contribution to educating our children about the war that shaped our nation. The "United We Stand" initiative adopted by Ryde's sports clubs and the Centenary of Anzac and Commemoration of World War I Committee at Ryde Council deserve a particular mention for their ongoing commitment to unite our community in remembering the Anzac legacy. The magnificent tribute called the "2000 Poppies Project", coordinated by the council committee, brings the community together to knit, crochet, felt, cross-stitch or craft a total of 2,000 red poppies to remember every individual from the Ryde district who served. Community members who deserve acknowledgement for their contribution to the committee include Bernard Cox, Ayse Dalkic, Robert Gamble, Robin McKinnon, Kim Phillips, Betty Willis, Kim Phillips, Owen Bennett, Phillip Ward, Peter Colthrop and John Toohey.

A special mention must go to Angela Phippen, the local studies librarian at Ryde Library, who coordinated the project. These individuals also contribute to serving the City of Ryde Veterans through their connections to North Ryde RSL and the Ryde Ex-Services Club. Committee member Ms Kim Phillips, in her role with the Ryde Historical Society, along with fellow contributors, have also committed hours of painstaking research into the invaluable *Ryde Goes to War* memorial book. Ms Phillips coordinated the project to research and collect information for all World War I soldiers and nurses from the Ryde district. Her efforts culminated in the publication of a 345-page book detailing the individual stories of Ryde men and women who contributed to defending the freedoms that we enjoy today. Her fellow contributors include Dorothy Brown, Sandra Cook, Maureen Copley, Janice Eastment, Margaret Farlow, Sabina Fielding-Smith, Lesley Gibb, Judith Godden, Lorraine Holroyd, Christine Jones, Joy Jorgensen, Lyn Langtry, Paul Nicholls, Shirley Noble, Helen Patterson, Angela Phippen, Dianne Rayner, Christine Sanderson, Kevin Shaw, Evelyn Uyloan, Lorraine West, Betty Willis and Richard Wright.

These individuals and community-based organisations not only preserve the legacy of our servicemen and women but also allow us to reflect on the local impact of a war that was fought across the world. As a developing nation, Australia's commitment of men and women to this conflict cemented the very Australian

attributes of mateship, courage, endurance and sacrifice. Our dedicated local teachers and sports organisations play an important role to bequeath the legend—our history—to our children, ensuring it endures as a sacred part of our identity.

COFFS HARBOUR INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT

Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour—The Assistant-Speaker) [5.14 p.m.]: Today I bring to the attention of the House some issues of great importance to the Coffs Harbour electorate. First, I was privileged to join the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs a week or 10 days ago in meeting a group of Aborigines representing Aboriginal communities across the North Coast, from Macksville through to Tweed. I know that the Minister at the table, Victor Dominello, has also met those representatives in a previous role and no doubt he can confirm that they are a very go-ahead group of people who are looking to the future of Aborigines in the Coffs Harbour area in particular, and in the region generally.

I have had initial discussions with Mr Chris Spencer, who is the chief executive officer of the Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Land Council, and with other Aborigines, with a view to encouraging those people to do more within horticulture—as TAFE is doing currently—in propagating native species that could and would revegetate the roadside of the Pacific Highway upgrades on the North Coast. Unfortunately, the way the government contracts are run is that they are let to a head contractor in Sydney, and when these people contacted that contractor and said that they are prepared, as a group of people with the expertise, to propagate whatever the contractor wished to dictate by way of native species so that the Pacific Highway could be revegetated under the government contract, they were told, "Sorry. We are not interested. We have got our own suppliers."

I suggest that we as a government should look at our procurement strategies, which we inherited from the former Labor Government, to ensure that we have a local component. But in this particular case we need a component that will ensure that young Aboriginal men and women, who are very keen to advance themselves within our community, be given an opportunity not only to train in horticulture but to provide stock that is required by Roads and Maritime Services in the revegetation of the Pacific Highway. To take this one step further, South of Coffs Harbour has a huge national park known as the Bongil Bongil National Park, which played an intimate role with the Aboriginal community historically and continues to do so, I suggest, even today. An immense number of Aboriginal sites that are located in Bongil Bongil National Park.

I have had initial discussions with the Minister for the Environment with a view to adding Bongil Bongil National Park to schedule 14 to the National Parks and Wildlife Service Act to ensure that it is an Aboriginal national park. I have also spoken to Alan Jeffery, the regional manager for the National Parks and Wildlife Service in Coffs Harbour, who supports the idea. In fact, there are a number of parks on the North Coast. There is a national park almost adjoining South West Rocks in the electorate of Oxley, which is currently jointly managed by Aborigines and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. I believe we could then, in a failed pine plantation on the northern end of Bongil Bongil National Park, set up an area where the Aboriginal community could propagate native species, which would give them an opportunity not only to grow root stock for the revegetation of the Pacific Highway and other areas, but also to replace some of the plantation timber that is in Bongil Bongil National Park and which, under the plan of management, is going to be removed.

It is a great opportunity to train people not only in horticulture but in national parks management, tourism and eco-tourism. I commend Mark Flanders, who is employed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in Coffs Harbour, for the great job he does not only in welcoming people to country—and I am sure the Minister in the Chair, Victor Dominello, has had that very comprehensive welcome given by Mark in the past—but also in disseminating the knowledge he has of the history of the area and of the plants, the animals and the sites that are sacred to Aborigines in Bongil Bongil National Park. The last plan of management for Bongil Bongil National Park was a draft plan in 1999 and it has not been altered since then, although the park has more than doubled in size. This is a great opportunity to include Bongil Bongil National Park in schedule 14 of the National Parks and Wildlife Service Act so that it can be given to the Aborigines, with the assistance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and give the Aborigines in my area not only a future but also an opportunity for education.

HUNTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) [5.19 p.m.]: Imagine for a moment that you are a 93-year-old woman and you live alone. You live in the same house that you lived in with your husband, who has since

passed away. You are a passionate woman, still with the strong accent you brought with you on a ship when you first came to Australia many years ago. You fight isolation every day of your life. You do not live in the village that you were born in; you are on your own. You force yourself to go out and spend time in the community, having coffee, seeing your doctor, doing a bit of shopping. You are proud of the beautiful trench coat that you wear to your local member's office. You bought it many years ago because you know that quality never goes out of style. It is true: It never does.

You have a few friends who are still alive and you like to go out. Until 26 December last year you could leave your house to spend time with them. You could catch the train to Newcastle to walk along the foreshore and perhaps have some fish and chips from that iconic Newcastle restaurant Scratchleys. You catch a bus from the train station, but it is getting harder each day. Now you have to wait for a bus to come and pick you up from Hamilton.

Imagine for a moment you are 15-year-old boy from Thornton. On those hot humid Maitland summer days you long to catch a wave at Newcastle beach. Your parents work really hard at a small business and sometimes on weekends and during the holidays they do not have time to drive you to the beach. You think about how good it would be to take your surfboard down to Newcastle Beach. But now your surfboard is not always allowed on the bus that you have to catch from Hamilton—nor is your bike. You stop going because it is awkward getting caught out in Hamilton with a surfboard or a bike. You cannot take those on the bus.

Imagine for a moment you are married, you live in Telarah and you and your partner are both lucky enough, under this Government, still to have jobs in the mines. At the end of a long week, you get some days off together. At times like this, you used to take a night off without the kids to go to a restaurant along the Newcastle foreshore. You may get a pizza at Blue Water Pizza or you may eat at Silo. Perhaps you would have listened to live music at The Brewery, before things got a bit rough there. Not wanting to drink and drive, of course, you used to catch the train back to Telarah station and then take a taxi ride to your house. Now, you are scared of missing the connection, getting stuck at Hamilton and being stuck with a \$100 taxi bill.

I have been a passionate defender of public transport for over 16 years. Although I do not have any government contracts to provide bus services, I have been to State and national conferences on buses and public transport once or twice a year every year for the last 16 years. Most of the speakers at these conferences have reiterated the vital importance of public transport for socio-economic development and as a social determinant of health. Distinguished transport and sociology academics such as Janet and Jon Stanley from Monash University and David Hensher from the University of Sydney Institute of Transport and Logistics have been working on these issues. More recently I spoke to the Chief Executive of the Urban Development Institute of Australia, who was very surprised that a government would ever consider replacing a heavy rail line with light rail outside the rail corridor.

To be clear, Labor started the revitalisation of Newcastle with the law courts precinct and the relocation of 5,000 to 6,000 university spaces in the vicinity of Civic Station. The new Museum of Newcastle is located at Civic Station, which is also known as the museum station. The many restaurants along the foreshore are within a five-minute walk of Civic Station and there is a major shopping and residential development slated for the area. The rail line into Newcastle is about giving people in Maitland the opportunity to directly connect with the major CBD in our region, and then on to Sydney.

It is about connectivity, transport and, ultimately, people. I take this opportunity to thank Save our Rail, particularly Kim Cross and Joan Dawson, for their long-term and sustained efforts in maintaining their campaign to save our rail. The Government has unlawfully ripped up essential rail infrastructure, without putting any alternative in place. For all his talk of mandates, the Premier has been very silent since the election on the rail line. He said the election was a referendum on the rail line. That is what the Premier promised. He implemented one of his mandates yesterday; he should implement this one. The Government should look at the swings against members in country seats, where it lost up to 20 per cent of the votes. The member for Upper Hunter, in particular, should think about that.

MID-NORTH COAST AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) [5.24 p.m.]: I have been absolutely delighted that part of my role as the new member for Oxley has been to attend and celebrate the magnificent shows in the mid North Coast. It has been an extraordinary time and the four shows that have been held over the past two months demonstrate the level of community engagement and cooperation and support for agricultural communities in my electorate.

I will start by congratulating the president of the Mid-North Coast group 2 show society, Leigh Laverty. Leigh was at each of the shows that I attended. He is a great young man from the Macksville community who is passionate about the future and importance of shows in the Oxley region. He has done a tremendous job and I pay tribute to him.

The first show that I attended in my official capacity as the member for Oxley was the Wauchope Show. President Bob Kennett is a marvel. He is a very passionate local community leader, ably assisted by his secretary, Anne Watkins. It was a stunning day for the show. The weather was perfect; it was a perfect day. I want to particularly highlight the work of the Wauchope Poultry Club. I spent a lot of time in the poultry shed at the show because I have just come into the possession of four chooks. The shed was stunning, and I salute dairy farmer and president of the Wauchope Poultry Club Neil Coombes and secretary Shane Debreceeny. I caught up again with the senior vice president Robert Scott, who was a senior employee at Kempsey Shire Council. The Wauchope Show, with the poultry, woodchopping and grand parade, was certainly a brilliant day and one that was enjoyed by all.

The next show that I attended was the Kempsey Show. I congratulate president Walkden and show secretary Maxine MacKenzie. It was great to catch up with Maxine again; I had sat with her for lunch at the Wauchope show. The Kempsey Show is another great show—one of the few shows that is held mid-week—and it is a must for the Kempsey community. My favourite part of the show was the opening ceremony officiated by my good friend Brian Irvine, who was awarded the Kempsey Community Citizen of the Year. It was great to see him at the show, which highlights all of the good things there are in the community. With 30 Miss Showgirl entrants, the competition was very tough in all age groups. Everyone showed a very keen interest in that part of the show.

The next show was the mighty Macksville Show. It is sometimes known as the mini royal show because of its brilliance. I particularly highlight the work of president Michael Ettleson. I know his wife, Vessa Playfair, who commutes to Sydney for her work at Deloitte. Michael does a great job, together with secretary John Harris, in bringing that show together. It was a stunning show. The luncheon was my favourite part of the show because I was seated next to Bryan Brown and Rachel Ward, who officially opened the show. They are residents out on the Taylors Arm Road and are great community members.

My particular favourite people at the show were my old mate John Beanie, who was just stunning, and his friend John Stanton. I had a chat with John, who is in his seventies. Those who know anything about camp drafting would know that John is Mr Camp Drafting. Camp drafting is another stunning part of agricultural and rural life. John has a few stories to tell. He has been very involved in quarter horses, champion performance horses, champion geldings and camp drafting. He was particularly excited about the show. I was pleased to see Vessa Playfair bring a beautiful, specially made trolley that had been repaired by the Men's Shed. That was very exciting.

I then attended the Bellingen Show, which was held one week after the massive floods and rain. It was a relief to all that the show went on. The ground was a little wet but it was a stunning day. I walked in and saw my brother holding a cooking demonstration for Dorriggo Wholefoods. It was fun to see him doing that demonstration. Another great community leader and friend Tim Leader is Bellingen Shire Community Citizen of the Year. He opened the Bellingen Show. I congratulate Gillian Anderson, the secretary, and president Rick Maunder, who did a brilliant job in officiating at the show. It was a great day. They were all great shows and I am so lucky to represent these people.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): Indeed, you represent a fantastic electorate with which I am very familiar. I have stayed at Dorriggo a few times with friends.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: Friends of mine too.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): My great-grandfather was the postmaster of Kempsey about 100 years ago.

Mrs MELINDA PAVEY: And Kempsey Post Office is on the heritage list.

CAMDEN ELECTORATE CRICKET CLUBS

Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) [5.30 p.m.]: I refer to two major cricket associations in my electorate whose presentations I attended recently: Cobbitty-Narellan Cricket Club and the Campbelltown-Camden

District Cricket Club. Cobbitty Cricket Club came into being in 1896 and its first ground was on private land near St Paul's Church, Cobbitty. Since then the club has continued to prosper through many years and in 1997 it was incorporated to become the Cobbitty-Narellan Cricket Club. The club aims to promote, foster and encourage the playing of cricket in the true spirit of sportsmanship. Cricket has always been considered the gentleman's game. Through the club's development of players to achieve their full potential through good coaching and playing facilities, it has produced great results over the years.

I wish I could name every member of the club, but since the House will indulge me for only five minutes, I will single out the club's 2014-15 Camden District Cricket Association representative players: Travis Fuss, Ryan Falconer, Cameron Waights, Lachlan Reynolds, Alexandra Bonser, Indiana Garrard, Tiarne Waights, Nicholas Bruce, Patrick Dickinson, Dayne Heward, Bradley Houghton, Patrick O'Neill and Tracey McGrath. Well done to all those outstanding future Australian representatives, I am sure. The current committee president, John McGrath—a great mate of mine—senior vice-president Mark Lewis, junior vice-president Gordon Austin, secretary Trudy McGrath, treasurer Sue Wensley, assistant secretary Kerri Houghton, registrar-records officer Phil Garrard, publicity officer Tarase Bush and equipment officer Greg Waights all oversee a well-respected and very successful club.

It was an honour to attend its 2014-15 junior presentation and celebrate the successes of the players and the clubs. Each year membership continues to grow, showing that the game of cricket is as popular as ever. Since Australia hosted the very successful Cricket World Cup this year, the interest in cricket has escalated. The Campbelltown-Camden District Cricket Club, nicknamed the Ghosts, first contested the Sydney Cricket Association competition in 1985-86. The original sides were formed from elite cricketers within the Macarthur region. To this day, this is still the case with approximately 95 per cent of the playing staff rising through the local junior association to play cricket in the toughest domestic competition in the world.

As I have already said, I recently had the privilege of also attending the Ghosts' thirtieth anniversary presentation. The calibre of club members was very evident, with approximately 100 awards being presented. An enjoyable night was had by all. The club prides itself on providing opportunities for its local juniors. This has been the formula since the club's inception, which has resulted in the club winning 15 premierships throughout the grades and the almighty effort of winning a Sydney Cricket Association grade club championship. The club recently celebrated 30 years and is proud to name Shane and Brett Lee, Michael Bevan and Corey Richards as past players who were introduced to Sydney, New South Wales and Australian cricket through the Ghosts. Their dreams were realised through their early years with the Ghosts.

Through the introduction of women's grade teams, the club is also very proud to name Sarah Coyte as our first locally produced Australian women's cricketer. She is an outstanding ambassador for our region and women's cricket in general. I am a huge fan of Sarah. The current committee, president Michael Shanahan, vice-president Todd O'Keefe, secretary Jason Ellsmore, treasurer David Thorpe, women's chairman Peter Lonergan, Sydney Cricket Association delegate Allan Connolly, match day operations officer Mark Browne, Wests Sports Council's Shawn Galvin, maintenance Lee Mallitt, chairman of selectors Matt Appleton, and head coach Neil D'Costa all continue to oversee the clubs' success and reputation.

Of course, without the commitment of the coaching staff there would be no cricket. I thank the coaches: head coach Neil D'Costa, Stephen Davies, Paul Clarke, Michael Stierli, Jeff Mumford, Matt Appleton, Peter Coyte and Barry Clapson. They all put so much time into the players to get the best results. We have just celebrated Volunteer Month and it is fitting that I acknowledge all the committee members and coaches as I did, as these incredible men and women are true examples of what volunteering is all about, selflessly giving their time to their clubs for the benefit of the communities in which we live. Without them, our sports men and women would not have the opportunities that they have and that take them so far. Camden and Campbelltown Ghosts and Cobbitty-Narellan Cricket Club are outstanding clubs for our area and I commend them for their efforts.

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Parliamentary Secretary) [5.35 p.m.]: I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Camden. I note that his son is an outstanding young cricketer who carries the hopes of not only the Patterson family but also of many of us on this side of the House. He has had a stunning season this year playing in the representatives and will no doubt go on to bigger and better things. It is clear that he takes after his mother in every aspect and he is someone to watch. I am on my way to the Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai Hills District Cricket Association annual awards night. As is the case with the clubs referred to by the member for Camden cricket, any sport or community activity does not happen by accident. They happen because of the work of countless volunteers who give of their time to enable our young people, our next generation, to have a fair go.

HOLROYD CITY COUNCIL SWIMMING POOLS UPGRADES

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) [5.36 p.m.]: I commend the recent decision of Holroyd City Council to retain and upgrade all three of its swimming pools, including the Merrylands pool which is in the Granville electorate, and the Wentworthville and Guildford pools, which are just outside the Granville electorate but are regularly used by residents of the electorate from Wentworthville, Westmead, Greystanes, Guildford and other suburbs. Council initially considered a proposal to replace its three ageing pools with a single aquatic wellness centre at Merrylands last October. In response, there was a cohesive community campaign over many months to retain all three pools, with numerous submissions from across the city. I commend Mayor Greg Cummings and all councillors for listening and responding to the community. I particularly commend Grant Hansen who led the campaign to save Wentworthville pool and organised a petition that was signed by almost 4,000 people and Councillor Lisa Lake who worked with Grant to collect the signatures and save the Wentworthville pool from closure.

When I doorknocked in Wentworthville, the possible closure of the pool was the most commonly cited issue. People do not want to lose their pool. When I went swimming at the pool with Councillor Lake on the hottest day of last summer, the pool was packed and people were queueing up to sign the petition. The Wentworthville pool is the most heavily used of Holroyd City Council's pools by both casual visitors and school learn-to-swim groups. It also hosts adult learn-to-swim classes, which are particularly popular with new migrants who have come from countries that do not have a strong culture of swimming. It also hosted this year's regional Scouts swimming carnival, organised by the 1st Wentworthville Scouts, as well as many school swimming carnivals. It is big enough to host these carnivals but not so large that it is expensive to secure the exclusive use of the pool.

Last financial year, approximately 52,000 people visited the pool, in addition to more than 12,000 school students. Wentworthville pool was established as a war memorial pool 50 years ago this year with funds raised by the local community. It is close to the town centre, well served by public transport and has three car parks within easy walking distance. With the advent of the new residential zoning allowing for high-rise development, in particular the nearby Bonds factory site in Pendle Hill, the demand for Wentworthville pool will exponentially increase.

The Guildford pool was also threatened with closure, and I commend the Guildford community for its efforts in keeping their pool open. As council's only indoor heated pool and the only one open year round, it attracts people from a wide range of areas, particularly into winter. The Guildford community also organised a petition to save its pool and Councillor John Brodie is to be commended for his work to save the Guildford pool and scrutinise the financial viability of the alternatives presented to council. Both pools need upgrades that are long overdue. Both have seen rising costs and falling patronage as they have deteriorated. Both pools warrant refurbishment and I commend council's decision to do so. If done properly this will increase patronage and ensure the pools continue to serve their local communities for years to come.

I attended the community consultation sessions in Wentworthville and Guildford. They were quite fiery meetings. The community made it known that their interests were in the continued future of their local pools and they wanted council's assurance that the pools would be maintained and remain open. While Merrylands pool was never threatened with closure, council's decision to significantly upgrade it at a cost of \$62 million has been a contentious one. There has been debate about retaining and maintaining three pools or moving towards a centralised, significantly upgraded aquatic wellness centre at Merrylands.

Council has now moved to do both. This will cost around \$80 million and meeting this cost will prove challenging. Stage one of the proposed Holroyd Regional Aquatic Wellness Centre includes: four indoor pool and water play areas comprising a 51-metre 10-lane pool, a combined leisure-learn to swim pool, a warm-water pool program and spa, a water play and splash pad; health and fitness facilities comprising an indoor gym, three group fitness rooms; wellness studios; amenities and change rooms; and front-of-house reception, office, cafe and lounge. Stage two includes indoor-outdoor waterslides; an outdoor 50-metre 10-lane pool; outdoor amenities; change facilities; tennis courts; and a new playing field on the existing pool's site.

The proposed warm-water program pool and spa will be particularly appreciated by older residents if the demand for hydrotherapy services at Westmead Hospital is any indication. That the council has backed away from plans to close Wentworthville and Guildford pools reflects the local accountability of local government. I am pleased that Holroyd City Council listens and responds to its residents and ratepayers. This should be the key accountability for a council to be considered "Fit for the Future". I certainly will support council's efforts to secure grant funding for the aquatic wellness centre, noting that this cost will be more challenging having decided to meet the community's expectations not to close the council's other pools.

RECONCILIATION ART AWARDS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) [5.40 p.m.]: On Sunday 24 May 2015 I had the privilege to attend the Reconciliation Art Competition Awards for 2015 held at the Gosford Regional Gallery. The major sponsor of the 2015 Reconciliation Art Competition is NSW Fair Trading. These awards were originally the concept of the late Sean Lonergan and today I acknowledge his commitment to this project, of which he would be very proud. I also acknowledge the ongoing support of NSW Fair Trading, along with the generous sponsorships of the following organisations for this art competition: Central Coast Community College, University of Newcastle, Central Coast Housing Services, Central Coast Grammar School, WorkCover NSW, Wollotuka Institute and Nunyara Aboriginal Health.

The awards ceremony was opened by a traditional welcome to country by the Darkinjung people followed by an outstanding performance by the dance group from the National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association [NAISDA]. NAISDA has a permanent home located at Mount Penang Parklands at Kariong on the Central Coast. This was the second time within a week that I had the privilege to enjoy and see firsthand these talented performers. On the first occasion I was accompanied by the Hon. Leslie Williams, MP, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education.

On this very special occasion of the Reconciliation Art Competition, awards were presented as follows: the Frank Baxter award went to an unnamed recipient currently in incarceration; the collaborative prize went to Jo-Anne Johnson and Paul Nolan; the collaborative school project years 7 to 12 encouragement award went to Audrey Burns from Erina High; the collaborative school project years 7 to 12 first prize was awarded to Meredith Smee from Wadalba Community School; the collaborative school project years K to 6 encouragement award went to Nicole de Mestre from Brooke Avenue Public School; the collaborative school project years K to 6 first prize went to Elizabeth Sprague from Gosford Public School; the Indigenous school project years 7 to 11 encouragement award was won by Kim Whealey from Gorokan High School;

The Indigenous school project years 7 to 12 first prize was won by Simone Byrnes from Northlakes High School; the Indigenous school project years 1 to 6 encouragement award was won by Jane Moore from Empire Bay Public School; the Indigenous school project years 1 to 6 first prize was won by Leah Ingram from Gwandalan Public School; the Sean Lonergan Indigenous youth first prize was won by Stevie Aston; the non-Indigenous second prize was won by Kellie McDougall; the non-Indigenous first prize was won by Marijke Greenway; the open Indigenous second prize was won by Bridgette Hay; the open Indigenous first prize was won by Donella Waters; the Tony Donovan second prize was won by Maria Watson Trudgett; and the Tony Donovan first prize was won by Wendy Pawley.

Sean Lonergan was the originator of the Fair Trading Aboriginal Artist Competition, first held in 2000 in the Gosford offices of the Department of Fair Trading, with Sean being the manager of the Gosford office. The original exhibition had around 25 entries, mostly from students at the local TAFE, with a total prize value of \$500. The initial aim was to support local Aboriginal artists to promote their culture. In 2001, in collaboration with the Myself program, the exhibition was moved to the foyer of Gosford Regional Gallery. There was a modest increase in entries and the exhibition focused on reconciliation. It was held again at the gallery in 2002 and then in 2003 it was held in the offices of the Darkinjung Land Council. In 2004 the exhibition returned to the gallery where it significantly increased in size, with 71 entries that year.

In 2006 the exhibition was moved to one of the main galleries at Gosford Regional Gallery to provide more room and non-Indigenous artists were invited to enter artworks for the first time. Since 2006 the exhibition has continued to grow. This year, its fifteenth anniversary, I am pleased to say that there were 118 entries with a total of \$10,800 provided in prizes. I pay tribute to Tim Braham and the staff of Gosford Regional Gallery, who, with the assistance of staff from NSW Fair Trading, put in so much time to ensure the ongoing success of this event. Sean Lonergan was a passionate advocate for the Aboriginal community and the reconciliation movement. Sadly, he passed away earlier this year after a long battle with cancer. Today in the New South Wales Parliament I pay tribute to this wonderful community event and to Sean Lonergan, a leader in our community and champion for the Aboriginal people.

ROCKDALE POLICE STATION

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) [5.45 p.m.]: Prior to the 2011 State election the New South Wales Liberals committed to opening a new police station at Rockdale. Nearly five years after that promise was first made our community remains without a local police station, while various forms of serious crime continue

to rise in parts of our electorate. I recognise at the outset that the old Rockdale police station was sold by Labor as part of a major overhaul of the St George Local Area Command. But this is not about the Labor Party and it is not about the Liberal Party. It is about the basic safety and wellbeing of my local community. That is why I take the opportunity during my first private member's statement to recommit to seeing a police station reopened at the Rockdale town centre during my term in office. This should not be a partisan issue. During my predecessor's inaugural speech, Mr John Flowers said the following:

At the end of this parliamentary term I hope to have delivered in a similar manner on the issues raised by people during the State election. These include the return of the Rockdale police station ...

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): Order! The member for Rockdale will be heard in silence.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Rockdale is a city of 100,000 people. These 100,000 people do not need partisan bickering and they do not need false promises; they do not need political spin. They need a police station. Both parties have committed to do this, and we should be delivering it together, regardless of who is in government. Rockdale is growing rapidly. We have just seen a Rockdale central business district master plan returned to our city by the Department of Planning that will mean many thousands of additional residents moving into the middle of our city. We will see new and innovative businesses opening up on our main shopping strip to cater to the growing population.

We are asking people to invest in Rockdale, to invest their lives, their businesses and their livelihoods in our community. The least we can do is to provide them with the local police station they have been promised. Good urban planning requires the State to provide adequate amenities, none more important than the feeling of safety and security provided by a local police station. How can we expect the sort of high-quality development we all wish to see in our suburban town centres if locals and investors see a State government unwilling to put its money where its mouth is?

Unfortunately, Rockdale has seen various forms of serious crime growing in recent years. In 2014 alone there were three homicides in Rockdale, well above the State average. More than 282 cases of domestic violence were reported, an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year and an inexcusable figure. We saw significant increases in fraud and larceny-related offences over previous years. We have had among the highest rates of drive-by shootings, with a single suburb in my electorate having six serious drive-by shooting incidents between the 2011 and 2015 elections. We cannot respond to serious crime with half-hearted action. The people of Rockdale deserve a strong local police presence. The people of Rockdale deserve to feel safe. The people of Rockdale deserve local representatives and a government that keep their promises. The people of Rockdale deserve a local police station.

BOWRAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) [5.50 p.m.]: Mr Acting-Speaker (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith), congratulations on your election as chairman of the Parliamentary Friends of Israel. I draw the attention of the House to the New South Wales Government's commitment of \$50 million to upgrade Bowral and District Hospital to bring it into the twenty-first century. Given that members opposite have voted against the electricity networks transaction legislation, they must also oppose this hospital upgrade, which is extremely disappointing. They certainly said nothing about it during the election campaign.

It is well known that the hospital has not grown in line with the increasing population, and in many respects it is outdated as a medical health facility. This aged facility has served the needs of its local population for more than 125 years and caters to Wollondilly, the Southern Highlands and the greater southern region. Just last year I celebrated its 125th birthday with the hospital auxiliary and hospital staff. It was great to see their pride in the hospital. Health services in regional and rural areas are vital. A significant proportion of the Wollondilly population is elderly, which makes this upgrade even more urgent. The Southern Highlands has a large number of retirement and nursing homes, but it also has a large number of young families who need birthing suites and the like. I met with some of the midwives who are providing a world-class service in a seriously outdated building.

I asked the Wollondilly and Southern Highlands communities to join me in lobbying the Government for a much-needed upgrade to the hospital during the election campaign. My call for support generated an enormous response. Thousands of people got involved in the campaign and sent a clear message to the

Government that they wanted an upgraded facility. We are extremely lucky to have the Hon. Jillian Skinner as the Minister for Health. She does a fantastic job and delivers for everyone in the State by providing health services. I take this opportunity to thank my community for their wonderful lobbying and support during the campaign. That support was instrumental in securing record funding of \$50 million to upgrade this valuable community asset.

I have a fantastic volunteer in my electorate office who does a wonderful job helping the Wollondilly community. She has recently been a patient at Bowral and District Hospital. She had some most unpleasant stories to relate about holes in the ceiling of a ward, paint peeling off walls and beds too wide for rooms and corridors, to name just a few problems. However, she said that the hospital staff were fantastic and that they deserved their working environment to be upgraded. During the campaign, I met with various medical practitioners—doctors, nurses, administrative staff and so on—who also had alarming stories to tell about the condition of the hospital.

Adding extra capacity to this hospital will ensure we are able to retain and increase a specialist base for our community. The recently upgraded children's unit is testament to this. The need to appoint a paediatric mental health nurse late last year goes to show the great pressure placed upon the hospital resources. Having a modern, upgraded facility utilised by our growing population will relieve the pressure placed on hospitals outside the Wollondilly area with patients being comfortable about staying at Bowral and District Hospital. We will also eliminate the need for elderly patients to travel to other hospitals for diagnosis of serious health problems.

This was one of many concerns raised during the campaign. After spending a lot of time visiting the hospital, it is pleasing to say that the hospital staff—from the kitchen staff through to the nurses and doctors—are 100 per cent behind the upgrade and are passionate about their workplace. I have assured the staff that because they are on the frontline they will be consulted about upgrades. I have encouraged them to put forward ideas because they see this as important in enabling them to carry out their duties. I know we face challenges ahead in deciding how best to upgrade the hospital.

However, we must ensure that we move forward promptly with the planning and staging of the upgrades so that Bowral and District Hospital can continue to deliver great health outcomes for the community in Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands. With a growing population, it is imperative that we have a top-quality hospital to provide the best possible care. The community deserves a facility that can provide good nursing care, medical staff who are comfortable with their workspace, and staff who are willing to work and live in our wonderful rural area. Creation and retention of jobs is vital for Wollondilly.

I welcome the opportunity to work with the Government, hospital staff and the community in delivering this much-needed hospital upgrade. The Government is meeting community demands for health services in our region by honouring this commitment. I thank the Minister for Health, the South Western Sydney Local Health District, the doctors, nurses and other staff and, most importantly, my community for joining with me in this hugely successful campaign. I also take this opportunity to welcome Valerie Jovanovic, the new general manager of the hospital. I look forward to working with her in the future.

FAIRFIELD ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) [5.55 p.m.]: A number of special services were held in Fairfield in the lead up to Anzac Day this year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the spirit of Anzac. We have seen spectacular turnouts to commemorative services across the State. Many community groups and organisations have been involved and have gone the extra mile to make this year's services special. I attended Patrician Brothers College Fairfield's commemorative service, organised by Mr Michael Bilton, Ms Layla Mardini and the Human Society and Its Environment department. The commemorative service was solemn and incredibly moving. Present at the service were local RSL members, parents and students.

The service entailed a procession of 100 names and 100 lights, marking the 100 years of Anzac. Respect was paid to the fallen Australian and New Zealand troops through the Prayers of the Faithful and the Tribute Address. I commend the Patrician Brothers College community for organising a moving commemoration. Throughout the service there were many times when not a dry eye could be seen. It was a truly fitting commemoration of those brave men who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The event was also marked by the distribution of a commemorative order of service designed by a student commemorating 100 years of Anzac history.

Fairfield High School also held a special service. I was in the company of Fairfield RSL President, Mr Paul Bryant, Captain Raoul Cernaz, S33 Headquarters 5th Brigade representing the Australian Defence Force, former students and representatives of Fairfield High School. School Principal Mr Charles Borg officially opened the recently constructed World War 1 memorial inside the school grounds. The memorial consists of three plaques on a commemorative wall and a sandstone plinth that holds a bronze slouch hat. Of the three commemorative plaques on the wall, one contains a replica bronze helmet, another contains the historical perspective of Gallipoli, and the last is a list of names of the brave men from Fairfield who served our nation.

The memorial has a hedge of rosemary, which symbolises the protection of the hills of Gallipoli, as well as pebble stones representing the Gallipoli shoreline. The sandstone plinth represents the sandstone that is a feature of the hills of Gallipoli. The entire monument symbolises all that is Anzac. The concept for the memorial came to fruition under the stewardship of former principal Mr Robert Mulas and in partnership with Fairfield RSL. The theme of the service was how our diggers forged the concepts of who Australians are and mateship. I was honoured to address the assembly on the theme of "The life of an 18-year-old serving at Gallipoli", and what that meant to me as an Australian. I touched upon how the Gallipoli campaign was an opportunity for young men to see a new world, only for that trip to be their last.

The Fairfield RSL Sub-Branch held a Commemoration Sunday event at Honour Avenue in Fairfield at which I met Ms Iris Terry. Ms Terry is a long-time resident of Carramar and she is also the oldest surviving World War II Air Force veteran. It was a pleasure and an honour to meet Ms Terry and to hear about her experiences. Traditionally, the Commemoration Sunday event is a chance for the Fairfield RSL intraclubs to pay homage to our fallen. Commemoration Sunday is also a chance for the sub-branch members to acknowledge the efforts of intraclub members. This year the Commemoration Sunday march departed Fairfield RSL to make its way to Honour Avenue, where wreaths were laid.

Anzac Services were held throughout my electorate on 25 April 2015, and I am very proud to say that local residents showed up in record numbers to pay their respects to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. The march to Honour Avenue was significantly larger than any previous Anzac Day dawn service march. This was also noted in Fairfield RSL's auditorium, where more than 60 tables were set up and filled for the traditional breakfast. I was also fortunate to have attended Guildford Leagues Club for the traditional mid-morning Anzac Day service. The ceremony was very well attended, with the club's auditorium filled to capacity. I thank Guildford Leagues Club for honouring Anzac Day each year and for providing the community with a mid-morning service. I also thank Cabra-Vale Diggers and the Mounties for kindly extending an invitation to the Anzac services. It is our duty as Australians to continue the Anzac legacy and to ensure that our servicemen's deeds will never be forgotten. Lest we forget.

KIAMA ELECTORATE HEALTH SERVICES

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama—Parliamentary Secretary) [5.59 p.m.]: Mr Acting-Speaker, I acknowledge your ascendency to the Speakers' panel and congratulate you on that elevation. I also congratulate you on your election earlier today as Chairman of the Parliamentary Friends of Israel. I have no doubt you will do an excellent job in that role. The member for Vacluse served in that role for four years so you have big shoes to fill. I look forward to you doing a great job.

I am deeply committed to improving health services and today I am delighted to talk about health care in my electorate, an issue that is frequently raised with me. I commend all the healthcare professionals—doctors, nurses and staff. I thank the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, for her constant commitment to health care in my region. I am pleased to acknowledge the Assistant Minister for Health, my good friend the member for Goulburn, who is in the Chamber. A number of commitments were made during the election which will improve healthcare services in my electorate. One major commitment was the allocation of \$8 million for upgrading car parking at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital, which is my local hospital and where I go to have my medical needs addressed. It is my experience and the experience of friends who work at the hospital that car parking is at a premium.

In the last term of government, the member for South Coast and I fought hard for additional car parking spaces. We took this fight to the Government and presented a petition to the Minister for Health. I am pleased that the Minister listened to the call and we secured \$8 million to upgrade car parking at the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital, which will be appreciated by staff and other stakeholders. We have also secured \$2 million for a second linear accelerator at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital. One reason I stood for Parliament was so I could upgrade cancer services in my region. When I was growing up my mother was diagnosed with breast

cancer and, sadly, she has recently been re-diagnosed. I know too well the problems in my region that cancer patients must face. I am extremely happy that \$2 million has been allocated to provide a second linear accelerator, given that the existing linear accelerator is at 93 per cent capacity.

I commend Margo Johnson for taking up many petitions to assist me in convincing the Government to allocate \$5 million for an ambulance station in Berry. I call on the Government to work with the Rural Fire Service, which is looking for a new facility in Berry. The Berry bypass is currently underway and there may be an opportunity to co-locate the facilities and save funds. I am also pleased that \$5 million has been allocated for a new ambulance station in Kiama. Its ambulance station is located in Terralong Street—the main street—which poses some issues for accessing the whole municipality. Ambulances can be delayed because of the location of the station in the centre of town. One of the most significant health announcements that was made during the election campaign was a commitment of \$251 million for Shellharbour Hospital. It will expand the emergency department capacity, double the operating theatre size, add an intensive care unit, provide for increased acute inpatient, surgical, aged care and rehabilitation beds, and expanded outpatient and primary community health services. This commitment represents a new era for Shellharbour Hospital and will ensure that patients receive world-class care in a world-class facility.

I welcome today's announcement that the Bureau of Health Information [BHI] quarterly report for January to March 2015 shows that New South Wales hospitals are providing timely access to care for record numbers of patients. Today's BHI report shows that 75 per cent of patients left New South Wales emergency departments within four hours and that elective surgical performance was strong, despite increased volumes. Compared to the same quarter last year, more than 17,000 extra patients visited emergency departments and more than 9,000 extra patients were admitted. Looking at these results for Shellharbour, there has been a substantial increase in performance since this Government came to office in 2011. The emergency department waiting times under four hours from January to March 2015 was 72 per cent; for the same period in 2014 it was 69 per cent; in 2013 it was 57 per cent; in 2012 it was 55 per cent; and in 2011 it was 53 per cent.

This Government is committed to investing in health care and it is committed to improving performance. Our commitment to invest \$251 million in the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital is evidence of our improvement in hospital performance across the Illawarra. I am pleased with the \$106 million investment at Wollongong Hospital and that the new car park has been open throughout the past four years. I am delighted with the investments in health care by this Government. I will continue to stand up for every dollar that I can bring to the Illawarra region in order to make the necessary improvements that our community expects and demands.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): I echo the sentiments of the member for Kiama that the Minister for Health has been an outstanding Minister for Health. She is probably the best Minister for Health that this State has ever had. I also acknowledge the presence in the Chamber of the Assistant Minister for Health and recognise the great work of clinicians, nurses and support staff at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

GOULBURN HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

Ms PRU GOWARD (Goulburn—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) [6.05 p.m.]: Congratulations, Mr Acting-Speaker on your appointment. As long as you give up smoking you will live to enjoy it. This is a great opportunity to acknowledge the extensive commitment that the Baird Government is making in the Goulburn electorate, particularly to health services. I agree with my friend Gareth Ward, the member for Kiama, and acknowledge it is critical to have good quality health services in regional areas. The more isolated one is, the more important it becomes.

I understand that the people of Wagga Wagga and Bega live a great distance from a major health centre and it might have been a priority for them, but the time has come for the electorate of Goulburn. We now have a significant commitment of \$120 million for the redevelopment of the Goulburn Base Hospital, which is an old hospital. It has probably been on the waiting list for renovations for longer than some people in this Chamber have been alive. The member for Wollondilly referred to the \$54 million that has been allocated for the refurbishment of the Bowral and District Hospital. Goulburn and Bowral, like the rest of the Goulburn electorate, are bedevilled by their proximity to major centres. Goulburn, Yass, Boorowa and Gundaroo are all within the orbit of Canberra, which makes investment in significant facilities such as hospitals—and schools—a particular challenge because it is much easier to put somebody in an ambulance and send him or her to Canberra.

Fortunately this Government has recognised the importance of redeveloping the Goulburn Base Hospital. It is an hour's drive from Canberra, but it is the centre of a significant agricultural and service city. The redevelopment of the hospital will be a significant enhancement for health services in the district and it will enable us to attract more clinicians. It is often observed that we have difficulty filling clinical posts. Fortunately we do not have trouble filling physiotherapy positions. I take this opportunity to give my thanks to the physiotherapists at Goulburn Base Hospital who put my back in order in record time. I attended only two physiotherapy sessions. The physiotherapist was young and stern. I was intimidated and did exactly as I was told, with good results. I also acknowledge the great service my husband, David, received at the Goulburn Base Hospital when he was ill recently.

The importance of redeveloping the two hospitals is not the only thing that brings me to the Chamber this evening; we have been able to invest \$11.7 million in Yass Health. Yass is just over 60 kilometres from Canberra along the Barton Highway, which would be familiar to many members. It, too, is bedevilled by its proximity to a tertiary hospital, but in this term in office the Government is investing in a multipurpose centre that will have some aged care beds. Its large ambulance station, which is in the middle of town, will be redeveloped. Yass Health is on its way with some redevelopments at Yass District Hospital.

We will be well placed to serve a rapidly growing population—a young population, but a population that is much less than an hour's drive from a major tertiary hospital and an hour's drive from what will be a grandly redeveloped Goulburn Base Hospital. We are a community with an electorate of 18,500 square kilometres and we are challenged by our proximity to Canberra. But we are also a community blessed by a rural lifestyle and the strength of our communities. An enormous amount of driving is involved. The Nationals told me that I have a tiny electorate, but taking into account my driving expectations it has been a huge step up. Over the next four years my husband, my staff and I look forward to getting to know everyone very well—thank you, Brooke and Rachel—as we spend many hours in the car driving around the beautiful Goulburn electorate and celebrating all that is good about regional New South Wales.

BLUE MOUNTAINS PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) [6.10 p.m.]: Tonight I will discuss public transport, specifically train services, in relatively broad terms. Public transport options or the lack thereof are a major concern for the Blue Mountains community. The last revision of and changes to the Blue Mountains timetable took place in October 2013 without consultation with the community. It is not good enough. Public transport impacts on every aspect of life in the mountains for many people. With a series of villages spread across a ridge line the train network is integral to people moving about.

On most days 59 per cent of Blue Mountains residents leave the area to commute to and work in Sydney, the Central West or surrounds. Our travelling workforce is faced with two choices to get to and from work. They either travel in their cars, which can take hours on congested roads and it is stressful and environmentally unfriendly, or they journey by train—a good choice for the environment and, in theory, the stress-free choice, given that our train network should offer a high level of certainty that people can travel safely, comfortably and arrive on time.

Currently the trains servicing the Blue Mountains are prone to breakdowns—more breakdowns than ever before—and they are crammed. Trains have only four carriages, a cut from the previous eight, and they are old and run down. Maintenance of trains and our network is not the strength of this Government. During a particularly bad rainstorm earlier this year, a train packed with Blue Mountains commuters broke down not far from where I live, between Lawson and Bullaburra, not for 10 minutes but for more than an hour. As if this were not enough of a nightmare, the trains leaked and water poured down the sides and from the roofline, leaving commuters stranded in the dark and wet. Our trains should be reliable, they should be regular and, in 2015, they should be waterproof.

The Blue Mountains relies on tourism, and the hospitality industry is one of the top three employment sectors in our community. In this industry people can work long distances from their home at unusual hours, and they work well into the night. Our train service is poor, and the bus service is irregular and non-existent at night. This makes it especially difficult for young people who do not drive. Youth unemployment is growing in the Blue Mountains, and transport is one of the issues exacerbating this. Take the grandson of Christine, who is 17 years old and has casual employment in a cafe at Leura. He is in year 12 at school and hopes to gain an apprenticeship as a chef. The distance from Blackheath station to Leura station is 14 kilometres. On Friday evenings, for example—nights he has to work—there is a two-hour gap between trains and there are no buses.

The train timetable for the Blue Mountains needs a significant overhaul. I will be working to ensure the voice of our residents is heard and listened to during the yearly review process. Most specifically I will be arguing strongly for the Westmead stop to be reinstated on our daily timetable. "Mind the Gap: A Report into the Upper Blue Mountains Train Timetable", prepared by Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre and The Getting Around in Community Project, which is based at Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre, indicate that the upper Blue Mountains needs, at the very least, an hourly train service in both directions.

Let us consider a mother living in Mount Victoria who needs to go to the chemist in Blackheath with two young children in tow. She has a 20-minute turnaround to purchase urgent medication from the chemist and get back to the station for her return trip. A missed train means waiting for two hours for the next train. Let us consider the fact that she has two small children so, presumably, has need for a pram. Depending on which station you are near, accessing the station can be impossible if one is in need of a wheelchair, has a disability, is using a bicycle, has luggage or is using a pram.

A number of our most popular train stations are accessible only via a long set of steps. When one makes it onto the train, a general problem for most passengers is the lack of storage and space, and access to the main carriage. We need to ensure access to our trains. The lack of visible security and cuts to security guards on the trains, leaving many passengers feeling vulnerable, are some of the issues I intend to raise in this place on behalf of the Blue Mountains community relative to the large problems that need addressing with public transport.

MOOREBANK INTERMODAL TERMINAL

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) [6.15 p.m.]: I thank the Acting-Speaker (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith) and welcome him to the Speakers' panel. It is nice to see the member for Coogee in the chair. I am incredibly disappointed to be here tonight speaking again on the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal, which my community is constantly threatened with having dumped on it. I am updating the House because contracts have been signed between the Federal Government and the Sydney Intermodal Terminal Alliance [SIMTA] so that they can have the Moorebank Intermodal Company [MIC] and the SIMTA working together as one super freight terminal.

I am here tonight to say once again on behalf of my community that this is just not fair. It is not right. It is outrageous. I am appalled. I am not sure I can find the words to explain how dissatisfied I am. I think it is insulting, especially to residents of Wattle Grove and Casula who will bear the brunt of this decision. This development helps Port Botany. It is lovely for Port Botany—it will mean freight comes by train all the way down from the back of Wattle Grove. But those trains will go straight past the backyards of Casula residents in a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week operation. The trains are 1.8 kilometres long. There is no way to avoid their wheels squealing. It is appalling that such impacts in a residential area are considered to be okay.

Information from the Moorebank Intermodal Company suggests that local residents will benefit from this project—they should be happy it is coming their way because it will ease traffic on the M5. But in fact, what it will do is bring traffic into the area and impact on more than 20 road intersections. Apparently that is okay because the roads are going to get busier anyway. But it is not okay and it is not good enough. Some road works on Moorebank Avenue are expected to help with this.

I have read through the information provided by the company for the next period of community consultation. It says that, should there be an accident on the M5 or Moorebank Avenue, the facility will need to close while the accident is being cleared. Remarkably, there was an accident there today, which is bad timing. If the facility had been open today, it would have had to close down. Just last week there were seven accidents that would have closed down this facility. It is not the ideal facility. These 1.8-kilometre long trains will pull up and will not be able to be cleared because the facility has had to close due to accidents.

The Federal Government is apparently putting \$370 million into the project, which is worth more than \$1 billion. But \$1 billion of road and rail upgrades need to be done to make this okay. It will cost \$400 million to fix up the M5 so that we can get trucks on and off Moorebank Avenue and onto the Hume Highway. I fully support Badgerys Creek airport as a better option. We need to spend \$1 billion to upgrade road and rail in that area anyway. We should put the facility in Badgerys Creek. It is not in the Sydney Basin so the health impacts would not be so severe and it would not block access to the local hospital. We are about to build a new ambulance station on the corner of the Hume Highway and Hoxton Park Road. That is one of the intersections that will be blocked if this intermodal goes ahead. I do not understand how this is a good thing for my area.

I think we are being used as a dumping ground. I think that years ago some bureaucrats thought that Moorebank would be a good spot for this facility—except that the area has moved on. Badgerys Creek is a far better place for it. The company says it would take too long, it would be years before an investigation into building the facility at Badgerys Creek could be completed. My community has been fighting this development for five years. We should have listened to the community five years ago and started looking at Badgerys Creek. Now the company is saying Moorebank has to have it because it will take too long to move it to Badgerys Creek.

I do not understand how the NSW Planning and Assessment Commission has allowed the SIMTA intermodal to have concept approval for about 250,000 containers. For the joint facility SIMTA wants one million containers for local freight and 500,000 containers for interstate freight—so we are talking about 1.5 million containers instead of the 250,000 that are currently in the mix. Ian Hunt, the Chief Executive Officer of the MIC has said that there should be no limit on the number of containers; it should just be whatever the train line can take. He is not worried about what the community can take. It is not good enough. My community will not receive significant public benefits; it will only suffer hindrances. I call on the Federal Government to change the location of this facility. I know I have the support of our local Federal member of Parliament, Craig Kelly, and the local council.

Private members' statements concluded.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 6.21 p.m. until
Tuesday 23 June 2015 at 12 noon.**
