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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 20 November 2014

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

The Speaker read the Prayer and acknowledgement of country.

STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL (NO 2) 2014

OMBUDSMAN AND PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2014

The Speaker reported the following message from the Legislative Council:

Madam SPEAKER

The Legislative Council desires to inform the Legislative Assembly that it has considered the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2) 2014 and has this day divided the Bill into two Bills:

- (1) "An Act to repeal certain Acts and instruments and to amend certain other Acts and instruments in various respects and for the purpose of effecting statute law revision; and to make certain savings". (Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2) 2014)
- (2) "An Act to amend the Ombudsman Act 1974 with respect to the giving of evidence; and to amend the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 with respect to reporting requirements and the referral of matters". (Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill 2014)

The Legislative Council returns the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2) 2014, consisting of the original Bill with the exception of Schedules 1.18 and 1.24.

The Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, consists of Schedules 1.18 and 1.24 of the original bill, amended as indicated by the accompanying Schedule, in which amendments the Council requests the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Council requests the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly in the action taken by the Council.

Legislative Council
19 November 2014

TREVOR KHAN
Deputy President

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

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Clerk announced the receipt, pursuant to section 63C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, of the Auditor-General's Financial Audit Report, Volume Eight 2014, dated 20 November 2014.

Pursuant to resolution private members' statements proceeded with.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CESSNOCK ELECTORATE

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) [10.04 a.m.]: What a pleasure it is to be in the Chamber on the last sitting day of this Fifty-fifth Parliament. Some members will not return to this place and I might be one of them; we will only know after the next election. There is unfinished business for whoever represents the electorate of

Cessnock after the next election. Mental health and counselling services are required right across the Hunter New England health district—something that is incredibly dear to my heart as I see so much disadvantage in the community. One of the most significant areas of disadvantage is the tyranny of distance and people's inability to access mental health and counselling services.

We used to have a fantastic community health service that was operated, funded and staffed by medical professionals across the Hunter New England area. Unfortunately, earlier this year the decision was made to withdraw that service. The justification given at the time was that Hunter Medicare Local would pick up the slack. On Thursday 29 May there was a debate in this House about Hunter New England community health and counselling services. In that debate I said:

Closing the counselling services offered by Hunter New England Health seems to be a race between the State and Federal governments to see who can get out of the business of providing mental health the fastest. Of course, everybody could see that the Federal Government was moving towards shutting down Medicare Local offices, and it was widely reported in the media.

The sad truth is that that is exactly what happened in the Hunter area. The previously funded services of Hunter New England Health were plan A. When those services were removed, plan B was to fall back on Medicare Local services which have also been removed from the Hunter—a sad reflection on the mental health facilities that are available in our local area today.

I recognise all the wonderful and beautiful people from across the Cessnock electorate who have come to see me about the significant and distressing things that have happened as a result of changes to workers compensation legislation. I pay special tribute to Gary and Kay Grant. I hope that they survive the Christmas period and that whoever is elected as the next member for Cessnock—hopefully it will be me—will continue the fight to get the services and support they need. Despite the fact that I have brought this matter to the attention of the insurer and relevant Ministers in this place, Gary and Kay Grant are suicidal as a result of their treatment under workers compensation. I hope they will survive the festive season and that they receive the support they need in the new year.

Whoever represents the electorate of Cessnock in the next Parliament—hopefully it will be me and this is not a valedictory speech—will have much work to do to try to secure extra police and a new police station. The police station is outdated, it has served its purpose and it needs to be redeveloped. I hope we can ensure that that happens. I have spoken ad nauseam in this place about educational standards in the Cessnock electorate. There is much that we need to do for people in the Cessnock electorate. Unfortunately we have the lowest level of educational attainment in New South Wales and there does not seem to be a plan to address that. We must do something about it.

We have a wonderful world-class facility in the form of the University of Newcastle which is located an hour's drive away from Cessnock. Obviously the changes to TAFE will have a significant impact on the educational standards of people in my electorate. Cessnock has the highest number of people with trade qualifications in New South Wales and is the most popular tourist destination outside of Sydney but we no longer offer hospitality training at our local TAFE. We need to do more to raise the educational standards of people in the Cessnock electorate.

Today I make special mention of a gentleman called Warwick Howarth from Howarth Drilling, a company that provided drilling services for NuCoal in the Hunter Valley. Unfortunately, because of the implementation of legislation resulting from Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC] investigations, the licence and lease were withdrawn from NuCoal. As a result, Howarth Drilling, a little family operated business that had invested in some drilling equipment because it had been contracted to do the drilling on that job, has essentially gone bankrupt—an unintended consequence of legislation that logically made sense, given all that had happened at the ICAC and all the corruption revelations. However, Howard Drilling is the innocent victim. A great deal still has to be done for the wonderful and beautiful people of the Cessnock electorate. I hope that I will be back next year to represent them.

BURRINJUCK ELECTORATE

Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON (Burrinjuck—Minister for Primary Industries) [10.09 a.m.]: I pay tribute to a wonderful electorate that has been known as the Burrinjuck electorate for the past 64 years. It is sad that the Burrinjuck electorate is to be abolished at the next election. While I love the new Cootamundra

electorate—and I hope to represent those constituents after the next State election—I want to reflect on the history of the Burrinjuck electorate and my time as the representative of that wonderful rural and regional electorate.

I was elected to this Chamber as the member for Burrinjuck on behalf of The Nationals by a majority of 42,766 electors on 27 March 1999. The current boundaries of Burrinjuck run from the Belubula River in the north to the Brindabella National Park in the south and from Bland Creek in the west to the Abercrombie River in the east. The electorate covers approximately 30,000 square kilometres and has a population of 65,190 wonderful people. The Burrinjuck electorate is as diverse as it is beautiful. Although it has changed significantly in its geographical boundaries over the years it remains as lovely today as it was in 1999.

Burrinjuck is steeped in history. Over the years the electorate has included the wonderful city of Goulburn, Australia's oldest inland city, which I represented for eight years, and Marulan. It has stretched from the gold rush village of Tuena to Talbingo, the birthplace of Miles Franklin, and from the Japanese Prisoner of War Memorial in Cowra to the birthplace of Henry Lawson in Grenfell. The electorate has also covered the famous Wombeyan Caves in the east and Yass, the home of both Banjo Paterson and the famous explorer Hamilton Hume, after whom my son Hamilton is named, and from Cootamundra, the birthplace of Bradman, to the wonderful limestone caves at Yarrangobilly.

The electorate of Burrinjuck has at one time or another represented all those towns I have mentioned but the town of Gundagai, where Captain Moonlight was tried in 1859, will be the only town to stay with me throughout. It was part of my electorate in 1999 and will be part of the new electorate at the 2015 election. The boundaries of Burrinjuck have suffered successive realignments over my past 16 years as the member, the most recent being last year when the boundary realignment was so significant that the seat of Burrinjuck was abolished. It will no longer exist from 28 March 2015. The seat was held by the great Sheahan dynasty from 1950 to 1988. In 1984 John Sharp contested the seat, unsettling the Sheahan hold so significantly and shockingly that at the next election the seat went to the Coalition where it has remained ever since.

I have often fought long and hard battles on behalf of my constituents, bringing the problems and difficulties of the people of Burrinjuck to the attention of Parliament. I have had many victories. For me it has been a matter of honour that I have always made myself available to all my constituents. No matter who they are, where they are from or whatever their voting habits I have worked for them. They can come to me and say, "I have been a Labor voter all my life, I don't need help", but I always assist them no matter their alignment. I learned that trait from the late great member for Goulburn of 19 years and my electorate mentor, Mr Ron Brewer. He was a terrific parliamentarian who, before I became the member for Burrinjuck, assisted me in my campaign for Southern Highlands. He worked with me to ensure I knew that I would be merely the representative; it was the people that were most important in an electorate.

My other impressive mentor was someone who taught me how to fight for my beliefs, hold onto my convictions and keep on going. I speak of course about the Hon. Nick Minchin, for whom I worked in Federal Parliament for two years prior to coming to this place. We had very different perspectives and perhaps policy drives but he taught me to be tough and stay true and to focus on policy, not on politics. Nick was a policy purist and I have been influenced by that in my current role as the Minister for Primary Industries.

One of my first battles and perhaps one of my greatest successes was my fight to achieve a fair go for farmers whose sheep had been diagnosed with ovine Johne's disease. When I became Minister for Primary Industries I was finally able to fix that problem for good. In 2003 the Burrinjuck electorate suffered from bushfires that spread from Namadgi National Park into Kosciuszko and Brindabella national parks and back into Canberra. The fires eventually burnt down 400 houses and caused the loss of four lives. Fires again impacted on my electorate in 2013. It was a terrific morale booster when the great Premier Barry O'Farrell visited the fire ground with me to meet the firefighters, the State Emergency Service volunteers, the farmers and their families to see firsthand the devastation and thank them for their hard work.

Mr Barry O'Farrell: And announce a new policy for arsonists.

Ms KATRINA HODGKINSON: I thank the former Premier for joining me in the Chamber for this private member's statement. As he rightly says, as a result of that visit we now have new laws for arsonists. I thank him again for that. In March 2012 we suffered shocking flooding through much of the Burrinjuck electorate and we instituted new natural disaster relief and recovery arrangements as a result. We obtained low-interest loans to secure a water supply for Yass after the millennium drought created enormous hardship for so many.

I am sad to leave the electorate of Burrinjuck. I have five generations of family history in the townships of Yass and Goulburn, so it is hard to say goodbye. I thank my parents, my sisters, Alex and Megan, and all the wonderful supporters that have helped me along the way. I treat this job as a privilege. I am humbled by the opportunity that has been afforded to me and I stand by all I have done as the representative of wonderful Burrinjuck.

KU-RING-GAI ELECTORATE RSL CLUBS

Mr BARRY O'FARRELL (Ku-ring-gai) [10.14 a.m.]: A great thing all local members do is engage with our ex-veterans community and local groups such as the RSL. I pay tribute to those groups across the Ku-ring-gai electorate. I have very much enjoyed and will continue to enjoy my interactions with them as their local member. Of course, that interaction takes many different forms. For instance, Major-General Gordon Maitland is one of my constituents. He has made an extraordinary contribution to this nation, and it is always delightful to see him at commemorations at the Cenotaph for the Anzac Memorial or at local memorials. It was fantastic to share Remembrance Day once again with the Roseville RSL at the Roseville Ex-Services Memorial Club. I had not been able to do that for the past seven years because of other official duties. To celebrate and commemorate in one's local community with veterans and widows in particular on Remembrance Day is very special. Representatives from almost 20 schools also attended the service this year to remember the sacrifices our service men and women have made.

Today I bring to the attention of members a new national servicemen's memorial plinth that has been unveiled at Turramurra Memorial Park, so called because the memorial gates for those who served in the First World War are situated on the site at the corner of Karuah Road and Eastern Road. Only this week I read a terrific new history of Australia entitled *Australia 1901—2001: A narrative history* by budding author Andrew Tink. I recommend it to everybody. At page 180 the author reminds us of the antecedence of the national service program in this country from 1951 until 1972. Established in 1951 when the world was in the grip of fear of communism—the period described as the Cold War—the scheme was designed to provide compulsory military training to young men to assist Australia in case there was a potential call on our defence capabilities.

The new plinth at Turramurra Memorial Park honours the memory of 290,735 young men who were called up to undertake compulsory military training between 1951 and 1972. In particular it honours the memory of 210 of their number, known as the Nashos, who lost their lives in the Vietnam conflict. I pay tribute to the National Servicemen's Association of Australia (NSW Branch) and in particular the Sydney Northern Sub-branch for ensuring that northern Sydney now has a memorial for the men who undertook training and contributed to Australia's defence by serving in many theatres including Korea, Monte Bello, Malaya, Vietnam, Borneo and Malaysia.

I also acknowledge my local National Servicemen's Association for its efforts 10 or 12 years ago to begin ensuring that services were again held at the suburban war memorials that exist in most electorates around Australia but where services were no longer held because of declining numbers of ex-service men and women and RSL sub-branches. I remember attending the first of the renewed services at the Wahroonga and Turramurra war memorials which was attended by about two to three dozen other people. I am delighted to say that on Anzac Day this year more than 200 to 300 people attended both services. We expect even bigger crowds next year.

That result is thanks to the efforts of those men who are now ageing but who are determined to ensure that local memorials are cherished and used for the purposes for which they were established years ago: to acknowledge the sacrifice so many have made to give us the freedoms we enjoy today. As I said, there are many associations across all our electorates of which we are proud and humbled by. I am never more humbled than when meeting individuals who have served this country in the regular defence forces, through national service and in support organisations. There are a number of former defence nurses who stride the stage across Ku-ring-gai and who remind all of us to this day that one should never take for granted their sacrifice. I am grateful for that sacrifice and look forward to an ongoing association with those groups.

MILLER AGED AND DISABILITY HOUSING

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) [10.19 a.m.]: I advise the House of concerns held by some of my constituents about their long-term accommodation. I have been approached by residents at premises at 2 Willandra Street, Miller, which consists of 18 units. Originally the premises were owned and managed by Housing NSW in its various corporate guises. Most recently they have been managed and run by the Wesley

Mission. All the tenants were told that they were permanent residents. I have seen a copy of the relevant agreement. There was nothing in it suggesting a specific time-limited period during which they could live there, but at the end of which they would have to move out. Representatives of the Wesley Mission clearly told them they were permanent residents, including the coordinator of the Wesley bedsit project. Those were the arrangements at this block and others in Warwick Farm and Ashcroft. Of course, the agreement was subject to the tenants adhering to the rules. The state of this complex has been very good. One resident, Peter Dwyer, said this:

There is a sense of security and safety that you don't see in Department of Housing properties.

There is a sense of community as in an extended family. All residents are friendly and support each other in both physical and emotional matters. They socialise together with regular BBQ's, outings etc.

Other residents have confirmed to me that there is no trouble there. It is an alcohol-free zone. But things have now changed. All residents now are to be put on six-month leases. They are to move on after two years and they have to pay a four-week bond. The consequences of this are catastrophic for the residents. Moreover, the new arrangement represents a breach of the promises and commitments given over time to the residents. In a letter from the Wesley Mission dated 20 October the blame is laid on the changes recently introduced by the New South Wales Government called Going Home Staying Home. The letter speaks of, "The results and impacts of the changes in the homelessness sector, recently introduced by the NSW Government, the Going Home Staying Home reforms." The letter goes on to state:

In response to these sector-wide changes, Wesley Mission has undergone an internal restructure to provide a detailed focus on the two key areas of support—accommodation and case management support.

Unfortunately, Wesley Mission was unsuccessful in securing funding to continue providing case management support in your area.

The letter also states:

A new area of Wesley Mission will now be responsible for your tenancy, rental and property maintenance issues, Wesley Community Housing. To start this new process, we will be signing new leases with all tenants, instead of renewing your licence agreement. We will be offering a lease using the standard residential tenancy agreement, which is the same type of agreement used in the private rental market. Wesley Mission will be your landlord and you will have all the rights and responsibilities of a tenant under the Residential Tenancies Act.

Additionally, the letter states:

As with a private rental agreement, you will be required to pay a bond equivalent to four weeks rent.

As to the length of time residents can stay in the premises, the letter states:

The property that you are currently occupying is provided to Wesley Mission by Housing NSW to be used specifically for transitional housing, which is short to medium term accommodation while you are stabilising your situation, with support from your case worker. Depending on individual circumstances, you may be offered transitional housing for up to 18 months to two years, however each lease period is offered for six months at a time. Towards the end of each six-month period, we will review housing needs in conjunction with your case worker to determine if another six-month lease period is required.

As I indicated, this has caused considerable angst and concern among the residents and is a complete backflip on what they had been told previously. Many of the residents have considerable challenges which they are trying to overcome. Peter Dyer says this:

To split up this community after 2 years would jeopardise their physical and mental health severely and put them in the situation that brought them to Wesley in the first place.

All the residents there have come from other Wesley properties. All have been tenants for a minimum of two years. Some have been tenants for 6½ years and others have been there for even longer. A tenant, Ron King, says this:

All here, ... Have medical and physiological problems at an acute level and I think it is criminal to put us all under such a huge stress level of worrying about what is to become of us all.

Mr King also says this:

I am now 72 years and 7 months old and in two years I'll be almost 75 years old and in ill health. I am worried, scared, stressed and psychotic about the future. Whereas before the restructure of Wesley Mission hierarchy – we were very at ease with our accommodation and our adherence to the rules laid down by Wesley Mission relating to our tenancy. Rent is paid on time, never any trouble here, and an alcohol free environment. Also we tend the garden and grounds and look after the place and each other.

Ron sets out quite eloquently the reasons that the status quo should remain: First, the age and the capacity of the current tenants; secondly, the health and mental problems of the tenants, none of them minor; and, thirdly, proximity to all their doctors and specialists and to hospitals. He concludes his argument by saying:

The fact that there is never any trouble here—ever—and our respect for the property and grounds and that our rent is always paid should warrant some respect and gratitude and appreciation and some compassion from those now threatening us with eviction in 2 years time.

This policy result is abominable. These people have been long-term Department of Housing residents and long-term residents of social housing. They have been promised permanent residence. As Mr King points out, he is aged in the mid-seventies. Following the State Government's reforms, Wesley is now forced to throw him out onto the streets at the age of 75 years. That is a disgrace.

WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly—Minister for Mental Health, and Assistant Minister for Health) [10.24 a.m.]: "I will deliver; I will not let you down." Those are the words I delivered in this Chamber at my inaugural speech. Today, on the last sitting day of this parliamentary term, I find myself reflecting on those words. From the outset I acknowledge my beautiful wife, Belinda, without whom I would not achieve anything. I love you and Wollondilly is all the better for you. I acknowledge my two most amazing sons, Will and Menzies, who have shared the journey over the past four years; we are so proud of them. I made a commitment to improve services and infrastructure in a way that has not happened before. The people of Wollondilly deserve nothing less. I believe that I have honoured that commitment and I am proud to be part of a Government that has left no town or village behind.

By working with the community so much has been achieved. I cannot name all the achievements but here are some: \$53 million upgrade to Picton Road; upgraded Appin Road and Silverdale Road; \$134 million upgrade of Campbelltown Hospital, which includes an additional 90 beds, new emergency department; and pathology laboratories—I am so proud to be delivering on that; upgrading the M5 and commencing WestConnex; the widening of Narellan Road; creation of the Dharawal National Park; built the South West Rail Link; delivered sewerage connections to Appin, Bargo, Buxton, Douglas Park and Wilton—and planning for Yanderra will commence; \$12.5 million for biosecurity upgrades at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute; and upgraded the iconic Warragamba Dam.

Further achievements include: supported tourism initiatives, helping to contribute to the 51,400 domestic overnight visitors and 292,000 day visitors annually in Wollondilly; upgraded the Hume Highway; completed Wilton Public School and recently announced 10 new classrooms for the expanding population that is occurring; funded the Goulburn to Sydney Classic Race; upgraded Camden Valley Way; delivered more train services; made the toughest coal seam gas [CSG] regulations in the country, banned benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene [BTEX] chemicals, put in a two-kilometre residential buffer zone and protected our special catchment areas; added 11,000 hectares to the Nattai wilderness area; and there is a new fire station at Picton.

I have raised money for all our Rural Fire Service [RFS] brigades. We reserved the corridor for the Maldon to Dombarton line including the allocation of over \$21 million for specialist studies and we have now opened expressions of interest for the sector to look at investment of the line. I helped to fund the Picton Music and Harvest Festival and helped to fund the South West Community Transport Program. There were upgrades to Remembrance Drive, Mount Hercules Road and Finns Road and funding was provided for school crossing supervisors. This Government ensured that every school in Wollondilly has flashing lights.

I helped to fund many local sporting groups including the Wollondilly Netball Association; raised money for many charities and money for community links; helped to fund the 24-hour fight against cancer; in Macarthur; made the Mount Annan Botanical Gardens free to the public; fought against the proposed Wilton airport and won; fought against the proposed Leaf's Gully power station and won; provided funding for extensions to Picton, Bargo and Thirlmere RSL Halls; upgraded Picton Town Hall to allow art exhibitions to be held; conducted an inquiry into the disappearing water at Thirlmere lakes; provided funding for water monitoring, released a draft plan of management for the lakes and established the friends of Thirlmere lakes; provided money for the Mater Dei school and funding for Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation.

I supported the Picton and Camden Show; organised funding to upgrade toilets at the Picton Showground; opened up RFS sheds at Pheasants Nest and Thirlmere with more being planned; participated in

the World Day of Remembrance for Traffic Victims; participated in Wollondilly health, agricultural, community and employment forums and expos; upgraded local and regional roads; upgraded Picton and Tahmoor train stations; introduced more nurses to our local hospital; established the \$9 million clinical school at the University of Western Sydney [UWS]; provided funding for the building of accommodation for people with disabilities; provided grants for new home buyers in Wollondilly; opened the K9 memorial at Tahmoor; increased the payroll tax threshold to boost local employment; commenced planning for the Picton Road and Hume Highway interchange; enabled repair work to the bridge over the Nepean River and Victoria Bridge; and installed a new one-lane roundabout at Bargo.

A non-skid pavement was installed in Belimbla Park; funding was provided for road safety officers; the Northern Road was upgraded; \$19 million in funding was provided for the continued development of the PlantBank project at the Mount Annan Botanic Gardens; I helped to support our heroes during the bushfires last year; channelled money to local charity groups to expand infrastructure; provided money for a clubhouse for Wollondilly Knights AFL at Bargo; organised ramps for disabled people in community buildings; enabled upgrades to the Wigwam Warragamba Grandstand; and enabled upgrades to Macarthur District Soccer Football Association buildings. There were upgrades to Yanderra Birrahlee park, the Mount Hunter Community Hall, car parking and the kitchen at the Warragamba Men's Shed, a kitchen upgrade to the Warragamba Preschool, solar projects across the electorate and the provision of park furniture at Harold Noakes Park at the Oaks.

Emmet Park, Tahmoor was also upgraded; a trailer was provided for the Bargo RFS brigade; and there were improvements to Appin Oval including sports equipment. A sensory garden and learning centre were established at Picton Disability Services Australia; money was channelled towards Wollondilly's first community cinema; funds were provided for Orangeville, Werombi, Lakesland and Theresa Park Heritage Walk at Queen Victoria, Thirlmere; and renovations were carried out to Silverdale Rural Fire Service buildings.

There was upgrading of the canteen at Tahmoor Junior Rugby League Club; replacement of the floor in the hall at Bargo Hall; a canteen upgrade at Tahmoor; court resurfacing at the Oaks Tennis Club; new courts at the Picton Tennis Club; provision of accommodation for cancer patients at Thirlmere; extensions to child-minding facilities; a major extension to the Tahmoor Men's Shed and the multipurpose shelter at Picton Showground; replacement of the clubhouse at Burratorang District Soccer Club, Oakdale; upgrades at the Forest Clay Target Club; provision of mountain bike trails; money for scout halls; baseball field upgrades; sheltered picnic facilities at a local disabled playground; and recreation upgrades across Wollondilly. These are just a few examples of what I have been able to deliver. I thank the Wollondilly community for working with me. It has been an honour to serve as the fourteenth member for the people of Wollondilly in the Fifty-fifth Parliament.

NSW GAS PLAN

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed—Parliamentary Secretary) [10.29 a.m.]: I speak on a very important issue—coal seam gas. Members of this place will know that last week this Government acted decisively, in conjunction with the Chief Scientist and Engineer, Mary O'Kane, and delivered on a commitment to the good people of New South Wales. The North Coast Nationals, Chris Gulaptis, Thomas George, Don Page and I, have a precise and definitive plan out there. As all in this place know, when in government Labor handed out coal seam gas licences to all and sundry—without any environmental consideration or community consultation. As usual, those opposite have been doing nothing but snipe at the Coalition as it tries to clean up Labor's mess—and it is Labor's mess; it is an absolute disgrace.

As soon as it was elected in 2011, the Liberal-Nationals Government acted and imposed a moratorium on the granting of new licences. It acted and imposed stringent environmental conditions while waiting for the report of the Chief Scientist on coal seam gas. This has now been received, and the Government has acted by adopting all of the recommendations to ensure that coal seam gas development occurs only where it is safe and appropriate. The Government acted in response to community concerns about the coal seam gas industry in the Northern Rivers by suspending Metgasco's licence to drill at Bentley; and it acted by introducing legislation to revoke petroleum exploration licence applications. As you know, Mr Acting-Speaker, those applications cover 43 per cent of New South Wales. We acted by initiating a buyback proposal for existing licences in sensitive areas.

Labor has only a cheap headline, but we have a plan. We are calling on Labor to explain to electorates how it will deliver a gas field free Northern Rivers. Labor grabbed a cheap headline. The Hon. Justine Elliott, Federal member for Richmond, runs full-page advertisements in the local newspaper denouncing the

Liberal-Nationals for poisoning the water. She is putting false and misleading information out there in the media—at taxpayers' expense. She uses her Federal entitlements, paid for by taxpayers, to spread false and misleading information. That is unbelievable. Yesterday, when the member for Ballina, Don Page, and I were attending the other place for the valedictory speech of the Hon. Jenny Gardiner, there was the Hon. Walt Secord on the phone, obviously doing a radio interview, saying that a vote for the Liberal-Nationals is a vote for coal seam gas. What an absolute lie. Walt "loose with the truth" Secord is renowned in this place for using lies to mount an attack.

Mr Paul Lynch: Point of order: I have tolerated most of what the member for Tweed has said, though it has been well outside the realms of standing orders, but using that sort of language to launch an attack on another member is clearly well beyond what is allowed when making a private member's statement.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: I believe it is the truth.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Christopher Gulaptis): Order! There is no point of order. I ask the member for Tweed to return to the subject of coal seam gas.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST: We acted. We have put out a good plan. We get out there and talk to the people about this issue, and they are responsive to our plan. All we saw from the previous Labor Government was the handing out of licences willy-nilly to their mates, without consultation. Labor members are now saying they will do something about coal seam gas, suggesting they have a plan. So we ask them, "We have shown you ours, how about showing us yours?" We are saying to them, "Tell us how you are going to make the Northern Rivers gas field free?" Members in this place know that Labor does not have a plan. Instead, it seeks the cheap and nasty headline, full of misinformation.

Labor has come up with a headline to play politics in the Northern Rivers, but it has no action plan. It will not say how it will "declare the Northern Rivers gas field free". What will that cost? What about the rest of New South Wales? Does Labor just ignore it? Instead of trying to misrepresent and mislead, we call on Labor to detail how it would act, rather than just spout the usual one-liners that have no substance. I am afraid that is what New South Wales Labor is all about: one-liners and no substance whatsoever. It is an absolute disgrace. In contrast, the good and responsible members of Clarence, Lismore, Ballina and Tweed are standing up for the Northern Rivers and are out there talking to the people. Once again, I am a 100 per cent for the Tweed.

KURRANULLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Parliamentary Secretary) [10.34 a.m.]: I congratulate the Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation, which tomorrow celebrates the twentieth anniversary of its incorporation. This not-for-profit organisation was incorporated on 21 November 1994 under the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976. Twenty years ago seven local Aboriginal elders—Deanna Schreiber, Elizabeth Homer, Karen Homer, Carol Vale, Ann Cribb, Bill Lay and Les Bursill—met in a Sutherland house because they wanted to find a meeting place for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. At the time, there was not any specific place in the shire where Aboriginal people could gather, nor was there an information centre for Aboriginal people in the shire. There were land councils, but with up to 3,000 Aboriginal families in the shire it was considered quite special to have an Aboriginal corporation.

Initially, the Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation met in a little room in the council chambers given to them by the Sutherland Shire Council. Eventually the corporation outgrew that room and moved to bigger premises, initially an office in a cottage in Davy Street, Sutherland, and later in its present location at the Jannali Community Centre. The Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation is now a drop-in centre for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community living in the Sutherland shire and St George areas. The corporation has a number of goals. It strives to develop closer ties between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups and to promote Aboriginal culture. It assists in reconciliation and in preserving remnants of Aboriginal culture. It acts as a referral source for local Aboriginal people who require general information about local community services or who seek advice on cultural issues. It is a focal point for collating information relating to health, education, housing, employment and so on. It advises Sutherland Shire Council on cultural issues and on the activities of the corporation.

The Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation manages the Gnarra HACC Aboriginal Project. "Gnarra" is an Aboriginal word from the Sydney area and means "To listen, to hear". The Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation says listening and hearing is central to its approach, and that messages from local Indigenous people lay the

foundation stones for the right approach. The Gnarra HACC Aboriginal Project is a referral and/or link to services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander home and community care [HACC] clients. It provides case management, social support, centre-based day services and transport for those programs. The Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation has been an integral part of community life in the Sutherland shire for the past 20 years.

The corporation is a frequent contributor to important community occasions, like the Meeting of Two Cultures, which is held on 29 April every year at Kurnell, and to NAIDOC Week. And it has played an important role in providing services to and information for Indigenous citizens in the shire area and also in fostering a greater understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people as well as a greater appreciation of Indigenous culture. So it is a great celebration, and to mark the occasion the corporation will be having a barbecue, live music and an arts and crafts sale at Elizabeth House, Jannali Community Centre, on 22 November from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. I encourage all shire citizens, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to attend. I congratulate the Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation on its wonderful contribution to shire life over the past 20 years.

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Veterans Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education) [10.39 a.m.]: I congratulate the member for Cronulla on bringing to the attention of the House this special event for the Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation. It is important that we understand and properly appreciate the vital roles of such organisations in our social cohesion. I am very pleased that Kurranulla promotes culture and reconciliation. We need to realise that reconciliation is more than just words; it involves practice. The fact that the Kurranulla Aboriginal Corporation promotes culture and the New South Wales Government assists Aboriginal communities across New South Wales in promoting, maintaining and revitalising culture through language and culture nests is another example of practical reconciliation. I commend the member for Cronulla for bringing this matter to the attention of the House.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Citizenship and Communities, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Veterans Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education) [10.40 a.m.]: A member of Parliament representing a local community receives many privileges, one of which is witnessing the positive role of local students, particularly local school leaders, in shaping our local communities. Often politicians say that young people are our future. That statement is half right. They are not only our future but also our present. As I constantly say to students, one does not have to be 54 years of age and President of the United States of America to make a difference; one can make a difference right now through leadership in local schools and communities. My favourite quote on leadership is that of John Quincy Adams, who said that a leader is someone who positively inspires others to dream, learn and do more and, therefore, to become more.

When I invite local school leaders to Parliament to see us on display during the question time arm wrestle, we also talk about leadership qualities. We discuss the fact that leadership is not about the size of your suit, how fast you can run or how strong you are; it is about strength of character. Young leaders definitely show those characteristics. I am very proud of them and honoured to have seen them this year. I seek leave to incorporate in *Hansard* the list of names of students from my local electorate who have visited Parliament.

Leave granted.

Eloise Hansen, Christian Scarano, Lachlan Du, Madison Henman, Lucas Hatchman, Keisha Tran, Rebecca Grundy, Jordan Poole, Elina Myeong, Sam MacKenzie, Dorothy Tang, David Kang, Hannah Robinson, Hana Chorley, Samar Athar, Joshua Nowiczewski, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Kalise Shoulder, Harry Edwards, Kaushika Hettitantri, Willem Paton, Patrick Alvarez, Zoe Luxford, Holly Giltinan, Jack Sellar, Angela Liu, George Haniotis, Kiara Henry, Alethea Dutton, David Kim, Molly Gibbs, Siena Lucas, Kody Huang, Rachel Seo, Royce Zeng, Jason Tan, Christopher Sirimat, Siniti Herath, Adam Zreika, Dawood Elahi, Sally Dang, Joshua Jung, Zeenat Noonan, Susan Siddiqui, Delaney McCrory, Jesse Di Loreto, Amy Biniars, Ronan Leayr, Brianna Crane, Timothy Duncan, Brianna Gray, Daniel Bolton, Emily Small, Ben Stehn, Louis Hoyle, Siluni Athauda, Anjelina Colahan, Alex Ioannides, Maxwell Han, Meghana Gopalan, Deborah Cho, Pearlina Hovsepian, Jacob Starling, Anagha Kanive-Hariharan, Theodore Chuma, Joel Kim, Anjelle Merhi, Daniel Cabangon, Priscilla Abi-Saab, Daniel Blayney, Zoe Madigan, Peta Goronwy, Gabrielle Succar, Katherine Spencer, Clare Mutanga, Andrea Orlandi, Brittany Khoury, Sara Kaur, Rebecca Dearing, Nicholas Moujalli, Nathan Ambler, Flynn Armstrong, Connor Boesel, Brant Booby, Kyle Burnard, James Chapman, Josh Condon, Ben Cordner, Adrian Craig, Corbin Dean, Anushka Dissanayake, Joel Foristal, Adam Garth, Joel Hochstetter, Chris Johnston, John Lee, Eu-Jan Lek, Josh Leverett, Dan Malgo, Angus Noble, Roshan Prabakaran, Tom Rolls, Andrew Smirniotis, Michael Spackman, David Todd, Kiatin Williamson, Andrew Yeung, Vivian Yu, Aaron Manning, Charlotte Quek, Nathan Adora, Olivia Hempel, Nicholas Ryce, Sara Horan, Timothy Blowes, Olivia Kuo, Joshua Ho, Lian Parkes, Oscar Perlstone, Mark Saba, Faith Willoughby, Lara Guioyran, Karin Tan, Jonah Tan, Nidhi Anugu, Jarrod Khaw, Avaneesh Kalidasan, Daevan Kanagasabai, Kaito Foster, Joelle Tanasale, Stephanie Blencowe, James Cutrone, Basma Dakroub, Jarrod Everitt, Gia Mehdi, Harry O'Brien, Grace Qassis, Lachlan Wilson, Elijah Weir, Grace Gibson, Emily Kalotheos, Liam Jones, Carmen Yih, Irene Tyler, Hattie Silvia, Lillie Ward, Lucy Crawford, Asha Kerr, Phillipa Studdert,

Jack Larkin, Joel Vartuli, Jed McKelvey, Max Chung, Sabina Patawaran, Kalindu Dahanayake, Dina Zounis, Taylor Forrest, Jake Abbott, Matthew Darmania, Patrick Manfrin, Benjamin Moussa, Chris Molloy, Dominic Grech, Marcin Poloczek, Dante Bianchi, Kurtis Andreassend, Marcus Gagliardi, Matthew de Zilva, Kevin Jonas, Paul Kaletsis, Nick Bernar, Harry Vanezi, Adrian Zaknich, Hari Remala, Luke Misthos.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL PARISH, CECIL PARK

Mr ANDREW ROHAN (Smithfield) [10.42 a.m.]: It gives me great pleasure to advise the House of the joyous occasion of the opening of Assyrian Church of the East's newest parish, which was dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul in Cecil Park in my electorate of Smithfield on 13 September 2014. I was honoured to bear witness to this momentous occasion, which will shape the course of history of the church for generations to come. It was a very proud moment for me personally as a member of this congregation, as I am sure it is for every member of the Australian-Assyrian Christian community in New South Wales. I was honoured also to represent the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Mike Baird, who was not able to attend but sent his best wishes to everyone for a joyous and glorious celebration. The opening was attended by many distinguished guests, including leaders from sister churches, representatives from Federal, State and local governments, and a house full of the church faithful.

The establishment of this parish is yet more fruit that the local community is reaping from the hard work and dedication of His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia, Archbishop of the Assyrian Church of the East in Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon, since his arrival in Australia in 1984. The unwavering commitment of His Eminence is reflected through his continued service to the Australian Assyrian community, and his constant efforts to preserve the Christian faith. In 1990, His Eminence was instrumental in the building of St Hurmizd Cathedral, which is now listed as an example of magnificent heritage architecture. His vision to establish the Assyrian schools, including St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School and St Narsai Assyrian Christian College, not only is a source of pride to Assyrians around the world and the Australian-Assyrian community's legacy, but also has guaranteed the preservation of the Assyrian and Christian identity for generations to come.

His Eminence cares about his community from young to old. He established the Grace Child Care Centre, the retirement village at St Mary's Church and the grand Edessa Reception for the community to celebrate functions. Other achievements of His Eminence are the establishment of the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation [ACERO], which has raised funds to ease the suffering of needy and displaced Christians, and indeed non-Christians, in countries such as Iraq, Syria and Lebanon who are victims of the current crisis in the Middle East and other wars. Just last Sunday, the Australian Assyrian community celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of its first church in Australia, St Mary's Church in Fairfield, by the early settlers. Through Saints Peter and Paul parish, the church has reached out to the younger generation as the Assyrian community is now entering its third, and even fourth, generation in this blessed country we call home. The youth have been closely involved with the establishment of this church, witnessing the parish through all stages from its infancy to what it is today.

Although the church conducts its sermons in Aramaic, the language spoken by our Lord, the new parish is dedicated for those who are more comfortable hearing the word of God in English. I commend all those who voluntarily offered their services and were involved hands on in building this church. I have seen many pictures of community members of all ages getting involved and helping out. I commend all those whose generous donations, both large and small, assisted in funding this church, and those who participated in many church-organised functions, such as commemoration days and charitable events, including the annual walkathon. The completion and consecration of the Saints Peter and Paul Parish Church serve as a constant reminder of what can be achieved when the community has a strong sense of faith and works together.

WYONG ELECTORATE

Mr DARREN WEBBER (Wyang) [10.47 a.m.]: I speak for the last time in the Chamber today. It has been an honour to serve the Wyong electorate in this Fifty-fifth Parliament of New South Wales. Nearly four years ago I was elected as the first ever Liberal member of Parliament for the Wyong electorate. I inherited an electorate that had always been taken for granted by the Labor Party, which was most clearly demonstrated by the backlog of infrastructure needs in a fast-growing region. I leave to my successor an infrastructure program of which I am immensely proud. One need only drive around Wyong today to see the millions of dollars being spent on State Government projects. Further to this, real progress has been made on planning even more projects that will become reality over the next term of Parliament. My successor will be busy opening and unveiling

projects for years to come—a far cry from the state of affairs in April 2011. I was elected on two key statewide commitments: starting the change and making New South Wales one again. The Government has delivered above and beyond in that regard.

The New South Wales economy has gone from being the country's basket case to the envy of other States and Territories—from last to first, or similar—on key economic indicators such as jobs growth. New South Wales is now in a much stronger position to address its infrastructure backlog and future needs. I am proud to have been able to contribute to the success of some great local organisations, of which Camp Breakaway is one. This wonderful organisation helps to provide respite services for people with disabilities, their families and carers. Never in its 30-year history has a State government provided financial support until now.

The Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme has been of great benefit to the Wyong electorate. Wyong Shire Council has purchased a wrack harvester and improved gross pollutant traps around Tuggerah Lakes, and many local roads under council responsibility have been resurfaced. The Central Coast Wetlands branding and rejuvenation is a credit to the trust members and I am grateful for their hard work. Supporting them has achieved great things for our environment and for tourism. Adjacent to the wetlands is the planned Central Coast Sporting Precinct, which will really put our area on the map and lead to many social benefits.

Wyong Road is a tragedy of the previous Labor Government. I was elected after committing to an \$8 million interim installation of traffic lights at four key roundabouts that suffer major peak congestion. I will never forget the look on the face of the former Treasurer, now Premier, when the member for The Entrance and I explained that the \$8 million interim solution needed to be scrapped in favour of the \$130 million full upgrade. A Central Coast community cabinet was held at Tumby Umbi, which meant that all Cabinet ministers would have to travel along Wyong Road. We conveniently timed the event so that they would experience peak hour traffic, and I am happy to inform members of the House that the four problem roundabouts are being replaced with fully upgraded intersections. Work has already started on the Pacific Highway roundabout removal.

The Pacific Highway through Wyong's central business district has had our promised independent route evaluation delivered, and advanced planning continues. Wyong Hospital has seen numerous ward upgrades, a new library and staff training area. We promised expansion of the Emergency Medical Unit in the emergency department and it is nearing completion. I am honoured to have established the inaugural Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving New South Wales. I wish the group all the best and I hope to see a national day of recognition and promotion in the near future.

It is no secret that I am a proud conservative and patriot. I was surprised to find that there was no Australian flag hanging in this Chamber, especially since we are the oldest Parliament in Australia. The New South Wales flag and the Aboriginal flag were already hung on the wall behind the Government benches. I thank Madam Speaker, the Hon. Shelley Hancock, for supporting me in returning our national flag to this Chamber. I do not subscribe to the black-armband attitude to Australian history nor do I support revisionist historians. I embrace our fine country's history for what it is, good and bad.

I do not dwell on the mistakes of previous generations; I look at our generation's potential. I celebrate what brings us together, not what divides us. I do not believe gender, age, race, religion, sexuality, hair or skin colour matter in our country. No-one should be discriminated against because of these issues nor should anyone gain an unfair advantage from them. I do not see why our social benefits system is not means tested on financial capacity alone. Quota-based employment regardless of an individual's skills set is biased and unfair.

In response to the Kores proposed Wallarah 2 coalmine under the Wyong valleys, I stand by my commitment to protect the water catchment. My view of water before coal is unchanged. I am grateful for Barry O'Farrell's support of this stance and for ensuring that politics is taken out of the decision-making process by having the independent Planning Assessment Commission determine any application. This was the recommendation of the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC]. I am bitterly disappointed to be leaving this place under the circumstances in which I am.

I completely reject the false and baseless allegations made against me. However, I support law and order agencies. We must ensure that the integrity of public administration in New South Wales is upheld. Appearing before a public inquiry is a terrible experience and it takes a huge toll on personal relationships. Finally, I thank my colleagues, my staff, my family, my friends and my partner, Deborah. One of the funniest

things happened at a dinner when the member for The Entrance and local members of the media were joking that they would create a television show called "Politician Wants a Wife". I quickly went on eHarmony and found the most wonderful woman on the planet.

3RD ROSE BAY JUDEAN SCOUTS

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse—Minister for Family and Community Services) [10.52 a.m.]: I pay tribute to the 3rd Rose Bay Judean Scouts group in my electorate, which will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this Sunday 23 November. I look forward to attending the celebrations at the National Council of Jewish Women's House in Woollahra. At one point there were seven Jewish Scouts groups operating in Sydney, one being the second North Bondi Judean Scouts group, which was founded in 1927. The 3rd Rose Bay Judean Scouts group is the only remaining Jewish Scouts group in Sydney and is based in Bondi. The group includes both boy and girl Scouts. They are led by group leader Leon Waxman and president Dan Solomon. They do an excellent job in encouraging participation in the group and holding regular events.

For example, last year the 3rd Rose Bay Judean Scouts group provided the colour party at the ninetieth anniversary of the Jewish War Memorial. This important event for the Jewish community honours almost 500 Jewish service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country during wartime. The 3rd Rose Bay Judean Scouts have also been an active part of Anzac Day ceremonies in my electorate. Earlier this year they played a key role at the commemorative ceremony at the Emmanuel Synagogue in Woollahra. The 3rd Rose Bay Judean Scouts should be commended for playing a significant role in events such as these as it is always great to see our young boys and girls willing to participate in community events.

In 2012 I had the pleasure of assisting the 3rd Rose Bay Judean Scouts to receive funding from the New South Wales Government's Community Building Partnership program. The Scouts needed assistance to repair and upgrade the kitchen at their hall. I was happy to recommend their project to the Premier to receive funding. This program provides funding for community infrastructure and the Scouts hall is an important piece of infrastructure for the community in my electorate beyond its use by the Scouts. It serves youth from ages six to 18 who, across the week, hold meetings on different nights, depending on their age group. The Joeys group of Scouts are aged six to eight, Cubs are aged eight to 11, Scouts are aged 11 to 15 and the Venturers are aged 15 to 18. I hope that the current Scouts are benefiting from the kitchen repair works, which will also benefit future generations of Scouts.

The celebrations this Sunday will also mark 106 years of Jewish scouting in New South Wales. Sydney Jewish Scouts was founded in 1908 only one year after scouting was established in England. Evidently we have a long history of scouting in Australia, particularly Jewish scouting. Many adults fondly remember their experiences in the Scouts, which helped them to develop leadership and practical skills, and subsequently become active, productive members of our community. I hope that the celebrations on Sunday will provide a great opportunity for past Scouts of the 3rd Rose Bay group and other groups to gather together, reminisce and reconnect with old friends and community leaders. Perhaps it will motivate some past Scouts to encourage their own children and grandchildren to participate.

It is unfortunate there are not more Jewish scouting groups currently active; there used to be many more. Nevertheless, I am pleased to be able to participate in the 3rd Rose Bay Judean Scouts celebrations, which I hope will shine a light on the great work they are doing in my local community and beyond, and encourage the ongoing participation by Jewish youth in this group. The values imparted to Scouts are encompassed in the Scouts Promise: to live by Scout law, provide the base for a member of society to live an honest, respectful life and to help other people where one is able. I thank President Solomon and Group Leader Waxman for their kind invitation to join the celebrations this weekend. I am looking forward to hearing about all their achievements over the past 50 years and the wonderful impact they have had on the lives of Jewish youth, past and present, in my local community. I commend the work of the 3rd Rose Bay Judean Scouts and my private member's statement to the House.

THE ENTRANCE ELECTORATE

Mr CHRIS SPENCE (The Entrance) [10.56 a.m.]: Since being elected in 2011 as member for The Entrance, I have considered my most significant and important role has been to support my community in whatever capacity I can. Being a local member has been a great honour and truly rewarding. As I have reflected on the past few years, one of the most rewarding opportunities I have had to make a difference in my community has been through the Community Building Partnership [CPB] program. This grants program has

made it possible for a large number of groups and organisations in The Entrance electorate to improve and expand their infrastructure and facilities. Many of them have no other means to source funding, to undertake works or to purchase desperately needed equipment. Each organisation that has applied throughout the past few years has identified its own needs and, while these have varied, they have all had one thing in common: a desire to improve their facilities and infrastructure for the benefit of their extended community.

I have been especially pleased to see projects completed through the Community Building Partnership program. The members of The Entrance District Sporting and Community Centre Croquet Club were warm and welcoming. They were in great need of simple improvements such as a fence to keep bike riders and dogs off their lawn and a shade awning at the back of their clubhouse. The CBP program enabled them to make significant improvements to their facilities and the club membership has grown exponentially since their completion. One of the first and biggest projects I supported was the demolition and construction work on the clubhouse of the Ourimbah United Football Club. The existing clubhouse was derelict, unsafe and unusable. The now completed brand-new clubhouse is a fantastic facility that is used not only by its members but also by other visiting clubs.

The grounds of the Lisarow Ourimbah Cricket Club were already of a great standard for competition matches. However, the club could no longer host any matches or train because the training nets were in such a state of disrepair that they had become hazardous. Through the CBP program the club has been able to demolish the old nets and construct new nets that are heavily used during the cricket season. Our local Girl Guides and Scouts Australia groups have each been able to undertake some significant improvements to their facilities, such as kitchen renovations, creating storage spaces and repainting. Surf Life Saving Central Coast was able to purchase a new jet ski and rescue truck that serviced all the northern beaches on the Central Coast and especially increased safety in the treacherous channel at The Entrance.

A number of school parents and citizens associations in The Entrance electorate have been able to improve or add facilities and equipment to their schools, such as a new staff room, canteen or play equipment, to name a few. Meals on Wheels at Tuggerah was able to install an energy-saving device on its refrigeration system, which is saving it a significant amount of money that it is reinvesting in its work. These organisations are not the only beneficiaries of funding. Many other community organisations have benefited from the CBP program, and each has been grateful for and appreciative of the contribution to help them reach their goals. It has been wonderful to have helped those at the front line of our community. It is so pleasing to see that they are flourishing and continuing in their great work. It is my hope that the New South Wales Government continues to support this outstanding program in the years to come; it truly has a grassroots effect in our local community.

WOLLONGONG ELECTORATE

Ms NOREEN HAY (Wollongong) [11.00 a.m.]: Today I make mention of a number of issues in my electorate of Wollongong. As this is the last session of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament I again place on record that it has been my absolute privilege and honour to represent the people of the electorate of Wollongong. They have placed enormous trust in me; stayed with me through thick and thin. I am proud of the relationship that I have with my constituents and with my branch members who, despite some fairly controversial situations, have never wavered in their support. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge my family who, like the families of all members in this place, make such a sacrifice so that we can do our jobs—my husband often jests that he is happy I am away a bit.

Since the last election my electorate has had a few disappointments, but I am hopeful that with the continued support of the people I represent they will be resolved in the next Parliament. The first disappointment is that despite those opposite giving a commitment in the lead-up to the last election to install easy access lifts at Unanderra station, there still are no lifts. This is a great shame because so many people would benefit from them. I plead with those opposite to consider while the Parliament is out of session how they can honour that commitment and have those lifts installed at Unanderra railway station.

I again repeat my request for a convention centre to be built as an extension to the Wollongong Entertainment Centre. Such a centre would provide a great opportunity to invest in job-creating projects, and the people of Wollongong would benefit from such worthwhile infrastructure. The Government should also consider establishing a fund for the revitalisation of Port Kembla, which has suffered from a lack of investment since the privatisation of the port. I again call on the Government to reconsider the disbandment of the Lake Illawarra Authority, which did a magnificent job in transforming the lake's degraded waters and foreshores.

In the recent round of estuary management grants a mere \$189,000 was allocated to councils, compared with the \$1 million budget the State Government gave the Lake Illawarra Authority and a co-contribution of \$1 million from Wollongong and Shellharbour councils. The pittance that has now been allocated for the maintenance of Lake Illawarra following the disbandment of the authority will not be sufficient. Councils will not be able to manage with that funding—I will go into that at another time—and the Government should consider increasing its investment in maintaining the lake. In my view the best way to do that would be to re-establish the Lake Illawarra Authority to enable the dedicated people who did such a magnificent job once again to take over its management. I invite the Minister to visit the lake and to witness firsthand the outstanding work of the Lake Illawarra Authority, under the guiding hand of Doug Prosser and Brian Dooley, and to re-think if not the authority then at least the amount of money allocated to maintain this local icon. In conclusion, I repeat my call on the Government to install the easy access lifts at Unanderra station.

MEMBER FOR SWANSEA PARLIAMENTARY FAREWELL

Mr GARRY EDWARDS (Swansea) [11.05 p.m.]: Today, as the very proud elected representative of the good folk of the Swansea electorate for the past 3½ years, I give my last private members' statement in the Fifty-fifth Parliament of the State of New South Wales. It has been the greatest honour of my life to be the champion of the people of the Swansea electorate in this, the oldest and most venerable Assembly in our Commonwealth. I share that honour, as I stated in my inaugural speech, with my maternal great grandfather who sat in this very Chamber from 1891 to 1894 as the member for Newcastle.

I will mention a few of my colleagues who assisted me in becoming a member of Parliament and who have supported me while I have been here. I greatly admire them all and will continue to admire them for the rest of my days. In particular I refer to the Hon. Michael Gallacher in the other place. Michael was a former Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and Minister for the Hunter. I thank Michael for all of his help over many years. Mr Chris Hartcher also played a great role in my coming to this place. Chris is the most articulate and extraordinary performer on the floor of this Chamber that I have ever seen. I thank Chris for his contribution to my performance in this place. Other good colleagues and members who are leaving this place are Mr Darren Webber, the member for Wyong, and Mr Chris Spence, the member for The Entrance. They are both good men and this place will be the poorer for their leaving.

My Hunter colleagues include Ms Robyn Parker, the member for Maitland, who does not intend to recontest her electorate; Mr Craig Baumann, the member for Port Stephens; Mr Andrew Cornwall and Mr Tim Owen. Those people, whom I have worked with extraordinarily closely, represent the most passionate, committed and talented people that it has been my absolute pleasure to stand alongside and to work with not only in this Chamber but also in our electorates. The events of the past several months have not been pleasant for anyone. But I point out that during that time there has been no suggestion or inference that as members of this Parliament, nor indeed as candidates, did any of my colleagues past and present act other than in the best interests of their electorates. They have certainly not acted at any time in any improper way and never dishonestly. It has been an honour to serve the people of the Swansea electorate in this place and to serve alongside colleagues of the calibre of those I have named.

It has been truly humbling and moving, indeed at times very emotional, to experience the level of support from my constituents, support by way of unsolicited attendances at my electorate office, during constituent meetings at my electorate office, being stopped on the street and in shopping centres, shouted greetings of best wishes and love from people in vehicles—and not one abusive call—letters, cards, Facebook, text messages, emails, and phone calls. I experienced the same level of support when I was simply attending community gatherings.

This support has been particularly evident during the past few months, in what has been a difficult time for my family, my staff, me and indeed my colleagues. I refer to a recent comment by my colleague and good mate the member for Port Stephens, Craig Bauman, who referred to the "voyeuristic media". In defence of that voyeuristic media, their voyeurism is without doubt a direct result of the "chum" trail emanating from the totally unregulated, totally unaccountable fishing trawler, the "MV ICAC". It is a ghostly vessel that sails the corridors of the unsuspecting, with State-sanctioned impunity, destroying all in its path—other than that which, again with apparent impunity, it elects to overlook. I leave this place a very proud man. I thank all of my colleagues, both those who will be here in the next Parliament and those who will not, for their support and their hard work.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Christopher Gulaptis): I thank the member for Swansea. I am sure every member of this House wishes him well in the future.

SIR RODEN AND LADY CUTLER FOUNDATION

Mr BRUCE NOTLEY-SMITH (Coogee) [11.10 a.m.]: I have the great pleasure to announce to the House a donation from the Premier's Miscellaneous Grants Fund of \$10,000 to the Sir Roden and Lady Cutler Foundation to continue and extend its services. The foundation may have only a short history, but it is a very proud history. It began back in 1999 as a Kings Cross Rotary Club project helping the police to get stranded kids home. The foundation has since grown rapidly to meet an important community need to provide help when there is no-one else who can. Today this help has grown beyond transport for the elderly and kids in need to include support for the physically handicapped to become mobile, and assistance with transport to and from hospital and medical appointments for those in need. The foundation draws upon the example set by its great namesake, Sir Roden Cutler, of a proud and long history of serving his fellow Australians and in providing for those in most need in Australia.

The foundation provides many great services for our community. However, there are two specific programs that I draw to the attention of the House. I believe that we can all identify with loved ones who, at certain stages of their lives, have required services such as those provided by the foundation. We can all appreciate how hard it would have been had they not had the financial resources or physical ability to meet those needs. The first program, the Pick Me Up Service, is a free service where a volunteer in a sponsored vehicle drives seriously or terminally ill children, the elderly and the disabled to and from their medical appointments. This service, which relies almost entirely on volunteers, has received more than 5,500 bookings in the past 12 months.

The second program, Caring for Carers, is an initiative that provides assistance to those who continually give—the carers. Any of us who has loved ones who require full-time care and who has seen firsthand the support and commitment that carers provide knows that they too need support. Carers—those who dedicate their time to providing care and support to those in the greatest of need, often at the most vulnerable time in their life—are so often a forgotten section of the community. A family member who requires more specialised attention is wearing and taxing on all members and close friends of a family. The program provides personal assistance for carers, such as providing theatre tickets, restaurant vouchers or costs related to the provision of respite transport.

The program gives carers a vital break from that which they do best—caring. It provides relief so that a carer can see a movie or a show, or have a meal out or a meal where someone else cooks. These are day-to-day activities that most of us take for granted but which may be out of reach for a carer, either financially or from a respite cover perspective. The program aims to give back to those who continually give to the community, and that is why this support is so important. The Sir Roden and Lady Cutler Foundation is an organisation that operates primarily based on the support of sponsors and donors, and of course a great team of volunteers.

I take this opportunity to draw to the attention of the House this team of fantastic volunteers. As the foundation says, "Volunteers do not get paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless." My words cannot do justice to the services that the Sir Roden and Lady Cutler Foundation provides to community members, not only in my electorate of Coogee but also across the State under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer Vince Del Zio. I look forward to presenting the cheque to the Sir Roden and Lady Cutler Foundation next week. I commend the Premier for providing this donation in support of the Sir Roden and Lady Cutler Foundation.

SYDNEY ELECTORATE

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) [11.15 a.m.]: I became the member for Sydney at the October 2012 by-election and today I speak about my work to progress a number of inner-city issues. There have been a number of important wins for my electorate and the wider community. My bill to remove private school exemptions from anti-discrimination laws lead to the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW introducing a process to investigate complaints and to deregister schools that are not safe and inclusive for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex [LGBTI] students. Mardi Gras policing improved after I worked with LGBTI advocates, the Ombudsman, police, the former police Minister and the member for Coogee to address the heavy-handed approach taken in 2013.

Thanks to my recent bill, same-sex couples who marry overseas will be able to register their relationships in New South Wales. I have been inspired by the dedication to equality of members across the

political spectrum, especially my colleagues in the Cross Party Marriage Equality Working Group, whom I worked with on a constitutionally sound same-sex marriage bill. I have worked with members on other reforms, including removing trans* forced divorce provisions and historic criminal records for committing consensual homosexual sex acts.

More families are living in the inner city but the Sydney electorate has no high school and primary schools are filling up. The Minister for Education set up the Inner City Schools Working Party in response to my first question in Parliament. A new primary school is planned for Pymont-Ultimo and high school options are being considered. I received support in this House for motions to support community legal centres, asylum seekers, judicial independence, the Government's central business district transport blueprint and equality, and motions to recognise South Sea Islanders and oppose reparative therapy, or ex-gay therapy. I supported strong community campaigns that resulted in the Government initiating a tender process for the Elizabeth Bay marina and referring the Paddington Bowling Club lease transfer to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

I worked with environment groups to pressure the Government to withdraw plans to allow recreational hunting in national parks. A limited trial of hunting is now permitted under the control of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Funding was restored to inner-city refuges following a strong community campaign. We argued that people escaping violence or trauma come to the city for anonymity, where they need services so they do not end up on the street. In response to my question, the Minister committed the Marine Estate Management Authority to explore Sydney Harbour conservation. A Sydney marine park has widespread support, including from members in this House.

Not all of my campaigns have been successful, but I have been honoured to work with local communities to fight against unfair and damaging policies. All social housing in Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks, including basic properties without views or maintenance problems, are being sold. I will push to have the proceeds reinvested into new housing, and for affordable housing on-site and in new inner-city developments. Meanwhile next door, the Government bent over backwards to accommodate James Packer's second Sydney casino, changing rules for unsolicited proposals, rushing in legislation and excluding community involvement, social impact considerations and competition. Given its bipartisan support, my role in exposing the process highlights the important role of Independents.

This Government's obsession with manipulating City of Sydney democracy must end. Inner-city residents lost their elected State representative, had their votes halved and could lose options around how they vote in local government elections. I will oppose any council amalgamation proposals that do not have community and council support. I pushed for action on climate change. While I welcome the Government's Renewable Energy Action Plan, we need targets for local generation and greenhouse gas reduction. I called for container deposit levy legislation. Climate change puts at risk our way of life. I hope the next Parliament takes bold action to green the economy.

Industries of the past, such as racing and mining, get too much government attention compared with growth industries. I called for a select committee on the digital economy, and pushed the Government to ensure coding and programming is taught in schools. Importantly, I continued Clover Moore's role as a voice for animal welfare, opposing factory farming, supporting humane management of introduced species and calling for better treatment of companion animals. My question in Parliament led to pet-friendly default strata bylaws. I hope the next Parliament will support more humane laws.

Opportunities to expand recreation space are diminishing while growing population densities make public open space vital. I called for government funding of inner-city parklands and opposed alienations such as the Anzac Parade bridge, the proposed Domain sound shell and Mrs Macquarie's Chair viewing platform. Strata reform is a major focus of my work and it is needed urgently to ensure apartment living remains an attractive choice. Owners lose large sums from defects, and amenity and costs are impacted by overcrowding and short-term letting. These issues must be addressed next year.

Although I had the liquor freeze extended on Oxford Street, I remain concerned that the lockdown laws are killing inner-city night life. Young people continue to report that live music and entertainment scenes are moving to the inner west. Parliament must achieve a balance that provides Sydney with a safe and vibrant nightlife. My achievements for Sydney would not have been possible without the support of my staff Tammie Nardone, Roy Bishop and Leanne Abbott as well as my many volunteers, interns, friends, family and especially my husband, Victor.

LAKE MACQUARIE TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) [11.20 a.m.]: The Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange needs full funding. Construction of the interchange represents a long overdue investment into the transport and economic infrastructure of the Lower Hunter. I am pleased to report that work on stage one section one, which is the on-ground roadwork that commenced in June last year, is progressing well.

Mr Bryan Doyle: Say thank you.

Ms JODIE HARRISON: Thank you. However, there is currently no funding for later parts and the loss of this important transport project would be devastating for the Lower Hunter. Until the interchange is built in its entirety, including the Pennant Street Bridge and the rail and bus interchange, the full potential of the works will not be realised. This vital development has been designated a regional priority by Hunter councils, the Hunter Business Chamber, the Property Council, the NRMA, and State and Federal members of Parliament. It would be hard to find anyone in the area who does not describe the project as a regional priority.

The interchange will connect the suburbs of Cardiff and Glendale—the economic heart of Lake Macquarie. The project will provide direct train and bus links to that economic growth area of the city. The project will allow for a significant increase in jobs and continued economic growth in the Glendale and Cardiff areas. Lake Macquarie is already the fourth most populated city in New South Wales. The Glendale-Cardiff area is currently the largest employment zone in the region and is expected to experience an increase of 6,200 jobs and 4,000 dwellings by 2031. Investment in infrastructure such as the interchange is crucial to meet growing demand in the Lower Hunter.

The Glendale retail precinct and the Cardiff industrial area have reached capacity, but further investment is being constrained by this Government's under-investment in public transport and sensible road projects. This is a project that supports local jobs across a number of industries while servicing the growing transport demand of the Lower Hunter area. Once built, the interchange will be a major connection between Glendale and Cardiff, and provide an important regional hub to meet the future transport needs of the Lower Hunter region. Once completed, the project will deliver a strategically important railway station right on the doorstep of the Glendale and Cardiff business areas. New roads, cycleways and a bridge connecting those two economic areas of northern Lake Macquarie will reduce congestion while increasing public transport use and boosting economic activity in the area.

The Government's 2012 Hunter Regional Action Plan, which was part of the NSW 2021 scheme, identified the Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange as one of its "priority actions" in transport infrastructure. But this amazing project is at risk. The Lower Hunter transport priorities of the New South Wales Liberals do not extend past Hunter Street. They are willing to waste \$350 million on ripping up an existing rail line in the centre of Newcastle but could find only \$15 million to contribute to this project that is essential for the growth of the Hunter region. Despite all Hunter councils agreeing that it was the number one infrastructure priority when this Government came to office, it has failed to deliver the funding necessary to complete the project.

In a couple of short weeks the City of Lake Macquarie will host the International Children's Games. I am lucky to represent a regional city that can draw such global events, but the transport infrastructure must be improved to match the quality and quantity of events that draw thousands of spectators to the city. The interchange project has been many years in the making. I must acknowledge the years of work by Lake Macquarie City Council as well as the member for Lake Macquarie, the member for Wallsend and the previous and current Federal members for Charlton. Their ongoing contributions have helped secure the existing funding for this essential piece of economic and social infrastructure for the Hunter.

Funding commitments so far are \$10 million from Lake Macquarie City Council, \$15 million from the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund and \$12.45 million from Regional Development Australia Fund. As I mentioned, that commitment will fund the roadwork connecting Glendale Drive, Main Road and Stockland Drive as well as a connection in readiness for the Pennant Street Bridge. It does not fund the bridge itself or the rail and bus interchange. Lake Macquarie City Council has been more than willing to lead this project and build the roadworks because it knows that the entire interchange is essential to the growth of the Hunter region. Other spheres of government must make a full commitment, including this Government, to ensure the project is delivered and the potential of the Hunter is realised.

ROCKDALE ELECTORATE COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Mr JOHN FLOWERS (Rockdale) [11.25 a.m.]: I acknowledge the Government's contribution to my local community through the very successful Community Building Partnership grants program. To date I have not mentioned the grants that my electorate of Rockdale has received, so I will do so now. The partnership program is worthwhile because it provides funds for community groups and local councils to invest in their community infrastructure. Without that investment into the local community, sporting groups, churches, schools and youth centres, for example, would be unable to contribute to the community to the extent they do.

The Rockdale organisations to receive grants in 2013 included the Arncliffe Public School Parents and Citizens Association, which received \$19,615 for the upgrade of the community hall at the school. The St George Police and Citizens Youth Club [PCYC] at Rockdale received a grant of \$27,370 for refurbishment of the foyer entrance and office to provide suitable and inviting access for the disabled to the club. The installation of an access ramp at St Francis Xavier's Church at Ashbury attracted a grant of \$17,800. In addition, a grant of \$18,500 was approved for the St George Football Club to upgrade and refurbish facilities at Barton Park to meet technical requirements for the 2014 season. The Arncliffe Aurora Football Club received \$40,000 for the installation of floodlighting at Arncliffe Park. A submission for refurbishment of the library at St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church was received and a grant of \$33,500 was approved.

I note that Scouts Australia applies for a grant every year, and it does a very good job. In 2013 Scouts Australia at Brighton was happy to receive a grant of \$15,000 for replacement of the Brighton Scout Hall roof. A grant of \$4,000 assisted Keystone Community Solutions Inc. to purchase capital equipment for the Arncliffe Men's Shed. Funding was requested for a kitchen and playground at St John's Anglican Church, Rockdale, and a grant of \$44,198 was approved. A submission was received from Life Centre International, Arncliffe, for the upgrade of the Arncliffe Community Life Centre and a grant of \$50,000 was approved. The successful applicants that received Community Building Partnership grants have been working diligently in line with their respective responsibilities. The lives of the many members of our community who rely on the care, services and equipment provided by those organisations will be enriched by the additional funding they have received. I thank all applicants who applied for those grants, and those who work so hard within the Rockdale community.

In the time that remains for my speech, I mention that in the 2011 grants my electorate received \$100,000 for upgraded lighting at the Cahill Park sportsground, which was a very useful and worthwhile grant. The funding was matched on a fifty-fifty basis by the Rockdale City Council and doubled the usefulness of the sporting field at Cahill Park. The park is brightly lit at night and can be used for worthwhile sporting events. Improvements in disabled people's access and to the outdoor functionality of the Arncliffe Community Centre were the subject of a grant of \$19,000. Overall, my community has had a very good year.

WALLAMBA BULLS RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) [11.30 a.m.]: I inform the House that last Sunday night I attended the award presentation night of the mighty Wallamba Bulls Football Club. This year the mighty Wallamba Bulls came third in their competition. It is great to see the club progressing so well. In 2008 I was a foundation member of the club. I incorporated the association and I am patron of the club. It was great to be in attendance last Sunday night because I had the honour of presenting the club's inaugural life member, John Hessing, with his award. I began playing rugby with John Hessing in 2004.

John Hessing has devoted his life to rugby. He played for the St George Rugby Club and some other rugby clubs before joining the Forster-Tuncurry Dolphins—the team in which we both played. When we decided we would start a rugby club, John Hessing was on board. The club was initially at Bulahdelah but later relocated to Nabadah. It is also pleasing to note that when we started the Forster Dolphins Rugby Club in 2004, in our first year we had a young fellow aged 16 years playing in our under-19 team—John Hessing's son, Daniel Hessing. Daniel and John went over to the Wallamba Bulls when that club started. In 2014, Daniel Hessing was the captain, coach and president of the club.

The Wallamba Bulls Rugby Club has a great following in the Nabadah and Wallamba district and did very well this year. A number of awards were presented during the event last Sunday night. Besides presenting John Hessing with his life member's jacket, the Best and Fairest Award was presented to Aaron Gordon; the Best Forward Award was presented to Daniel Sawyer; the Best Back Award was presented to Dale Higgins; the Rookie of the Year Award was Trevor Chandler; and the Most Improved player was James McCrae. The

Ruckers Mug is the players' player award and among players it is the most sought-after award of all. The team's players vote each week for the person who was the best player on the day and who the team thinks should be given the award.

At the end of the year the points are totalled and this year the award was presented to Rhys Hessing. At the award presentation event, life membership was awarded to John Hessing, Daniel Hessing was presented with the No. 27 Award for being the captain, coach and president, and Daniel's younger brother, Rhys—who was a ball boy when John and Daniel were playing with the mighty Forster Dolphins—is playing for the Wallamba Bulls senior team and also played for the Country Colts this year. They are all talented rugby players. They also are very good members of the community and great ambassadors for rugby.

The Supporters Cup was awarded to Jaiden Myer; Volunteer of the Year was awarded to John Mercer; and in the 100 Games Club, awards were made to Daniel Sawyer, Chris Tout and Mitchell Ede. Chris Tout also played rugby for the Forster Dolphins. I played rugby with his father, Tim, and I also refereed the first game that Tim ever played. Tim was a rugby league convert, so when he lined up the ball to convert a try he was unaware that the defence can rush the player who is about to kick the ball. Consequently, he took an awful lot of time. The referee and I kept saying, "Kick it. Kick it.", but he was bowled over before he ever got the ball off the mound. Mitchell Ede is a member of the Ede family who own Ede's Real Estate in Bulahdelah, which is the number one real estate agency in the Bulahdelah-Markwell area.

No club can survive without sponsors. The awards night was held at the Nabiac Hotel, which is owned by Matt Morris and his wife. The organisers included Matt, who is a former president of the club, Arthur Chapman and his wife, Alison Gonzales, who are two champion people, as well as Rodney Watt, among others. The Wallamba Bulls is a great club. They are always the best hosts when visiting clubs play on the Wallamba Bulls home ground; similarly, when they travel to the home ground of other clubs, the team's players always do the right thing. There is never any trouble at the Wallamba Bulls games, as there can be at league games. It is a great club and its members are great people within our community.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.35 p.m.]: I support the member for Myall Lakes and his ongoing commitment to the great game of rugby union. I note that the member for Myall Lakes was a player for the Forster Dolphins Rugby Club, and he would have been a very formidable forward. He is a strong member of the cauliflower club and the Friends of Rugby Union. I also admire him for the work he has done to support youth in sport within the Myall Lakes electorate. He is a regular at the playing fields and team sheds. He should be applauded for his ongoing support of youth and rugby union. Perhaps the current Wallabies could call on his expertise and guidance because, as we know, they have not performed extraordinarily well in recent times. I applaud the efforts of the member for Myall Lakes.

OATLEY ELECTORATE

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) [11.36 a.m.]: This is my last speech in the Fifty-fifth Parliament but—God-willing and knock on wood—not my last speech in this House. I want to mention some of the improvements this Government has been able to deliver for my local community. Since being elected as the member for Oatley and as a member of the O'Farrell and Baird Liberal-Nationals governments, I have been working hard and getting results for the people of St George and for the people of New South Wales. Whereas Labor was part of the problem, we are part of the solution. I commence by mentioning some of the achievements in the area of health in which I have been working hard and getting particularly good results. The highlight has been the opening of the \$41 million state-of-the-art emergency department at the St George Hospital, which is a completely new facility that the Minister for Health and I officially opened just last month—a facility for which I have been lobbying Ministers and governments since 2004 when I was elected as a councillor on the Kogarah Municipal Council.

Also at the St George Hospital, stage two of the \$300 million redevelopment of the entire complex has commenced. We also have seen the refurbishment and the reopening of the hydrotherapy pool, which had been closed under the previous Labor Government. I have secured \$2.5 million for the hybrid vascular operating theatres, \$8 million to redevelop the St George Hospital mental health unit, which is an incredibly important part of the mental health services mix in this State, and—perhaps most importantly—we have secured an additional 64 doctors and 97 nurses for the St George Hospital. We can spend millions of dollars and have all those redevelopments as well as all the latest medical equipment, but without the excellent clinical staff, none of that would be any use. The St George Hospital has some of the best doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, and administrative and support staff in New South Wales. I pay tribute to each and every one of them this morning.

Another area in which I have been working hard and getting results is in transport. Even before my election I was campaigning for a badly-needed lift at the Oatley railway station, which will now be built. In fact, work has commenced on a massive redevelopment of this important station in our rail network, including the recently announced commuter car park, which will provide commuters with an extra 100 car spaces. Narwee station also will receive an upgrade as a result of my lobbying and campaigning. The major upgrade to the Narwee station will include a family-accessible toilet, ramps, improved customer information, upgrades to lighting, closed-circuit television [CCTV] cameras and a lift.

I will continue to lobby and campaign for improvements to the transport infrastructure in the St George area, especially for more commuter car parks at Narwee, Beverly Hills and Riverwood railway stations. These stations are a vital component of the public transport network in my electorate; and commuter car parks add value to this infrastructure. Another of the most pressing issues raised by me is the M5. This Government is getting on with the job of fixing the M5 once and for all. WestConnex will complete Sydney's motorway system, bypassing up to 52 sets of traffic lights, saving hours per week for commuters and easing the passage for freight to move more efficiently around the city. Earlier this month I joined the Prime Minister, the Premier and Minister for Roads to announce the New M5, as part of the Baird Government's Rebuilding NSW plan. New higher, wider, flatter and future-proofed tunnels from the existing M5 East corridor at Beverly Hills to an interchange at St Peters will provide improved access to the airport, Port Botany and southern Sydney precincts.

Another area in which I have been working hard and getting results is education, with funding and facilities for all the schools in my electorate. The former Labor Government had plans to move grades 5 and 6 off campus at Hurstville Public School, but I fought against this, campaigned and lobbied Ministers hard, and ensured that grades 5 and 6 were kept on the existing campus. In fact, with the help of the local community, I secured an additional \$7 million in funding for 11 new classrooms to be built at Hurstville Public School. In May this year I, along with the Premier and the Minister, officially opened the classrooms, for which the school community is very thankful. I have also secured a fence at Peakhurst South Public School. After community involvement by the local parents and citizens association and the school council, I was able to secure a new fence for Peakhurst South Public School last year.

In September, the Minister for Education and I officially opened the new \$5.7 million multipurpose centre at the Georges River College Peakhurst campus. This upgrade is a major investment in education infrastructure in the local area, providing the school with a new, state-of-the-art multipurpose centre. I have also worked hard and got results on flashing school zone lights at many of my schools and of course school crossing supervisors. I have commenced a grassroots campaign to have on and off ramps built at the M5 WestConnex and Belmore Road. I met with the Minister for Roads and his staff on this matter, and will continue to lobby the Minister and Roads and Maritime Services until these works form part of the WestConnex upgrades. I continue to lobby on behalf of many of our local community groups. Finally, I thank my wife Adla and my son James. Without Adla's support I could not have done this job. She is as committed to the St George area as I am, and I thank her for her love to me and to James.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.41 a.m.]: I feel obligated to support the member for Oatley. I have seen many members come and go in this place, and I know that one thing that sets the good ones apart is dedication and commitment to their advocacy for their local residents. As I have just observed, and have witnessed firsthand on a number of occasions, the member for Oatley takes the job very seriously and is extraordinarily dedicated and committed to the fine people of Oatley. As we have heard, there have been a number of significant upgrades to specialties in the St George Hospital. Those upgrades continue to be rolled out. We have heard the member for Oatley being very supportive of public transport infrastructure and the upgrades of a number of stations to provide, for instance, access for those with disabilities. We have also heard the member for Oatley advocating regarding the M5 and schools in his electorate. During this term he has had his first child, young James. To Adla and to Mark, all the best. Keep up the good work. I am sure the people of Oatley appreciate it.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Ms Melanie Gibbons): I acknowledge all the time that the member for Oatley has given to the Fifty-fifth Parliament.

DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.42 a.m.]: I take this opportunity to say a few words about my electorate as this will be my last opportunity before March next year to speak in this place and say what a great honour it has been to represent my community for just over 3½ years. I would like to

mention some of the great achievements for the Drummoyne electorate. On the health front, I am so proud to advocate on behalf of Concord Hospital, the physicians, the staff and, of course, my community. Some of the facilities are outstanding; whether it is one of the best burns units in the State, whether it is elective surgery times, or whether it is the brilliance of the staff, it is just a magnificent organisation and I am so happy to be a part of it.

We have had many achievements in the past 3½ years. Prior to coming to government we lobbied for the restoration of Dame Edith Walker House. A great job has been done there, and it is now an outstanding AIDS dementia clinic. A great deal of money has been spent on the restoration of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway. This was done with the cooperation of the council, which does a wonderful job in that neck of the woods. Other parts of the hospital are the Bernie Banton ward, the Anzac Research Institute and the dialysis ward. A dialysis ward for Concord Hospital was a huge issue prior to the 2011 election, and it is a ward that this Government delivered—and full credit to it.

Though we have done so much in the area of health alone, a lot more remains to be done. I know we have just opened a great 20-bed palliative care unit, and we thank the State Government for its ongoing financing of that unit and thank the Federal Government for its finances as well. But in saying that, I note that we have a long way to go. We cannot have state-of-the-art cancer research and cancer facilities without radiotherapy, and that is lacking at Concord Hospital. While I am not critical of the Government, I am putting—as I always have, and will continue to do—my best foot forward to achieve outcomes for members of our community, whichever way they vote. I will continue to advocate for my community right up until the next election and, if I am given the honour, beyond it, to fight for that radiotherapy unit for Concord Hospital.

While this Government has had amazing achievements in health right across the State, and full credit to the Minister for Health, we have never had renovations to the extent that this State is undertaking at the moment. But why not Concord Hospital? Concord Hospital ticks all the boxes. Fifty per cent of its patients now come from outside the area. Amazing growth is taking place across the State, and that is particularly so in my electorate. As an article in last week's *Daily Telegraph* noted, after the city of Sydney and the city of Parramatta, the City of Canada Bay Council has had most development applications—more than 4,000 unit and house renovations and constructions over the past three or four years.

It is great to have population growth, but it has to be matched by infrastructure. Though we are trying to address that, the reality is that we are playing catch-up. We have built an extra school. I am proud of our record; I wish I had more time to go into some other areas. But on the education front, a brand new school will be opened in January, and another school for 600 students will open in January 2017. I would like to mention the great success of the Community Building Partnership program, through which I was able to leverage some grants for a security fence for Mortlake Public School, as well as for play facilities within the school. This program is an absolute success. I conclude by thanking the people in my electorate for their support. I look forward to continuing to advocate and deliver on their behalf.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed—Parliamentary Secretary) [11.47 a.m.]: I praise the member for Drummoyne who is dedicated to his electorate. He has done an enormous amount of work to achieve upgrades of schools and upgrades of Concord Hospital. Quiet and sedate as he is, he is a real achiever. The people of Drummoyne are lucky to have this member representing them. I have accompanied him on a number of walks in his electorate, and have seen him treated like an Italian rock star. He is not only a hardworking member, but also one of the best dressed in this place. I wish him good support.

KIAMA ELECTORATE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) [11.48 a.m.]: As the sun sets on the Fifty-fifth Parliament, I take this opportunity to reflect on the things that have made this parliamentary term exciting, thrilling and fulfilling. In my inaugural speech in this place I said I would fight to upgrade the Princes Highway, secure improvements to our local health system, work hard for our small business people to ensure that they have the best chance to succeed, fight for the best possible education system our Government can deliver, stand up for people with disabilities to give them the best chance in life and last, but certainly not least, work hard to preserve and protect the unique aspects of our beautiful local environment.

I can report to the House that I have been part of a Government that has invested \$785 million in the Princes Highway over four years—a 65 per cent increase on Labor's investment. Indeed, I will never forget the then Opposition Leader, Barry O'Farrell, standing with me and Shelley Hancock at Mount Pleasant proclaiming,

"If he doesn't build it, don't vote for him!" It certainly is very special to secure this major investment for the town where I grew up. Indeed, I look forward to opening the Omega Bridge, a major part of this project, on 13 December with the Gerringong community.

Next year construction of the Berry bypass will commence—a project that has been talked about since 1955. The total cost is \$580 million and is expected to generate 500 local jobs. I cannot begin to thank Barry O'Farrell and Duncan Gay enough for supporting me and my community on these important local projects that will save lives. I thank them also for progressing planning for the final stage of the Gerringong to Bomaderry upgrade and the planning work for the Albion Park Rail bypass. I cannot begin to say how much I owe to our State school system. Having been classified as legally blind since birth, I have no doubt that I would not be standing here today if not for the support I received from the State's public education system. This is one of the many reasons I was so proud to support the Gonski education reforms and press the case for the New South Wales Government to sign up to these historic reforms that will see every student with a disability and every Aboriginal student receive funding.

Having grown up in a small business family, I am so proud to have served in a Government that has made New South Wales number one again. Indeed, this forthcoming election will not be about left or right; it will be about up or down—upward on a path of stronger growth and prosperity or downward, back to where we found the State when we came to the Treasury benches. Whilst significant local investments have generated jobs such as the highway projects, I am proud also that we established a Small Business Commissioner to fight for small business inside the instrumentality of government and ensured that for every new regulation we introduced, two have been removed—saving businesses millions in red-tape cuts. I am proud also that this Government removed the non-social reverse onus of proof regarding occupational health and safety disputes. I am proud that our Government was the first to sign up to the National Disability Insurance Scheme giving people with disability a funding model that caters to their needs, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

We delivered on our plan to protect Killalea State Park from Labor's donors who wanted to overdevelop this beautiful natural asset. Indeed, protecting public open space such as Killalea is important to the people of my electorate. Having inherited all the coal seam gas [CSG] licences issued by the former Labor Government, I am proud that this Government cancelled CSG licences over my electorate and put in place the toughest set of regulatory controls of any government in the nation. I am proud to have fought for the moratorium on CSG exploration and mining in special areas. I will continue to ensure that this moratorium remains in place. We have secured record funds for our local Wollongong and Shoalhaven hospitals for new cancer care centres at both, the PET scanner for Wollongong hospital, securing the future of our aeromedical service, a new elective surgery unit at Wollongong hospital, more parking at both hospitals and a new ambulatory care unit for Shellharbour Hospital. We also have secured record numbers of nurses for our State.

I use public transport frequently and I am proud that we secured 125 new express services for the South Coast line, station upgrades at Gerringong, Albion Park and Dapto, commuter car park upgrades at Oak Flats and Kiama and, of course, a new station at Shellharbour Junction that I will open officially tomorrow. These are but some of the many programs and people with whom I have been involved during my past four wonderful years. Time prohibits me from speaking longer, but I single out former Premier Barry O'Farrell for his support and, indeed, Mike Baird for his continual support and friendship. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the people of the Kiama electorate.

Whilst I hope to continue in this role, this decision is a matter for the wonderful people I serve—and they always get it right. I thank all members of the House; it has been a privilege to serve alongside them. I am pleased also to say that I go to the election with friends on both sides of the House—I note my friend the member for Keira in the Chamber, and the member for Menai with whom I have had the privilege of knowing for many years. I thank all members for their friendship and camaraderie and wish them all the best success at the forthcoming State election. For all those leaving this place I wish them all the best for what I am sure will be a fulfilling retirement.

TRIBUTE TO GRAHAME WRIGHT

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) [11.53 a.m.]: I pay tribute to Mr Grahame Wright, who was a personal friend and an active member of my business community for a long time. Sadly, Mr Wright recently passed away. I met Mr Wright on my honeymoon to the Isle of Pines on a diving holiday a little over 29 years ago. We were both passionate underwater photographers and I know Grahame continued that activity up until shortly before his death. Grahame Wright built Maritime Container Services [MCS] from the ground up 41 years ago by

leasing land on the banks of the Cooks River to provide specialised services in empty shipping container storage, servicing and repairs to acquiring his first truck and offering road transportation services for empty containers in the 1970s. Mr Wright expanded his operation at McPherson Street and Excel Street, Banksmeadow. The one truck Mr Wright acquired in the late 1970s shortly became one of more than 50—an astonishing feat to which any businessman would aspire.

Mr Wright's success continued when he developed a system of electronic data retrieval and input data interface electronic transfer—otherwise known as DIET. In early 1990 Mr Wright relocated the transport division of his business to Banksmeadow to incorporate rail transport and thus commenced MCS's rail division. So successful was Mr Wright's daily rail transport service system, known as the MCS Express, that he was invited by the Victorian Government to participate in the best-practice study into container park operation. Mr Wright's recognition as a leading pioneer in his industry continued. In 2002, through MCS, Mr Wright developed his own truck safety program, which received widespread industry acclamation. As the mayor of Botany Bay City Council I often marvelled at the commitment and dedication Mr Wright demonstrated not just to his business and the industry but also to the wider community. This was further confirmed in 2005 when MCS completed an environmental management plan that went over and above any requirement of the ports, the Environment Protection Authority or Botany Bay City Council.

Mr Wright set the bar for his industry, and his successes reflect the high regard for his business practices. Mr Wright had a strong commitment to the shipping industry, which included forms of associated transport and servicing of containers. He achieved remarkable success as an independently owned company by his commitment to the industry, the environment and the local community. Furthermore, whilst Mr Wright was a leading force in his industry, he became a well-known identity in the area having also served with such distinction as chairman of the Botany Bay Business Enterprise Centre. Reflected always in his approach was a fierce passion for the entire community and a desire for us all to achieve progress together. In an area where the residential community is intermixed with the business community, where operations conflict on the road and congestion is caused by transport to and from Port Botany and Sydney Airport, and in an age where profit lines are the number-one focus for business, Mr Wright ensured that MCS was a shining example of a good corporate citizen.

He was concerned about working alongside the local community not just for the benefit of his business but also for the overall benefit of the community. Recently I had the honour of supporting the nomination of Mr Wright for the Lloyd's List Australian Maritime Hall of Fame award. This nomination received widespread support from the industry and whilst, unfortunately, he did not win the award his legacy, innovation and integrity remain with his sons, James and David, who continue the business in the same style as their father. James and David are equally as dedicated to the industry and community as was their father. I look forward to watching how they grow MCS even more. Mr Wright was an exceptional businessman, community member, industry leader and friend. With his passing, the industry lost a true pioneer. Without Mr Wright's vision, the shipping industry would not be what it is today. I am proud to have been able to work alongside him when I was mayor and to witness firsthand his extraordinary work ethic. He certainly will be missed. Vale Grahame Wright.

MENAI ELECTORATE

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Menai) [11.58 a.m.]: Earlier this week I spoke about the areas of the Menai electorate that will be split up at the next election. Today I focus on the areas going into the new Holsworthy electorate and the achievements and plans for the local area. My first phone call after becoming a candidate for State Parliament was about the potential Moorebank Intermodal. It is an issue I am still campaigning against because I do not see how the negatives can be alleviated, but we will keep working on it. I still have concerns about the proposed recycling facility at Moorebank, the quarry at Sandy Point and the Gandangara, West Menai, land release proposal. Recently I was pleased to see that the proposal for the pub at Casula was withdrawn.

Menai is a fabulous area. Some people have lived their whole lives there, some people are moving into their first home, some people are retirees and some people have young families. We love the proximity to the city and we love the quality of life. To that end, I am thrilled that the Liberal-Nationals Government has widened the M5 and that sections are being opened as they are completed. I am also pleased with the announcement that there will be more tunnels and lanes to get in and out of the city, taking the available lanes from four to 10. I am happy that the South West Rail Link has been completed and that testing is underway before it opens early next year. I know it will help to free up more car spaces at Holsworthy train station because commuters can take advantage of the new Leppington and Edmondson Park stations. I am also looking forward to the 150 additional car spaces being allocated to Holsworthy station.

Our hospital at Liverpool impresses me each time I visit. I am a very regular visitor to the hospital because I not only open new sections but also meet the new doctors, midwives and nurses and participate in the conferences they host. I thank everyone at Liverpool Hospital, particularly the former general manager, Anthony Schembri, and the new general manager, Robynne Cooke, for liaising with me to help meet the needs of our area. Construction is underway on the new, much-needed Liverpool police station, which will make a difference. I have never missed an opportunity to thank our police force for going above and beyond the call of duty, and I have always enjoyed the opportunity to join the community to thank them publically. I again thank June Young, OAM, and the Combined Rotary Clubs of Liverpool for hosting a dinner each year when we do just that. I particularly thank the now retired Superintendent Ray King and our new Chief Superintendent Peter Gillam and their team for protecting our community.

I was pleased to attend the opening of the new Liverpool Court House with the then Attorney General, the Hon. Greg Smith, member of Parliament—which was nice symmetry because he practised law in the old building. I am looking forward to opening the Liverpool and Moorebank Men's Shed in just a few weeks. I thank John Jewell for his efforts in making this a reality. I remember the first time he came to my office with the idea and I commend his tenacity in making it a reality. John and I worked closely with Mayor Ned Mannoun and Liverpool City Council to source a site for them to call home. I know it will make an important difference to the lives of the men in our community, as it has to those who attend the Menai Men's Shed, which I had the pleasure of opening.

The current Menai electorate is in the local government areas of Sutherland Shire Council and Liverpool City Council. I am lucky to have a good working relationship with both councils, which has enabled local issues to be fixed far more efficiently, such as the work achieved through the traffic committees. I thank my representative on the Sutherland committee, John Burgess. Work on larger issues was also undertaken such as improving safety and lighting in our streets, and the cleanliness of our rivers and lakes such as Clinches Pond and Wattle Grove Lake. I enjoy driving around the electorate and seeing the changes I have assisted with in the past four years. After hard work sourcing funding and agreements with Dr Cho, I am pleased to see the Liverpool After Hours Clinic is operating. The Barefoot Waterskier Club at Moorebank has a second storey on its clubhouse. The Ridge athletics track has seating. Extra fencing and lighting has been provided for our sporting facilities, and new bathrooms and disability access has been provided for childcare centres. I am thankful for the Community Building Partnership grants for assisting with these projects.

I am glad to have supported Miracle Babies, Autism Advisory Support Service, Survivors and Mates Support Network, and Disability South West. I have referred constituents to all these groups, so I am pleased to have given back to them. I am most proud of removing the known asbestos from the playground at Newbridge School. I thank the concerned parents, in particular Linda Lambourne, for bringing it to my attention and helping me wade through the documents and information that showed it was still a concern. There is not much more a member of Parliament can do than take action when an issue such as this is identified. I thank the Minister for Education, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli, for hearing my pleas.

State members embark on further important roles such as creating opportunities for others by providing the right economic environment. I love that the catchcry of the 2011 election of making New South Wales number one has come true. Not only has our Jobs Action Plan created almost 1,500 jobs in Liverpool, but also businesses are now choosing to call Liverpool home. I have been involved in the opening of Costco, HPM Legrand, Masters and the Woolworths distribution centre. I thank the former Premier Barry O'Farrell and the current Premier Mike Baird for accompanying me to the openings. I thank all the clerks for their assistance, particularly the Speakers panel; I thank Madam Speaker Shelley Hancock for looking after me in the Fifty-fifth Parliament; and I thank Hansard for making us sound good.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.03 p.m.]: I speak in support of the member for Menai. She has a long list of achievements in her local area such as improvements to Holsworthy station and Liverpool Hospital. She has helped to increase major roads from four to 10 lanes. Recently I had the pleasure of being in her company in Liverpool for the local police awards. I am in awe of the member for Menai for her understanding of the issues and her support of the front-line staff, whether they be police, doctors or teachers. She understands their issues and she is 100 per cent committed to them. Well done to the member for Menai.

BAYS PRECINCT URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAM

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) [12.04 p.m.]: I stood in this Chamber one year ago to draw attention to the Bays Precinct, which is a significant section in my electorate. This is a unique and valuable part of the

Sydney Harbour foreshore, bounded by the suburbs of Balmain, Rozelle, Lilyfield, Annandale, Glebe, Ultimo and Pyrmont. Today I again defend the community's right to be actively involved in deciding the future of this 80 hectares of public land, almost all of which is in my electorate. On the eve of an invite-only international summit stacked with so-called "celebrity builders", the Treasurer stated:

The Bays Precinct Urban Renewal is expected to create approximately 16,000 dwellings for the State.

According to the 2011 Census, 16,000 dwellings is more than the current number of private dwellings in Glebe, Forest Lodge and the Balmain peninsula combined. What we did not hear the Treasurer talk about were his plans for new hospitals, schools, childcare centres, parks, cycleways, sporting facilities or public transport infrastructure to service the new residents. Putting this towers-in-the-sky target aside, the comment exposed the Government's intention and the community's fear that this is purely about hoodwinking the community with bogus consultation. When the Premier announced the Bays Precinct mega project on 17 July 2014 some token community consultation was scheduled for February 2015. According to the UrbanGrowth NSW website, the only formal opportunity for the community to provide input has been pushed back to a date months after the State election. No wonder my local community is concerned, cynical and dismayed.

I have spoken in this Chamber many times about my concerns regarding the former Labor Government's sale of Barangaroo to Lend Lease, particularly the lack of transparency and the possibility of corruption that was involved in the process. It is clear that this Government has not learnt those important lessons from the Barangaroo fiasco, where private gains and secret deals trumped public benefit. Without a transparent, strategic and evidence-based approach, the Bays Precinct will fail to deliver world-class urban renewal for Sydney. Instead, it will deliver a huge private windfall at the expense of the long-term public interest. Of course there is a better way. The University of Sydney's recent Festival of Urbanism presented robust analysis of world's best practice for mega project urban renewals.

Sydney could be leading the way with sustainable, integrated, democratic, vibrant infill development that provides continuous public access to the harbour front, includes social and—importantly—affordable housing, recreation and community spaces, and an anywhere-to-anywhere transport network with fast, frequent and safe transport options. The Bays Precinct is a tremendous opportunity and locals should be valued for their expertise. Over the past few months more than 1,000 people have attended public meetings to call for an open, democratic and transparent process. We are determined not to have our voices drowned out by UrbanGrowth, financiers, developers or the State Government. The community has developed its own Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project core public interest principles, which I have worked on. Resolution 1 from the meeting held on 4 August 2014 states:

To call on the Government to ensure that the Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project follows a democratic and open process which enables public and private interests to come together creatively and imaginatively to ensure that the outcome will be worthy of the site and of Sydney's status as a global city and properly protective of the public interest.

To achieve this, Bays Precinct planning process must ensure:

- a) Precedence is given to the public good as a driving overarching principle for the renewal of these publicly owned foreshores and bays;
- b) That the community of Sydney is able to fully engage in all stages of the planning process;
- c) Excellence in planning and design for all development proposals by designating clear, publicly endorsed planning principles developed by the Bays Precinct Community Reference Group and actively seeking local and international ideas for renewal;
- d) That all unsolicited development proposals relating to any Bays Precinct public land or waters be subject to open competitive tenders and proper public scrutiny;
- e) That there be no alienation of the Bays Precinct foreshores from public ownership by sale or long term lease;
- f) That high priority be given to the inclusion of social and affordable housing as a significant element of any residential uses;
- g) That continuous public access to the harbour foreshore be a core principle for all development in the Bays Precinct;
- h) That a significant proportion of the 80 plus hectares of publicly owned lands be retained for public uses including open space;
- i) The creative adaption and re-use of key heritage items such as the White Bay Power Station and the Glebe Island Bridge.

I again pay tribute to the tireless and remarkable local activists who continue to give their time and expertise on the Bays Precinct for the benefit of the entire community. I highlight the work of the Glebe Society, Balmain Association, Better Planning Network, Birchgrove Precinct, Balmain White Bay Precinct, EcoTransit, Leichhardt Council, City of Sydney council, Pyrmont Action, Blackwattle Cove Coalition, Rozelle Iron Cove Precinct and Annandale Precinct. I note that Leichhardt councillors, despite representing and being elected to represent almost 80 per cent of the area, were not invited to attend this forum.

I encourage the Government to think very seriously about the future of this land and to include the local community in an open, democratic and proactive way. It is critical that the Government engages with the community to make sure that this is in fact a world-class space, one that the community supports and embraces. I look forward as the member for Balmain to working with the Government and all those agencies to ensure that our vision for a sustainable, integrated and democratic space is realised.

LIVERPOOL LOCAL AREA COMMAND AWARDS

Dr ANDREW McDONALD (Macquarie Fields) [12.09 p.m.]: On 17 October I attended the Liverpool Local Area Command Awards ceremony. Commander Chief Superintendent Peter Gilliam, who has served in the NSW Police Force for 36 years, is a true community leader who models integrity, compassion and steadfastness, often under difficult circumstances that represent the challenges of modern policing. Inspector Paul Smith was the master of ceremonies. Ashley Pearsall, Deanne Stanley and Sandra Pese organised and coordinated the event. NSW Police Service medal clasps, for 25 years of diligent and ethical service, were given to Detective Senior Sergeant Deanne Stanley and constables Matthew Hoffman and Zoran Taseski, and a 20-year clasp was given to Sergeant Peter Bowyer.

Local area commendations were given to Detective Sergeant Graeme Hibbs; Constable Rebecca Cooper, whose intervention with a person threatening self-harm saved that person from death or serious injury; constables Christian Boughton and Chrystal Clinch for the rescue of a person trapped in a car at Chipping Norton Lakes; Detective Dean Barton for his professionalism relating to a home invasion; Dale Morrell for his careful investigation of a series of sexual assaults; and constables Chris Anderson and Stewart Judd for their bravery when dealing with an armed offender. A local area commander citation was given to Constable Scott Simmons, who was instrumental in saving the lives of 34 persons in a sinking boat off the coast of Sri Lanka. Best salute of the day—awarded by me—was given to Sergeant Sharon Clark, a thoroughly professional and respected officer. Certificates of appreciation went to constables Kellie Wilson and Rebecca Cooper for their work in domestic violence. They have supported numerous victims of domestic violence. Their work is inspiring and they do a great job every day.

I pay special tribute to Detective Senior Constable Brett Hill. His thorough, detailed and professional investigation into the death of kickboxer Mark Fowler has received enormous praise in the media and in professional circles. His investigation was a major trigger for the Combat Sports Bill 2013. This has led to significant improvements in the regulation of the combat sports industry, which, until Mark Fowler's death, was called in the media the "wild west". The professional and diligent approach of Detective Senior Constable Hill has ensured the protection of future participants in combat sports and he deserves the support of every member of this Parliament.

Tomorrow Assistant Commissioner Frank Mennilli will host the South West Metropolitan Region Medal and Awards ceremony. Once again, our local police will be saluted and congratulated on their fine work. This will be probably my last speech in this place and it is only fitting that the police in south-west Sydney should receive this credit. Every day they do a difficult and dangerous job under trying circumstances. We live in a safe and free place because of the rule of law, and because of the wonderful work of our local police force. They are inspiring, compassionate, tough and resourceful people who protect our community from harm. I support and thank my local police force. I am proud to have met them.

BANKSTOWN CITY COUNCIL PROPOSED AMALGAMATION

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) [12.14 p.m.]: Today I report on a topic of great significance to the future of the Bankstown community. This issue has also received extensive coverage in the past three weeks in our local newspapers, the *Torch* and the *Express*. On Tuesday 28 October several motions were moved by Bankstown City Council in response to Fit for the Future, the New South Wales Government blueprint for the future of local government. Significantly, the council moved that a report be prepared to demonstrate that it had

the capacity to remain independent. The council also moved that formal discussions be undertaken with Canterbury City Council for the purpose of ensuring a joint and accurate investigation of the "merge with Canterbury City Council option."

The final report of the New South Wales Independent Local Government Review Panel—which the Minister for Local Government referred to as the recommendations that should be addressed when preparing responses to the Fit for the Future package—clearly stated that the preferred option for Bankstown City Council was to remain a standalone council. The preferred recommendation for Canterbury City Council was to amalgamate with Hurstville, Kogarah and Rockdale councils, not Bankstown. Bankstown City Council was one of 10 councils throughout greater Sydney where the preferred outcome was no change in the council boundary. The alternative option proposed for Bankstown was to establish a joint organisation with Liverpool, Fairfield, Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly councils. Whilst the report considered this option, it noted that "this is problematic given the scale and complexity of challenges that would face the resulting entity".

Bankstown City Council is on sound financial footing and on track to be debt free by 2018. For some 39 consecutive years Bankstown City Council has not had to increase rates above the benchmark set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal and the Government. Its ratepayers' money has been invested in public, sporting and recreational facilities, which have enabled our residents to build a true sense of community. The council has had the capacity to invest in and deliver significant upgrades to community infrastructure such as the recently opened Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre. I have boasted on many occasions in this House about the council's great assets and its history.

The Bankstown area has a rich Aboriginal and post-European history. For thousands of years many of the suburbs that now encompass the City of Bankstown were part of the territory of the Gweagal, Bidjigal and Darug people. In 1795, upon European settlement, George Bass and Matthew Flinders sailed down the Georges River in a rowing boat called the *Tom Thumb*. In 1798 the district was named Banks Town in honour of Sir Joseph Banks, and the first land grant was issued to George Bass. Over the course of the last 200 years it has accomplished many milestones.

Bankstown was declared a municipality in 1895 and a city in 1980. Bankstown is strategically positioned in the heart of south-western Sydney and has a population of approximately 195,000. It is the fourth-largest local government area in Sydney, the sixth-largest in New South Wales and the fifteenth-largest in Australia. The final report of the New South Wales Independent Local Government Review Panel projected that Bankstown will have a population of more than 222,000 by the year 2031. That is one of the reasons why the preferred option for Bankstown City Council was "no change" in the report. Last week a petition was faxed to my office. It stated:

We would like to express our concerns in regards to the amalgamation of Bankstown City Council and Canterbury council there has been no consultation with the community or enough information we as ratepayers of Bankstown oppose the proposed amalgamation and feel that such an important decision should be made by our community and not councillors alone. We would like to recommend that the Bankstown community as ratepayers of Bankstown City Council are consulted before a decision is made.

It is signed "concerned Bankstown residents". Following the receipt of that petition I received a very distressing call from a community worker who had assisted some residents in faxing the petition to several politicians, the council and newspapers. I was advised that the community worker received a call from a senior Bankstown council manager who reminded that community worker that "they enjoy the comfort of a council facility and that they would not want the organisation or any individual caught up in a lawsuit".

I will be writing both to the Mayor of Bankstown and to General Manager Matthew Stewart to investigate this alleged incident because, should it be true, it amounts to intimidation. No community worker, ratepayer, or member of the Bankstown community should be in any way prevented from voicing either support or objection to any amalgamation. I trust that the community consultation process undertaken by Bankstown City Council over the next several months will be fair and transparent, and that the council accepts that residents and community organisations may also seek to voice their concerns in any way they wish—namely, as ratepayers, business owners, community organisations and proud residents of the best city in our State: Bankstown.

HORNSBY ELECTORATE

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby-Parliamentary Secretary) [12.19 p.m.]: Today I give my last speech in this Fifty-fifth Parliament and acknowledge that during the past four years of Liberal Government the Hornsby

electorate has finally been treated with the respect and given the support it deserves. During the 16 years of Labor Government the residents of the Hornsby electorate were punished for one reason alone—that is, how they voted. Labor neglected the electorate. Labor failed to invest in critical infrastructure and services because of the way the people of Hornsby had voted. I am pleased to say that that time has passed.

I think what best sums up Labor's neglect of the electorate of Hornsby is the disgraceful state in which it left the local hospital. Every time it rained, doctors and nurses had to put out buckets and towels. Every time doctors went into operating theatres, they would trip over power cables when undertaking basic operations. Most shamefully, Labor's neglect allowed possums to run around the intensive care unit. This would not be acceptable in a Third World country but Labor considered it acceptable for the people of Hornsby. It was a disgrace. The Government has since remedied that. I made a commitment to my community to deliver a brand-new hospital to provide the quality of health care that the people of Hornsby missed out on for too long under Labor.

I am pleased to inform the House that I was able to deliver on my commitment and that a \$120 million state-of-the-art facility that will serve the community of Hornsby for decades is being built. It will provide new surgical theatres and anaesthetics and recovery wards. This is exciting for the people of Hornsby, who have missed out on such services for too long. But the Government has done more than that. It has delivered the NorthConnex road project. Pennant Hills Road is widely regarded as the worst road in Sydney, and it is the residents of my community who have been penalised for too long. The NorthConnex project will remove up to 40,000 vehicles a day from Pennant Hills Road. These vehicles are often stuck in traffic gridlock for most of the day. This project delivered by this Government, should it be approved following the environmental impact statement process, will be a game changer for commuters in my community.

This Government has delivered the North West Rail Link. Residents in north-western Sydney have missed out on viable public transport solutions for decades. Why? It is for no other reason than Labor wanted to punish the area because of how it voted. Finally this Liberal-Nationals Government is investing in a viable public transport solution for the people of Hornsby and of the north-western suburbs. This Government has connected the Galston and Cowan communities to the sewerage system. Again, these areas were neglected by Labor because it wanted to punish them for how they voted. For decades they missed out on critical infrastructure that other communities took for granted. I note that the Treasurer is in the Chamber. It was him, as the Minister for Finance and Services, who delivered that for my community. I thank him for the outstanding job he is doing.

The Hornsby railway overpass has been a problem in my community for way too long. This is an infrastructure project that I have been able to deliver for my community. After lobbying by Hornsby Shire Council and by me, the New South Wales Government committed \$5 million, to go with council's contribution of \$2 million, to build a new railway crossing bridge in the Hornsby central business district. This bridge will replace the current old and dilapidated bridge, which is more than 30 years old and no longer serves the needs of today's local community. Construction of the new bridge is expected to start in January and be completed in 2015. Streetscaping works will also be included to transform Florence Street and give pedestrians safer and more convenient access points for the bridge crossing.

For the first time in decades Hornsby shire is seeing a major investment in public infrastructure, including the North West Rail Link, the M1 and the M2. Not only that, thousands of dollars are being spent to support local community groups, including Berowra Scouts, Rowland Village, the police and citizens youth club, Berowra Cricket Club, Berowra Junior Rugby League Football Club, Asquith Magpies, Asquith Public School and Clarke Road School. All those projects have been developed and delivered by this Coalition Government. I committed to continue to deliver for my electorate. Only a Liberal Government will deliver for the people of north-western Sydney and the people of Hornsby. I am committed to continuing to stand up in the face of Labor opposition and to deliver the infrastructure and services that we need.

ARMIDALE RURAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) [12.24 p.m.]: I inform the House about the push I am leading in the Northern Tablelands for the redevelopment of the Armidale Rural Referral Hospital. I have spoken about this before in the House. The area the hospital serves includes not only the city of Armidale, a community of more than 23,000 people, but also a broader catchment area of almost 100,000 people. It is a rural referral hospital that is in desperate need of redevelopment. It is showing signs of ageing. With an increasing

number of patients coming through the emergency department, an increasing requirement for specialist care and the presence of the School of Rural Medicine at the University of New England as well as the Tablelands Clinical School, the need for this redevelopment has never been greater.

I acknowledge that we have made some progress in developments around the hospital precinct. The University of New England recently opened the Tablelands Clinical School, a \$14 million investment to help train local medical students—to train and retain our own. In April this year it was great to have the Minister for Health, the Hon. Jillian Skinner, in Armidale to officially open the \$8 million ambulatory care and chemotherapy building at the front of the Armidale Rural Referral Hospital. It will provide a whole host of services. The oncology level is being well used not only by people from Armidale but also by those from Glen Innes, Inverell and further afield.

These upgrades further highlight the need for the redevelopment. In fact, the missing link in this first-class, state-of-the-art health precinct in the Northern Tablelands is the redevelopment of the hospital. The community has been arguing the case for this for well over a decade. I would venture to say that it is the most important issue of not only the Armidale community but also the entire electorate of Northern Tablelands. Health infrastructure underpins community wellbeing in rural areas like no other piece of infrastructure does. So this redevelopment is absolutely essential. The lead design team, appointed by NSW Health Infrastructure, is working on plans for the redevelopment. It is due to report back early next month. The money to pay for that redesign was generously granted by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Jillian Skinner, in April this year. There is \$400,000 for that planning.

I will continue to push for this redevelopment, together with the community, and I look forward to those plans being completed. The next stage will be to secure the funding for that important upgrade. I make it clear to the Minister how important this is for my community. It is something the community has been awaiting for a decade. Amongst the things that need to be incorporated into the redevelopment are: a new emergency department, extra operating theatres, a new intensive care unit and a medical ward. This is an absolutely vital redevelopment that will improve health care in my region and ensure that people can meet their healthcare needs at an acute level on their doorstep without having to travel to Tamworth or to John Hunter Hospital at Newcastle. It would allow them to be treated in a state-of-the-art, modern facility in their home town and would have benefits for outreach services to Inverell, Glen Innes, Tenterfield and Wyallda.

We have some magnificent local health staff. I pay tribute to Dr Gary Baker, the former chair of the Medical Staff Council. He worked very hard on this redevelopment for many years with me and my predecessor. I also acknowledge Dr David Rowe, who is the current chair of the Medical Staff Council. He is a very pragmatic and passionate man. He really wants to see this redevelopment occur for all the clinicians and their patients at the hospital. I acknowledge Donna Withnell and Catharine Death at the hospital—they do a magnificent job managing the facility—and the great team they lead. We have some brilliant staff at the hospital—some absolutely wonderful staff—who go out of their way to treat patients. They are being let down by infrastructure that has not kept pace with modern healthcare needs. I look forward to those plans being completed. We have a dollar figure. I will be standing side-by-side with my community arguing for the allocation of this funding because there is no greater need in Armidale, nor in the entire Northern Tablelands, than for the full redevelopment of the Armidale Rural Referral Hospital. I will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that that redevelopment occurs.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MARSDEN, OAM

Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) [12.29 p.m.]: Jim Marsden, OAM, came from very humble beginnings growing up in Campbelltown at his parent's pub and went on to become the senior partner of one of the most respected legal firms in the Macarthur region, Marsdens Law Group. Jim's passion for Campbelltown has been evident through his ongoing support for the community. Many organisations have benefitted from Jim's generosity. They include the Ingham Institute, Lifeline Macarthur, Odyssey House, the McGrath Foundation, Kids of Macarthur, Campbelltown Life Education, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, Main Street, Campbelltown Arts Centre, St Gregory's College, Campbelltown Amateur Swimming Club, Campbelltown RSL sub-Branch, Koshigaya Sister City Committee, South West Sydney Sports Foundation, Wests Tigers, Casula Power House Art Centre, APEX, the chamber of commerce and the Macarthur Economic Development Advisory Board, to name a few.

One of Jim's major passions is the Mater Dei school in Camden, which was established as a special school in 1957. Mater Dei is an organisation that provides early intervention therapy services, education and

residential programs for babies, children and young people with an intellectual disability or developmental delay. Under the auspices of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan the school provides opportunities and experiences that help the students to develop skills and confidence to become fully included as members of their community. Jim once said, "Never underestimate the children and their abilities." Principal Tony Fitzgerald, his staff and the support of families has enabled the children of Mater Dei to reach goals they otherwise may not have achieved.

On 20 June I attended this year's annual Marsden's environmental planning and local government seminar. My good friend and colleague the Hon. Jai Rowell, Minister for Mental Health, presented the opening address. The seminar is a great way for our local government leaders to network and discuss issues such as planning and environmental law. In 2011 Jim was awarded the prestigious President's Medal at the Law Society's Justice Awards for his ongoing willingness to take on pro bono cases in the Law Society Pro Bono Scheme. With more than 30 years experience as a solicitor, Jim's willingness to assist disadvantaged people in our community, usually at a time when they feel they have nowhere to turn, is invaluable. It shows the character, values and dedication that he has for people who find themselves in a situation requiring his legal expertise.

As a valued member of the legal fraternity the recognition was well deserved. Jim also chairs the Macarthur Club and the Macarthur Development Advisory Group based in Campbelltown. Jim was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia on the Queen's Birthday in 2013. I know Jim was humbled by the honour, but once again the award was well deserved. Jim shared his award with his wife, Marion, and his children. Jim said that his mother and father, who were publicans in Campbelltown, taught him to be part of the community. Jim has certainly lived up to that. The award was in recognition of his support for his beloved Campbelltown community and the wider Macarthur community.

Jim is also a former chair of Wests Tigers and is an avid supporter of the arts. Jim is a person who never expects or seeks recognition for his community work; he just gets on with it wherever his assistance is required. Jim believes that being in a position to help people in our community gives people a sense of satisfaction that in some small way they have brightened someone's day. I pay tribute to Jim Marsden for being an outstanding lawyer in our community and, more importantly, an outstanding friend whom I am happy to approach regularly to seek advice on numerous issues. I commend Jim Marsden.

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly—Minister for Mental Health, and Assistant Minister for Health) [12.33 p.m.]: I echo the comments of the hardworking member for Camden, who is a strong advocate for his community and recently delivered the almost \$300 million Camden Valley Way project well ahead of time. Jim Marsden is a fantastic advocate who has always supported good community causes, including the Mater Dei school and people in need. It does not matter what it is, if someone is down Jim Marsden is there to lend a hand. The member for Camden, the member for Campbelltown and I often attend functions at which Jim is present. We are always astonished and amazed by his hard work. Jim is a great mate of mine who has helped our community for many years. We wish him all the best.

Private members' statements concluded.

COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Report

Mr Donald Page, as Chair, tabled, by leave, the report entitled "The Promotion of False and Misleading Health-Related Information and Practices", Report 5/55, dated November 2014.

Ordered to be printed on motion by Mr Donald Page.

Pursuant to resolution recognition statements proceeded with.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS

ROUSE HILL RHINOS

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Hawkesbury—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.35 p.m.]: I congratulate the Rouse Hill Rhinos on having nine teams competing in grand finals in the Parramatta District Rugby League

competition—the most of any competing club. Two of those sides were successful and were crowned premiers. Last Sunday I attended their presentation afternoon at Rhino Park at Wrights Road in Kellyville. There were mini, mod and international presentations where every player was presented with their medal and a high-quality yearbook on stage. There was also additional entertainment with waterslides and jumping castles.

The Rhinos club received the Mod Incentive Shield, which is won by the club that achieves the most overall points in the age groups from under 8s to under 12s. Four Rhinos players were selected in the New South Wales Primary Schools Sports Association teams to play for New South Wales. I congratulate Jake Arthur, Will Penisini, Sam Loizou and Koevy Lemusu on their milestone. The club has more than 450 members and affords me as its patron the opportunity each year to present the Ray Williams Trophy for best player of the year, Tyson Sangalang.

HUNTER KNIT-IN

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) [12.36 p.m.]: On Friday 1 August 2014 it was my great pleasure to attend the seventh annual Hunter Knit-In hosted by Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery. The art gallery, in partnership with Wrap with Love Inc., hosted the event, which is a gathering of knitters from far and wide to knit hundreds of squares to be used for cosy wraps to be distributed throughout the world. Fran Miller, Elizabeth Hull, Robyn Thomas, Barbara Johnson, Julie Lomax, Jenny Dunn, Cathy Higgins, Phyllis Williams and Sandra Davies deserve credit for their contributions. I met many wonderful knitters including the organiser, Shirley Chapman, who is a legend.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX APPS

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly—Minister for Mental Health, and Assistant Minister for Health) [12.36 p.m.]: The Wollondilly community is today mourning the passing of Mr Alex Apps, president and lifetime member of the Picton Show Society. At 65 years of age Mr Apps was tragically taken from us overnight following a heart attack. Mr Apps will be remembered as an important and selfless community leader who took great pride in carrying on the legacy of his father and grandfather in making the Picton Show a memorable annual event for all Wollondilly residents.

In recent years Mr Apps had placed a great focus on including youth and women in Picton Show Committee positions to foster a sense of community amongst people from all walks of life. Only a few weeks ago I joined Mr Apps to open the Picton Show. It was the best show ever. Alex and his wife, Gail, always put their hearts and souls into the show. I extend my condolences to Gail and Alex's family at this difficult time. He will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO MURRAY TREMBATH

Mr BARRY COLLIER (Miranda) [12.37 p.m.]: In my last community recognition statement I pay tribute to Mr Murray Trembath, senior journalist and State political reporter with the *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader* newspaper. I met Mr Trembath 15 years ago during my first campaign for the electorate of Miranda. I have always been impressed with his professionalism and his journalistic integrity, both of which have been reflected consistently in the exceptionally high quality of his reporting. While I have not always agreed with what he has written, Mr Trembath has always presented both sides of stories with fairness and balance, being an ever-present observer while avoiding the temptation to become a participant in the debate.

I know he has been reporting State politics for many years back to at least the days of the Wran slide—a phrase which, according to my research, he coined. A very experienced journalist, Mr Trembath has never been afraid to ask the tough questions and, in my experience, has always reported delicate issues involving individual members of the community with the sensitivity and compassion they deserve. As I leave this place I acknowledge and thank Murray Trembath for his consistent contribution to the Sutherland Shire community through his fine journalism over so many years.

MONSIGNOR KERRY BAYADA

MEGAN BARNES, PANCREATIC CANCER CAMPAIGNER

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.38 p.m.]: The Sutherland Shire's most senior Roman Catholic priest, Monsignor Kerry Bayada of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Caringbah, will retire early next year. At the age of eight he served on the altar. At age 13, he entered a junior

seminary at St Columba's College, Springwood. At the age of 26, he was ordained as a priest by Cardinal Gilroy. After six years as a priest at three different parishes, Monsignor Bayada then served as the vocations director for the Sydney archdiocese for 17 years. After helping so many young people discern their vocations, Monsignor Bayada returned to parish work in 1985. He became the parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Caringbah, where he has been ever since. I thank Monsignor Bayada for his service to the church, to generations of Catholics, and to shire life. I wish him well in retirement at the Calvary Retirement Community at Ryde.

After last week's inaugural World Pancreatic Cancer Day, I congratulate Caringbah resident Megan Barnes on her ongoing campaign to increase awareness of pancreatic cancer. Megan lost her father to this highly aggressive disease in 2012. Following her online petition with more than 25,000 signatories to the Federal Government, the pancreatic cancer drug, Abraxane, was listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme [PBS] from 1 November. Pancreatic cancer is the ninth-most-common cancer in men in Australia and the tenth for women. It has a low survival rate because it is most often diagnosed at an advanced stage.

MOUNT DRUITT ELECTORATE CHRISTMAS CHARITY APPEALS

Mr RICHARD AMERY (Mount Druitt) [12.39 p.m.]: I recognise that, once again, the charities in my electorate will be busy this Christmas season. Christmas is a good time not only to catch up with family but also to recognise that many people in our electorates are doing it tough. The work by all our charities, such as the "Salvos", Mission Australia and St Vincent DePaul to name just a few, try to reach some disadvantaged people, but cannot help all. In particular Anglicare has announced it will be running the Toys and Tucker appeal. Donations can be dropped off at the Anglicare centre at 91a Kurrajong Avenue, Mount Druitt. All appeals by all charities at Christmas help the needy and should be supported by all.

JONTY HEMINGWAY, STATE JUNIOR MEAT JUDGING CHAMPION

WINGHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) [12.40 p.m.]: I inform the House that Jonty Hemingway, who is a year 12 student at the Wingham High School, recently won the New South Wales Junior Meat Judging Championship. The champion is the highest-scoring individual from combined scores from the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza and Wingham Beef Week. Jonty took out the championship after winning both contests from a field of 153 students representing 29 high schools. Jonty's interest in the meat industry came primarily through the Wingham High School and its cattle show team, which was consolidated by her work experience with the local abattoir, and Meat and Livestock Australia.

I advise the House that the Wingham Football Club held its senior award presentations before an audience of players, coaches, managers, supporters and families. Mitchell Bevitt won the Marquee Player of the Year Award after being judged the club's best player. Angel Brady from the ladies team won the coveted Frank Ihlow Award and Emily Holden received the Referee of the Year Award. A special award was made to Kerry Ihlow, who was presented with a gold cup for being a devoted and hard worker. Players Dean Whitlam, Andy Goodman and Mitchell Bevitt received red shirt awards for being the club's only players to have been given red cards during the season.

MASCOT JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) [12.41 p.m.]: I pay tribute to the Mascot Junior Rugby League Football Club, which is a wonderful junior rugby league club in my area that I have been proud to support for decades. Mascot Juniors was founded in 1910 and is one of the largest and most successful junior rugby league clubs in South Sydney's junior rugby league. Mascot Juniors takes great pride in nurturing its players from a young age. The club has seen a number of its players represent Australia, such as Mario Fenech, Ian Roberts, George Piggins, Brian Handley, Brian "Chicka" Moore as well as many others prior to World War II, with scores of successful first grade players.

Mascot Juniors are led by the President, Frank Cookson of the Cookson family, which has given so much to junior rugby league and to Mascot, and the club Secretary, Barry Smith. All the club's marvellous volunteers remain dedicated to the progress of young players. They are fantastic motivators and role models by remaining active members of the community. They encourage children to participate in sport, which is essential to their health and wellbeing. I congratulate all members of the Mascot Juniors teams on representing their club

with distinction. I wish the players, coaches and parents well during the off-season. I pay tribute to and thank the club's marvellous volunteers for their dedication and for the contribution of their time and effort, which is solely for the benefit of our local children.

SMITHFIELD REMEMBRANCE DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr ANDREW ROHAN (Smithfield) [12.42 p.m.]: On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of each year, we pause to remember the end of the First World War—the Great War, which was meant to end all wars—and to remember the sacrifice made by our best men and women to secure our freedom, which we take for granted. I was honoured to attend the Remembrance Day memorial service at 10.45 a.m. at the Leo McCarthy Memorial Park in Smithfield. It was organised by the Smithfield RSL Sub Branch. I attended on behalf of my community and represented the Premier, the Hon. Mike Baird. I laid a wreath on behalf of the New South Wales Government.

I acknowledge Mr Bill Cruwys, who is the President of the Smithfield RSL Sub Branch, and who led the proceedings. The hymns and the national anthem were sung by Alice Pearson and the Prayer of Remembrance was said by Reverend Armen Nalbandian. It was wonderful to see so many school students laying wreaths on behalf of their respective schools. If they are tomorrow's leaders, Australia's future is safe in their hands.

LEICHHARDT WOMEN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) [12.43 p.m.]: I congratulate the Leichardt Women's Community Health Centre on its fortieth anniversary. For Australia's women, 1974 was a momentous year. The first women's health centre—the Leichardt Women's centre—was opened. It was the first refuge for women and children who were escaping domestic violence and the first rape crisis centre. Leichardt Women's Community Health Centre is a multidisciplinary women's primary health service, with four clinic sites and outreach provided across eight local government areas as well as a statewide sexual health counselling service. It opened in March 1974 after grassroots action taken by women who were involved in Sydney's women's liberation movement.

Since its establishment, the Leichardt Women's Community Health Centre has been responsible for providing health care to more than 140,000 women and for interfacing with the mainstream health system on their behalf. Today the centre's services are focused on providing preventative health, early intervention and assisting women to develop strategies for self-management of chronic health conditions. This year more than 4,100 women attended the centre's diverse range of services. Often the centre is providing care to women who cannot access or who resist treatment from the more mainstream health system due to life experiences that affects their willingness to engage anywhere other than at the centre's safer women-only environment. This year the centre conducted research of clients' experiences in obtaining health care at the centre. I understand the results will be published next year. I cannot think of a more fitting way to conclude my statement than with the words of one woman who said:

If I didn't know about the women's health centre ...I'd be suffering more out there in the community, unnecessarily. Even if I couldn't come back to this centre tomorrow I feel that I've learnt enough to sustain me forever."

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART CHURCH CLOSE EXHIBITION

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) [12.44 p.m.]: The Museum of Contemporary Art currently is hosting an exhibition of the work of Chuck Close, who is renowned as one of America's foremost portraitists. For more than 40 years printmaking has formed the bedrock of his practice. The exhibition provides a comprehensive survey of the full extent of Close's long involvement with the varied forms and processes of this medium. As Premier Mike Baird noted, securing outstanding exhibitions like this one through the New South Wales Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW, not only enriches the cultural fabric of New South Wales but also enhances our global city's reputation as Australia's cultural tourism hub.

This morning I attended the exhibition and met with Liz Ann Macgregor and her team at the Museum of Contemporary Art. I congratulate them on yet another excellent exhibition. I particularly note their innovative mechanisms for obtaining feedback in the form of typing, drawing, recording through photographs or speaking, which is reflective of the innovative and creative approach adopted by the museum.

FAIRVALE HIGH SCHOOL: "SAY HI" WEEK

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) [12.45 p.m.]: Recently Fairvale High School took part in "Say Hi" Week. The Fairvale High School is playing its part to break down barriers by eliminating stigmas attached to

disabilities. The Fairvale High School joined with 23 participating schools to promote social inclusion through a campaign the school designed. Through the campaign, 70 students were asked, through the Cerebral Palsy Alliance's social inclusion program, what they can do to make the school more inclusive. The overwhelming majority said that saying "Hi" to someone they would not normally speak to was the first way to break down the barriers. Throughout the week staff and students at Fairvale High School worked to include all people through get-to-know-you strategies. I congratulate the Fairvale High School on addressing a serious issue in our schools through a range of fun and inclusive activities.

COOGEE ELECTORATE CARERS AWARDS

Mr BRUCE NOTLEY-SMITH (Coogee) [12.46 p.m.]: Recently two of my constituents were recognised at the New South Wales Carers Awards for their incredible dedication as carers in our community. Andrew Tosti, who is a resident of Randwick, was highly commended at the awards for his work in caring for his mother, who has been diagnosed with dementia. I have known Andrew for many years as a strong community advocate. Debbie Schonberger, who is another resident of Randwick, also was recognised in the awards for her ongoing and loving care of her disabled daughter. I thank the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for the Illawarra, John Ajaka, for recognising those wonderful people in our midst. I also congratulate all the other carers who were nominated for the 2014 New South Wales Carers Awards and acknowledge the many thousands of other carers who are committed to improving the lives of the people for whom they care.

SYDNEY ELECTORATE COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) [12.47 p.m.]: I congratulate organisations that will be funded through the Community Building Partnership grants. Grants have been recommended for 10 projects in my electorate and include the Mental Health Association's building upgrade, disability access for the AIDS Council of New South Wales [ACON] health building, and a bathroom upgrade for the Marmalade Foundation's Lou's Place homeless women's service. The grants will provide lighting for the St John's Anglican Church walkway, air-conditioning for the KU Ultimo Child Care Centre, a safety fence at St Philip's Anglican Parish of Churchill, new seating for the Jewish Museum, and facilities to store costumes and jewellery at the Hellenic Lyceum Club.

The Tribal Warrior Association has been recommended for funds to repair its boat and to train Indigenous participants. The Australian Seniors Computer Club's association is recommended for new equipment to train older people. Other worthy projects could not be funded through those grants; more than \$1 million was requested. I commend community initiatives to help to build local community infrastructure and facilities during 2015.

GRAHAM "FRENCHY" FRENCH

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) [12.48 p.m.]: I give a big shout out to Graham French, or Frenchy as he is affectionately known, who has been very unwell lately. Graham French is someone with whom I literally grew up. He has been the voice of local radio for 30 years. I also grew up knowing a different side of Graham while playing Nintendo on his lounge room floor with his son, Daniel, who is a schoolyard friend of mine. Graham is somebody who would do anything for anybody. He is a great champion of many local causes and issues. He is universally respected by all who have ever had to work with him in any capacity. In my inaugural speech in this place I referred to him as the Yoda of local radio.

There is no doubt that he knows anything and everything there is to know about local radio. I look forward to seeing him fully recovered. I know that he will enjoy some well-earned time off during this period. I wish him a speedy recovery and I hope that he returns to his enthusiastic and effervescent self-broadcasting across the airways and ensuring that his dulcet tones continue to be heard for many years.

SOUTH WESTERN REGIONAL TENANTS ASSOCIATION

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) [12.49 p.m.]: I recognise the achievements of the South Western Regional Tenants Association Incorporated, known as SWRTA. The association celebrated its thirtieth anniversary at a function at the Liverpool Catholic Club on 14 November. The president and founder of SWRTA is Janet Davies, who addressed the event. Also present was the recently retired Mick Allen, who had been involved with SWRTA for many years in his various positions, including as Director General of Housing. I have known of SWRTA for pretty much all of its 30 years. I remember especially its twenty-fifth anniversary,

which included an address by the late Frank Walker, who was the relevant Minister when SWRTA was established. I congratulate Janet Davies, other office bearers and the management committee and volunteers on the very impressive work they have done over many years. The amount of volunteer work done by this organisation and the type of work it does is particularly praiseworthy.

DRUG DRIVING

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Menai) [12.50 p.m.]: I remind the community that if you get behind the wheel after taking drugs, you will be caught. Yesterday I met with the Minister for Police, Stuart Ayres, MP, and the NSW Police Force Traffic and Highway Patrol as its members undertook drug and alcohol testing on the Cumberland Highway. I was alarmed with the statistics in regard to the number of drivers who are caught with drugs in their system; more than 1,100 drug-affected drivers have been caught to date. I am astounded and appalled by this number—one in 25 drivers on the road is caught with drugs in their system. In some areas, scarily, it is high as one in five. Of those tested, more than 700 have had more than one drug in their system at the time of testing. With this time of year bringing more people out on the roads to attend parties and family functions I urge motorists to think about what they have in their system before they get behind the wheel, and to keep the road safe for all.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH POLSON-GALLOWAY

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie-Parliamentary Secretary) [12.51 p.m.]: This month Legislative Assembly Vive Classique Academy of Dance in Port Macquarie celebrates its thirtieth anniversary. As a teenager its director, Elizabeth Polson-Galloway, trained tirelessly as a dancer and enjoyed a successful career in the spotlight. Her love of dance remains today as she works behind the scenes to train local children with the same dreams of a career in dance. La Vive Classique Academy of Dance has studios in Port Macquarie and also runs classes in Lake Cathie. Students from La Vive have gone on to win the prestigious Royal Academy of Dance Isobel Anderson Awards, an Ajkin New York Scholarship and been accepted into Australian, Hong Kong, Irish, Dutch National and Queensland ballet companies.

Many of the academy's students have followed in the footsteps of their mentor, known to the students as "Miss Elizabeth" and have opened their own dance schools. La Vive presents annual performances at the beautiful Glasshouse Theatre in Port Macquarie. This is a fantastic community event, with excited parents and students pitching in to present an amazing showcase of talent. Congratulations to Elizabeth Polson-Galloway on 30 years of La Vive Classique and inspiring children across the Port Macquarie-Hastings region to enjoy a love of dance.

COOLABURROO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INTERGENERATIONAL SHOWCASE

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) [12.52 p.m.]: Last Friday night I was delighted to be able to attend and enjoy the Coolaburoo Neighbourhood Centre's Intergenerational Showcase, held at the South West Christian Church in Padstow. The Coolaburoo Neighbourhood Centre is a not-for-profit organisation that for many years has been servicing the needs of the Bankstown community, particularly in the suburbs of Padstow, Panania, Revesby and East Hills, by offering support groups, projects, activities, resources, and counselling services for the benefit of local residents. The Intergenerational Showcase was one of many events that was organised and facilitated by the hardworking staff and volunteers at Coolaburoo, and I thank them for their kind invitation to attend the occasion. I take this opportunity to recognise the efforts of all the staff and volunteers, particularly Rosanna Umaski and Virginia Serrada, for their work and efforts throughout the year.

CENTRAL COAST EXPRESS ADVOCATE EDITOR

Mr CHRIS HOLSTEIN (Gosford) [12.53 p.m.]: I congratulate the outgoing Editor of the *Central Coast Express Advocate*, Mr Geoffrey Hawthorne, on his retirement and welcome the new Editor, Mark Nolan. Mark is a local peninsula lad from Woy Woy who knows the Central Coast very well.

BONNYRIGG MEN'S SHED

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) [12.53 p.m.]: Every month the Bonnyrigg Men's Shed holds a barbecue. It is an opportunity for its members to get together to create new friendships or strengthen old friendships over a meal. I was pleased to be able to join them in July where I enjoyed that great Aussie tradition, a sausage sandwich. The men's shed is a wonderful place. It gives men a safe and friendly space where they can

work on projects like fixing furniture, socialise, learn about good health, share stories or just enjoy a cuppa. The great thing is that the men's shed is open to men of all ages and all backgrounds. I thank the members of the Bonnyrigg Men's Shed for their warm hospitality, especially, Mr Sid Hugen, its Chairman, who works hard running the shed, organising projects and events, and supporting its members.

ST GEORGE AND SUTHERLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Parliamentary Secretary) [12.54 p.m.]: Last night I attended the annual student/tutor awards and graduation ceremony at St George and Sutherland Community College. I congratulate President, Nola Nutt, her board, Principal Patricia Carroll and all staff members on their outstanding work in providing more than 400 courses in more than 30 venues, including: SGSCC Disability, which has operated for 30 years and is a very important part of disability services in the shire; and SGSCC International, which is dedicated to accredited vocational training and study tours to international students. I congratulate in particular outstanding students of the Year Karen Appleton, Cathy Cinco, Michelle Whelan, Erica Kokkina, Megan Stephenson, and Ping Chung Tse; outstanding tutors of the year Jan Dutton, Leanne Herrick, Kim Cottam, Wendy Robles, Emma Smith, Oliver Steel; service award recipients Cheryl Sinden, Mary Tullock, Carolyn Ayre, Lana Constantini, Josephine Draycott, Therese Hasham, Brenda Lovat and Cathy Lovelock; and Mi Caha award recipients Brett Gibbens and Sabine Graham.

TORONTO TIDY TOWNS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AWARDS

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) [12.55 p.m.]: I congratulate Toronto Tidy Towns on its success at this year's Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities awards for New South Wales, held in Nundle recently. Toronto won four awards, including the Overall Town category for populations of 4,001 to 10,000. Toronto also won the Environmental Education award, for Toronto Fire Station's model fire retardant native garden; the Litter Reduction award, for Toronto Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group's Tossers can be Winners project; and the Waste Management award, for the Awaba Community Recycling Centre. Toronto Tidy Towns does a great job for our community. I acknowledge the hard work of President Kelly Hoare, Secretary Lyn Pascoe and Treasurer Henry Wellmore.

MYALL LAKES ELECTORATE AND STUDENT AWARDS

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) [12.56 p.m.]: I congratulate Forster's Charlie Naylor, who took out the top prize in this year's Newcastle Permanent Primary Schools Mathematics competition. Congratulations to Tuncurry's Joel Elliot, who came second in the Year 6 division. I note that 16,000 students took the examination, from the Hunter, Central Coast, Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast, New England and Central West. I congratulate the two outstanding schools, Forster and Tuncurry public schools, and the hardworking teachers.

I congratulate teachers from the Manning Valley Anglican College, Neil Dawes and Yvonne Geerts, who have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to education. In awards presented by the Australian College of Education, these highly dedicated teachers were recognised for their service to the school and community. I note that the gifted and dedicated teacher Kathryn Johnson also teaches at that school. I recognise that teachers work diligently to advance the scholastic and social welfare of their students so that they have a sound base on which to pursue their careers.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN SMITH

Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) [12.56 p.m.]: At Nobbys Beach in Newcastle there are two icons: the Lighthouse and Warren Smith. After some 71,000 hours on duty over almost 40 years, Warren has decided to retire as a lifeguard at Nobbys. During his time at Nobbys he made about a thousand rescues and not a single life was lost on his watch. He was on duty the day the *Sydney* ran aground at Stockton and assisted in the rescue of the crew of the *Pasha Bulker* when it ran aground in 2007 at Nobbys. Warren is a Newcastle icon and will be sorely missed in the lifeguard ranks.

MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Menai) [12.57 p.m.]: I thank Moorebank High School for its hospitality when I visited the school yesterday with the Minister for Education. I congratulate the principal, Nick Magriplis, and his teachers on the great work they are doing at the school. They have focused some of

their funding to provide additional time to their teachers' personal development and planning. This considered approach has clearly paid off with increased student satisfaction, increased test scores and lowered absenteeism. The school has also worked with the students to develop a school motto and a new sense of school spirit.

The Minister and I were able to sit in on a lesson where students were encouraged to think creatively and outside the box; they came up with some awesome presentations and campaigns to change political systems. They were quite impressive. We were able to watch the school band practice for the concert they are putting on tonight, and I wish them all the best for that. Once again I congratulate the principal and his staff on their outstanding work in the school and wish all the students the best for the rest of the year.

FAIRFIELD PATRICIAN BROTHERS COLLEGE, FAIRFIELD, STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) [12.58 p.m.]: Recently I had the opportunity to present incoming year 12 student leaders at Patrician Brothers College, Fairfield, with congratulatory certificates in recognition of their appointment as student leaders for the 2015 academic year. It was nice to have had the chance to sit down and talk with the leaders about matters important to them and their fellow students. I wish them well in their tenure as college leaders in the upcoming year as they promote the spirit of the blue and blue of Patrician Brothers College. I also take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the wonderful teaching staff and the Principal of Patrician Brothers College, Mr John Killeen, on their outstanding support and commitment to the students of the college.

AUSTRALIAN-KOREAN POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS FORUM

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) [12.59 p.m.]: Last night I attended the inaugural Australian-Korean Political and Business Leaders Forum dinner. Congratulations to the organisers on a great occasion, which included an excellent speech from the New South Wales Minister for Citizenship and Communities. As Federal Minister for Trade, Andrew Robb, noted, the free-trade agreement signed with Korea was the first of three agreements signed with our Asian neighbours. Congratulations to the Federal Government on this achievement with Korea, Japan and China. I value the contribution and involvement of those in my electorate with Korean backgrounds, including those through the Korean Community Church situated just down the road from my Lindfield electorate office.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Order of Business

Motion by Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended at this sitting:

- (1) For the consideration of the bills returned by the Legislative Council with amendments forthwith.
- (2) To provide for the following speaking time limits for any consideration in detail:
 - (a) Minister—one period not exceeding five minutes;
 - (b) Leader of the Opposition or one member deputed—one period not exceeding five minutes; and
 - (c) Minister in reply—five minutes.
- (3) To extend the consideration of the committee reports take note debate until 1.45 p.m.

STATE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report: Downstream Gas Supply and Availability in NSW

Mr ANDREW GEE, as Chair tabled, by leave, the report of the State and Regional Development Committee entitled "Downstream Gas Supply and Availability in NSW", Report 2/55, dated November 2014.

Ordered to be printed on motion by Mr Andrew Gee.

PETROLEUM (ONSHORE) AMENDMENT (NSW GAS PLAN) BILL 2014**Consideration in Detail****Consideration of the Legislative Council amendment.**

Schedule of amendment referred to in message of 19 November 2014

No. 1 **Christian Democratic Party No. 1 [C2014-172A]**

Page 4, schedule 1. Insert after line 26:

6 Applicants of expunged applications to be given first opportunity to make new applications

- (1) The Minister must not take fresh title action in respect of any area for which an expunged application was made (a relevant area) unless:
 - (a) the Minister has first invited the applicant for the expunged application to make a new application for the petroleum title concerned, and
 - (b) the applicant has:
 - (i) informed the Minister that the applicant does not wish to make a new application, or
 - (ii) not made a new application within 28 days of being invited to do so, or
 - (iii) had the applicant's new application refused.
- (2) Fresh title action is:
 - (a) inviting applications under section 8 for petroleum titles in respect of a relevant area, or
 - (b) granting a petroleum title in respect of a relevant area.

Motion by Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That the Legislative Council amendment be agreed to.

Legislative Council amendment agreed to.**Message sent to the Legislative Council advising it of the resolution.****STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL (NO 2) 2014****OMBUDSMAN AND PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2014**

ACTING-SPEAKER (Ms Noreen Hay): I inform the House that in considering this message the Legislative Council has proposed to divide the bill originating in the Legislative Assembly. The House should note this practice is not unprecedented, having occurred most recently on 29 June 2000. On that occasion the House considered the practice of dividing a bill in the House in which the bill did not originate as highly undesirable.

Motion by Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That in consideration of the Legislative Council's message dated 19 November 2014 in relation to the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2) this House concurs with the division of the bill into two bills.

Consideration in Detail**Consideration of the Legislative Council amendment.**

Schedule of amendment referred to in message of 19 November 2014

No. 1 **Government No. 1 [C2014-176]**

Omit clause 2 of the proposed *Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill 2014*. Insert instead:

2 Commencement

- (1) Schedule 1 to this Act commences on 5 March 2015.
- (2) Schedule 2 to this Act commences on the date of assent to this Act.

No. 2 Government No. 2 [C2014-176]

Schedule 1 to the proposed *Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill 2014*. Insert after proposed section 35 (4):

- (5) The Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission is to review the operation of subsections (3) and (4) as soon as possible after 5 March 2016.

Motion by Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That the Legislative Assembly—

- (1) Agrees to the amendment in the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2).
- (2) Agrees to the proposed Ombudsman and Public Interest Disclosures Legislation Amendment Bill with the proposed amendments 1 and 2 in the schedule of amendments.

Legislative Council amendments agreed to.**Message sent to the Legislative Council advising it of the resolution.****COMMITTEE ON LAW AND SAFETY****Report: Measures to Reduce Alcohol and Drug-Related Violence: Preliminary Inquiry**

Mr GEORGE SOURIS, as Chair, tabled, by leave, the report of the Committee on Law and Safety entitled "Measures to Reduce Alcohol and Drug-Related Violence: Preliminary inquiry," Report 9/55, dated November 2014.

Ordered to be printed on motion by Mr George Souris.**Pursuant to resolution Orders of the Day (Committee Reports) proceeded with.****LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 66/55****Question—That the House take note of the report—proposed.**

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) [1.06 p.m.]: I take this opportunity to update the House on comments made by the Legislation Review Committee in its recent digest, which was tabled on 18 November—the sixty-sixth and final digest prepared by the Legislation Review Committee. A total of eight bills were introduced in the sitting week commencing 11 November, six of which the committee commented on. The committee commented also on two regulations. I now refer to each of the bills considered. In the Courts and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill, the committee noted provisions that authorise the exchange of information about inmates between the Commissioner of Corrective Services and the Commissioner of Fines Administration to the exclusion of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act.

As such, the receipt and disclosure of information may impact on inmate privacy. The committee noted also that this provision retrospectively authorises the exchange of information. However, the committee recognised also that the exchange of information is closely related to the functions of both commissioners and made no further comment. The committee noted that provisions in the bill authorise the making of regulations with retrospective effect. However, the committee noted the safeguards in the bill, which ensure that regulations cannot be made with retrospective effect that adversely affects the rights of individuals or creates liabilities. For the Crimes Commission Legislation Amendment Bill, the committee noted provisions that require individuals to give evidence, called "original evidence", in which further information that is obtained, called "derivative evidence", that may incriminate them is not inadmissible in proceedings.

The committee was of the view that any derivative evidence that is obtained as a result of this original evidence may trespass on procedural fairness rights. The committee referred this to Parliament for its consideration. On the issue of the right to silence, the committee noted also a clause in which a person who is

the subject of a current charge may be required to give evidence with the leave of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court may grant leave if it is satisfied that any prejudicial effect that is likely to arise at the person's trial from the proposed questioning is outweighed by the public interest.

The committee noted that a charged person's right to silence is to be abrogated only if the public interest requires it and it is so determined by the Supreme Court. Nonetheless, the committee noted the impact on the charged person's right to silence and referred this matter to Parliament for further consideration. The Limitation Amendment (Child Abuse) Bill seeks to remove the limitation period for the bringing of civil proceedings for child sexual or physical abuse. The bill may prejudice defendants in actions brought long after the abuse is alleged to have occurred. While the committee noted the public policy reasons for dispensing with the limitation period, it noted also that in a long, intervening period, evidence that a defendant could have used to defend an action may be lost. The committee referred the matter to Parliament for further consideration.

The bill makes it clear also that the exclusion of child sexual and physical abuse actions from the limitation periods applying under the Limitation Act extends to existing causes of action, including cases where the relevant limitation period already has expired, an action has been commenced previously on the cause of action, or judgement on the cause of action has previously been given on the ground that the action was statute barred. The committee also referred to Parliament the retrospective nature of these provisions. For the Motor Dealers and Repairers Amendment Bill 2014, the committee noted that maintaining a register of those repairers who have received a court conviction or who have been issued a penalty notice may impact on their right to privacy. However, given the policy aims of the scheme, the committee made no further comment on this issue. It is a dodgy bill.

Provisions in the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Amendment (Fresh Start Support) Bill 2014 provide that the Minister may, by notice published in the *Government Gazette*, designate an employer as a "designated employer" for the purposes of the Act. In the committee's view, to allow for appropriate parliamentary scrutiny, designated employers should be set by regulation not via a notice published in the *Government Gazette*. Unlike regulations, there appears to be no requirement under the Interpretation Act for a notice published in the *Government Gazette* to be tabled in Parliament and therefore subject to disallowance. The committee made no further comment.

Lastly, the committee noted the far-reaching implications of the Petroleum (Onshore) Amendment (NSW Gas Plan) Bill 2014 in denying compensation to potential applicants for petroleum titles for any conduct done or omitted to be done by the State. In this respect the bill effectively prevents potential applicants from accessing the courts to have legitimate legal grievances considered and remedied. This may be contrary to the rule of law and the general right to justice. The committee referred this to Parliament for its further consideration.

The committee also noted that the bill will expunge applications for petroleum titles at the date of the bill's introduction into Parliament rather than upon the bill's commencement or on a fixed future date. This means that for the period between the introduction date and the commencement date, key provisions of the bill will be operational despite not having been formally adopted into law. As such, there will also be a brief window where the bill will have a retrospective effect. Despite this, the committee also noted that this retrospectivity is unlikely to alter the status of applications for petroleum titles under the bill. The committee made no further comment.

As the Fifty-fifth Parliament draws to a close, I will quickly reflect on the tremendous work of this committee in the past 3½ years. The committee has produced 66 digests, examined approximately 450 pieces of legislation and reviewed regulations in the thousands. It has met every sitting week, without fail. It has scrutinised and criticised, without fear or favour. It has been there to inform debates, flag issues of concern and, in some respects, agitate for change. I applaud the work of the committee and thank all the members for their service.

I thank secretariat staff for their dedication to this most critical function of the Parliament. Over those four years we have worked with Jason Ardit, Mohini Mehta, Elspeth Dyer, Emma Matthews, Sasha Shevtsova, Jessica Falvey, Carly Maxwell, and Emma Wood. I thank deputy chair Dr Geoff Lee, member for Parramatta; Mr Glenn Brookes, member for East Hills; Mr John Flowers, member for Rockdale; Mrs Tania Mihailuk, member for Bankstown; and from the other House, the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane; the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps; and Mr David Shoebridge.

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) [1.11 p.m.]: In the last take-note debate of the Fifty-fifth Parliament I take this opportunity to speak about the sixty-sixth digest of the Legislation Review Committee. I also appreciate the efforts of the committee staff. There were challenging weeks with many bills to review but the committee staff never failed to produce a detailed and considered digest. I acknowledge my fellow committee members, including the chair, the member for Myall Lakes, and other Government members in this House—the member for East Hills, Mr Glenn Brookes, the member for Rockdale, Mr John Flowers and the deputy chair, Mr Geoff Lee, the member for Parramatta.

It was a pleasure to represent the New South Wales Opposition with my colleague the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane. I thank the members from the other House, Mr David Shoebridge and the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps. I also acknowledge the members who have sat on our committee over the course of the past four years. The committee continues to play an important role in this Parliament in reviewing legislation. The final digest in this parliamentary session considered a total of eight bills and two regulations, including the Motor Dealers and Repairers Amendment Bill 2014, which I introduced into this House last week. Regarding privacy and the provision of a name and shame register of dodgy motor vehicle repairers, the committee made the following comment:

The Committee notes that maintaining a register of those repairers who have received a court conviction or been issued a penalty notice may impact on their right to privacy. However, given the policy aims of the scheme, the Committee makes no further comment on this issue.

Considering that the New South Wales Government has twice gagged any opportunity to consider the policy aims of the bill, I take this opportunity to enlighten the House. On 2 July 2014 the Select Committee on the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry tabled a report which unanimously made 21 recommendations and 12 findings to reform the motor vehicle repair industry. The bipartisan committee found that poor quality vehicle repair practices were putting motorists at risk and a major imbalance existed in favour of insurance companies over smash repairers. To date, the Minister for Fair Trading has not taken the opportunity to implement any of these reforms. I note that his delay in formally responding to the report of the parliamentary inquiry is nothing more than a deliberate attempt to stop any reforms occurring before the State election.

The Minister for Fair Trading is doing smash repairers and motorists a great disservice by not drafting a simple bill to enact vital road safety reforms. The Motor Dealers and Repairers Amendment Bill 2014 addresses many of the recommendations made by the select committee to enhance road safety measures on our roads and increase fairness and transparency in the industry. Smash repairers have been forced out of the industry by insurance companies giving preferential treatment to some repairers based on cost rather than quality. These practices have been hurting local businesses and smash repairers' profitability. They are also seriously jeopardising road safety, with an alarming number of reports that some preferred repairers are performing negligent and substandard work.

The licensing of motor vehicle loss assessors will greatly enhance accountability in the assessment process. This is also an important safeguard for consumers that will lead to motor vehicles being repaired to their pre-accident condition in a safe manner. The proposed name and shame register within the bill will give consumers and motorists the detailed information they need to choose the best professional for the job. It will provide access to small business smash repairers and it will allow small businesses to have direct access to the Small Business Commissioner. I commend the digest to the House.

Question—That the House take note of the report—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Report noted.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Report: Tenancy Management in Social Housing

Question—That the House take note of the report—proposed.

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) [1.16 p.m.]: When the Public Accounts Committee chose to examine tenancy management of social housing, we ventured into a field crowded with other inquiries, investigations and reports. Mindful of potential inquiry fatigue, we wanted to recognise what was already examined and what we could usefully add. The Auditor-General's 2013 report entitled "Making the best use of public housing" provided a baseline for considering tenancy management more closely within an overall

framework for achieving a sustainable housing sector. The submissions we received were refreshingly energetic. Far from being fatigued, the various agencies, stakeholders and advocates offered well argued, informative and often passionate descriptions of disappointments, achievements, strategies and forecasts.

Community housing providers presented a dynamic picture of their sector. A broader application of many of their innovations seems worth investigating. Public sector providers reported various activities to progress the Auditor-General's recommendations and look forward to redressing enduring issues of unmet demand and diminishing resources that bedevil social housing. The many community advocates with whom we met spoke passionately about the needs of vulnerable people. Almost universal amongst stakeholders was the view that performance measurement and reporting in social housing is unreliable and inadequate. The committee was surprised at how widely this view was held and that such a significant shortcoming had been outstanding for so long. This appalling situation must be addressed. Most witnesses anticipated that ongoing research by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, or AHURI, would help resolve this oversight. The committee agreed.

While social housing is an essential safety net for vulnerable people, it can also become a trap. The fact that the waiting list is lengthening tells us there is a growing demand for social housing and that people who are allocated social housing tend to stay. Houses only become available through building and purchase schemes, or by existing tenants moving out of social housing, including through achieving greater self-sufficiency and economic independence. The best and most complete social housing programs put roofs over the heads of vulnerable people as well as seeking to improve the circumstances of housing tenants. The New South Wales Public Accounts Committee has called for significant reforms to tenancy management in social housing and the committee's 18 recommendations address several longstanding and significant problems affecting the cost and accountability of social housing in New South Wales.

New Minister Gabrielle Upton and the Department of Family and Community Services are working commendably to resolve key issues. I particularly welcome the discussion paper that the Minister released this week and the principles behind it. However, some of the facts paint a disturbing picture. As I said, the committee was surprised at the poor lack of performance measurement and reporting across the social housing sector—a situation that has existed for many years. Hopefully, there is a path forward, particularly in conjunction with the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute [AHURI] research. Decision-making depends on robust data because without it we do not know where public funds are being spent effectively, who the better housing service providers are, and whether tenants are receiving the right levels of support.

Some other areas of urgency that were identified include: better protecting tenants from antisocial and criminal behaviour; closing known loopholes contributing to abuse of public funding; identifying opportunities to innovate, particularly from the community sector; strengthening economic independence and reducing reliance to make sure that the social housing safety net is not a lifelong intergenerational trap; facilitating further research in a series of critical areas; and continuing to replace high-value, high-cost public housing stock with lower cost stock to increase overall available volume.

I thank all those who have made a submission to the inquiry, especially those who assisted our two public hearings. I also thank my fellow committee members on this inquiry: Deputy Chair Dr Geoff Lee, Mr John Williams, Mr Bart Bassett, Mr Michael Daley, Mr Greg Piper and Mrs Roza Sage for their support and teamwork. Finally, I thank the staff of the Legislative Assembly: Sasha Shevtsova, Tanja Zech and David Hale, who ably supported the committee throughout this inquiry and in preparing this report. We look forward to the Government's response. As the Minister has identified, this area requires substantial reform.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) [1.22 p.m.]: I make a contribution to the take-note debate on tenancy management in social housing and thank the member for Davidson for the way in which he chaired the Public Accounts Committee over the term of this Government. I am the sole Opposition member on that committee. At the outset the committee agreed that it would work on a bipartisan basis and we have largely done that for the term of this Government but the member for Davidson knows I am pretty cranky about this report. For almost four years I have been pushing for an inquiry into maintenance issues in public housing and to go back as far as needed. To me, that is the number one pressing issue. Instead, at the eleventh hour, in July this year I was told that that inquiry would not be permissible and, against my strong recommendations, the committee launched into an inquiry into tenancy management. I thought at that time the decision had been influenced by the numerous housing Ministers there have been in this Government, and nothing will convince me to the contrary.

This inquiry was launched in July this year and by then a full year had passed since the Auditor-General had handed down his comprehensive report into matters related to making the best use of public housing. Among the Auditor-General's findings in that report were recommendations that the Government should develop long-term plans to manage social housing by December 2013—the Government still has not done that. After that deadline came, and because of the inaction of the Government on that recommendation, my colleague the Hon. Sophie Cotsis in the other place led a push to establish a select committee to inquire into social, public and affordable housing. That committee was comprehensive in its recommendations and it received 259 submissions. This inquiry received only 46 submissions because it was done in haste. The select committee conducted seven public hearings and two public forums across the State; this committee held only two public hearings at Parliament House—also because it was done in haste.

Despite all the comprehensive reports, the Minister for Family and Community Services recently released a new discussion paper—as if there is not enough material floating around. The discussion paper does not respond to any of the recommendations of this report or to the Auditor-General's report, even though it has been out for well over a year. The discussion paper basically re-canvasses all the well-established issues confronting the social housing sector. It also says that the Government does not plan to release a policy to deal with these challenges until after the State election. The Government has kept many people in public housing waiting for four years for a comprehensive approach to be developed, but the only approach has been for the Government to engage in budget cuts and property sell-offs. There are now 6,000 fewer properties available for social housing and 3,500 more eligible families on the social housing waiting list.

One of the recommendations in this report was to continue with property sales such as we have seen in Millers Point. I moved a comprehensive amendment to that recommendation. It was predictably voted down by Government members but I thank the member for Lake Macquarie for his support. In conclusion, I think that social housing tenants have been fobbed off and disrespected. Their properties have been sold and they have been treated like bludgers by this Government but that is not the case. I look forward to some more action on this issue.

Question—That the House take note of the report—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Report noted.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Report: Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the 55th Parliament

Question—That the House take note of the report—proposed.

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) [1.27 p.m.]: It is my privilege to present this report on the activities of the Public Accounts Committee in the Fifty-fifth Parliament of New South Wales. The Public Accounts Committee has been the most active and productive committee of this Parliament. It has received in total 244 submissions, conducted 14 public hearings, taken evidence from 174 witnesses and tabled 21 reports. Those reports address a diverse range of issues from energy generation to tenancy management and social housing. The committee made 241 recommendations, which cover the gamut of government services in New South Wales and propose measures to make government more efficient and transparent. Flexibility is one of the strengths of the Westminster system and "adapting to a changing environment" was the theme of a conference of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees that this committee hosted at New South Wales Parliament House in 2013. Indeed, that conference was one of the highlights of the committee's work in this Parliament.

The Public Accounts Committee has a long and honourable tradition of scrutinising government expenditure. The Public Accounts Committee has been appointed in every parliament since 1902. In that time the committee's work has changed enormously, with an independent Auditor-General now scrutinising State sector accounts. Nonetheless, the committee retains an important role following up on the recommendations made by the Auditor-General, undertaking other inquiries, advocating for public sector financial accountability, and oversighting financial overseers, in particular, the Audit Office and now the Parliamentary Budget Office. In order to better support its substantial role, the committee needs a dedicated secretariat. The committee has made a number of recommendations designed to increase the effectiveness of both the Public Accounts Committee [PAC] and other committees of the Legislative Assembly.

The committee has also made a number of recommendations that address the role and functions of the Auditor-General. Advocating for improvements to public sector accountability is part of this committee's role, and the committee has repeatedly advocated for the Auditor-General to be provided with powers to "follow the money" and audit those programs delivered by local government and non-government organisations using funds provided through the State Government. Despite repeated recommendations and following up of this recommendation, the Government's delay in responding properly has been disappointing. I note that the issue has become critical as the public sector increasingly outsources to improve choice, effectiveness and innovation in service delivery.

The Auditor-General should be able to monitor the spending of all taxpayer dollars. At the moment that cannot happen. More than a year ago the PAC recommended legislative change and a response from the Government was due in March, at which time it indicated that change was being considered. The Auditor-General, Grant Hehir, has echoed the PAC's call for legislative improvements, encouraging the New South Wales Government to act on these recommendations. Earlier this week I received a response from the Treasurer's office, again saying that the matter is still being considered. Frankly, it is not good enough. The Government has been unacceptably slow to act and this needs to be a priority for the next Parliament. I will leave my comments on that issue for the moment.

I emphasise that the PAC's recommended key operational changes are aimed at sharpening government accountability through parliamentary committees, including halving—from six months to three months—the time that the Government has to respond to all committee recommendations. Indeed, at the Federal level committees receive responses, or there is an explanation, after three months. I think three months is ample time for the Government to respond to committee recommendations. And that is a recommendation. We have also made recommendations about increasing the status of the chair of the PAC in the Parliament and strengthening committee resources. It is easier for me to make those recommendations on the way out as I leave the committee.

The committee has also recommended establishing a committee of chairs to promote communication and coordination between committees, as well as to consider mechanisms to follow up reports and pursue implementation of recommendations across the Parliament's committees. In tabling this report, I thank my fellow committee members, Deputy Chair Geoff Lee, Michael Daley, Greg Piper, Roza Sage and John Williams, as well as former members Bart Bassett and Richard Torbay. The committee's deliberations have been collaborative and constructive, reflecting the best traditions of this Parliament. We have also demonstrated innovation with initiatives such as the citizen jury process, the committee's forum on infrastructure planning and proposals for reforms to the role of the Auditor-General.

I thank parliamentary staff who have provided procedural advice and secretariat support during this Parliament. Without their professional and diligent support, the committee would have been unable to achieve as much as it has. Numerous staff members have provided support to the committee but I particularly acknowledge Abigail Groves and John Miller for giving outstanding service over a sustained period. It has been a privilege to serve as the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, and I am pleased to note this final report in the Fifty-fifth Parliament.

Question—That the House take note of the report—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Report noted.

COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Report: Promotion of False and Misleading Health-Related Information and Practices

Question—That the House take note of the report—proposed.

Mr DONALD PAGE (Ballina) [1.34 p.m.]: Today I speak in my capacity as Chair of the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission [HCCC] concerning its report entitled "Promotion of False and Misleading Health-Related Information and Practices". This is the second inquiry conducted by the committee and the fifth report tabled in this the Fifty-fifth Parliament. The committee resolved to conduct this inquiry to examine the scale of false and misleading health-related information and practices that are available to the public. Also, the committee sought to determine whether the current avenues for addressing these issues are appropriate.

Judging by the number of submissions the committee received and the amount of informal correspondence, this topic still generates significant interest in the community. The committee received 72 submissions and in excess of 200 items of correspondence. The committee held two public hearings to hear further evidence from a variety of witnesses. The committee was alarmed to find a wide range of information and practices available, being provided by individuals—particularly those outside the medical profession—who either actively advise against mainstream medical practice or encourage the use of alternative practices, with harmful consequences.

The committee found that a number of agencies are active in this sphere to protect the public, including the Health Care Complaints Commission, NSW Fair Trading, NSW Health and the Therapeutic Goods Association. However, the committee considered that more could be done, particularly with respect to strengthening the powers of the commission. First, the committee found that there is a lack of clarity concerning the current definition of "health service" under the Health Care Complaints Act, which identifies which services may or may not be investigated by the commission. Therefore, the committee has recommended that the definition of "health service" be broadened to eradicate this confusion and ensure that more disreputable health service providers are captured.

Secondly, it became apparent that a large number of people, due to being quite health literate, are prevented from making complaints because they are not consumers of these dangerous practices. A recommendation has been made to allow any member of the public to make a complaint to the commission, regardless of whether they are a patient of the practitioner concerned. This will allow health advocates to lodge complaints for the benefit of society as a whole. In a similar manner, the committee was concerned that the commission could issue a public warning about dangerous practices only when it had conducted and concluded an investigation. The committee has recommended that the commission's powers to issue public warnings be expanded to cover instances where there is a clear risk to public health and safety, and where any delay would further compound this risk, without it always being necessary either to undertake or to complete an investigation before warnings, even of an interim nature, are made.

This would allow the commission to alert the public to dangerous practices without first having to wait for someone to suffer the consequences. Of course, one of the best remedies to protect the public from these unsafe medical practices is to ensure that people are well informed and able to make educated decisions about their own health care and wellbeing. As such, the committee has recommended that more information be made available through awareness campaigns to provide sufficient accurate information to health consumers. Once people have all the facts they are much less likely to be taken in by these bogus claims. The committee found that the aforementioned agencies active in this sphere did not often work together in the most effective and efficient manner to achieve the best outcomes for public health.

To improve collaboration in this area, the committee has recommended the establishment of an interagency committee. This will allow relevant regulatory authorities, particularly the commission and NSW Fair Trading, to meet regularly to discuss common issues and share expertise. The committee has also recommended that NSW Health and the commission monitor and report on two matters in their annual reports: compliance with prohibition orders issued by the commission, and the commission's use of enforcement powers against health service providers who are erroneously advertising or promoting health services.

Finally, I thank the aforementioned stakeholders for their submissions, correspondence and evidence at the public hearings, particularly the commissioner and his staff. I express my appreciation to my fellow committee members for their hard work and input throughout the inquiry process. They are: the former chair Leslie Williams, former member the Hon. Catherine Cusack, Deputy Chair Roza Sage, Mr Andrew Rohan, Dr Andrew McDonald, the Hon. Natasha McLaren-Jones, the Hon. Paul Green and the Hon. Helen Westwood. As chair, it was very helpful to have the member for Macquarie Fields, Dr Andrew McDonald, also on the committee. As a medical practitioner he was often able to provide interesting and informed insights into detailed medical issues that came before the committee. I also thank the committee secretariat for a fantastic job and all their assistance, particularly Jason Arditi. I commend the report to the House.

Dr ANDREW McDONALD (Macquarie Fields) [1.40 p.m.]: Modern health care is probably the most complex thing that the human race has ever developed. The use of complementary medicine is widespread and, for the majority of people who use it, provides enormous subjective comfort, sometimes in association with orthodox medical care for very serious illness. The overwhelming majority of people who practice

complementary health care are ethical, diligent and highly professional people who have a true desire to make the world a better place and to care for their patients. This is a controversial report, and I refer to committee comments on page 30, paragraph 3.61, which states:

- 3.61 The Committee reiterates its support for the responsible use of alternative and complementary healthcare when it is used in conjunction with orthodox health practices. These healthcare practices are often well established and are already well regulated. While the efficacy of these treatments may be doubtful, the Committee has no concerns about the continuing use and promotion of regulated alternative and complementary healthcare.

The overwhelming majority of people who use complementary health care derive great benefit from it and the overwhelming majority of practitioners are ethical and highly trustworthy. However, false and misleading claims do exist. At times they are harmless but at worst—for example, the Australian Vaccination Network—they are highly malicious and dangerous to public health. The Government needs to strike a balance between the freedom of every person to care for their own health in the way they choose and protecting the people of New South Wales from false and misleading practices. I echo the words of the chair of this committee in his praise of the secretariat. This report strikes a balance between protecting public health and safety and the ability of people to choose to access the health care they want.

The report extends the ability of those who have concerns to raise them with the Health Care Complaints Commission. Recommendations Nos 4 and 5 free the commission to blow the whistle on false and misleading health practices early in order to protect public health and safety. I thank the secretariat. During my time in this Parliament the committee has been extremely fortunate to have two brilliant chairs: the member for Port Macquarie, Leslie Williams, who is highly professional, an expert chairwoman and very good at what she does; and the member for Ballina, the Hon. Don Page, who has enormous parliamentary experience and a highly ethical and careful way of viewing complex public policy issues. He has been a pleasure to watch in action and a joy to work with, and I wish him the best in his future life. I commend the report to the House and urge the incoming Ministers and government to read it carefully and to follow the recommendations.

Question—That the House take note of the report—put and resolved in the affirmative.

Report noted.

POLICE INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Report

The Acting-Speaker (Ms Noreen Hay) tabled, pursuant to section 103 of the Police Integrity Commission Act 1996, the report entitled "Montecristo Report 2014", Volumes One and Two, dated November 2014.

Ordered to be printed.

[Acting-Speaker (Ms Noreen Hay) left the chair at 1.44 p.m. The House resumed at 2.15 p.m.]

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I welcome all our guests to the final question time of this Parliament. I extend a special welcome to Yvette Quinn and Jesse Hanna, members of the Youth Advisory Committee, guests of the Deputy Premier and member for Dubbo. I welcome to the gallery 10 student leaders from Yanco Agricultural High School and their Principal Mr Daryl Finch, guests of the Minister for Education and member for Murrumbidgee. I welcome to the gallery Joan Stone, Ian Roberts, Henry Grech and the Hon. Alan Cadman, OAM, former Federal member for Mitchell, guests of the Parliamentary Secretary for Communities and member for Hornsby.

I welcome Chanum Torres, a year 10 student at the Redeemer Baptist School in North Parramatta who is undertaking work experience in the Epping electorate office, guest of the member for Epping. I welcome to the gallery 10 year 6 students and their teachers from Boronia Park Public School, Hunters Hill, guests of the Minister for Resources and Energy and member for Lane Cove. Finally, I welcome to the gallery eight year 6 students and their teachers from Kellyville Public School, guests of the Parliamentary Secretary for Roads and Transport and member for Hawkesbury. I welcome all to question time.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Assent to the following bills was reported:

Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment Bill 2014
Liquor Legislation Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2014
Motor Accidents (Lifetime Care and Support) Amendment Bill 2014
Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Amendment (Fresh Start Support) Bill (No. 2) 2014
Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill 2014
Local Government Amendment (Elections) Bill 2014
Surveillance Devices Amendment (Police Body-Worn Video) Bill 2014

ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE

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

T F BATHURST
Lieutenant-Governor

Office of the Governor
Sydney, 20 November 2014

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

QUESTION TIME

[Question time commenced at 2.20 p.m.]

WARATAH BONDS

Mr JOHN ROBERTSON: My question is directed to the Treasurer. Why are Waratah Bonds being repaid to investors using budget funds through the Crown entity instead of being paid out from Restart NSW, where they are deposited?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Keira will come to order. Members will find themselves removed from the Chamber more quickly than they might expect today.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: We have had two weeks of questions, and this is it. I was going to wish the Leader of the Opposition happy holidays, but he has been on holidays for four years. There is no better example of that than him coming in here trying to make out that he is some sort of technical guru about budget processes. As a technical guru on Waratah Bonds he is now concerned about their issuance, how they are paid out and their terms. Guess what? Infrastructure bonds were set up to drive infrastructure across the State. Guess who opposed them?

Mr John Robertson: There is a revelation.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The Leader of the Opposition is now talking about revolution. I am here to support Barbara Perry.

Mr John Robertson: Point of order: My point of order is relevance. His swagger and so-called bravado does not cover his incompetence—

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: One of the reasons I am backing Barbara is that I hear around the place that the person running against her controls 300—

Dr Andrew McDonald: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! This final question time I will not accept spurious points of order that members may take just to interrupt the flow of an answer. What is the member's point of order?

Dr Andrew McDonald: At the time of your last ruling on Standing Order 129 it was not clear. The Treasurer is clearly not being relevant to the question now.

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

Mr Ron Hoenig: Point of order: My point of order is Standing Order 95. The member for Auburn should be referred to in accordance with the standing orders.

The SPEAKER: Order! I draw the Treasurer's attention to Standing Order 95.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I am backing Babs all the way.

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order: My point of order is relevance under Standing Order 129. I do not know what the member for Auburn has to do with the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Keira will resume his seat. The Treasurer has the call and will refer to other members by their correct titles.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The Leader of the Opposition was talking about revolutions. I am told around the place that the member for Auburn's opponent happens to control 300 delegates.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn members that I will not entertain further points of order if they continue to take points of order when I have ruled the Treasurer is being relevant. What is the member's point of order?

Ms Linda Burney: It is relevance under Standing Order 129.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The Treasurer remains relevant and that is all I can direct him to do according to the standing orders.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Given that the Leader of the Opposition is talking about revolutions, I am told that in Auburn the main opponent to Barbara Perry happens to be a man who controls 300 delegates.

Mr John Robertson: Point of order: With respect, Standing Order 129 requires the Minister to remain generally relevant to the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am about to ask the Treasurer to return to the question. I did give him some leniency in his introductory comments. That is the way this Chamber has operated for a long time. I ask the Treasurer to return to the leave of the question.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: As I indicated, the Leader of the Opposition was talking about revolutions. The member for Auburn has a tough contest against a bloke who I understand has 300 delegates. Why is that relevant? Because the leadership vote for the Labor Party will change after the election. It will be 50 per cent caucus and 50 per cent general membership. The man running against the member for Auburn has 300 delegates backed by the member for Blacktown out of post office box 1156.

Mr John Robertson: Point or order—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. The Minister's time has expired.

STATE ECONOMY

Mr BRYAN DOYLE: My question is addressed to the Premier. What is the greatest threat facing the New South Wales economy?

Dr Andrew McDonald: Point of order: Standing Order 128 provides that questions should not ask for opinions.

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

Mr MIKE BAIRD: We will miss "Dr Mac". He is one of the good guys over there. He has made a good contribution to his community but not as good a contribution as "the Opal", who has done a great job for Campbelltown. He has asked an important question. In a little while there will be an election. The people of New South Wales want to know whether our economic movement and trajectory will keep going or whether there is a clear and present danger to the State's mojo. I would say there is a clear and present danger. Its name is John Robertson and the team that goes with him.

We do not have to think too far back to remember what it was like under Labor. They left behind a \$30 billion infrastructure deficit, and in economic terms we were last on every single indicator. They were very good at placing New South Wales at the bottom of the pack on everything. I remember being sworn in as Treasurer when we came to government. I remember that when I looked at the numbers they did not correlate with what members opposite presented in the last week of the last election campaign. I approached Treasury and said, "Why didn't we know about all of these deficits that have been left behind?"

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

Mr MIKE BAIRD: A few days before the election Labor put out a press release that talked about surplus, surplus, surplus. Then we found out about the \$5.2 billion black hole of deficits. After asking the question, Treasury said it could tell me very clearly why that was. They said, "The above information was not sourced from Treasury but was, we understand, prepared in the Treasurer's office." That is what Labor members do. The figures went into the oven when Eric Roozendaal was cooking the books. He cooked those little books as much as he could.

Mr Nathan Rees: Yes, and he certainly would have been anticipating you being Treasurer by then.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: The member for Toongabbie knows all about it. That is exactly what we can expect from Labor, which has absolutely no idea about budgets and no sense of fiscal responsibility. Labor would send this State backwards. I considered how this Government would build infrastructure—by responsible plans to recycle capital and put it to work to fund new efforts across the State. I examined some policy documents and said, "Hang on, if these guys get in, what does it look like?" I will tell the House what it looks like. It is very clear that Labor will not recycle assets. Labor will pay for infrastructure with increased taxes and more debt. That is what Labor stands for.

Opposition members did not tell the member for Newcastle and the member for Charlestown about that before they were elected. That is Labor's economic platform on which Labor members will stand at the next election. Labor members are standing on a platform of more tax and more debt. The risk that Labor poses to this State is that, under Labor, taxes and debt will go to the moon, the State's triple-A rating will be trashed and the State will be a basket case—because that is what Labor does best.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order: I point out to the audience in the public gallery that this clown is running the State.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The member for Canterbury will resume her seat. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the first time. If the member for Canterbury repeats that type of behaviour, she will be removed from the Chamber without further warning.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: In relation to housing affordability, what is this Government doing? This Government is regenerating housing supply after 50-year lows under Labor. Labor members hate the fact that housing is roaring forward.

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

Mr MIKE BAIRD: What is Labor's housing policy? I revisit Labor's policy document—and I suggest that the member for Newcastle and the member for Charlestown obtain a copy of that document—which states that Labor wants to implement a progressive-based land tax. That is what Labor was to do to the people of New South Wales. Labor wants to implement a progressive-based land tax from one end of the State to the other. Who was on the committee that formulated this policy document? It was the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer, who gave that policy a big tick-eroo. They are all for it. They are all for the broad-based land tax. They love it. I can see how excited they are about that broad-based land tax.

Pursuant to standing order additional information provided.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: The Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer are cheering home this policy. They cannot wait. But there is more.

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

Mr MIKE BAIRD: One of the big challenges, in this city in particular, is how to deal with congestion across the city. The Government has a plan to rebuild New South Wales. We have a plan that provides capacity across the State's motorway networks, enhances rail capacity for a generation to come and futureproofs the city.

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

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I checked the document for what Labor will do about congestion. Labor has a solution, but it is not associated with \$20 billion in infrastructure. What Labor wants is a Sydney congestion tax.

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

Mr MIKE BAIRD: What a narrative! The member for Miranda gestures by circling with his hand while pointing to his head.

Mr Brad Hazzard: That is you, Michael—crazy.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: Absolutely. That is Labor's leadership team. We are determined to fight for the people of New South Wales in March because the people of New South Wales do not want more debt and higher taxes under Labor. The people of New South Wales certainly do not want a congestion tax and a broad-based progressive land tax, which is Labor's plan—Labor's economic narrative. We know what that will achieve. Where will New South Wales be going under Labor's plan? Labor will take this State right back down to the bottom, which is what Labor does so well. I can tell Labor members that this Government will fight for New South Wales. We believe in the people of this great State and we believe in the momentum. The Leader of the Opposition can sense it.

Mr John Robertson: That is exactly right.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: The Leader of the Opposition can sense that the momentum has returned to this great city and State. This Government will fight Labor every step of the way.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the first time. The Leader of the Opposition will cease interjecting.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: The Leader of the Opposition and his Labor team are a clear and present danger to the State.

ELECTRICITY PRIVATISATION

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: In directing my question to the Treasurer, I point out that the Auditor-General's report shows that Eraring Energy was sold for just \$7 million above its retention value and that, after taking transaction costs into account, the State actually made a loss of \$35 million. Can he explain to the House why the Government proceeded with such a disastrous financial transaction?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: As the Premier indicated, \$1.7 billion—

Mr Michael Daley: What?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I hasten to think of the gentrader deals legacy from the previous Government that exposed this State to enormous risk.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Maroubra to order for the third time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: It has been interesting over the last few weeks to have the member for Maroubra direct questions to me. I enjoy watching his face become redder and redder.

Mr Mike Baird: He is a bit angry.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: A bit angry, yes. What is interesting about the question asked by the member for Maroubra today is that he mentioned retention value. The bottom line is that the Government does not proceed with transactions unless they exceed retention value, which was the case with Eraring.

Mr Michael Daley: You lost money.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Maroubra he is already on three calls to order.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: To find out what the member for Maroubra has been up to I need only refer to his term as the finance Minister—when the workers compensation scheme bled \$7 million a day on his watch—to know the extent of the financial mismanagement skills of the member for Maroubra. Over the next couple of months, I suspect the member for Maroubra will be busy. He has to do the numbers and he has to get to work with officers of the Parliamentary Budget Office, who are busily playing *Angry Birds*. I cannot help but think that the member for Maroubra may have questions of his own to ask.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order: Madam Speaker, it will not surprise you that my point of order relates to relevance. Two and a half minutes have elapsed and the Treasurer has made no attempt to even answer the question.

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The member for Maroubra has quite a lot of questionable issues to deal with, which seem to involve his good mate, Michael Williamson. We all know about the donations and appointments involving Michael Williamson, but we have never, ever heard from the member for Maroubra an explanation of his behaviour.

Dr Andrew McDonald: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! I am having difficulty hearing the Treasurer's answer, which makes it difficult to rule on whether the Treasurer's answer is relevant. The member for Macquarie Fields should not ask me to rule on relevance because I find it difficult to hear.

Dr Andrew McDonald: Madam Speaker, I had not intended to ask you to rule on relevance.

The SPEAKER: Order! What is the member for Macquarie Fields' point of order?

Dr Andrew McDonald: My point of order related to Standing Order 73, which states that personal attacks on members are out of order and should be made only by way of substantive motion.

The SPEAKER: Order! I did not hear any personal attacks but I will listen, above Opposition members' interjections, if possible. If personal attacks occur, a point of order will be upheld. The member for Macquarie Fields will resume his seat.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I reiterate what I said yesterday in relation to gentrader transactions. I make the point that the member for Maroubra wiped billions of dollars in value off public assets by dodgy deals. He sacked eight directors and replaced them with his Labor mates at five minutes to midnight. The point I make about the member for Maroubra is that he has never, ever explained what he was up to when he was a member of the Randwick City Council and approved, against the advice of staff, a development application for an extension at Michael Williamson's house.

Ms Carmel Tebbutt: Point of order—

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: He never, ever explained why, when he was on the council, he approved that development application.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Ms Carmel Tebbutt: My point of order is relevance, Standing Order 129. Madam Speaker, you have said that Ministers have latitude in answering questions, but the Treasurer has strayed wide of the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! I uphold the point of order. The Treasurer indicated he has completed his answer.

RURAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMY

Mr JOHN WILLIAMS: My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier and Leader of The Nationals. What is the greatest threat facing communities in rural and regional New South Wales?

Mr TROY GRANT: I thank the member for Murray-Darling, who has been a wonderful member of the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals team and has delivered for regional New South Wales. He has been part of the team that has delivered for regional New South Wales more jobs; \$2 billion for hospital upgrades; \$4.5 billion for regional roads; and 2,000 more doctors, nurses and police. We are a Government that is delighted to deliver for the communities of regional New South Wales. We are a Government that has listened to regional New South Wales and delivered what it wants, despite what we inherited—because it was not always like this.

I apologise to the young people in the public gallery for what I am about to do. Those in regional New South Wales were never in the hearts or minds of the Labor governments we had in this State for 16 years. They broke the hearts of regional communities—promising them the world and delivering nothing. Those opposite were responsible for some of the greatest failures in regional New South Wales in the history of this State. They locked up State forests—just to chase some Green votes in the Sydney area. They murdered industries; they murdered communities, and that is to their eternal shame. They cost thousands of jobs—it was an absolute disgrace.

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! What is the member's point of order?

Mr Ryan Park: The Deputy Premier referred the other day to biscuit-eating people. None of us understood that.

The SPEAKER: Order! What is the member's point of order?

Mr Ryan Park: My point of order is relevance, taken under Standing Order 129.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier has been answering the question. What is the relevance-based point of order that the member is raising?

Mr Ryan Park: I have never seen someone brought before a criminal court for murdering an industry.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is an expression.

Mr TROY GRANT: Sit down, you biscuit-eater. Those opposite imposed divisive native vegetation laws. The definition of a biscuit-eater is a useless hound.

Ms Noreen Hay: Point of order: During the taking of the previous point of order the Deputy Premier did not resume his seat.

The SPEAKER: Order! I noticed that. It is a disgrace, I agree. The member will resume her seat.

Mr TROY GRANT: Those opposite delivered native vegetation—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier will resume his seat. The member for Wollongong has another point of order.

Ms Noreen Hay: It is the same one point of order. While I was taking the point of order the Deputy Premier was on his feet at the lectern.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is a disgrace, I agree. It is an outrage. The Deputy Premier has the call.

Mr TROY GRANT: Those opposite introduced divisive native vegetation laws that turned communities against each other in regional New South Wales. They blanketed 45 per cent of this State with coal seam gas licences—licences were thrown out over the State, without rigour. Those opposite were responsible for some of the most disastrous hospital failures in this State. They built Bathurst hospital, then had to spend millions to fix up their mistakes. They built surgical units in Bathurst hospital that were too small to use for operating on anyone.

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

Mr TROY GRANT: They built ambulance bays with a roof that was so low that the ambulance could not be driven into them. That is the sort of incompetence that regional New South Wales had to put up with. Labor could not deliver a thing. All Labor members did was break the hearts of regional communities. They failed to maintain roads.

Pursuant to standing order additional information provided.

Mr TROY GRANT: As the young people in the gallery who ride on school buses know, Labor did not spend a cent on regional roads. Those opposite were prepared to put at risk the lives of children on school buses. We will not tolerate that. We have reinvested the money.

Ms Linda Burney: Madam Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order! Does the member for Canterbury take point of order?

Ms Linda Burney: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Mr TROY GRANT: The question is: What is the greatest threat to regional New South Wales?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier will resume his seat.

Ms Linda Burney: I realise it is the last day of the sitting and that latitude is being allowed in answering questions. But the language of the Deputy Premier, in my view, is unacceptable. He talked about murdering communities.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think those expressions have been used in the past. They are simply hyperbole, as the member would know.

Ms Linda Burney: I am sorry, Madam Speaker, but I will not have him—

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

Ms Linda Burney: The Deputy Premier should not refer to putting children's lives at risk.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have heard worse expressions in this place over the past four years.

Mr TROY GRANT: Those opposite will do everything to try to stop me from telling the truth about what they did not do for regional New South Wales. They are a threat to the Lismore hospital that we want to build. They are a threat to putting more police on the North Coast. They are a threat to the Byron Bay bypass and the Northern Rivers rail trails. What is the biggest threat New South Wales regional communities face? His name is John Robertson, and his team is no good. They offer no plans and no future. The member for Canterbury took a point of order. In 2010 she travelled to Dubbo to announce funding for an Orange-based business. That is how much they know about regional New South Wales.

LIDDELL POWER STATION

Mr CLAYTON BARR: I have a very clear, specific and simple question for the Treasurer. The Managing Director of AGL publicly reported to shareholders that AGL purchased the 2,000-megawatt Liddell power station for free. Why did the Treasurer proceed with this transaction and hand over a publicly owned power station to the private sector for free?

Mr Ray Williams: Point of order: I know it is not Senior Week, but, in the interests of public safety, could we have a chair brought into the Chamber because if the member for Cabramatta falls off the back bench he is going to need another hip replacement. He is certainly struggling.

The SPEAKER: Order! I apologise to visitors in the gallery for the behaviour of members of Parliament. Today is the last sitting day for the year, and I expected this. They are having a bit of Christmas cheer! The Treasurer has the call. Opposition members who have asked questions and are not the faintest bit interested in listening to the answer will be removed from the Chamber. There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I did have trouble hearing the question, but I assume it related to MacGen—

Mr CLAYTON BARR: Would the Minister like me to repeat it?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Yes.

Mr CLAYTON BARR: The Managing Director of AGL Energy publicly reported to shareholders that AGL purchased the 2,000-megawatt Liddell power station for free. Why did the Treasurer proceed with this transaction that handed over a publicly owned power station to the private sector for free?

The SPEAKER: Order! I find it perplexing that some of these questions are not asked on notice. If Opposition members are interested in this information it can be obtained anywhere in detail rather than in a five-minute answer. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: It is nice to be asked a question in relation to a transaction that I have done as Treasurer. We signed off on that deal at \$1.5 billion, so I am not quite sure where that question emanates from. I suspect the reason the member for Cessnock was put up to asking it was that the member for Maroubra was not willing to ask it himself.

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The bottom line is that in relation to these transactions—

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Macquarie Fields to order for the second time. I call the member for Murray-Darling to order for the first time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The Liberals and The Nationals have a very deliberate recycling capital strategy designed to get this State moving again while those opposite have no understanding in relation to infrastructure funds and how they are managed, and how one embarks on transactions and calculates retention value. We have a very clear strategy in place.

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I will enjoy the next four months seeing how members in Labor electorates spend the \$20 billion that we hope to raise off the back of poles and wires. I will be intrigued to hear from the member for Maroubra and the member for Blacktown how they will fund their election promises. We know that, if given the chance, they will unwind every savings measure we have put in place since coming to office, which generated \$23.6 billion over a seven-year period to ensure that we get the State back in shape to deliver the economic outcomes that we are currently seeing. As part of that, through Restart NSW, we have ensured appropriate infrastructure investments to turn this State around.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Macquarie Fields to order for the third time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: They have stood in the way of every single transaction, yet they are happy to receive the proceeds and expend them. We know only too well what has gone on in Wollongong in relation to the convention centre.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order—

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: We know only too well what has gone on in relation to Newcastle.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: So the MacGen deal worth \$1.5 billion—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer will resume his seat.

Mr Michael Daley: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. Three minutes have nearly passed. Michael Fraser said, "We see it as a free option". Liddell was valued at zero dollars.

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not need any more information. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat.

Mr Michael Daley: A triumphant AGL got it for zero dollars.

The SPEAKER: Order! Question time is not an opportunity for the member for Maroubra to debate the matter. There is no point of order. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I am very proud to do this deal at \$1.5 billion and obviously those net proceeds find their way into the Restart fund. But what is very surprising is how the member for Maroubra reconciles a \$1.5 billion transaction and claims that it is zero.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition to order for the second time.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The bottom line is that the member for Maroubra is lazy; the member for Blacktown is not bright; and as for the member for Canterbury, I have nothing left to say. It is the ultimate dream team for our Government to go into the next election and fight. They do not have a policy idea between them and they have no means to fund it. I am sure the good people of New South Wales will be well and truly awake to the nonsense that we will see in the next four months.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Mr LEE EVANS: My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport. How has the Government delivered significant improvements across public transport and how is that under threat?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I thank the member for his question. When it comes to public transport much has changed. Every morning hundreds of thousands of commuters look on their transport app and see their service in real time. They use their mobile phone or smart device without worrying about the signal dropping out in tunnels. The staff look fantastic and greet customers on the platform in the morning. Customers can understand the announcements that our staff make. Customers can enjoy a quiet carriage and do not have to stress about freezing in winter or sweltering in summer. For the first time, carriages are clean—and stations are cleaner too. Customers now have access to more than 10,500 weekly transport services.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber while the Minister is answering a question.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: People do not have to fumble around for cash or queue for tickets as the ease of the Opal card has taken the hassle out of travelling. I am pleased to say that Opal incentives have resulted in 17 million free trips already. I am very proud of the fact that customers with mobility challenges can now use an additional 32 stations that have had an accessibility upgrade, with 180 projects in total either

completed or underway to deliver more car spaces, easy access and safety improvements at our transport hubs. For the first time, community transport is recognised in law as an integral part of the transport network. If you live in Bathurst you now have a daily commuter service to Sydney.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: If you are an intercity customer—

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: —you will benefit from a \$2.8 billion investment in a brand-new fleet.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kogarah will remove herself from the Chamber until the conclusion of question time.

[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Kogarah left the Chamber at 2.55 p.m.]

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We rescued the Waratah trains from collapse, we are buying new ferries, we have fantastic brand-new light rail vehicles and we have even brought back double-decker buses. People now have a better ferry service thanks to the innovations and good management of the private sector. Labor said that the sky would fall in when we franchised the ferries, but customer satisfaction has increased. People feel safer on public transport because police are now in charge of security on the network, as they should be. In addition to these many service improvements, construction is happening everywhere on the network. Residents in Sydney's south-west can look forward to using a new rail line early in the new year. We have built it and delivered it. All Labor did was announce it. Customers in the inner west now can access light rail from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill on a brand-new extension.

North-west residents can see the huge progress made on the North West Rail line, with three huge tunnel-boring machines churning away as we speak. This project will eventually see a second harbour crossing and the expansion of rapid transit all the way to Bankstown. Our city centres in Sydney, Parramatta and Newcastle will change for the better with light rail coming to them. These are all outcomes of the State's fully integrated Transport Master Plan. We planned it, we are delivering it and now we are building for the future. We are creating a network that people want to use. We on this side managed to do this in 3½ years. The biggest question is: Why could Labor not manage to do it in 16 years?

There is still much to do. The biggest threat to this promising future is the prospect of the Leader of the Opposition taking control of this State because, in public transport, Labor's legacy was to make up projects and cancel them. New South Wales was an absolute embarrassment. Labor left the network in a mess and our State, unfortunately, was the laughing stock. We have turned this around. Let us not forget the bad old days of Labor—cutting services, hiking fares, spiralling congestion and breaking promises. It is very embarrassing and telling for the Labor party that it still cringes at the word "customer".

Pursuant to standing order additional information provided.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Labor does not understand customer service. It lacks the vision, courage, discipline and focus to make these necessary changes. Our record speaks for itself. What is most important to us, as it should be to all members in this place, is that the quality of life of the people of this great State is improved by the enhancements in public transport. Shame on the Labor Party for not caring enough to make a difference when it comes to public transport! Labor members should hang their heads in shame. We know that the biggest threat to the progress in this State is the Leader of the Opposition.

Let us remember that Labor had nine different transport plans, yet it did not deliver any of them. It announced 12 different rail lines, yet it did not deliver any of them. The failed T-Card cost \$100 million but it did not deliver electronic ticketing. Labor announced the Waratah train carriages, yet it did not deliver a single train carriage. Labor did not improve one service on public transport. All it did was cut, cut, cut. The biggest cutter of them all was the Leader of the Opposition. His last act as Minister for Transport was to slash hundreds of weekly ferry services. We found one document about Labor's answer to bust congestion and it was to keep pensioners off trains. That was Labor's contribution to public transport. Labor is the biggest threat to public transport in New South Wales.

BAYS PRECINCT URBAN REVNEWAL PROGRAM

Ms LINDA BURNEY: My question is directed to the Treasurer. He told a finance and investment summit on Tuesday that 16,000 dwellings were planned for the Bays Precinct Urban Renewal Project. Given the planning Minister yesterday repudiated his comments when she said, "We have never set 16,000 people as a target", will the Treasurer explain where his figure of 16,000 dwellings came from?

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Interestingly there were members of the media who wanted this question asked yesterday, not today. The problem for the Labor Party is that I have just received a message that Eddie Obeid has been charged—finally. His old mate from Blacktown is going to have a busy 24 to 48 hours. No doubt they discussed Circular Quay leases when they were swooshing down the slopes of Perisher together.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer has just begun his answer. I will allow a little latitude.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The Labor Party's temperature has just gone up. Members will be pleased to learn of these charges being laid because this goes to the heart of the former Labor Government. Its performance in Opposition has not been much better.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! I repeat that I afford Ministers some latitude. What is the member's point of order?

Ms Linda Burney: I appreciate that you provide latitude, but the Treasurer has not begun to address the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am sure he will. The member for Canterbury will resume her seat.

Ms Linda Burney: He should be asked to return to the leave of the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have afforded the Treasurer some latitude.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I am happy to answer the question. I am happy to receive any question from the Labor Party about the Bays Precinct any day of the week. I make no apologies. I have tried to ensure this State delivers better outcomes. I want to see world-class urban activation at the Bays Precinct of which we can be proud.

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

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I found this document called "Bays Precinct Sydney", which was produced in 2008 by the former Labor Government. This document says, "What is happening in the short to medium term?"

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer is being relevant to the question he was asked. He has returned to the Bays Precinct, which was the subject of the question.

Ms Linda Burney: I appreciate that. My question was about where the figure of 16,000 dwellings came from.

The SPEAKER: Order! That is a specific aspect of the question. The Treasurer is being relevant to the subject matter of the question. The member for Canterbury will resume her seat.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I could not help but look through this Bays Precinct document from the former Labor Government, and I was intrigued to read:

Bays Precinct will play a vital role in the Sydney Metro which will run from Central Station to Rozelle. Construction on the 7-kilometre metro line will start in 2010 with the first carriages to operate by 2015. Construction may include work in White Bay.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister remains relevant to the question he was asked. Does the member for Maroubra have a different point of order?

Mr Michael Daley: The question was not about 2008. It was not about the Rozelle Metro; it was about what he said this week.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. These points of order are designed to interrupt hearing an answer that Opposition members do not like. The Minister remains relevant to the question he was asked.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: I return to this wonderful document about the Bays Precinct. It indicates that construction may include work in White Bay. I would have thought that if a metro station was going to be built at White Bay there might be some residents in the area to get on the train.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Maroubra that he is on three calls to order.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: The Labor Party knows there has to be residential uplift in the Bays Precinct, otherwise it would not have planned a half a billion dollar metro it did not get around to building. What a sad day for the Labor Party.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation coming from Opposition members.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: Not only have charges been laid against Eddie Obeid but there have been charges against this Labor luminary as well. The bottom line is that those opposite ran this State into the ground. People who sit on the shadow frontbench sat around the Cabinet table knowing full well what Eddie Obeid and Ian Macdonald were up to, starting with the member for Maroubra—

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: It is Standing Order 73. If he does not want to answer the question he has no right to be a smart Alec and to slag people on this side of the Chamber.

Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE: —who was endorsed by Eddie Obeid. The Leader of the Opposition was certainly endorsed by Eddie Obeid, and we will be reminding voters of that all the way to the ballot box next year.

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

EDUCATION REFORMS

Mr CHARLES CASUSCELLI: My question is addressed to the Minister for Education. What major education reforms have been introduced by this Government and how are they under threat?

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: That is a very good question. It is great to be asked a question about education. Members on that side of the House have not asked me about education for a long time. Today we made a Resource Allocation Model [RAM] announcement that \$664 million will go to schools on a needs basis, with an extra \$100 million this year. I will digress slightly. In the office this morning I was using the photocopier; we should be careful when using the photocopier. We must be sure when we are photocopying something that we take it out of the photocopier, because things can go pear-shaped. I found Labor's poster with its slogan for the next election. It sounds very familiar, but with a significant difference. Its campaign pledge for the next election is "Making NSW #8 again".

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Minister for Education to desist from using props. Government members will put the posters away. They are props and I consider their use to be disorderly. The Minister for Education has had his fun.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: Be careful when using the photocopier; it is a trap for young players. As I said, there we were at Homebush West Public School announcing \$664 million in equity funding, compared to what those opposite would propose to do after the election. These are a couple of their classic suggestions: reopen Mangoplah Public School, a school that has no students; place nine extra public servants in Bridge Street

to deal with drug and alcohol problems in our community; and reintroduce the higher school certificate plastic folder. It is a big issue. Those opposite obviously do not know that so much more information is available online these days, and for the benefit of the member for Mount Druitt, "online" is not the answer your wife gives you when you ask her where I should hang the washing. "Online" it is an information technology reference—computers, he might have heard of them. That is what the Liberal-Nationals Government has achieved in the four years we have been in office. But there is plenty more work to do, and that is why we deserve to be re-elected.

Four years can be undone by those opposite if they get anywhere near government in March. I will highlight two things that this Government can be very proud of. We are the first Government to have done this in our State's long and proud history. Last year, when we announced the resource allocation model funding, every identified Aboriginal student in this State attracted funding. This is something we can be very proud of. What we announced today, given we have a large proportion of our population from a non-English speaking background, is that, for the first time, every student identified as needing further assistance in learning English will attract funding under a Liberal-Nationals Government. This is great news, particularly for communities in Sydney and regional New South Wales with high levels of students from non-English speaking backgrounds. This is a fantastic announcement.

Today there is \$253 million for students from low socio-economic backgrounds; \$240 million for students with low-level disability; \$104 million for students still developing their English language proficiency; \$50 million to support students from an Aboriginal background and \$17 million in the loading for remote and isolated school communities. That is what this Government delivered because we signed up to the Gonski reforms; reforms those opposite would never have signed up to. Nor did those opposite support the tough decisions we made so that we could afford to do these great things. Those opposite never supported any of our proposals.

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

Pursuant to standing order additional information provided.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: In the electorate of Monaro, Jindabyne Central School will receive an extra \$120,000 next year and Moree Public School will receive \$518,000 extra next year. In the electorate of Oxley, which I thought I would mention in recognition of the member for Oxley who, as we know, is retiring, Kempsey West Public School will receive \$282,000, Wauchope High School will receive \$228,000, and Macksville Public School will receive \$153,000. In Parramatta, Kingswood High School will receive an extra \$150,000. In the soon to be electorate of Prospect, Girraween Public School will receive \$214,000 and Bossley Park will receive an extra \$170,000. These are extra recurrent dollars for next year.

In the electorate of Strathfield, Burwood Public School will receive \$168,000. Those opposite might not whinge, in fact, they might just say thank you. In the electorate of Bankstown, Bankstown Senior College will be \$621,000 better off next year and Bankstown Public School will receive \$605,000. We govern for all people in this State. Birrong Girls High School will receive \$468,000 and in the electorate of Fairfield, Westfield Sports High School will be \$750,000 better off next year and the year after, and the year after, and the year after that. That is what we have delivered in this State. We have a proud history over four years, but there is plenty more to be done. We saw virtually no reform—ethics classes was about it—prior to four years ago. There is plenty more to do and we are getting on with the job. The biggest risk is to elect a Labor Government.

BAYS PRECINCT URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAM

Mr JAMIE PARKER: My question is directed to the Minister for Planning. In regard to the Bays Precinct, she said, "We are giving the experts a blank page." Yet the Treasurer said that the site would "create approximately 16,000 new dwellings". Which statement is correct?

Ms PRU GOWARD: I thank the member for Balmain for his question. It was great to see him at The Bays Precinct Sydney International Summit over the last couple of days, which is more than I can say for those opposite.

The SPEAKER: Order! All members who have been called to order on one or two occasions are deemed to be on three calls to order. The Minister has the call.

Ms PRU GOWARD: The Labor Party's interest in the Bays Precinct is to blow in, grandstand and scuttle back to Parliament without making a contribution at all. I would like to say this very clearly to the member for Balmain: Experts and community members at The Bays Precinct Sydney International Summit this week have been given a blank canvas. They are coming up with a wonderful range of suggestions for how we can best utilise this extraordinary asset. I am sure it will include some housing, some commercial, some community facilities, and open space. Let me make this very clear—I think that is what is important—the Government has made no decision about the final shape of the Bays Precinct or indeed housing targets. What we do have, though, is an ambitious idea, which is something those opposite could not begin to understand. We have to remember we are dealing with a political Opposition that has gone so long without having a new idea it does not recognise one when it sits there in the Bays Precinct.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. On behalf of the member for Balmain, the question was: Who is correct?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister is being relevant to the question she was asked. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat.

Ms PRU GOWARD: In 2009, those opposite issued a media release entitled "Sydney to Imagine a New Future for its Western Harbour". Did they have big ideas for that precinct? Just how big were they? They wanted to create "an interactive website". That was their big idea. That was the power of Labor's tiny imagination—a website—and those opposite were very serious about this website. They said:

To achieve change we need to deploy modern and interactive communication tools!

That was the idea. It is no wonder that those opposite cannot understand what we were trying to do at the Bays Precinct Sydney International Summit over the past two days—they are still over there on their iPads looking for the website. It is just like their commitment to redevelop the fish markets, which is also part of the Bays Precinct. That vision was so big those opposite said they would commit a whole \$20 million to the project. Those opposite were so bold in their vision they said their key objective was to "tackle the terrible fishy smell". Those opposite could not even achieve that. Their plan on the day for the fish markets was fish and chip wrappings the next. There was something more to their Bays Precinct plans. Again in June 2009, those opposite said one of the reasons they were focused on the Bays Precinct was, as the Treasurer has just intimated, the central business district metro. That gives you some insight into their thinking when Paul Berkemeier says in *Architecture and Design*:

They have locked themselves into building a metro line that goes from nowhere to nowhere, and it happens to go under white bay.

There is the link with the Bays Precinct. All they were trying to do with their flashy website and their interactive communication tools was to make the business case for a dud metro line. That is their interest in the Bays Precinct. That is what we will go back to under John Robertson, and that is the biggest threat to the future of the Bays Precinct. The Bays Precinct revitalisation is 80 amazing hectares of beautiful harbour front. This land is currently a wasteland and an eyesore for the people of Balmain and Rozelle—it is a monument to Labor's lack of action over 16 years. We on this side of the House do not apologise for getting Sydney moving. We do not apologise for revitalising an important area of Sydney Harbour. The small minds of those opposite will not stop the Baird Government getting on with the job of rebuilding this State.

STATE ECONOMY

Mrs ROZA SAGE: My question is addressed to the Premier. After four years of making New South Wales number one again, what is the greatest threat to this Government's commitment to rebuild New South Wales?

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind Opposition members that many of them are on three calls to order. If they continue to interject they will be removed from the Chamber

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I thank the member for Blue Mountains for her question and for the great work she has done for the people of the Blue Mountains. What a great job she has done. She has been inspiring. We will be fighting every step of the way to keep her here as the member for Blue Mountains because the people deserve nothing less. Today we conclude the Fifty-fifth Parliament. I find it extraordinary that this is the last question time before we go to an election and the Leader of the Opposition did not even bother to ask me a

question. The member for Toongabbie would have asked me a question. Not only that, he would have stood up for the member for Auburn. That is what he would have done, and those opposite know it. I pay tribute to the former Premier and former Deputy Premier because in opposition they put in an enormous amount of work to bring in a Liberal-Nationals Government. What has that Government done? It has made New South Wales number one again. It is not number eight; it is number one.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order: Madam Speaker, earlier you ruled that the Minister for Education should not use props. I ask that the same ruling be applied to those on the backbench using props.

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask backbench members to put away any props. I ask Government members not to use props. It is of no assistance to the Premier.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: It is not just this Government that is talking about this State. I will quote from Daniel Andrews, Leader of the Opposition in Victoria. He will still be the Leader of the Opposition in Victoria come the end of the year. Daniel Andrews said:

There is a real sense of energy in Sydney. There is a real sense that things are being built and getting done.

He is absolutely right. The only problem is that there is a clear and present danger to that—that is, those sitting opposite, and the Leader of the Opposition is right at the top. Those are not just my words on this issue. The thought of the Leader of the Opposition becoming Premier of the State and those opposite coming across to the Treasury benches horrifies us all. It particularly horrifies people like Michael Egan. Michael Egan says:

I don't like or trust Mr Robertson, whose chronic lack of judgement will continue to damage the Labor Party until he is replaced as leader.

Michael Egan is a very good judge of character.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 73. If the Premier wants to move a snap substantive motion we can spend the rest of the afternoon debating it.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is being relevant to the question he was asked.

Mr Michael Daley: My point of order does not relate to relevance; it goes to Standing Order 73. The Premier is making personal reflections on the Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. Personal reflections happen on a daily basis, and are made by those on both sides of the House. The Premier has the call.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I thank the member for Maroubra for giving me this quote to make sure that I read it out. Mr Costa said:

In my judgement, Robertson has neither the political intellect nor the courage to be a credible alternative premier.

That is what Michael Costa said.

Dr Andrew McDonald: Point of order: How can this not be personal reflection?

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is not making personal reflections. They are not his words; he is quoting other people.

Ms Linda Burney: Point of order: Members on the other side are holding up props—

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Canterbury will remove herself from the Chamber until the conclusion of question time.

[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Canterbury left the Chamber at 3.25 p.m.]

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I have been asked: What is the chief threat to this great city and State over the next 20 years? His name is John Robertson. He is someone who has had every opportunity, and what does he do? He holds the State back.

Dr Andrew McDonald: Point of order: Madam Speaker, you ruled earlier that the Premier was quoting someone else and not making a personal reflection. He is now quoting himself. This is clearly a breach of Standing Order 73.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Macquarie Fields will resume his seat. Every Opposition question for the past four years has been a personal reflection on Ministers of this Government. There is no point of order.

Mr Paul Lynch: Point of order: Madam Speaker, I draw your attention to the behaviour of the member for Hawkesbury. He is clearly using a prop.

The SPEAKER: Order! I uphold the point of order. The member for Hawkesbury will put away the props. The Premier has the call and is the centre of the attention, not any other member present.

[Interruption]

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Auburn is now the centre of attention. She has entered the Chamber.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: That is right. The member for Auburn is someone who has served the local community. She did a good job as Minister yet the Labor Party is trying to get rid of her. There is no leadership from the Leader of the Opposition. He is the greatest risk to this State. We have a great plan. We are planning a second harbour crossing which he opposes. We have a plan for a sports and cultural facility which he opposes. We have a plan for hospitals and schools which he opposes. He is against taking this State forward. Those opposite think as they look around this Chamber that they will pick up some seats at the next election. Let me tell them that we will do everything we can to fight for every seat in this House. We will fight for every seat in this House. We will fight for the seats of members opposite because the people of New South Wales deserve much better. They deserve this Government; they do not deserve those opposite.

Question time concluded at 3.28 p.m.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That the House at its rising this day do adjourn until Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 12.00 noon.

PRINTING OF PAPERS

Motion by Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS agreed to:

That the following papers be printed:

Report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled "Report under Section 242(3) of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 for the period ending 28 May 2014, Covert Search Warrants", dated August 2014.

Report of the Inspector of the New South Wales Crime Commission entitled "Special Report to the Minister made under section 67 of the Crime Commission Act 2012", dated 28 October 2014.

Report entitled "OCHRE: One year on"—the first annual OCHRE progress report.

Report by the Attorney General pursuant to section 45 of the Surveillance Devices Act 2007 for the period ended 30 June 2014.

Report of the NSW Ombudsman entitled "Preventative Detention and Covert Search Warrants: Review of Parts 2A and 3 of the Terrorism (Police Powers) Act 2002, Review Period 2011—2013", dated September 2014.

Report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled "Licence Compliance Under the Water Industry Competition Act 2006 (NSW), Report to the Minister, Water—Compliance Report", dated October 2014.

Consolidated Financial Report of Snowy Hydro Limited for the period 30 June 2013 to 28 June 2014.

Report of the NSW Skills Board for the period 27 November 2013 to 30 June 2014.

Report of the Board of Studies, Teaching and Education Standards NSW for the period 1 January to 30 June 2014.

Sydney Catchment Authority Statement of Financial Framework for 2014-2015.

Report of the Public Service Commission entitled "A Better Picture, State of the NSW Public Sector Report 2014".

Report entitled "Child Deaths 2013 Annual Report—Learning to improve services".

Report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled "Energy Distribution Licences, Supplement to the Compliance Report for 2011/12, Energy—Compliance Report", dated May 2013.

Report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled "Energy Distribution Licences, Compliance Report for 2012/13, Report to the Minister for Resources and Energy, Energy – Compliance Report", dated October 2013.

Report of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal entitled "Energy distribution licences, Compliance Report for 2013/14, Report to the Minister for Resources and Energy, Energy—Compliance Report", dated October 2014.

Reports for the year ended 30 June 2012 of—Residual Business Management Corporation; and the Building Insurers' Guarantee Corporation.

Reports of the Technical Education Trust Funds for 2012.

Reports for the year 30 June 2013 of: Residual Business Management Corporation; and the Building Insurers' Guarantee Corporation.

Reports for 2013 of: Industrial Relations Commission of New South Wales; Serious Offenders Review Council; Technical Education Trust Funds; and the Wild Dog Destruction Board.

Reports for the period 24 February to 30 June 2014 of: NSW Crown Solicitor's Office; Parliamentary Counsel's Office; Office of Local Government; and the Office of Environment and Heritage.

Reports for the year ended 30 June 2014 of:

Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator
 Department of Police and Justice
 Judicial Commission of New South Wales
 New South Wales Law Reform Commission
 Legal Aid New South Wales
 Legal Profession Admission Board
 Office of the Legal Services Commissioner
 Professional Standards Councils
 Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
 NSW Trustee and Guardian (incorporating the report of the Public Guardian)
 NSW Businesslink Pty Ltd
 Department of Family and Community Services (Volumes One to Three)
 NSW Institute of Sport
 State Sporting Venues Authority
 Sydney Olympic Park Authority
 Venues NSW
 New South Wales Crime Commission
 Fire and Rescue NSW
 Ministry for Police and Emergency Services
 NSW Police Force
 NSW Rural Fire Service
 New South Wales State Emergency Service
 New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council
 Community Relations Commission
 New South Wales Institute of Psychiatry
 Mental Health Commission of New South Wales
 Mental Health Review Tribunal
 Trustees of the ANZAC Memorial Building
 Barangaroo Delivery Authority
 Election Funding Authority
 Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
 Infrastructure NSW
 Natural Resources Commission
 New South Wales Electoral Commission
 Department of Premier and Cabinet
 Public Service Commission
 Art Gallery of New South Wales Trust
 Australian Museum Trust
 Destination NSW
 New South Wales Film and Television Office (trading as Screen NSW)
 Greyhound Racing NSW
 Harness Racing New South Wales

Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority
 Library Council of New South Wales
 Trustees of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences
 Racing NSW
 Responsible Gambling Fund
 Sydney Opera House Trust
 Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
 Independent Transport Safety Regulator
 Office of Transport Safety Investigations
 Administration of Agricultural Statutory Bodies
 New South Wales Food Authority
 Rice Marketing Board
 New South Wales Rural Assistance Authority
 Veterinary Practitioners Board of New South Wales
 Central Coast Water Corporation
 Chipping Norton Lake Authority
 Cobar Water Board
 New South Wales Dams Safety Committee
 Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission
 Lake Illawarra Authority
 Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust
 Wild Dog Destruction Board
 Ausgrid
 Endeavour Energy
 Essential Energy
 Forestry Corporation of NSW
 Hunter Water Corporation
 Internal Audit Bureau of New South Wales (trading as IAB Services)
 Long Service Corporation
 Newcastle Port Corporation
 Port Kembla Port Corporation
 Financial Report of Restart NSW Fund
 State Water Corporation
 Sydney Catchment Authority
 Sydney Ports Corporation
 Sydney Water Corporation
 New South Wales Treasury Corporation
 TransGrid
 New South Wales Treasury (Volumes One and Two)
 UrbanGrowth NSW
 Australian Technology Park
 Hunter Development Corporation
 Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority
 UrbanGrowth NSW Development Corporation
 Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust
 NSW Environment Protection Authority
 New South Wales Environmental Trust
 Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales
 Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust
 Lord Howe Island Board
 Parramatta Park Trust
 Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust
 Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales (trading as Taronga Conservation Society Australia)
 Western Sydney Parklands Trust
 NSW Architects Registration Board
 Building Insurers' Guarantee Corporation
 Department of Finance and Services
 Lifetime Care and Support Authority
 Motor Accidents Authority of New South Wales
 NSW Government Telecommunications Authority
 NSW Self Insurance Corporation
 Trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund
 Service NSW
 State Records Authority of New South Wales
 SAS Trustee Corporation
 Superannuation Administration Corporation (trading as Pillar Administration)
 Board of Surveying and Spatial Information
 Teacher Housing Authority
 WorkCover Authority
 Workers' Compensation (Dust Diseases) Board
 Government Property NSW
 Rental Bond Board
 Fair Trading Administration Corporation and the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Authority
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council of New South Wales
 Chinese Medicine Council of New South Wales

Chiropractic Council of New South Wales
 Dental Council of New South Wales
 Medical Council of New South Wales
 Medical Radiation Practice Council of New South Wales
 Nursing and Midwifery Council of New South Wales
 Occupational Therapy Council of New South Wales
 Optometry Council of New South Wales
 Osteopathy Council of New South Wales
 Pharmacy Council of New South Wales
 Physiotherapy Council of New South Wales
 Podiatry Council of New South Wales
 Psychology Council of New South Wales
 New South Wales Health Foundation
 Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the National Boards, reporting on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme
 Health Care Complaints Commission
 Ministry of Health (incorporating the Financial Statements of Public Health Organisations under its control) (Volumes One to Four)
 Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool
 National Health Funding Body
 Anti-Discrimination Board of New South Wales
 New South Wales Bar Association
 Law Society of New South Wales
 Legal Practitioners Fidelity Fund
 Public Purpose Fund
 Professional Standards Department of the Law Society of New South Wales
 Central Coast Regional Development Corporation
 Department of Planning and Environment
 NSW Trains; Rail Corporation New South Wales
 Roads and Maritime Services
 State Transit Authority of New South Wales
 Sydney Trains
 Department of Transport
 NSW Climate Change Fund
 New South Wales Litter Report 2012

DEPARTMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report

The Speaker tabled the report of the Department of the Legislative Assembly for the year ended 30 June 2014, together with the Financial Performance Report of the Parliament of New South Wales 2013-2014.

Report ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

Report

The Speaker tabled the report of the Department of Parliamentary Services for the year ended 30 June 2014.

Ordered to be printed.

PETITIONS

The Speaker announced that the following petition signed by more than 10,000 persons was lodged for presentation:

Royal North Shore Hospital Campus

Petition opposing the divestment of land on the Royal North Shore Hospital Campus and requesting that the Government preserve the land for future use to benefit patients and the community, received from **Mr Jamie Parker**.

Discussion on petition set down as an order of the day for a future day.

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**.

Harris Street Walkway

Petition requesting the reinstatement of the Harris Street walkway connection to the central business district and the upgrade of lighting on Darling Harbour walkways, 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**.

F6 Extension

Petition requesting that the Government allocate sufficient funds in the 2014-15 budget to complete planning for the F6 extension within two years, received from **Mr Gareth Ward**.

Berry Ambulance Station

Petition requesting the construction of an ambulance station at Berry, received from **Mr Gareth Ward**.

University Road, Miranda, Rezoning

Petition requesting rejection of the proposed rezoning of University Road, Miranda, which would permit eight-storey units adjacent to Miranda Public School, attended by special needs children, received from **Mr Barry Collier**.

Repeat Offender Sentencing

Petition calling for harsher sentences for repeat offenders, particularly those who commit crimes while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, received from **Mr Thomas George**.

Same-sex Marriage

Petition supporting same-sex marriage, 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**.

Morehead Street, Redfern, Tenancy

Petition concerning tenancy issues at Morehead Street, Redfern, received from **Mr Ron Hoenig**.

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**.

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

Koala Protection

Petition requesting an alternative route for the Pacific Highway upgrade to protect the koala population in the Blackwall Range, received from **Mr John Robertson**.

Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital Parking Facilities

Petitions requesting additional parking facilities at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital, received from **Mrs Shelley Hancock** and **Mr Gareth Ward**.

CHRISTMAS FELICITATIONS

Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Western Sydney) [3.33 p.m.]: I move:

That the House take note of Christmas felicitations.

This is an opportunity for us to thank the people from across the Parliament who have done a fantastic job keeping this Parliament going not just this year but every year this term. I wish all members a safe and happy Christmas. Despite often being in combat in this place we are all here because we are dedicated to looking after our communities and helping to make a difference. All members know people and community groups from one end of our electorates to the other that do the work of absolute heroes. In this place we try to support them and provide them with every opportunity. I thank all members of the House for making a contribution to the Fifty-fifth Parliament. We should be proud of what we have achieved in the delivery of services and infrastructure for this State. Having said that, we are looking forward to the upcoming holiday period. It has certainly felt like a long year from my point of view.

An amazing group of parliamentary staff keep this place running. I thank the Legislative Assembly attendants and front desk staff and the security officers, who are always there with a smile. I thank the cleaners whom we see every morning and who are always happy to have a chat. They do an amazing job. I thank the catering staff, who try incredibly hard to please all of us at different events and functions, and the library staff who always try to be as helpful as possible. I also thank Hansard for the hours they work and the difficulties they overcome. I do not know what they will make of the last question time but I wish them luck. I thank our cleaner, Angela, who did an amazing job in our office when Nigel's diet coke exploded in the fridge. We really needed some help. I also thank the staff of Cafe Quorum and our caterer, Mai, who does an amazing job providing all manner of good things to all types of people at all types of meetings and events. She is always warm and friendly, and we are very thankful to her.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for your stewardship of the House. This is not an easy place to run but you have done an amazing job and we thank you for it. We also thank the Deputy-Speaker the Assistant-Speaker and the Acting-Speakers. We thank the Clerk, Ronda Miller, the Deputy Clerk and their team for their work. I know that we make their lives difficult but we thank them for making sense of what happens here. We also appreciate them upholding the standing orders and important traditions of this place. The Whips and Deputy Whips from both the Government and the Opposition do an amazing job and I thank them. Chris Patterson has come into the role recently and performed fantastically. It would not be right if I did not thank Rebecca Cartwright and Nicole Hatton for the amazing job they do. They have to put up with things that many people should not have to put up with—Brad Hazzard and Daryl Maguire.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Fair go.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: It is Christmas so I apologise. Both those men have good hearts—it is just when they come together that things are not so good. I thank Bec and Nicole for what they have done. I thank the Leader of the House for his amazing stewardship of this Chamber. We still do not know what is in the box he has been carrying around today. I also thank his staffer Adrian Pryke for his work. Trying to keep order in this place is not easy. I thank the parliamentary press gallery and gallery president Alicia Wood—the most qualified journalist in the country—for keeping democracy alive and well in this great place. Lastly, I pay tribute to journalist and our friend Liz Foschia. We know she is going through personal difficulties caring for her ill mother, Jude. We all wish her the best of luck at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and we thank her for her stewardship and service to this great Parliament.

Ms LINDA BURNEY (Canterbury) [3.38 p.m.]: As the Fifty-fifth Parliament comes to a close I place on record, on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition and on my behalf, our thanks to the people who make our work in this place possible. I recognise the Speaker, Deputy-Speaker, Assistant-Speaker and Acting-Speakers. I recognise the attendants, the Clerks Ronda Miller and Mark Swinson and their team. I also recognise the Hansard staff and thank Scott Fuller, Editor of Debates, and his team. Importantly, we should recognise the catering facilities staff, who are so professional. I cannot think of a single event I have attended at Parliament House that has not been a compliment to their professionalism in the catering field. I would not mind if members were quiet while I speak during felicitations.

Mr Barry O'Farrell: Good luck.

Ms LINDA BURNEY: I would do so.

The SPEAKER: Order! As this is Christmas felicitations, I ask all members to remain silent out of respect.

Ms LINDA BURNEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I recognise members of the facilities staff, the operations manager, Brett Wright, as well as the security staff and cleaners. I also recognise the library and information technology [IT] staff. I recognise all my Labor colleagues and thank them for their support for what has been a very challenging but rewarding four years. On behalf of John Robertson and on my own behalf, I recognise that I could not have asked for a better team. I thank the Leader of the Opposition, who has been an outstanding friend and colleague for many years. His energy is extraordinary. John, I thank you, particularly during Christmas felicitations, for your leadership throughout the year and for the great work you have done both in the Chamber and outside Parliament. I thank John's team on level 10—Ian, Daniel, Josh, Alan, Liz and Chloe; Jessica, Ksenya and Jenny—for all their efforts on behalf of the whole caucus. I also thank Peter, Wayne and Lawrie, who are drivers for John Robertson.

I thank the Opposition Leader of the House and member for Maroubra, Mr Michael Daley, who undertakes a great deal of the work that needs to be done. I also thank Dylan for the assistance he provides our caucus and in managing our time in the Chamber. I thank the Opposition Whip and Deputy Opposition Whips, Noreen Hay and Nick Lalich. In particular, I recognise the member for Mount Druitt, Richard Amery, who will speak shortly. I thank him for the extraordinary work, leadership and wisdom he has provided. Over many years the service given by the member for Mount Druitt has been recognised by everyone. Of course, I thank Jan in the Opposition Whip's office, whose service has been extraordinary. Jan used to work in security and issue security passes. For many years for the people who work in Parliament House, Jan was the first smile they encountered on their first day. I thank the Deputy Opposition Whip and member for Cabramatta, Nick Lalich. I also acknowledge the Government Whips.

I thank the Government Leader of the House for the manner in which he has dealt with the Opposition throughout the year. We should realise that for many members of this House today will be the last time they speak in this Chamber. I wholeheartedly recognise their service to their communities, this Parliament and the people of New South Wales and extend my thanks to all of them. I hope the future brings a quiet life and new opportunities for them to serve their community in many different ways. I thank my personal staff—Janice, who has left, Maria, Di, Lee, Fran and Ross—for all their hard work every day that enables me to do my job. Your support, and the support of friends and family, has been invaluable. This is an important time of year for people of many backgrounds and faiths. Many of us will take time over Christmas or Hanukah to give thanks for all that we have and to reflect on the year that has passed.

Politics is a tough and unforgiving business. Our every move is scrutinised. But we are human beings, like everyone else, and it is important to step back, take a break and put things in perspective. On behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, the entire Labor team and on my own behalf, I wish all members a wonderful Christmas break. I wish everyone a merry Christmas, whatever their beliefs and faiths. Be safe, and no doubt I will see members on polling day on 28 March 2015.

Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Hospitality, Gaming and Racing, and Minister for the Arts) [3.44 p.m.]: As Deputy Premier and Leader of The Nationals, it is a privilege to extend seasonal felicitations to everyone in Parliament. On behalf of my ministerial colleagues and Government members I extend my deep gratitude to everyone in and across Parliament for all their hard work over the past 12 months. As we farewell another year and mark the conclusion of the Fifty-fifth Parliament, we also farewell the first term of the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government, which was originally under the leadership of an outstanding Premier, Barry O'Farrell. I thank him for the privileged opportunity to serve with him in government and for being able to deliver so much, in partnership with the former Deputy Premier, Andrew Stoner, to make this State number one again.

In just 3½ years we have produced some incredible achievements, which include the creation of more jobs, billions of dollars in hospital upgrades, the provision of doctors and nurses on the front line and record numbers of police officers across the State. This has been a big first term for this Government: We have passed important legislation; we have implemented an incredible range of reforms; we have changed this State for the better as well as the lives of many people in our communities; we have participated in many interesting debates; we have seen many achievements and we have also had many challenges; we have had some wins and some losses; both sides of politics have had their fair shares of ups and downs throughout the year; there have been many negotiations and, when necessary, we have agreed to disagree. But before we leave this place to spend the festive season with our loved ones, I take this opportunity to express to all members of this House my gratitude.

The Parliament of New South Wales is an important institution. I thank all my colleagues for their participation throughout the year and throughout the term of this Government. While there have been some changes in recent months, it has been an incredibly productive, constructive and fulfilling first term of government. I am sure other members will agree that there is never a dull moment in the Legislative Assembly. To that end, I pay tribute to and thank Premier Mike Baird for his outstanding leadership, support and friendship to me, not only over the past 3½ years but also particularly over the past few weeks. I thank this Government's first Leader of the House, Brad Hazzard, for his stewardship of this House over a considerable period. I also thank the current Leader of the House, Anthony Roberts, for everything he has done, for his quick wit, his wise words and organisation that get us all through to the end of a busy sitting week relatively unscathed. He has made an enormous contribution.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Speaker of this great House—the first female Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly—Shelley Hancock, for her important contribution. I wish her and her family well and a wonderful and relaxing holiday period. I offer my thanks to all other Presiding Officers, particularly the Deputy-Speaker, Thomas George, for his outstanding support of the Speaker and for his calm deliberations and adjudications in this House. Mr Deputy-Speaker, you are a credit to the Fifty-fifth Parliament and a credit to The Nationals. I offer my sincere thanks to the Assistant-Speaker, Andrew Fraser, and the several Acting-Speakers who have presided in this House throughout the term of this Government. I thank the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Ronda Miller, and express my admiration for the wonderful job that she and her extended team of Deputy Clerks do. I also thank the staff of Legislative Assembly committees, who do some outstanding work behind the scenes for committees that have produced many wonderful reports throughout the year.

I acknowledge the current Government Whip, Chris Patterson, for keeping everyone and everything in order. I concur with the Premier's comment that our thanks to him are unlimited. I also thank the attendants and everyone who helps us throughout our hurried and busy days, and express our appreciation for their calm and measured manner. I offer a hearty vote of thanks to all the staff right across Parliament House, ranging from the dining and catering staff to all my friends the special constables, who always look after us but particularly in recent times during heightened security alerts. I also thank the Parliamentary Library staff who are simply outstanding in the support that they provide. They are always ready to help any member of Parliament to find information and they are extraordinarily supportive.

To the IT personnel and the wonderful cleaning staff, this building simply could not operate with the ease and grace that it does without you. And while at times your effort and contribution you may think may not

be acknowledged, it certainly does not go unnoticed, and it is appreciated. To the wonderful team in Hansard, thank you so much for sitting through endless debates—I apologise for my yelling and ranting earlier—trying to deal with the heckling and a lot of complicated legislation. Thank you for making us all sound more coherent and eloquent on paper than we otherwise may have been.

I also want to take this opportunity to make special mention of a number of outgoing members of the New South Wales Parliament. I will start with a number of members from the Opposition whom I would like to acknowledge. To the member for Toongabbie, you go with my greatest hopes for a bright and prosperous future, and thank you for your leadership during your time as Premier. If I could take a partisan line, you are one who stood tall, under enormous adversity at times. You should be proud of your record, Nathan. It is appreciated. To my good mate the member for Mount Druitt, the Hon. Richard Amery, thank you for your wit and for your support of new members on your side. You have always been a good friend, and I wish you and your family well into the future.

I extend those wishes to the former Deputy Premier and member for Marrickville, the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt. Thank you for your contribution. It has been noted and appreciated. Despite speaking from this side, I do acknowledge the wonderful contribution that you have made during your term. I extend that comment to the member for Macquarie Fields, Dr Andrew McDonald, who is not in the Chamber at the moment. I wish him well in his ongoing service in the medical field. I turn to those in my team. First, Don Page; he is a great friend. His departure from this place signals the end of a significant era, and one which I am privileged to have been a part of. I wish you and Liz all the best for your future. I thank you, my friend, from the bottom of my heart for your wisdom, guidance and friendship over the years.

To George Souris, who has worked tirelessly for almost 27 years for the people of the Upper Hunter: You are a giant of the party. What a mighty effort. I thank you for your dedication to this great State and for your assistance to me when I replaced you. To your wonderful family, and to Vassy in particular, I hope you have a wonderful future. To my great mate Johnny Williams: Your absence, my friend, next year will be felt by all. I am sure many will agree you are as witty as you are wise; and your support and friendship is both valued and appreciated. May you and Helen have a relaxing start to the New Year and a wonderful new chapter in your life. I will miss you dearly.

To Jenny Gardiner, in the other place: You are a remarkable woman and an ornament to The Nationals. You have given so much to this Parliament and to our communities. I have appreciated your friendship, wise words and fulfilling discussions over the past few years. May the next chapter in your life be as wonderful as you are. And finally, to Andrew Stoner, who led the New South Wales Nationals with courage, enthusiasm and vision for 11 years. I am truly humbled by your support and mateship, and through this transition for supporting me. I wish you and Cathy and all your children a wonderful Christmas and New Year as you begin a new chapter in your lives. What an incredible chapter you wrote for the New South Wales Nationals.

On a personal note, I extend my sincere thanks to my electorate staff Darren Borger, Briony Ferguson and Pauline McAllister and my wonderful ministerial staff, including our departmental liaison officers, for their tireless and dedicated work not only for me but for all members of the Legislative Assembly, and in particular my fellow Nationals members. I extend my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you. The New South Wales Nationals serve in Coalition with our Liberal friends, and we serve this Government well. We have a number of outgoing members in Greg Smith, the member for Epping; and Robyn Parker, the member for Maitland. I thank you, Robyn, for your friendship and support in particular as we have worked closely over a number of issues. You are a classy lady, and I wish you all the very best in the future.

In addition to our ministerial staff, I thank the departmental staff who serve us in the Parliament and provide so much support. I mention in particular Karen McCluskey and Maria Silos, who have left this place having been promoted and moved on. I thank them for their work. I would also like to thank all the organisations, institutions and agencies under the umbrella of my ministerial portfolios. I wish them all well for the festive season.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Resources and Energy, and Special Minister of State) [3.54 p.m.]: The year has drawn to a close and it is time for the Fifty-fifth Parliament to wrap up. I came to the role of Leader of the House in April of this year following the ascension of the Hon. Mike Baird to the premiership. I pay tribute to the former Premier, Barry O'Farrell, who is with us today, for his leadership, guidance and vision for this great State. I must say that it is a role that I came to with a little bit of trepidation. Not only does the role add another burden of responsibility to a Minister; it also makes you the filter and facilitator of anything and everything that members wish to get done in this place.

On the other hand, the Leader of the House must also respect the traditions of this place and work to always maintain and uphold its democratic practices and principles. I must thank the former Leader of the House, Mr Whelan, for some of the great assistance he has given us through the ages. I must thank at the outset my predecessor, the Hon. Brad Hazzard, for the guidance he provided to me on this front. The now Attorney General provided me with great guidance as to the pressures that would come with this role and how to deal with them. I was also ably assisted by Emma Gittoes from his office in this, as well as Natasha Lutschwitz from the Premier's office.

I would like to take time at the start of this speech to give thanks to the many, many workers of this Parliament who make the functioning of this House possible. Often their work goes without notice, but the quite simple fact is that this place depends on them. First, I thank our great Clerk, Ronda Miller, for her tireless work in ensuring that the processes of this House are adhered to and that the functionality of this place is maintained. She is very ably assisted by Les Gönye, who has also served this place for many, many years, as well as by Helen Minnican, the Clerk-Assistant. They are assisted ably at the table by Catherine Watson, Carly Maxwell and Jonathan Elliott.

I give a particular thank you to Rachel Simpson, the Director of the Table Office, who has been of great assistance as a liaison between my office and all other procedural staff in the Parliament. She is ably assisted in her office by Ben Foxe, John Hatfield, Sabina Kozłowska, Jenny Lamont, Steve Smith and Cheryl Samuels, as well as Peter Topura, who was here from the Parliament of Bougainville to learn about the functioning of this place. This office on a day-to-day basis prepares the business programs and papers, facilitates written questions and answers, and accepts petitions. Their work is crucial. Also assisting the Clerks, I thank Manuela Sudic, Rickee Murray, Laura Ismay and Chris Nascimento. To our Assembly assistants, led by Ian Delahunty, namely Danny Heldal, Chris Herbert, Joe Andarde, April Lowndes, Chris Papadopoulos, Ian Thackery, Peter Tuziak and Lynne Vitale, thank you for being the smiling faces at the front desk each morning and for your assistance in the Chamber.

To our Hansard team, led by Scott Fuller, thank you for the amazing work you do. I thank your team for the often long hours you work and I apologise for every time I have abolished your Wednesday night dinner breaks. Thank you to Simon Chalmers, who runs the IT team, Annette McNichol leading up the Library, Rob Neilson and Brett Write of Facilities, and Rob Stefanic, the Executive Manager. To you, and most importantly your teams, thank you very much for what has been a fantastic year. Thank you to our catering team, led by Phil Freeman. I particularly thank from that branch Mr Gary Chan, from the parliamentary bar, who always works his hardest to ensure the bar is adequately serviced and who is always more than happy to have a chat to anyone in this place. I also note the long contributions of Maria Marcinkus, Charlotte Page and Annie Vichapol in the dining room—remarkable ladies.

One service in this place that often does not get mentioned is that provided by the hardworking team on the switchboard. There are not many institutions left that still have this service available to staff, and I know that it is a convenience to many in this place. So to Gine Pye, Grace Peake, Julie Musgrave, Ealyn Gemmell and Margaret Barnes, thank you so very much for your great assistance. It does not go unnoticed. I also pay particular tribute to my opposite number in this role in the member for Maroubra. The relationship between a Leader of the House and the Opposition Leader of the House can undoubtedly be one that is sometimes testy, but I do not think we have had a testy moment all this year. The nature of politics means that we must often pull tricks on one another and play a few games.

However, what most probably do not realise is the cooperation that goes on behind the bar of the House to ensure that business proceeds in an orderly manner and that everyone gets a say on what they want to have a say on. I also thank Mr Daley's staff member Dylan Parker, who assists him in this regard. I thank both of them for their help and cooperation. I thank the Government Whips, Chris Patterson, Gareth Ward and the retiring John Williams. I may set the plan but they are the ones who get it done. They are very well assisted—as are all Coalition members in this place—by the Whips staff, Becky Cartwright and Nicole Hatton, who are often responsible for quite correctly putting members of Parliament in their rightful place.

I make special mention of Richard Amery and wish all the best to the Father of the House in his retirement. He is a very dignified man and I wish him well. I look forward to reading his memoirs. My wishes also go to his assistant, Jan Clifford, the long-serving Whip Assistant for the Labor Party—a wonderful and remarkable lady who always makes sure everyone is friendly to one another despite any acrimony that may be going on in this place. I wish a very special Christmas to my personal staff: Robert Vellar, my chief of staff,

Tim Potter, Brandon Jacobs, Adrian Pryke, Nick McDermott and Berge Okodinossian. I thank them very much for their hard work. They deserve a well-earned break over Christmas—albeit a very short one. I also wish my recent former staff members, Tim James and Alex Clark, a merry Christmas.

I pay special tribute to my hardest working staff member, my executive assistant Sue Clark. No job is harder than what Sue does. Juggling the diary of a Minister, arranging countless appointments, flights and accommodation, and managing an office are no easy tasks—and they will become increasingly harder with added disclosure requirements. Sue, my special thanks go to you. You are the glue that keeps our office together, and without you nothing would be possible. Felicitations go to my electorate office led by Simon Frame along with Brigid Meney and Andrew Wilson. I thank them for their hard work, particularly with the portfolio positions I now hold. Thanks also to the hardworking departmental liaison officers in my office, Janette Semerdjian, Krystal Karanfilovski and Cecilia Falson—your work never goes unnoticed. Finally, there is one task left before I have my final say in this session.

Mr Michael Daley: The eight-by-five money box.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Some say it is the brain behind Labor's policy developments and some say it is other things from not so good places. Some say the contents are illegal in 13 states of the United States of America. Some say that it has the eyes of a basilisk. All can be revealed this afternoon.

Mr Nick Lalich: A box within a box.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: Unfortunately, it is wrapped and everyone knows you cannot unwrap a gift before Christmas so we will have to wait until next year. But I can tell you it will be worth it. To those members who are leaving—Nathan Rees, our dear friend the member for Mount Druitt, Carmel Tebbutt and others—we wish you all the very best in your retirement. Thank you for your contributions. Thank you for what you have done for New South Wales. To those colleagues on this side of the House who are leaving us this year—or at least the ones we know of—I wish them all the best. Good luck to those who are running in the upcoming election. May God bless you all, have a good Christmas and we will see you next year.

Mrs SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast—The Speaker) [4.02 p.m.]: If I could intrude with my comments at this stage, I will be fairly brief. I wish everybody in this Chamber—all members of Parliament, especially those who are retiring—a very merry Christmas and a wonderful and successful new year. I wish everybody success in their future careers, wherever they may lead. We do not know where we are going to be after March next year. Let us hope that those who want to come back here will be back and form part of an incredibly good team. Even though there is a lot of tumult and shouting in this Chamber, when we come together in committees or in other circumstances where we can all get on we do get on because we are all politicians, we are all members of Parliament and we are all in the same boat to some extent. We can make friends on either side, and we have. I wish you all the best in the election.

I particularly thank my staff in the Speaker's office: Luke Sikora, Joe Andrade, whom all of you will know, Gladys Kleiner and Dhanya Mani. They are the first port of call when members have problems or issues, want to make bookings or want to ensure that the Speaker announces their guests at the start of question time. My staff make sure that my office runs as well as it possibly can, and it does so because of their efforts. I thank the four of them most sincerely. I also thank my electorate office staff, Lynne Arnold, Adam Carney, Samantha Luxford and Georgia Copley. On behalf of all members, I thank all the electorate office staff, particularly those in rural and regional areas who are our face, our representatives, when we are here. They are the ones who deal with constituents and issues, and invariably they are extremely knowledgeable and experienced and very much valued. I know that at Christmas time all members will want to thank their electorate staff and their teams. We wish them all the best for Christmas. They all deserve a break because they work extremely hard on our behalf.

I also want to thank the Speaker's panel. Throughout the past four years it has been an absolute pleasure to have as my Deputy-Speaker the Hon. Thomas George. He is always here on time, always happy to relieve me if I have to attend another function, always has a happy smile and always keeps the place in order. My Assistant-Speaker Andrew Fraser loves giving me advice—or he used to. He is also always on time—we hate people who are not on time. Thank you very much for your professionalism and the way that you approach this job. It is not an easy job. People like to criticise what we do, but unless they have been in this position right here they have no idea how difficult it can be. I thank Lee Evans and Melanie Gibbons, who is charming in the chair and so pleasant—something I cannot be all the time. Noreen Hay has been remarkably professional since taking up the position and is extremely impressive in carrying out her duties as Temporary Speaker, as is Mark Coure

and Chris Gulaptis. There have been some changes to the Speaker's panel, but invariably all members have taken over their duties quickly, learned the role and performed it remarkably well on my behalf. Thank you to all of them.

To all the party leaders—Mike Baird, Troy Grant and John Robertson—I wish you well in your future endeavours. I thank you for your cooperation at all times. The Speaker's office and the Whip's office work together closely. I thank Richard Amery and his office. Chris Patterson, you have done remarkably well. You are a fantastic Whip and, from my perspective, you have looked after members. Well done to you, to John Williams and to Gareth Ward. Richard, I will miss you—I will absolutely miss you. I do not thank you for the many times when you have interjected and I could not control my laughter—and I am supposed to control my laughter. You are the true wit and wisdom of this Chamber, and I will really miss you. I wish you all the best in your future endeavours and career. You are remarkable.

My Clerks at the table sit there quietly every day. But they are the wisdom and the knowledge of this Parliament, and I thank them for their input on a daily basis. They are the ones who know how this system operates and who give all of us advice when we need it. We mostly take that advice, I hope, because it is the product of their education and experience that has evolved over a long period. To Ronda Miller, Les Gönye, Helen Minnican, Catherine Watson, Elaine Schofield, Rachel Simpson, Jonathon Elliot and Carly Maxwell, thank you for all your efforts on behalf of all members in this place. Thank you to John Hatfield. Many of you might not know John Hatfield, but he is very careful and articulate in preparing the loqs—loqs are the things that the occupants of the chair are supposed to say, such as "The question is et cetera". John Hatfield does all that. He is very careful about the loqs and I thank him for his care in their preparation. John, I hope I will see you later for Speaker's drinks.

I also thank everybody in the Department of Parliamentary Services [DPS]—that amorphous group. Members may not know what DPS is but it is everything apart from the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly. It is catering, it is air conditioning, it is the running of the House, it is the new buildings and it is everything that occurs in this Chamber. A lot of people are employed in DPS, many of whom I have come to know extremely well. These are the people who keep this place going. We come here for three, four or five days a week every couple of weeks, but they are here all the time, keeping this place going. They are a family, and I regard many of them as part of my family now. We are a big family and I thank them, under the very wise and intelligent leadership of Mr Rob Stefanic, Executive Manager of the Department of Parliamentary Services. Congratulations to Rob on everything his department does.

The staff on my front desk who greet visitors to this place are thoroughly professional. They are courteous, always cooperative, and I regard them as my little family. I thank Ian Delahunty, who is not here because he has started his holidays, Ian Thackeray, who is probably getting ready for Christmas drinks, Chris Papadopoulos, Lynne Vitale, Danny Heldal, April Lowndes, Stephen Smith, Peter Tuziak and Chris Herbert. They are a remarkable team, all of whom I respect and admire. I hope to see you all back here next year with happy smiles, extending courtesy to the public—especially Peter. You have a tough gig entertaining the schoolkids. I know what it is like and you do it so well. Congratulations. I thank Alicia Wood, president of the press gallery, for her cooperation.

Hansard—everybody will thank Hansard. Sometimes you read the transcript of what you said and think, "Gee that sounded pretty good", and it was not that good when we said it. Hansard just makes us sound good. It is not a cliché; it is not something that we say because we have to. It is exactly what happens. You have a pretty tedious job, and thank you for doing it so well. Thank you, everybody, for a wonderful year and the wonderful past four years. I sincerely wish you all the best in March next year. I hope to see you all back, in one way or another. Merry Christmas.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) [4.10 p.m.]: Madam Speaker, I see that you are departing the chair. I take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the best. I look forward to more harmonious relations with you in the House next year. I thank the Leader of the Opposition, John Robertson, and his staff. Almost four years ago John Robertson promised to be the hardest working Leader of the Opposition this place had ever seen. He has lived up to that promise. He does not know how to take a backward step. He has led from the front and has done extremely well in leading us in what is undoubtedly a rebuilding phase. He and all our colleagues are looking forward to the competition that we will face in March. Because of John's leadership we will do that without fear, and we look forward to that competition with optimism. I thank his staff, particularly his chief of staff, Ian McNamara, and his offsider, Dan Kildea, who have been more than helpful with the

matters relating to my portfolio over the past four years. I look forward to joining them in the trenches over the next four months. I even thank the media staff who wake us up at 5.30 in the morning with a text or a suggestion that things need to be done.

Mr David Elliott: Bet your wife loves that.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Yes, and the kids. To the whole team in the Leader of the Opposition's office, I say a huge thank you. I thank my electorate office staff, in no particular order: Karen Browne, Lisa Williams, Dylan Parker, Kevin Macdonald and Chris Brereton and a young fellow who did work experience with us earlier in the year, Caleb O'Brien, captain of the mighty Marcellin College at Randwick, who is in the advisers' area today. I wish him well for the future. Our electorate office is a pretty mad place to work, but it works. It is a very eclectic electorate and, without being disrespectful, I think sometimes the staff match the people who wander into our office. I thank them for keeping me looking good. When you become a Minister or shadow Minister in the Westminster system it necessitates you spending a long time away from your electorate. If you do not have good electorate office staff, you will not succeed in many of the endeavours that you set for yourself. I have excellent staff in the electorate, and have had for nine years.

I thank my colleagues in the Opposition. We were reduced to 20 at the last election. We have made our way up to 23. Our enthusiasm, our courage, the marking of history and Labor's values that we carry in our hearts in this place and in our electorates every day far exceed our numerical value. It is a very close-knit team and we will not be taking a backward step at the election in March. I particularly thank the members who have chosen to retire and will not be returning to the Opposition in this place: the member for Marrickville and the member for Mount Druitt, Richard Amery, who has been the manager of Opposition business as the Opposition Whip. I call him "the Sarge". He is the person we report to every day in this place. He has done an excellent job and has always made sure the troops were organised. I wish the member for Mount Druitt, along with Jan Clifford, all the best and many thanks on behalf of the Opposition. The member for Macquarie Fields is also retiring. I wish him well. The member for Kogarah, the member for Lakemba and the member for Miranda—I will miss them all.

I particularly thank my good friend the member for Toongabbie. He appointed me as Minister for Roads in 2008 and promoted me to Minister for Police in late 2009. He expressed unqualified support and confidence in me at that time. We have become the best of friends. Public discourse has already marked him as one of the most significant people this Parliament has seen. In time, history will do the same. I thank the parliamentary staff. Of course, there are too many to mention. When you embark upon an endeavour such as this you always forget somebody.

I thank the staff in Hansard; the staff in the library, who are always helpful; the Clerks who sit at the table—I do not know how they do it but they do it every day and they must have some stories to tell their family members when they get home—the cleaners, who come in before we arrive and who are sometimes taken for granted, but we do not take them for granted; and the staff in the dining room, particularly the members of staff who have been here for a long time. There are always changes. Those who manage staff should know that long-term staff such as Maria, Gary and Charlotte are held in high esteem and are respected by members in this place. We thank them.

I thank the leaders of the House, the former Leader of the House—the dear leader—the member for Wakehurst, and his successor, the member for Lane Cove. I have enjoyed being ambushed because that gives me the opportunity to grandstand on a grand scale. As the Leader of the House said in his Christmas felicitation this afternoon, a lot of it is theatre and there are great efforts at goodwill behind the scenes to ensure the Government gets its business through—which is what Parliament is all about—and the Opposition has its say in keeping them honest. I thank the members in the other place who represent me: Adam Searle, who is a powerhouse, and Peter Primrose.

I thank of course my wife and kids, Alison, Jake, Olivia and Austin. It is the families who really bear most of the brunt for those who are privileged enough to enter public life. Again, it is one of the great quirks of our parliamentary system that the more successful you get the less time you spend in your electorate and certainly the less time you spend at home. I am fortunate that I represent Maroubra and I can be home in 12 minutes at night. I often get to tuck my kids into bed at 8.30 or nine o'clock. I have terrific regard for country members who do not see their families for weeks on end. That must be very hard. My wife and my family are everything. They do not see me as often as they should. I thank them for their unqualified love and support.

I thank the kids of Young Labor who often ring me up and say, "We are coming to your electorate. We want to doorknock for you." They are the future of our party. They are terrific young kids. Dylan Parker does a great job organising them. I thank Young Labor.

Ms Robyn Parker: Keep them in Maroubra.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: They will not be just in Maroubra; they will be everywhere. Don't worry, those opposite will know it. You will wake up on election day and you will see wall-to-wall Labor wallpaper, and they will be the ones who have done it while you are all asleep. So I thank them. Finally I thank and wish all the best to the people of Maroubra who have had the confidence in me to have given me another four years. I will be asking them for that confidence again in March. They are the most beautiful people on the planet out there in God's country by the sea. I wish them all the very best for a great Christmas and new year.

Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Attorney General, and Minister for Justice) [4.20 p.m.]: Thank you very much for the opportunity to say a few words. As the former Leader of the House, members would know that things changed in April this year. I am very grateful for the support that I had from each of the members of this place on both sides. I thank Michael Daley. We had a very good working arrangement. I appreciated his integrity in dealing with me as Leader of the House. I also appreciated his constant new titles for me that he dreamed up during our heated debates.

I thank the Clerks first and foremost, because the Clerks make sure this place runs very smoothly. Thank you very much each and every one of you; your advice is always impartial and very professional. I thank the Hansard staff, who have continued to amaze me over the 20-odd years I have been in this place. A lot of the faces have stayed the same and some have changed. You all do an unbelievable job. So thank you one and all. Thank you to the kitchen staff, the cleaning staff, the security staff and the dining room staff who do a first-class job. I also thank Maria, Gary and Charlotte. I thank Ilya, who, of course, runs the show in there—in addition to teaching me some Russian from time to time—and who does an excellent job for all members.

I thank the former Whips who worked with me when I was the Leader of the House. I do not think they got a mention earlier. Daryl Maguire first and foremost and my colleague Jai Rowell, who is now a Minister, did a tremendous job. I thank the Opposition Whips. I also have my particular sadness at seeing Richard Amery go. It just shows that in this place there are some people who rise above the most basic aspects of politics—Richard has been one of those people. Richard, we wish you well. To Carmel Tebbutt, when I was shadowing her I appreciated the work she did as a member of Parliament and as a Minister. My best wishes also to Nathan Rees, a former Premier, who is leaving and also to other members who are also leaving.

On my side of the Chamber I acknowledge particularly Barry O'Farrell and Andrew Stoner. I have no idea at this point what Barry O'Farrell will do, but I will say this: Barry O'Farrell and Andrew Stoner brought this State back to being number one again. It is appropriate that I thank them during Christmas felicitations for all the work they did. I also thank Robyn Parker, who has been a friend and a colleague. She has applied her heart and soul to the job. I thank John Williams, who scared the living daylights out of me one time by offering to fly me in his plane—thank God he did not. To Gareth Ward as the Assistant Whip and to Chris Patterson as the new Whip, thank you for the work you have done.

I acknowledge all the other members who, for a variety of reasons, are now leaving this place, but at the end of the day, no matter what takes you out of this place, if you have held your head high and done your work for your constituents you can be proud of that. Congratulations to all members on both sides who may be leaving for a variety of reasons but who have done a good job. I thank the media. On the whole, the media do a first-class job. There are those odd people who, from time to time, tend to write stories by putting a dot on one side of a blank page and another dot on the other and drawing whatever they want in the middle, but most of them do a very good job and they are necessary for democracy. So thank you to the media and to Alicia Wood in her position as president.

I thank my personal staff. I should start with the people who keep us in this place when they are busy doing other things in the electorate office. Those people are Noelene Barrell, Lisa Nagle and Andie Duthie. I thank all of the electorate staff on behalf of every member in this place on all sides because they are the people who really are the heart and soul of our community when we are not there. Thank you very much for our connection with the community when we are not there. In relation to my current staff, I thank my chief of staff, Kath McFarlane, who has put up with me on and off for a number of years; Lee Dixon, who has put up with me

for about 11 years; Lyn Wheadon; Chi Tranter; Leonie Lamont; Edward Clapin; and Emma Gittoes. Most of you would remember Emma. She really helped run this place when I was the Leader of the House. In fact, she really ran it, I just took the pleasure and praise. Thank you, Emma, for all that.

I also thank Megan Batchelor, Tijana Jovanovic, Emma Chapman, Bill Young, James Cooper, Geesche Jacobsen, Sybilla Levenston. The departmental liaison officers I have at the moment are Michelle Huntsman, Kate Connors, Maja Krstic and Shannon Bateman and, of course, there was Andrew Chatterton and Steven Bray. I thank my planning staff, Tim Robertson, Elliott Hale and Lydia Robertson and the departmental liaisons I had in that capacity as well—Chris Ray, Elizabeth Gilroy, Lin Wrona, Leah Schramm and Meagan Kanaley. I thank my Parliamentary Secretary, David Clarke, and his staff, and also Craig Baumann who helped immeasurably in his capacity as the Parliamentary Secretary when I was the planning Minister and all his staff.

Finally, this place runs because of the goodwill of the members. Most members in this place get it. Most members know what the ground rules are. We are the master of our own destiny as a Parliament and we need to be constrained by the ethical and moral values that we each bring to this place. Hopefully, as we head out to the next four years, we will continue to apply those moral and ethical values in the interests of the people of New South Wales.

Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) [4.25 p.m.]: I wish everybody a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I hope all members and their families have a safe Christmas and that it is everything they want it to be. I start by thanking my wife, Vicki, without whose support I could not do this job. She supports me tremendously in everything I do and I thank her very much for that. I thank my four wonderful kids, Amelia, Sophie, Tom and Matthew. I am very proud of all of their achievements, whether they are at school or in sport. I am looking forward to spending more time with them, as obviously time in the electorate means a little bit more time at home.

I thank the Premier for everything he has done, but on a personal level I thank him for giving me the opportunity to be the Whip. I very much appreciate it and I thank him for his support. It is wonderful to see the job the Deputy Premier is doing. I thank Troy Grant for all the support he has given me in the job. I thank the former Whips, Daryl Maguire, who has been like a mentor whom I go to regularly. He has a wealth of knowledge and has my best interests at heart. I thank him for everything he has done and continues to do. Jai Rowell, great mate, also offered advice along the way. If his advice conflicts with Daryl's, I take Daryl's for obvious reasons. Thank you for all your efforts. It has been fantastic working with The Nationals Whip, John Williams, with John doing the count, doing the recount and then recounting again. Between John and Gareth Ward I am looking good.

I have not had much time with Richard Amery, only one term, but I have absolutely the utmost respect for you. I wish you well. It sounds like a cliché, but you are a true gentlemen and I am very, very proud to say that I have known you for a little time. Jan Clifford from Richard's office, with whom I have had some involvement, is a lovely person. I wish her well in her future endeavours. Gareth Ward is my deputy and we work as a team. Gareth, it really has been fantastic and I thank you for your efforts. Without them, things would not have run as well as they have. I appreciate it very much.

I thank Madam Speaker for her outstanding work. As she said, we all really do have to work well together. She has my utmost respect. The way she runs the show really is tremendous. I thank the Deputy-Speaker, the Hon. Thomas George, for all his efforts and the time he has put in. He makes this place a better place. I thank the Assistant-Speaker and all the Temporary Speakers for their work. Without them we just would not run. I thank the Leader of the House, the Hon. Anthony Roberts. I work very closely with him. He is a great mate. I thank him for all his efforts and for the way he gets things done. I thank him also for all the advice he has given and for helping me in my role of Government Whip.

I thank all Ministers for their efforts. I know the incredible amount of work they do and I cannot imagine how they manage to do it all and to fit everything in. They make the Government run. This is not lost on me or my backbench colleagues. I thank all my other Liberal Party colleagues for their support since I have had the role of Government Whip. More importantly, I thank them for their friendship over the past 12 months. It really is appreciated. I thank those on the opposite side for the mutual respect they have shown. I will not out them here and now, but I have some good mates on the other side. The Hon. Nathan Rees said something similar in his valedictory speech. I thank them.

I thank the Clerks of the Legislative Assembly: Ronda, Les and Helen for all their efforts. As with The Speaker and the Leader of the House, this House would not function without them. I thank Rebecca Cartwright for all her work. As the Premier mentioned, she is tireless in her work before we get here and after we leave. I could not do my job and we could not run this place without her efforts. All her work is much appreciated.

I thank all of the ministerial staff. They do an outstanding job. Obviously I cannot name them all. Yes, I have already been preselected. I will make mention of all of the chiefs of staff and the parliamentary liaison officers for their outstanding efforts. I thank Bay Warburton, Alex Bruce, Larry McGrath, Sheridan Dudley, Jason de Sousa, Rob Vellar, Andrew Kirk, Chris Muir, Simon Fontana, Kath McFarlane, Tim Archer, Paul Terrett, Colman O'Driscoll, Adam Zarth, Chris Hall, Verity Lomax, Tony Chappel, Steve Joseph, Darren Bark, Kathy Rankin, Andrew O'Sullivan and Fiona Dewar. I thank them for their efforts. They are exceptional leaders who lead from the front. I know that their staff do a great job and benefit from their leadership.

I thank all of the parliamentary liaison officers for their efforts. They are in regular contact with backbench members and with me. We could not function without all their work. I thank them all—Laura Scott, Rachel Hayes, Zac Bentley, Kim Withers, Siobhan Martin, Berge Okosdinossian, James Bolster, Danielle Brown, Megan Batchelor, Julian Crowley, Jodie Bartholomew, Clare Barclay, Alasdair Cameron, Anna Reid, Tom Green, Jacqueline Cope-Williams, Marcus Cope-Williams, Katrina Carlon, Scott Percival, Madeleine Tudehope, Laura Clarke and Matt Versi. I thank them all for making our lives so much easier.

It is remiss of me to single out one staff member, but I pay tribute to Matt Cross. He was a very good mate of mine before I entered Parliament, and he remains a very good mate. He is not a chief of staff, although I am sure he aspires to be, and he is not a parliamentary liaison officer. I commend him for all his efforts. Not much more can be said about Joe Andrade from the office of the Speaker. He is a fantastic bloke. I appreciate all his efforts. I thank Adrian Pyke from the office of the Leader of the House. He does such a great job and is invaluable. I really appreciate his support. It has been a pleasure to work with him.

I thank all of the Legislative Assembly Chamber attendants—Ian Delahunty and his team. They do an outstanding job. I thank April, Chris, Danny, Lyn, Chris and Ian for all their efforts. They are the first here and the last to leave. We could not function without them. Their work is very much appreciated. I thank Hansard for all their outstanding work. I have lost count of the number of times I have read speeches in *Hansard* that sound a lot better than when I made them. I thank the Hansard team for that and for all their efforts. It is a skill that continues to amaze me. I know members really appreciate everything the Hansard team does.

Information Technology keeps our services up and running, and I thank them. The Parliamentary Library offers a fantastic service. I thank all of the wonderful library staff for their efforts. Phil Freeman and his staff in catering do a great job. I thank them for feeding us and keeping us going from early in the morning until late at night. Their work is very much appreciated. Many of my colleagues have mentioned Gary in the bar. I have not had much to do with Gary, but I know that a number of my colleagues have spoken very highly of him. Thank you, Gary, and well done. I thank the security team for their efforts. They are a great team and very committed. We see them as we walk through the front doors and as we leave at the end of the night. I thank the cleaners for their fantastic effort. Again, they are the first ones in and the last ones out of the building.

I will finish by thanking my executive office staff—Debbie Dewbery, my executive officer from day one, who is brilliant and whose efforts I really appreciate; Joanne Sendt, Narelle Irving and Natalie Synkowiak. I thank them for everything they do; it enables me to be here. They are really wonderful. I could not do my job without them. Finally I mention Nicole, who is Rebecca's assistant and works with me in this place. She does an outstanding job. I thank her for her efforts and all her work. I wish everybody a wonderful and safe Christmas. I hope to see everybody back here next year. I hope the festive season is everything they wish it to be.

Mr RICHARD AMERY (Mount Druitt) [4.36 p.m.]: Christmas felicitations I have given previously generally ended with some words about seeing everybody again in the next year or next session. I do not discount the fact that I will try to do that next year, but this time it will not be as a member of Parliament. Obviously I will be coming into Parliament House a few more times, if not just to clean out my offices. Barring any recall of the Parliament before March, this is not only my last day, and the last day of a number of members already mentioned, but also my last speech in the Parliament. I take this opportunity to wish those members seeking to return the best of luck. However I would be dishonest, and I would not be a Labor man, if I did not say that I am hoping for a substantial increase in the number of Labor members in this place next year.

It has been a great honour to be the Labor Whip in this Chamber. Some people have asked me to describe what a whip is and what they do each day. In general terms I have explained that for those in the nursing profession it is probably the equivalent of being the head sister of the ward or the matron of a wing. In a school what could be called the Whip's duties are left to the deputy principal. Going back to my past life, the whip of a police station is the station sergeant. In other words, I think every calling and every workplace has a whip. It is just that in politics it is so formally named.

Carrying out the job of Whip is a team effort. For me, like my last three predecessors going back over the last 20-something years—Gerard Martin, who was the whip for two terms; George Thompson and Bill Beckroge—my job has been made so much easier by Jan Clifford. She has run things so professionally. Unlike any other party, we have Jan Clifford—and I think that gives us the inside running. I have recognised Jan many times, such as last week in my valedictory speech. I not only wish Jan well in whatever next year brings, but also say a big thank you to her just for being Jan. I believe she is the benchmark for the position she has held for 20 years. Jan would want to join with me in thanking our counterparts on the Government side. We will not be too gushing, but we have to look at the mechanical side of that.

I thank the three whips who have served the Liberal Party. Daryl Maguire was the Whip in opposition and managed the transition to government. He is now a parliamentary secretary. I have known him for many years. He is also a good friend of my brother. We share an interest in old cars. I have no doubt that I will keep in touch with him in my post-parliamentary life. I acknowledge Andrew Cornwell, who was Government Whip for a short while. I thought he had a long career ahead of him, but unfortunately the fates of this place did not favour him. I will not touch on those issues. During his time as Whip he was very cooperative with me and my office. Chris Patterson has been mentioned, as has John Williams, who has a good relationship with my office and me.

Mr Barry Collier: Thumbs up, Krusty.

Mr RICHARD AMERY: Someone called him "Krusty" but I certainly would not do that. The National Party Whip has often made mention of how long I have been around. Whilst I know where I was when President Kennedy was shot, the National Party Whip knows where he was when the Archduke was shot. But I will move on. This is not a time for insults, but I cannot resist sometimes.

I also acknowledge the leaders of Government business, Brad Hazzard and Anthony Roberts. As has been recognised, Anthony Roberts has adopted the Erskine May and Whelan *Parliamentary Practice* in trying to ambush the Opposition from time to time. As I have said to him in the corridors and would say to all people involved in running Government business, back in the 1980s I saw some of our members pull tricks on the Opposition and it never saved time. It will always square up with a division that would not otherwise have been called or something like that. Cooperation will always save more time than morning ambushes.

Mr Chris Hartcher: We had it for 16 years. Don't pull that one.

Mr RICHARD AMERY: In our 16 years we were never as ruthless as the member for Terrigal's lot. I cannot name everyone who works in the office of the Leader of the Government, but I know that Jan would want me to mention Rebecca Cartwright, Nicole Hatton and Adrian Pryke who work the mechanics of this place. It would be remiss of me not to mention Dylan Parker, who works closely with Jan in my office. He shows great potential for running business in this place. I recognise the Leader of the Opposition John Robertson, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Linda Burney, and Michael Daley.

The people I have mentioned and the Labor team have performed exceptionally well since the 2011 election. We have not been intimidated by the size of the Government majority. In fact, with only 20 to 23 members at different times it is Labor members who have been evicted from the Chamber when the place becomes too rowdy. That is hardly a sign of an intimidated side of politics. These past years Labor members used all of their allocated private members' statements, they spoke on all bills and all motions, and in the last half of this year they lodged 88 per cent of all written questions asked in this Parliament.

Mr John Williams: You didn't do that when you were in government, though.

Mr RICHARD AMERY: I never missed a day. Members should never interject unless they have done their research. Though there has never been a chance for Labor to win a division this term we have succeeded in having an average of 82.4 per cent of the caucus present for all divisions. That is an exceptional effort and I thank my colleagues for that performance. I repeat: Labor members attended divisions that we had no chance of winning. It shows that the Labor team has been proud to stand here—

Mr Chris Hartcher: And lose.

Mr RICHARD AMERY: That does not matter. We have been proud to stand up and be counted. We have achieved a higher attendance rate in divisions than the Government by a long shot. Party politics and effort

aside, the one thing I have learned during my years in this place is to appreciate the permanent staff members who have worked here during the terms of governments of both colours. It is hard for me to think of a section of this building that has not been of great assistance to me and my staff. Well, I could say IT. I have not requested too much of them other than the couple of times I rang to ask how to turn on the computer. From everyone else I have called on I have received plenty of assistance.

I thank the team at the table including Clerk Ronda Miller, Deputy Clerk Mark Swinson, Helen Minnican and Carly Maxwell. I do not have the time to mention everyone. I extend a special thank you to those officers who have been allocated to support the parliamentary bowls team—Les Gönye, Catherine Watson and Cheryl Samuels, who is not only a manager but also a player. Les was with us when we won for the first time in 29 years.

I say to our security staff, which have had a higher priority of late, and the whole team around the Chamber that I am going to miss you all—right down to the soothing mints provided from Danny in the corner. I have liked learning how this place operates from Peter up in the gallery when I come in early before question time. There are too many people to name, but I thank Ian and the team, the two Chris's and April in the mail room. I thank the wonderful people in catering under the management of Carlos and Phil, including Charlotte, Maria, Gary and Onoong just to name a few. I can never say enough about Hansard, whose work never ceases to amaze and impress me. I suggest all members seek a tour of their offices and a discussion with those skilful wordsmiths who record the spoken history of this the oldest Parliament in the country.

In my valedictory speech I mentioned my electorate staff Leisa Cabban, Sarah Hatch and Lorraine Strath but I thank them once again. I thank the Speaker, the Deputy-Speaker and the staff including Joe Andrade, who went through such a tragedy this year with the loss of his house in a bushfire. I think he showed how much of a family this Parliament is. I leave this place as a friend of the institution and I hope that I will come around from time to time to annoy you all as a visitor. I recognise the members who are retiring and wish them the very best. To my wife, Marie, my daughter, Debbie, and her husband, Brad, to my grandchildren Ella, James, Britney and Bryce, my son, Roy, and his girlfriend, Rachael, I have rung many times to say "I am coming home". This time I am coming home for good.

Mr JOHN WILLIAMS (Murray-Darling) [4.46 p.m.]: Like the member for Mount Druitt, I am speaking for the last time in this Parliament—unless something strange happens, which I very much doubt. I speak for the 26 members of the National Party in my Christmas felicitation. They are 25 of the most magnificent men and women that could be found in this Parliament. They are devoted to one part of the State: rural and regional New South Wales. They give their hearts and souls every day to that area. I recognise my assistants and those who have worked with my office and served the needs of the National Party in government. Jane Standish, Hannah Parsons, Rachel Hayes, Amelia Hain and the new and refreshed Meagan Skinner are all great young girls who have helped out and made my job and the job of National Party members so much easier. The workload they take on and tasks they do without prompting is magnificent. Every one of The Nationals appreciates it.

I thank the magnificent pair of women in the Whip's office. I cannot say enough good things about Rebecca Cartwright. She does a fantastic job. She and her offsider, Nicole Hatton, are a great pair of young ladies who support what we do at the front end of this Parliament. They are certainly great friends of The Nationals. I also thank the Government Whips whom I have served with. I have spoken long and hard about Daryl Maguire. He is the most unique man; he was either born without a conscience or has had it removed. He has done a great job. I thank Jai Rowell, who is at the table. We have worked together for a while. I also acknowledge Andrew Cornwell, whom Richard Amery spoke about. He suffered a sad end to a great career. I also thank Chris Patterson who said so many complimentary words about what I had done with my numbers.

Mr Jai Rowell: Someone wrote it for him.

Mr JOHN WILLIAMS: Yes. I assure members that I can still count after a couple of practices. I express my best wishes to the Opposition Whip, Richard Amery, and to his deputy, Nick Lalich. Richard is and always will be a cop, through and through. He will not give an inch. He would knock five kilometres off a speeding fine. He goes hard every time we have conducted a count. In typical form—he reminds me of a Richmond Football Club supporter: he gets flogged every week—he calls for divisions, knowing full well that Labor will get slaughtered, and he can stand by and watch it happen. Well done, Richard, and I offer every good wish for you. As has been noted, you will be very much missed in this Parliament. I might just correct the clock. I actually have 10 minutes because I am on the list.

Ms Linda Burney: No, you haven't. You've got five.

Mr JOHN WILLIAMS: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who is always prepared to tear down Coalition members when we are doing good stuff. I pay tribute to members of The Nationals—the Hon. George Souris, the Hon. Don Page, the Hon. Andrew Stoner and the Hon. Jennifer Gardiner in the other place—and wish them all the very best. I know they will be sadly missed. They have been the rock of The Nationals. Their contribution in the party room will be missed. On behalf of The Nationals I thank all the table staff who patiently give advice that we do not take very often; being The Nationals, that is what we do. We always like to wing it. I thank the people in Hansard, who do such a magnificent job and who have the patience and professionalism to ensure that everything that is spoken about in this House is recorded accurately. I thank all the support staff for the Presiding Officers. Joe Andrade has done a magnificent job. I thank all the staff in catering for the assistance they have given to us, which obviously is very much appreciated. I also thank very much the cleaning staff and the security staff.

We know that this day will conclude the Fifty-fifth Parliament and that the electoral contest begins from now on. I wish all members who are recontesting all the very best. I will be watching the events from the sidelines but I will take a great interest in the results of the 2015 New South Wales election. Obviously this is a time when stress will prevail, but I ask members, in recognition of the time spent away from family members who are on their own, for members' own welfare and their family's welfare, to please take time out and celebrate the great event of Christmas and enjoy the time with their family and friends, who are so important to the wellbeing of members of Parliament going forward.

I and other members of The Nationals always will remember Richard Amery one night describing what he had for dinner. I did not want to tell him how hard some members of The Nationals had to battle against the odds to find a meal at approximately 9.30 p.m. at some broken-down Chinese restaurant while hoping to avoid a dose of Bali belly whereas before Richard had gone to bed his wife had made him a magnificent batch of scones. The Nationals representatives give up a lot to represent electorates in Parliament. It is one of the things that The Nationals members do—sacrifice for their electorates. We must spend time away from our families. I assure the House that the Christmas break is very important to members of The Nationals. I wish everyone all the very best and look forward to seeing who is here in the New Year.

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) [4.54 p.m.]: I take this opportunity to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a very happy 2015. As this will be the last speech I give in the Fifty-fifth Parliament, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all who sometimes mysteriously and so competently make this place function. In addition to my role as a member of this place I have served in the capacities of Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, the Deputy Government Whip and Acting-Speaker. In those capacities I have been fortunate to interact with different sections of the parliamentary staff, and I am so grateful for the support of each and every one of them.

I thank the Legislative Assembly table staff, who are so helpful; the Hansard staff whose command of the English language is without parallel; the security staff, who keep us safe; our facilities staff; the wonderful catering staff, who do such a professional job such as Maria, Garry and Illia; and the cleaning staff and the botanical gardens staff, who keep the rare green spaces around this building. I certainly thank the Information Technology [IT] staff, who continue to astound and amaze with their diligence and service. I offer my thanks also to the Parliamentary Library staff, particularly Mark Sheehan in media monitoring: you are simply a champion.

As an Acting-Speaker I thank the former Clerk, Russell Grove, our wonderful Clerk, Ronda Miller, and her team at the table, who so seamlessly keep this place running and provide wise advice to the Speaker and her assistants. I thank them very much. Indeed, I thank all occupants of the Chair, including Thomas George, Andrew Fraser, Lee Evans, Melanie Gibbons, Mark Coure, Noreen Hay and Chris Gulaptis as well as, previously, Sonia Horney and John Barilaro. I offer my sincere thanks to Joe Andrade for ensuring our roster worked for all of us. It is been a tough 12 months for you, Joe, but thanks for always having a smile.

Earlier in the week I thanked my fellow committee members from the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters but I again thank all the wonderful Legislative Assembly committee secretariat staff, particularly Jason Arditi, Pauline Painter and David Hale. Their professionalism and erudite approach is one of the little-known treasures of this place. I am proud of the success of our committee, with almost all the recommendations from our local government inquiry being adopted, which will truly reform the way in which local government functions at election time. I am pleased and proud to have taken up the fight in relation to

matters such as the need for voter identification [ID] and electronic mark off. While I know that the Electoral Commissioner, Colin Barry, and I may have different perspectives on those issues, I thank him and his staff at the commission in whom I have complete faith and confidence. They are the unsung heroes of our democratic system.

I would not be able to return to my office alive if I did not thank the simply amazing Rebecca Cartwright and someone who was referred to as Rebecca's assistant—although "enforcer" may be a better word—Nicole Hatton. They keep this place running. Bec, you may be one of the most strident, confident and occasionally capricious characters I know but the House simply would not run without you. Thank you very much. I offer my thanks to Adrian Pryke from the office of the Leader of the House for always being so focused and I sincerely thank Anthony Roberts for being such a competent and clever Leader of the House. I have learnt so much from you and look forward to continuing to do so.

I offer my thanks to my friends in the Opposition—long may you remain there! I express my gratitude to the Opposition Whip and Deputy Opposition Whip and the manager of Opposition business for always being forthright during our discussions, particularly Richard Amery. I wish him all the very best for his retirement. Richard, you are an amazing gentleman and a great man of this place. I extend my very best to Jan in your office as well, who is always such a delight. I know I should not, but I must take this opportunity to thank some ministerial staff. I say a general "Thank you" to all of them, but in particular I thank Al Cameron, Zach Bentley, Laura Scott, Cameron Hamilton, Bay Warburton, Nigel Blunden, Paul Terrett, Adam Zarth, Tony Chappell, Darren Bark, Lee Dixon, Vanessa Rolf, Julian Crowley, James Bolster, Mitch Hillier, Mitch Potts, Jackie Coat-Williams, Matt Versi, Simon Fontana and of course my good friend Matt Cross, who I am sure will find fulfilling employment outside this place at a later date. I also thank Jaymes Boland-Rudder for his friendship and support.

I had intended to thank the Press Gallery but, given the Premier's passing reference to my alleged proximity to level 6, I will simply say, "Thanks" to my mates in the Press Gallery. I would not want to declare my sources! I thank very much my wonderful electoral office staff—firstly, Ben Blackburn who continues to amaze me. I thank you for your faith in me and for your loyalty and friendship. While you could be doing so many other things with your endless list of talents, thank you for allowing me to utilise your remarkable abilities to the benefit of our electorate. To Paul Ell, in whom I have great faith and pride, I say that you have been a very bright and encouraging character. To Melissa Jobson, who is probably the most unflustered person I know, I thank you for working so hard to ensure we help all the people who need our assistance. To Bryan Fishpool, who continues to amaze me at how he always goes above and beyond to ensure we can do the best possible job for our electorate, I also say "Thank you".

I also thank Paula Turnbull, Tim Fielding, Rene Arnold, Sam Tedeschi, Jack Johnson, Jack Angwin, Clayton McInness, Tom Headland, Bede Cresnich, Merryn Joske, Will Ashford, Nathan McMillin, George Reid and former staffers Nikkie Macey and Vicki Henry for ensuring that we run a tight but effective ship. Words simply cannot express my thanks for your support. I also offer my sincere thanks to my conference president, Andrew Guile, for his friendship and support. I thank former Premier Barry O'Farrell for being a great mentor and a wonderful friend. I will forever admire your ability and I am so proud of your leadership of our State and I am so proud to have served in your Government.

I also thank my leader and friend, Mike Baird. Your dynamism astounds me and your leadership is truly inspirational. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your Deputy Whip. I have enjoyed the challenge and have done my best to ensure that our Government runs as smoothly as possible. I always will be your loyal and faithful supporter. It is in that vein that I pay tribute to senior Government Whips with whom I have worked—Daryl Maguire, Andrew Cornwell and Chris Patterson as well as The Nationals Whip, John Williams. "Patto", you are a great mate and a wonderful friend. I have enjoyed the privilege of working closely with you. To all my Liberal and National colleagues, thank you for your support of me in the party room.

In my inaugural speech in this place, there were a number of people I mentioned. I conclude my last speech in the Fifty-fifth Parliament the same way I started. To Shelley Hancock, my second mum: You are truly a wonderful person. I will never forget your herculean battle to become the member for South Coast. These are memories I count as some of my fondest in politics. You are an inspiration, a champion and a wonderful friend.

To Luke Sikora, my greatest and toughest critic but my closest mate: You are a brilliant operator, a remarkable campaigner and a mate I simply could not do without. Luke Sikora was this year elected

Country Vice-President of the New South Wales Young Liberals, a job he is undoubtedly qualified for—in fact some may say overqualified, seeing as he is the first Young Liberal Country Vice-President to come from the country. I was so proud when Luke decided to seek further study and could not have been prouder when he was accepted into an MBA at the University of New South Wales. I hope that there will be an opportunity in the future to help you in the same way that you have helped me.

To my parents Margaret Bowcher and my father Malcom Ward, my sister Belinda Gibb, my brothers Arthur and Scott and my goddaughter Alyssa Braybon: Thank you for your love, care and support. Mum, I know politics probably was something that never really interested you—but thank you for being interested in my role within it. I simply could not have done it without you. To all members: Please travel safe over Christmas. May God bless you and your families during this celebration of the birth of our lord and saviour. Finally, I thank the people in the Kiama electorate who elected me to this great place and gave me this most marvellous opportunity. I thank all members of the House for their support and their friendship, and may they have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Mrs BARBARA PERRY (Auburn) [5.01 p.m.]: The end of the year is a time for felicitations and reflection, and I take this opportunity to offer my thanks to many people who have supported me over the years. This may well be my valedictory speech and, if that happens to be the case, perhaps my friends at Hansard will label it so in the future. The word "vale" is Latin for farewell. The word "vale" also means valley. Sometimes in a valley the path ahead is obscured and one walks along it not knowing where it will lead. I have been in this place since 2001, and if a week is a long time in politics 13 years is quite something. It is very hard to do justice to these years in the short time that is available to me and I stand here this afternoon with a great mix of emotions.

I entered politics for the very simple reason that I love the place where I was born and I wanted to advocate on its behalf. I did not grow up wanting to be a politician—my great ambition was to go to university as no-one in my family had ever done such a thing. For my family and me, Auburn is a place that represents the possibility of a new start, having been given the opportunity to achieve things that could not even be dreamed about in my parent's village in Lebanon. I still come home from events in my community with such a feeling of being deeply at home, surrounded by people from all over the globe who have made me their family and whose stories mirror my own.

It has been such a privilege to represent an electorate that is so diverse and determined, and that is built on the foundations of acceptance and respect. We have done many things as a community. I can talk about the infrastructure that was delivered but what is so much more important is how we have worked together in the hard times. September 11 events occurred three days after I was elected to Parliament. We made it through that time because of the goodwill and acceptance by people in my community of our differences. The challenge for us in the future is not to be complacent about what we have built together.

Two particular highlights stand out for me—one at the beginning of my career and one recently. When the Uniting Church hall at Harrow Road, Auburn was burnt down shortly after 9/11, the Islamic community responded in solidarity. Speaking outside the church to the large crowd after the peace walk organised by Al Faisal college and the Uniting Church is a moment that I will never forget—the strength of our community was so evident to me. A couple of months ago, after a community suicide awareness forum, we had a packed candlelight walk through the main street of Auburn. Eleanor Roosevelt was right; it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

My community has been there for the mountaintop moments and for the valleys and that is what has motivated me every day. In a dynamic community such as mine one needs a high degree of trust. Leadership is crucial and a local member of Parliament must speak up for all without fear or favour. There is much we have done together. We have fought greedy and rampant overdevelopment and resisted radioactive waste being stored at Lidcombe. In a very diverse community activism is not always easy. I have tried to be a conduit to help people to stand up for themselves—that is what will keep democracy strong. I have been proud to be Auburn's first female member of Parliament. We desperately need female role models in local, State and Federal government; and we have some fantastic women doing great jobs here already. Auburn deserves to be served by officeholders who believe politics is a vocation. I am delivering my speech today at a time when my mother is very ill. Two weeks ago, after complications following open heart surgery, she was being wheeled into the theatre when Nazile Ozer, one of the nurses from our Turkish community, came up to me and said:

You've looked after us Barbara; now it's time for us to look after you. I'll look after your Mum.

Post-surgery on the same day my mother was beautifully looked after by Donald, another specialist recovery nurse, who also comes from Auburn. As a Minister I saw up close the work of the health system but to see it in action with someone you love and to watch the compassion and sincerity of doctors and nurses working with great skill is something else. Working with the local community to save Auburn hospital was another highlight of my time, and being able to advocate for a new hospital and a community centre was something we have done together that will last for the next 60 years.

A great source of inspiration is being part of our school communities. Watching kids who have come to Australia with no English taking out awards six years later always moves me to my core. We are blessed to have fantastic schools and wonderful teachers and principals in Auburn. I have been privileged to work in partnership with many community groups, too many to name—sporting groups and volunteers—that have given their all to make our home a better place to live.

Joining the Labor Party was a logical choice for me, and it has been an honour for me to represent the party in this place. In my inaugural speech I spoke about a poster of Gough I put up in my room as an 11-year-old. I feel no less enthusiastic now about true Labor values as I did then and Gough's recent memorial service has reminded us of everything the party stands for. As Noel Pearson so eloquently put it, many of our citizens have absolutely no chance "if left to the means of their families". The belief that the market will save all—that choice is enough—is totally naive in my opinion. We know that markets tend towards monopoly and that the most important things cannot and should not be counted in dollar value only.

There are many people that I want to thank. Thank you to my family. I know they are proud of me but I want to let them know how proud I am of them for giving me this opportunity. I am proud of them for what they have achieved and for what their love and support has meant to me. I thank Michael for walking beside me through it all. To my beautiful boys Matthew, James, Joshua, Daniel and Gerard: This has been hard for you. I have been absent a lot and you have never complained. I love you. My father, Ralph, who realised I was struggling with English in kindergarten, taught himself how to read and write English so he could help me, and here I am today. My mother, Susan, is the rock of our family who has mothered my children, the best mother anyone could have—understanding, loving, kind and so giving. Her illness has put a perspective on everything. She taught me always to stand up for what you believe is right no matter what the cost.

To my sisters Jacqueline, Karen and Jennifer, and my brother, Gerard: Thank you for everything. If Michael or I ever need them, they are there in an instant, and I am so lucky to have this incredibly close family. To my brother-in-law, Danny, for loving my boys as his own, and all my aunts and extended family, you have all been a part of this. While afar in Queensland, Michael's parents, Lionell and Yvonne Perry, and my brothers-in-law, Bruce, Gavin, Scott and Grant, have always been there to support and encourage us, and for that I will always be thankful. I thank Pat Curtin and his wife, Barbara, for being mentors all the way through. They have never failed in their friendship. To John Donnellan, and everyone in the Labor Party branches: How can I thank you enough? I particularly thank Ali and Sunya Ulitas, who have been so kind to me, especially over the past eight weeks with mum's illness. I also thank Mr Khoder Ajaj and his family, whose support has meant so much.

I thank my parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the House. I have been very privileged to serve with them over the years and I had the incredible privilege of serving as a Minister, working with a talented and close-knit team of people. Only four of my years in Parliament have been in opposition, and those years have made me a better representative. They have also been my most challenging and demanding years, with four shadow portfolios and far fewer resources. Being shadow Minister for community services and disability services has been an absolute highlight for me. It was so stimulating to be able to draw on my time as a Legal Aid NSW solicitor working in child protection and because of this experience I knew how high the stakes were. It was an absolute privilege to be part of the apology to mothers who had children forcibly removed from them. I pay tribute to people who gave me great insight into my portfolios, particularly Cain Beckett, Christine Regan, Corinne Fisher, Kate Mackaness, Christine Cole, Leeallison Downie (King) and June and Kevin Clarke, who taught me so much, in particular, not to give up if you believe in something.

I mention also the important role the media can play in holding governments to account. I pay tribute in particular to those who covered my shadow portfolios: Jo Tovey, Anna Patty and Kirsty Needham—three talented and insightful women who make our democracy stronger. I thank all my electorate staff over the past four years. They have risen to the challenge. I thank Lorraine Zaher for her deep compassion and extremely hard work to achieve the best outcomes for the people we serve, and Fifi Esber for her reliability, calmness and work ethic. They are working hard in the electorate office as I speak, serving our community and achieving incredible things for them. I thank all the electorate staff I have had over the past 13 years. I could not have done this job

without them. I thank my current staff, including Donna Davis for being so incredibly capable and a natural campaigner, and Bron Hanna for her passion, which has had such an impact on me, and for her intelligence and wit. I thank all my staff for their love of humanity.

Politics is a fulfilling and challenging vocation. I have chosen to focus on my community and the portfolios I have had. Some people have said I should have looked after myself because, after all, politics is about numbers. I did not ever want politics to be about numbers and I do not think you can be master to both. What is perhaps most important of all is to rely on what Paul Keating so beautifully called "the long straight line of logic." It is the people in this place who struggle with the long straight line of logic, who do in the end what they believe to be right rather than what they are told to do who have earned my respect. It is why the words of Theodore Roosevelt's speech at the Sorbonne are so loved by many good politicians. I quote what he had to say:

It is not the critic who counts; not the person who points out how the strong one stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena ... if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly ...

Doing the right thing is important, no matter how it turns out. When people say to me, "Why don't you give up", I realise they do not understand how much I love my community. If it is my time to go, I will go with such gratitude for the opportunity that was given to me. I will go with such love for my community. I will go with memories of that community, memories of sitting at the conference table at Regents Park with my staff, who have become my friends, sharing a meal together and dealing with the issues of the day. Many people do not get to choose the way they go. "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice", said Martin Luther King, and that is why, whatever happens, my friends and my colleagues, I walk this road before me with gratitude and I walk it with hope.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Ms Melanie Gibbons): To the member for Auburn, if that should be a valedictory speech, you have the respect of the House. Your care and your love for your community have always shone through. I know all members will join me in wishing your mother all the best in her recovery and all the best to you and your family in the future.

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly—Minister for Mental Health, and Assistant Minister for Health) [5.16 p.m.]: As the former chief Government Whip I have been afforded an opportunity to give thanks and to offer my best wishes to everyone for the festive season. However, before I do that I would like to echo the comments of the Acting-Speaker in wishing the member for Auburn all the best in the future, and I truly hope that she is preselected. It has been an honour to be serving alongside her, even though she might be the shadow Minister in my portfolio area. She has been dedicated to people who have experienced mental illness and I certainly wish her all the best.

Felicitation speeches are a time to stop, to reflect on the past and to wish colleagues a safe and happy Christmas. I will mention a number of people, and I will do so reasonably quickly due to time constraints. It has been an honour working alongside the Premier in Cabinet and I wish him, his wife and his three children a wonderful Christmas and pray that he finds some rest time in his busy schedule. I thank him for appointing me to the Ministry. I also take this opportunity to thank Gladys Berejiklian and the Deputy Leader who was here earlier for guiding me during that transition period. I also thank my Cabinet colleagues. It has been a pleasure working with them. I truly believe we are making a difference. I also congratulate the new Deputy Premier on his great work and I thank former Premier Barry O'Farrell who has been a great supporter of mine, who has imparted a lot of wisdom over the years and who might remember me from my Young Liberal days. We have certainly come a long way together.

As the former Government Whip I thank Daryl Maguire who showed me the ropes, and John Williams, Deputy Government Whip at the time, for his help. To the Opposition Whip, Richard Amery, I owe him one and he knows why. He will call it in one day and I will be there to deliver. To fellow members in this place I say, "Merry Christmas." It has been an honour to serve with each and every one of you and I hope that everyone on this side of the House is returned to this place. You have certainly made it an enjoyable experience.

There are a number of people I should thank. To Phil and the catering team in the dining room and Café Quorum, thanks for keeping us fed and watered. To the dedicated staff of the Parliament, the table office, the information technology [IT] staff, the committee staff—thank you Joe—and the Clerks, library staff, catering staff and cleaners, thank you. To my good friends the Whips, Chris Patterson and Gareth Ward, and my good friend the Leader of the House, Anthony Roberts, his staff, Adrian Pryke and the rest of the staff in the House whose work often goes unnoticed, thank you for all that you do. You are the cogs that keep this place moving. To Rebecca and Nicole, thank you for everything you do. I am not sure how you manage it, but you do it.

To the Special Constables, thank you for keeping us safe. To the chiefs of staff, the PLOs in this building, thank you; you are certainly the conduits that enable this side of the House to function. Your work does not go unnoticed and I see a bright future for you all. I also take this opportunity to thank Matt Cross. To Minister Ajaka in the other place and his staff, the lovely Nicole Nasser and wonderful Alasdair Cameron, thank you for representing me in the Legislative Council. I thank the Speaker of the House and her staff, Luke Sikora and the entire team. I also thank Acting-Speaker Melanie Gibbons for giving me the call but also for her great support during my four years in this place. To my dedicated ministerial staff, Kathy, Mike, Kristina, Aidan, Kathryn, Scott, and our MLOs, Rona and Tegan, and our driver, Alan, I thank you for your help. I thank Simonne, a former staff member, for putting up with me during the six months of transition, and our mascot, Big Mac the Dog, who has been an inspiration to our office.

The staff I have mentioned have done a fantastic job in transforming mental health across the State. I take this opportunity to thank all the people who have experienced mental illness and those who care for someone who has experienced mental illness, whether they are family, carers or front-line staff. You have opened my eyes to the need for reforms and I am grateful that you have shared your journeys with me. This week we made reforms to the Mental Health Act and I look forward to making announcements in the near future regarding the strategic plan for mental health. I hope the work that I do honours your faith and trust in me.

To my electorate office staff, Brooke, Tracey, Maddie, Pat and all the guys and volunteers, I know you work day in and day out to make our community a better place. We have delivered for Wollondilly and I thank everyone who has helped to achieve that. I thank my great mate in the other place, Matthew Mason-Cox, who has been a tremendous support to me. He is a lifelong mate. He is doing a great job in his new role as Minister for Fair Trading. I know everyone in this House will join me in thanking our constituents: the people who keep us here. The people of Wollondilly are the most amazing people I have ever met. I thank them for giving me the honour of representing them in this place. You owe me nothing and I owe you everything. Thank you for placing your trust in me.

I take this opportunity to thank the retiring members on both sides of the House. You have served our communities well. It has been great serving alongside you. I thank my mum, my dad and my sister for their support. Finally, I thank my wife, Belinda, who is in the public gallery this evening, and our two young boys, Will and Menzies. You are the best gift I will ever have; I love you. I wish everybody on this side of the House a merry Christmas—even the member for Coffs Harbour. Merry Christmas everyone and have a great and happy New Year.

Mr CHRIS SPENCE (The Entrance) [5.21 p.m.]: I pass on my Christmas felicitations to many people but, as this will be the last time I speak in this place, I will also take this opportunity to reflect briefly on my time here. There are many things I have been privileged to do in and around my electorate since 2011 but there are two things I will remember most. In 2013 I was invited to participate in the walk to Tamworth with members of the NSW Police Force to raise funds for Police Legacy and the Rixon family in commemoration of the first anniversary of the tragic death of Senior Constable David Rixon from Tamworth. Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to those who serve in our police force.

The walk was a timely reminder of the dangers that police officers face every day. I got to know many of the officers from Tuggerah Lakes and my local area commander during the walk to Tamworth and over my time as member. I thank each of them for their dedicated service and sacrifice in making our community a safer place. I know two officers who are in the process of retiring or who are considering it. I sincerely wish them well in their future endeavours and thank them for their support and friendship to me and my family.

Last year I was proud to see Zoe's law pass this place with a conscience vote of 63-26. My sympathy goes out to Brodie Donegan and Nick Ball who became the inspiration behind Zoe's law when they tragically lost their daughter. I cannot help but feel that I have let them down by not succeeding in getting this anomaly in the law fixed before I leave this place. I commit to forever stand by Brodie's side in calling for this law to be addressed. Since the bill was voted on last year there has already been one more incident. Jacqueline Sparks and her partner, Chi Nguyen, tragically lost their unborn child, Mia, in September last year. They were devastated that Mia, like Zoe, was simply listed as an injury to her mother, which could have been avoided if this bill had passed. This was the issue that Zoe's law proposed to address—not abortion, not taking away women's rights, not winding back the clock and certainly not "unintended consequences". Those opposed to Zoe's law did not at any time offer an alternative. They did not sit down and discuss a way forward. They simply opposed the bill.

I have stated in the past, and I will state again, that those protecting a woman's right "to choose" have set up a 100-kilometre exclusion zone around women's rights and will fight anything that encroaches on that

exclusion zone, despite it having nothing to do with the nucleus of women's rights that they are trying to defend. This bill was not about attacking a woman's right to choose to end a pregnancy; it was about protecting a woman's right to choose to have a pregnancy. The current law is offensive to suggest that the loss of an unborn child in late-term pregnancy as a result of a criminal act—not by a woman's choosing—is simply an injury to the mother. I will never forget Brodie Donegan's words when she said, "My injuries healed; Zoe did not."

There are many groups in my electorate for which I have been a patron, but one stands out in my mind. I will forever hold fond memories of my involvement with the Tuggerah Lakes branch of the "nashos". I was proud to be their patron. I have invited them to Parliament and attended many functions with them on the coast, including their annual Christmas party. I will miss their company, their enthusiasm, their stories, their humour and their ability to enjoy life despite their years.

I have known many office staff in this building for a long time, and I thank them all for their professionalism and dedication to public service and for making this place what it is. To all of them and their families, I wish you a very merry Christmas and happy new year. I am sure they are looking forward to spending the break with family and friends. To the clerks, the Hansard staff, members' services staff, committee staff, library staff, catering staff, the cleaners and security staff—I hope I have not forgotten anyone—I thank you for your efforts, the advice, the food, deciphering what we say in this House, the long hours, the cleanliness of the building and the security you have provided over the years. I wish you all a merry Christmas. Thank you and goodbye. To the members in this place who have supported me over the years, I truly thank you for your friendship. I wish all members who are contesting the next election the best of luck, and hopefully they will return to Parliament in 2015.

It is not just members of Parliament who suffer from the highs and lows of a career in politics. Often the same blows that affect us also affect our staff. I thank all my staff for their hard work, long hours, loyalty, trust and support. We have made a good team and they have dedicated their time over the past few years to serving the people of The Entrance electorate. I will be saddened not to work with them every day after March 2015 and I wish them the very best for their future. To my wife, my daughter, my family and my friends, you have always been there and given me strength, particularly through recent times. I do not know what the future holds, but I will not let current circumstances define me. Since my daughter arrived 18 months ago my priorities in life have changed to looking after her future and my family. This will always remain my motivation.

I thank all the people from all the sporting groups and community organisations across my electorate that I have made contact with. I have not always been able to succeed in securing funding or the desired outcome for each of them but I was always been a strong advocate for them, such as the volunteers who look after the vulnerable in our society. Surf Life Saving, through its volunteers, keeps our beaches safe from one summer to the next, and I thank the past and present chief executive officers of Central Coast Surf Life Saving for their service. To my colleagues who are retiring from this place, I am saddened at the circumstances in which some of you are leaving and I thank you for your friendship and support. Lastly, I am proud of what I have achieved in a short space of time in this place. I am disappointed that the opportunity to contest the next election was so quickly removed. I have been honoured to be the member for The Entrance and I thank the people of my electorate for the opportunity to represent them.

Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour—The Assistant-Speaker) [5.27 p.m.]: I pass on my Christmas felicitations to everyone in this place, specifically members on both sides of the House. I thank them for their good wishes and support throughout the year. To those who are retiring, especially George Souris and Don Page from the class of '88—of which I am an adopted member—and Jenny Gardiner in the other place, I wish you a long and happy retirement. Don and George have served their communities and the Parliament for well over 27 years. You deserve a peaceful, happy and long retirement. Richard Amery is my old sparring mate and the champion of this place—he knows what I mean. Best wishes, Richard. You have been a good friend during my 24 years in this place. I wish you a long and happy retirement.

To all the staff of the Parliament, especially the staff in the Speaker's office, Gladys, Luke and especially Joe, who has had a pretty hard couple of years since his home was lost, all the best for Christmas. I hope that the new year brings Joe and his family a lovely new home. I have been there, done that. We lost our house to fire, and the support I received from the staff and my fellow members on both sides of the House during that fairly stressful time was absolutely tremendous.

To Hansard—those unsung heroes who make sense of the speeches I make when I get up without a note, and who get the spellings right most of the time—thank you very much. Most people do not realise that

Hansard are still here long after we have gone home. The records of this House must be completed and then they are back here early the next day to start again. They work hard, they do a great job and I cannot thank them enough.

To the Whips I have served under over the past 12 months, both National party and Liberal Party Whips—there have been a number of Liberal Party Whips—it is a damn hard job. I was Whip for six years so I know exactly what you go through. It is not easy, as the member for Wagga Wagga and anyone else who has been in that role will attest. To their staff, Nicole and Rebecca—we all know that Rebecca is the real whip in this place—thank you for your tolerance and the great work you do. As Assistant-Speaker, I see them racing around trying to find members to speak and trying to delay business in the House to make sure the right people are in the right place at the right time. It is incredible.

I cannot remember whether I thanked the clerks. To the Clerk of the Parliament, Helen and the whole team, thank you for your guidance. You give it professionally. I know when I was in the chair often Mark Swinson would say, "You realise that ruling you just made is not in accordance with the standing orders?" And I would said, "I do, Mark"—

Mr Richard Amery: It has never stopped you before.

Mr ANDREW FRASER: No, it has not. I would tell him that we would just have to make it a precedent to be referred to in the future. I thank my electorate staff. Diana Lay has had a hell of a couple of years. Her husband passed away just a little over 12 months ago and she has battled on stoically. She rarely takes a lunch hour. I think all the electoral office staff are great and members should be grateful for them. To Campbell, who has had a bit of a rough time this year, to Cheryl and to Katie, thanks for your great work. They are the members when we are not in our electorates, and regional members know better than anyone how difficult it can be—especially when you have three or four weeks in Parliament on the trot. To the team of Temporary Speakers, it is great to see that most of you have now found a watch and know what time to get to the Chamber. You have done a great job. It does get somewhat frustrating at times when you have been in the chair for an hour or an hour and a half and then someone says, "Gee, I forgot I was on at that time."

I thank all the staff but time does not permit me to name them—the dining room staff, the attendants and everyone else who has done such a great job. To my wife and my family—Kerrie represented me at a function yet again today—thank you for the great job you do. Our spouses are there seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 52 weeks a year in support of us. I remind everyone that Christmas is a holy time. Let us remember the real meaning of Christmas: to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Christ. Take that goodwill with you over Christmas and into the new year. To all those members who are leaving—either voluntarily or who may leave on 28 March next year but do not know it yet—I offer my best wishes. I do wish you a happy and a holy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Parliamentary Secretary) [5.32 p.m.]: Any member of Parliament who stands here to give Christmas felicitations in the fourth year of a term not having thought that it could be a valedictory speech is very arrogant.

Mr Jamie Parker: With your margin?

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I note the interjection from the member for Balmain. I certainly do not take my electorate for granted, and for that reason I would be happy to make my final remarks in the Fifty-fifth Parliament. Of course, I must thank Rachel Taylor, my personal assistant, who I have had for more than 10 years. She was my personal assistant during the private sector and industry association years, and of course during the four years I have been a member of Parliament. I also thank Keith Topolski, who is known to many members of this House; Michelle Byrne and Jacqui Walker, who have been in my office on and off; and of course Sam Stone, who has been in the parliamentary office helping me on sitting days.

As the Premier's Parliamentary Secretary, I have had to work with his staff. Nobody has been more admirable and helpful than Gayle Mitchell in the Premier's Office, who has assisted me in my duties. One of my roles with the Premier is, of course, looking after the Centenary of Anzac. I thank General Ken Gillespie, chair of the NSW Centenary of Anzac Advisory Council, for his support over the year and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which has also helped and provided guidance. I will not remember the Fifty-fifth Parliament—my first term in Parliament—as fondly as others have. It will be marred for me as the time that I nursed my wife through breast cancer. But I am happy to report that she is well and truly on her way to recovery.

I must note the friendship and support of my colleagues, particularly the Premier, the member for Lane Cove, the member for Castle Hill, the member for Hawkesbury, the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones from the other place, and all those who assisted us through this terrible time. I know that they celebrate with me Nicole's return to good health. Can I thank the Leader of the Opposition? I have worked for two Opposition leaders and I must say that John Robertson has been very supportive of the Centenary of Anzac commemorations. I do not think a month has gone by when John and I have not stood next to each other at a commemoration remembering the military. I think he has a genuine interest in the upcoming commemorations, and I hope that he takes an interest in them, in one way or another, over the course of the next four years.

Politics is combative, and that is why I want to make some quick remarks about another Christmas truce. That was of course the Christmas truce of 1914. We are approaching the 100th anniversary of the World War I Christmas truce. It was an unofficial cessation of hostilities on the Western Front on Christmas Day 1914—100 years ago next month. Soldiers from both sides, in some places formally and in others informally, agreed to cease firing to celebrate Christmas. They celebrated the birth of Christ and everything that that commemorates. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle described the Christmas truce as "one human episode amid all the atrocities which have stained the memory of war". The truce was a soldier's truce: It came out of respect for the season, of a shared humanity. It was not sanctioned by their commanding officers, but shows that Christian men are decent and have an interest in preserving peace. Dr Frederick George Chandler, a medical officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps attached to the 2nd Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, described the truce to his sister. He said:

This morning it was still freezing hard but a heavy mist was over everything ... In the afternoon all firing ceased about our lines and an extraordinary thing occurred. Our men and the Germans got out of the trenches and met each other and chatted in great groups. The Germans in fact brought a barrel of beer over to the regiment on our left! One could walk about anywhere with safety—it was a most delicious feeling I can tell you. There was still some sniping going on on our right, but later on this stopped and about 6pm there was absolute quiet. It was perfectly delicious. I have not heard a quiet five minutes for nearly two months. Now, about 9pm, the singing has begun again and there is still no firing. You can't imagine how sick one gets of the crack-crack of rifles and the beastly singing noise of the bullets. I swear they are worse than shells.

The truce, as we know, did not last; unfortunately, fighting continued until the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month 1918. Sergeant Blundell of the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment described it thus:

They asked us not to fire that day and said they would not; and no firing was done until next day and then we were fighting for all we were worth.

The war got much darker and more gruesome over the following 12 months, and the truce did not occur again. But it reminds us of the genuine goodness of humanity, the pure heart of the Christian man—the soldier—who defends our virtues. I thank our soldiers abroad for their service this Christmas. I know that the thoughts of every member of this Chamber are with them. I wish everybody a safe Christmas and a prosperous new year, and hopefully those who are overseas will return home soon.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) [5.38 p.m.]: I speak this evening on Christmas felicitations—and I assure members that this will not be a valedictory speech. I thank the people of my electorate who had the confidence in me and The Greens to elect one of the first members of a minor party to this Parliament for many decades. It has been a privilege and a delight to serve the people of my community and to speak out on behalf of the values that The Greens and I represent. I thank the staff of the Parliament—all those from the table office, the Office of the Clerk, the Parliamentary Counsel's office, the committee staff, the Legislative Assembly attendants, Hansard, the cleaning staff, security, Information Technology Services, the library, the switchboard, catering staff and the gardeners.

I thank my colleagues in the upper House, John, David, Jan, Jeremy and Mehreen and their staff, who have generously given of their time and expertise. Being the only member of The Greens in this place with 93 members is difficult. But of course there are also advantages. As I alluded to earlier, I am the Whip, the leader and the shadow Minister for everything. This position brings its own stresses and difficulties. I thank all members, who almost without exception have shown me courtesy and kindness during my time in this place. I thank all the staff who have worked in my office for their dedication, enthusiasm, intelligence, patience, compassion and commitment to public service. I thank Fiona Byrne, Adam Taylor, Louise Stewart, Lesa de Leau, Alison Martin, Dianne Hiles, Chris Harris, Kathy Harris, Chris Holley and Jenny Medway.

I am fortunate to come from a very supportive family and I thank them all—my father, Richard Parker; my mother, Pamela Parker; my sisters, Rebecca and Jacqueline; and my brother, Jonathan. I thank the former Leader of the House, who is now the Attorney General. At the start of this Parliament he was very respectful to

me and engaged with me. I thank him for his support. I also thank Madam Speaker, who has given me good advice and who has always been of good humour—even though sometimes one might not think that in the Chamber. I thank all Ministers and ministerial staff, and the Independent members in this House whom I have sat next to now for four years. I would like to thank the many strong women in my life, Sarah Thompson, Emily Christian, Danna Cordell and Shelley Booth, for their support, commitment and engagement throughout the years I have been in this place.

I have been very fortunate to have a number of altruistic individuals volunteer their time to work in my office helping to serve my local community. I thank Blaise McCain, Susie Gemmell, Kerrie-anne Jones, Wei Ting Syu and Monika Baumann. I thank Alyssa Medway, Rupert Daniel, Armen Arghazarian, Rebecca Jenkins, Bree Hutchison, MoNeek, Deborah Fitzgerald, Elisia Yeo, Ben Raue, Osman Faruqi, D'arne O'Neill, Chris Dubrow, Patrick Kelso and Sandra Langtree. I thank Derek Bolton, Greg Edwards, Amalina Wallace, Susan Synnott, Anne Parkes, Rob Schell, Rebecca Smith, Molly Mauk, Lindsay Hardingham, Imm Pheungsaengkeo, Michael Hanna, Nic Barker, Mary Boland, Pauline Jensen, Craig Channels, Rochelle Porteous, Andy Graham, Sarah Graham, Sally Hibbert, Richard Portman, Francesca Wallace, Shirley Fitzgerald, Brendan Manning, Caroline Alcorso, Justin Muller, Luciano Carment, Donata Fiori, Paul Taylor, Cynthia Nadai, Daniel Kogoy, Hall Greenland, Kay Cambourne, Sarah Mitchell, Bill Holiday, Silvio Tarca, Jane Scott, Maxx Orr, Lesley Mcfadzean, Alice Kershaw, Denis Doherty, Cassi Plate, Alan Dobell, Jenny Templin, Roslyn Burge, Jack Dempsey, Ian Edwards, Paul Mulhall, Michael Davis, Steffi Leedham, Charlotte Brown, Megan Fletcher, Fiona Grant and Shi Hai.

I thank all those volunteers who have helped me in my office and worked with me. I am eternally grateful. I also thank all members of The Greens and the local branches in my area—the Port Jackson Greens, the Sydney Greens and the Ashfield Greens. I think it is important we all recognise the commitment that people make to this place. In particular, I thank members of The Nationals for their commitment. Many of those members live very far from this place. As someone who lives quite close to my office, I know how difficult it can be for those who must travel long distances. I think they all deserve our special thanks for their service in this place. I thank The Nationals members and other rural and regional members of this place, including members of the Liberal Party.

I make special mention of Rebecca Cartwright and Nicole Hatton in the Whips office. They have always been so generous and kind with their time, and also allowed me to steal the occasional piece of fruit and nut chocolate—or perhaps on more than on one occasion. I acknowledge the members who are leaving and thank them for their public service, their commitment to the people of this State and the energy they have brought to this Parliament. I am delighted to be here. I feel that I have made a great contribution to this place and I trust other members think similarly. In conclusion, I look forward to coming back next year and to continuing my contribution in Parliament. Hopefully, I will be joined in this place by other members of The Greens.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Menai) [5.43 p.m.]: I would like briefly to wish everybody involved in the running of this Parliament a very merry Christmas. It is an important time of year, when we can stop and reflect on the year that was and look forward to the year ahead. I put on record my thanks to Madam Speaker for giving me the opportunity to serve as an Acting-Speaker, along with my long-term good friend the member for Oatley, and another one of my very good friends, the member for Heathcote. It has been an honour to serve with them and with the member for Clarence. The member for Wollongong has been a nice addition to the Speakers panel. I thank also the Assistant-Speaker and the Deputy-Speaker, who looks after me and is an incredible gentleman. He has very much looked after me in this place. I also thank the Speaker's staff, particularly Luke Sikora. I am pleased that he is in the Chamber tonight. He is a wonderful friend and cares so much about the running of this place as well as everyone involved in it. He looks after us and he is a good friend. I thank him for coming along.

Mr Thomas George: You have got a lot of friends.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS: I do; it is nice. I thank the Clerks, particularly Ronda Miller, for also looking after us. What Ronda does not know about this place is not worth knowing. Her guidance is very helpful and she offers us incredible support. I thank the Legislative Assembly attendants for their support also. It is lovely to see April in this place again. I first knew April when I worked here back in 2000. It is lovely to have caught up with her again and to see her every day.

Mr Daryl Maguire: She has not changed one bit.

Ms MELANIE GIBBONS: She has not changed one bit; not at all. It is lovely to work with her again now I am in my current role. Our attendants, both out the front and in the Chamber, always look after us so well. I particularly love the way Peter looks after students when they come in to visit and take a tour. I like joining those tours and learning a bit more about this place. I thank Hansard, as I did earlier today, for all they do. Whenever there is a tiny correction to be made—and they are only ever tiny—Hansard staff make it with a smile. Most of all, the Hansard team make us sound better than we are. We have all said that tonight because we mean it. I thank the Hansard team for everything they do.

Finally, I put on record my thanks to my staff. They are wonderful. I am very much looking forward to having Natalie Peterson back on deck after her maternity leave. I have loved having Lauren Benikos and Faith Perryman helping me out, as well as the fabulous Jeff Page. I think he is known by everybody in this place. His knowledge of procedure is brilliant and he has been a great support. I particularly thank the member for Wagga

Wagga for pointing me in the right direction when he said that Jeff is a good man to have on staff. Jeff has looked after the constituents of Menai brilliantly. So I thank the member for Wagga Wagga for his recommendation. I thank all our families for the support they give us. I wish everybody a very merry Christmas. Hopefully seeing our families again over the Christmas season will bring joy to all. I thank in particular all our constituents for giving us this job. It is an honour and a privilege to serve as a member of Parliament.

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse—Minister for Family and Community Services) [5.47 p.m.]: On behalf of my electorate of Vaucluse, I extend seasonal felicitations to the House and to the people of New South Wales. It has been a busy and rewarding year for the New South Wales Government. As local members we have all done much work in our communities. I am privileged to have been appointed Minister for Family and Community Services in April 2014 and before that to have served as the Minister for Sport and Recreation. Most importantly, I am privileged to serve as the member for Vaucluse. In Vaucluse we have achieved a lot this year together. After working with my community for the past three years, Rose Bay Promenade is now finally listed on the State Heritage Register and protected from major developments that would interfere with its value and amenity for not only the local community but also those who visit Rose Bay. I thank the Rose Bay Residents Association, Woollahra Municipal Council and all the local residents who worked with me over quite a time to make this possible.

Public transport is an issue that my constituents care strongly about. They live reasonably close to the city but they want to get to where they want to go without thinking much about it. I was pleased to announce earlier this year that 15 additional weekly peak services were added to the 324 bus service to improve connectivity between bus and ferry services. The opening up of access to Sydney wharves to private ferry operators is another positive development for my electorate. I am hoping this will lead to more improvements in ferry availability in the future to connect my constituents from areas such as Watsons Bay to the city and beyond. This is based on additional peak and non-peak services that we had the benefit of the year before last, which the Minister for Transport delivered to my electorate. Those services are very important. Travelling by ferry is the quickest and most efficient and enjoyable way to travel out of the electorate.

I worked with Bondi Junction Rotary Club and Waverley Council to help fund a refurbishment of the Bondi Park gym. The outdoor gym reopened last month following a \$220,000 upgrade partially funded through the New South Wales Government's Community Building Partnership program. Another important project that is almost complete is the resurfacing and upgrade of the s-bends on New South Head Road from Vaucluse to Rose Bay. Many people know the s-bends because they form the difficult twists and turns that people navigate when they run or walk the City2Surf.

I lobbied for the funding for a number of years and I was grateful that the Minister for Roads and Freight listened to me and my community. We now have the reward on New South Head Road. I recently held a competition among schools in Vaucluse to design my Christmas card for 2014. I am pleased to announce that the winner is Millie Smith, a year 5 student from Kincoppal-Rose Bay, whose artwork featured a Santa Claus long-boarding through Sydney Harbour. It is a wonderful picture. The runners up, both from Double Bay Public School, are Matilda Heron and Giselle Taber. I look forward to congratulating them in person over the next two weeks.

I pay tribute to some of the organisations and local stakeholders I have worked with and consulted this year. One always runs the risk of leaving someone out, but I will attempt to do them justice. I thank the Darling Point Society, Vaucluse Progress Association, Bondi Beach Precinct Committee, Bondi Precinct Committee and Watsons Bay Association with whom I have worked to achieve results for their local areas. I thank schools

including Bondi Public School, Bondi Beach Public School, Rose Bay Public School, Bellevue Hill Public School, Galilee Primary School, our special school Wairoa Public School, Woollahra Public School, Ascham School, Macauley Primary School, Kincoppal-Rose Bay School, Rose Bay Secondary College, Vaucluse Public School, Cranbrook School, Kambala School and Scots College, all of whom I have interacted with this year.

I thank community organisations including Bondi Junction Rotary Club, Rose Bay Rotary Club, North Bondi RSL, North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, Bondi Amateur Swimming Club, Rose Bay Chamber of Commerce, Bondi and Districts Chamber of Commerce, Double Bay Chamber of Commerce, Bondi Icebergs, Caretakers Cottage, Gaden Community Centre and WAYS Youth Services with whom I have worked very closely. I also thank Waverley and Woollahra councils and Federal member Malcolm Turnbull with whom I work very closely to deliver for our community.

I thank all members of the House, staff of the Parliament and my staff in my electorate and ministerial offices for their help this year. It is an especially busy yet enjoyable time of year. I hope that members and staff can take time off to be with their families as we head into 2015, which we know will be another productive, interesting and challenging year.

Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) [5.52 p.m.]: I give my best wishes to all members of the House. I was a member of this House for 2½ years when Labor was in government. I can say that it is totally different from sitting in opposition, especially when our numbers were demolished from 65 to 20 and we had to rebuild from that. At the start of a new term, especially one like this when 40 or 50 new members joined us, we do not know each other. We look at them and they look back at us sternly. We are Labor, they are Liberal and we are both thinking that the other looks like a rotten so-and-so. But by the end of the second or third term we have become mates with 90 per cent of the members on the other side of the Chamber.

We speak nicely to each other, and stop to chat and ask about each other's families. We attack each other in the Chamber. That is what the job is all about. We can attack one another in the Chamber up to a point—there is no need to be rude or disgusting in what we say—but when we walk outside this Chamber we are supposed to be united and we are supposed to be mates. We are fighting for the same things; we all want the best we can get for this State and country. I thank my colleagues on the other side of the House who have shown friendship to me over the past four years.

I also thank Ronda Miller and her staff for their great work. Without the clerks we would get ourselves into so much trouble that we would be before some of those special inquiries. We do not want to be there and with their advice we know we will be all right. I thank the beautiful girls and gentlemen that sit up in the Hansard gallery and look after us. They make us sound a lot more intelligent than we are. When I read some of the speeches that I have given, especially when I have ad-libbed, I always think I must not have said that so well. They correct our mistakes and make us sound very intelligent.

On my side of the House I congratulate John Robertson on the great work he has done over these four years. It is not an easy job to lead 20 members in a fight against 69 members on the other side. John hangs in there and attacks. He goes to bed at midnight, is up by 4 o'clock in the morning and on the radio at 5.00 a.m. I have to hand it to John, he really works hard. I thank all members who are leaving, particularly those in my party. Richard Amery, the father of the House, has been here for some 31 years and is a great bloke. Some of us will never have half the understanding of the working of this House that Richard Amery has in his head. We will never know much of the things he knows and we will not be able to replace him with ease. We have lost a great man. I thank Richard for the great work he has done and the great friendship he has shown to me over the years.

I also acknowledge Nathan Rees, Carmel Tebbutt, Robert Furolo, Barry Collier, Dr Andrew McDonald, Helen Westwood and Barbara Perry. I thank them all for the great work they have done for this Parliament over the years. I thank my parliamentary staff including Kenrick Cheah, who was with me up until 12 months ago when the Labor Party head office took him to work there. I also thank very much Anh Dang, Anne McNamara and Donson Phetrasy for the great work they do. I thank the great people in the multicultural community of my electorate that does not whinge. I sometimes get complaints about car parking and housing, but the people in my electorate are great.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the great staff of St Vincent's Hospital. As members know, I had open heart surgery recently. My left mitral valve had been crook for 30 years. I thought I would outlive it and so did the doctors, but six weeks ago it gave out on me. They repaired my valve and did two bypasses while they were at it. I thank my surgeon Dr Emily Granger and her vital team. I also thank heart specialist

Dr Paul Roy and his son David Roy for the great work they do. I could not have asked for better care than I received from St Vincent's Hospital and I thank all of the doctors and staff very much. I wish all parliamentarians on both sides of the Chamber a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May the good Lord smile down on every one of them and keep them safe. I look forward to seeing everyone back here next March.

Mr Daryl Maguire: Every one of us?

Mr NICK LALICH: We will wait and see, because we are going to fight you just as hard as you will fight us. But tonight we are on a peaceful mission. I wish members good luck, merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr THOMAS GEORGE (Lismore—The Deputy-Speaker) [5.58 p.m.]: In seasonal felicitations this year I thank the Speaker of the House, the Hon. Shelley Hancock, the Assistant-Speaker Andrew Fraser and the Temporary Speakers. We have been a great team, even if I do say so myself. It has been an honour to work with them. I thank Premier Mike Baird and Deputy Premier Troy Grant. I also recognise former Premier Barry O'Farrell and former Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner. In recognising the Premier and Deputy Premier I also recognise everyone in their offices. They do a fantastic job providing services to not only the community at large but also each and every member of this House. We all appreciate the service we receive from them.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition and member for Blacktown, John Robertson, as well as all other Opposition members for the respect they always show to me, which I appreciate. I recognise the Leader of the House. In doing so, I must also recognise Adrian for his running of this place: He certainly keeps us on time and I pay tribute to him. I acknowledge the Opposition Leader of the House and member for Maroubra, Michael Daley, who does a tremendous job of working with the Government. I know there have been times, but not really a lot of times, when we have not achieved agreement.

Mr Richard Amery: Quite regularly.

Mr THOMAS GEORGE: As the Opposition Whip says, quite regularly. I pay tribute to the Opposition Whip and the father of the House, Richard Amery, and to Jan, who works in his office. The member for Mount Druitt is an institution. It has always been a pleasure working with him, both when he was the Minister and I was in the Opposition and now with him as the Opposition Whip. Richard, it has always been an honour to work with you. I also recognise the Government Whip, the Deputy Whip and The Nationals Whip. I recognise Rebecca, Nicole and Meagan and thank them for their contributions and for providing support to all parties to enable us to work as a team. I also thank the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Ronda Miller, Les and the other clerks. I also thank John Hatfield and add that, as Deputy-Speaker, I appreciate the work he does and all the support he gives to me as Deputy-Speaker and to the whole panel of Speakers. He is always ready with advice, which we sincerely appreciate.

I thank all the attendants and support staff throughout Parliament House. Although we see them every day, compliments from visitors to Parliament House are paid to them and conveyed to me as a member. All the attendants, both inside and outside the Chamber, and security personnel at the front gate receive compliments about the friendly and articulate way they greet people. I simply say "Thank you" to them. I thank Hansard. What can one say about Hansard? From a Deputy-Speaker's point of view, I do not know how the Hansard staff ever hear anything from the Hansard gallery because I cannot hear what is being said from the chair. The Hansard staff decipher what members say and put our speeches into words so well that none of us can believe we spoke them. There are too many Hansard staff members to name but, as a member of this House who has been a member longer than most, I certainly appreciate their work and I do thank them.

I turn now to groups that are close to my heart, the caterers and the cleaners. Everyone has said that the cleaning staff are always at Parliament House before most members arrive, although some of us arrive at about the same time. I receive many compliments about the catering staff and facilities from people who have experienced the catering at Parliament House. The entire parliamentary complex is always clean, which in itself is recognition of the efforts of the cleaning staff and for which I thank them. I could not let this opportunity pass without mentioning my electorate staff and without thanking Bronwyn Mitchell, Annie Armstrong and Natalie Langley. I also thank Meagan Skinner, who works in The Nationals office. Our electorate staff represent us when we are away. Most members know that those of us who represent country electorates are at Parliament House most of each sitting week. On behalf of every member, I simply say "Thank you" to our electorate staff.

Last, but by no means least, I thank members of the press gallery. Alicia Woods and other members of the press gallery provide a great service as an information outlet to the rest of the State and the country. I thank

them for what they do. Before I conclude my speech, I wish to acknowledge so many members who are leaving Parliament this year, such as the member for Toongabbie, the member for Mount Druitt, the member for Marrickville, the member for Macquarie Fields, the member for Kogarah, the member for Lakemba and the member for Miranda, who are Opposition members.

I acknowledge the member for Ballina, the member for Upper Hunter, the member for Murray-Darling, the member for Oxley and the Hon. Jennifer Gardiner in the other place, who are members of The Nationals; the member for Epping, the member for Keira and the member for Terrigal, who are or have been Liberal Party members. I have been privileged to be a part of their lives while they have been members of this Parliament. Each and every one has had a very special connection with me, which I hope is mutual. All I ask is that all members and their families have a safe, happy and holy Christmas. I trust that God will bless us all with good health for 2015.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) [6.05 p.m.]: I join in offering Christmas felicitations to everyone in this House. This is the last contribution I will make in the Fifty-fifth Parliament, but hopefully not the Parliament—I hope I will be returned next year along with many of my colleagues. I sincerely pass on best wishes to every member of this Parliament. I was elected to this Parliament rather recently—in May last year—and I very much appreciate the support and the warm welcome I received not only from my colleagues in The Nationals and the Liberals but also from Opposition members. Over that time I developed some very close friendships with many people in this place from all sides of the Chamber. I sincerely state for the record how much I, as a younger person and relatively new member of this House, have appreciated my reception.

I approached my State parliamentary role with some trepidation after spending nine years in local government where there is a lot of camaraderie. I am very pleased to be able to say that the same applies to this Parliament, particularly this House. When we have finished sparring and having a bit of fun, at the heart of it each member is looking out for the other. I certainly appreciate that and state for the record my appreciation for everyone in this House and the welcome they gave me. I offer my sincere best wishes for everyone and their families for Christmas.

As has been mentioned, after next year's election this House will notice a number of departures—some voluntary, and some not so voluntary. At the risk of annoying certain people, I pay tribute to a few members who will not be returning next year: George Souris, the member for Upper Hunter; Don Page, the member for Ballina; the Hon. Jennifer Gardiner from the other place; the member for Murray-Darling and The Nationals Whip, John Williams; and the former Deputy Premier and member for Oxley, the Hon. Andrew Stoner. I especially thank them for their wisdom, their advice and support during the by-election for Northern Tablelands and my subsequent election. I also thank them for all the assistance they provided to me, which I have certainly appreciated. They will be big losses to our party, The Nationals, but more broadly to Parliament. I wish them and their families all the very best in retirement.

I also knowledge three other members who are retiring from this Parliament: the member for Mount Druitt, Richard Amery; the member for Toongabbie, Nathan Rees; and the member for Macquarie Fields, Andrew McDonald—three people whom I will miss from this Parliament and three people with whom I have developed very strong relationships. I have certainly appreciated their approach to politics, which is very similar to mine. We are all here to serve our communities, defend their interests, and stick up for the people who elected us and voice their concerns. I must say to Richard Amery that my father always says that you were the best Labor agriculture Minister this State has seen.

Mr Richard Amery: There is that qualification again.

Mr ADAM MARSHALL: Yes, but it would be remiss of me if I did not add that qualification. I mean what I have said quite sincerely, and I think he knows that. There are people in this State, certainly in my electorate, who still think very highly of Richard Amery. I am very sad to see him leave, but I certainly wish him all the very best for the future and for when he is working on his lawn bowls game during retirement. I have enjoyed Nathan Rees' interjections and frivolity in the Parliament, and I wish him well. I have certainly enjoyed counsel and advice from Dr Andrew McDonald, particularly in relation to matters involving health. I acknowledge that there are many other members who are leaving this Parliament, but I wanted to pay special tribute to those members because, as a relatively new member, I have had a lot of interaction with them and have appreciated their advice.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the Clerk, Ronda, Les, Cheryl and all the table office staff. The work they do is amazing. They are the oil that keeps this weird and strange machine known as the

Legislative Assembly running quite smoothly. I certainly appreciate their efforts. I also appreciate the efforts of the attendants, who do a great deal of work behind the scenes. I could not conclude my felicitations without joining other members in acknowledging on the record Gary in the bar who, aside from being good at his work, is always happy, friendly, joking and up for a chat—like so many staff in this place.

I acknowledge Mark Sheehan from the Parliamentary Library. Mark is inundated by email requests from me seeking clips from speeches in this place that I can post on Facebook, Twitter and so on. Mark is always very attentive and very quick to respond. Hansard, of course, got a huge mention today, and rightly so. I have enjoyed reading *Hansard* and seeing how they make poor words into good words, but also appreciate that the staff like having a good time when the Parliament finishes. I think that is very important in this place. We should never take ourselves too seriously.

I thank my staff in the electorate office, Lisa Williams, Kaye McColl, Ann Hoskin, Lauren Hiscox and Zac Smith, for their amazing work and the support they give me. I am the first to acknowledge that I am not the easiest person to work for; I am pretty demanding and tend to work long hours, but I really appreciate the support my staff give me and, more importantly, the way they serve the electorate when I am at Parliament House and away from the office.

To the people of Northern Tablelands: It is an enormous honour to represent you in this Parliament. I hope to do so for at least a little while longer. I share with you the pain that everyone is going through at the moment with the enormous dry and the drought conditions. While I wish everyone a very merry and joyous Christmas, all that I and the people of my electorate want is a few inches of rain—and may it keep coming. I hope and pray that that happens. I wish everyone in this place and in the Northern Tablelands, and their families, a very merry and, importantly, a very safe Christmas.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) [6.11 p.m.]: I wish everybody a merry Christmas and a "Ho ho ho!" I acknowledge my wife, Susan, the love of my life. To our family, Amanda, Nicole, Trent, Caroline, Stuart, Catherine and Victoria: I want you to know your mother and I are thinking of you and wish you the very best for Christmas. I thank my electorate office staff Alison, Gary and Stuart, who look after the community so well while I am here in Parliament House. I thank my number one volunteer, Arthur, who travels with me when I am in the community.

I wish the community of Myall Lakes—the community that I have the honour of both representing in this place and helping back in the electorate office—a merry Christmas, a happy New Year and a safe festive period. I also thank The Nationals team, our new leader, Troy Grant, and my colleagues. It has been an absolute honour to serve with them. They are a great bunch of people who at all times are thinking of our regions and how we can best represent regional New South Wales. When bills are introduced, they think whether or not they are best for regional New South Wales.

I acknowledge Andrew Stoner, George Souris, Don Page and Jenny Gardiner, who are leaving this Parliament. In John Williams I have to say The Nationals are losing a great man through a redistribution of electorate boundaries. Once again, regional New South Wales loses a voice and representation. Those sipping latte in the inner city get yet another vote and another representative to the detriment of regional New South Wales. John Williams is not just a quick wit and The Nationals Whip; behind the scenes, he works at Matthew Talbot helping the people there. In his own electorate he does the same. He is very much a part of the parliamentary Lions Club, which raises money for so many worth causes.

I thank the parliamentary staff Ronda, Les, Joe and Cheryl, and the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms, who does such a fantastic job. I am still waiting for the occasion when she will have to physically remove someone from this place. I thank Jason Arditi and the Legislation Review Committee staff. I thank Bec Cartwright, who really is the power behind what we do here as a Government. She is the person who really gets this place moving. Forget about the Government Whip; it is Bec who is running things there. She does a fantastic job. She really is a gold nugget, and we should ensure that she is here next year.

I thank The Nationals Whip secretaries over my time, Jane, Emma, Millie and Rachael, who have all gone on to work for Ministers; and now Meagan Skinner, another very talented young lady. If one of the Ministers does not snap her up, they're mad! I mention Richard Amery. From one ex-policeman to another, I wish you all the very best. To Nathan Rees, a great Parramatta supporter, it is a shame that the electorate of Toongabbie is to be abolished. My father played rugby league for Toongabbie during and immediately after the war.

Members might not know that two weeks before I stood in this place and broke my leg Dr Andrew McDonald came up to my office and advised me that I had an infection of the bone. I went straight to John Hunter Hospital to see a specialist. Despite their efforts and antibiotics, when I stood in this place I snapped my leg. Someone said that it was the first time they had seen Barry O'Farrell lost for words! When I first came in here in a wheelchair, Daryl Maguire and Bec looked after me. When I was on crutches I recall saying to Craig Baumann in this Chamber, "Where do I go?" He pointed across the Chamber and said, "That is the closest place. See if you can get to that." Daryl came up and grabbed me, saying, "No, go to the other side." Unfortunately for me, that was a lot further to walk. Anyway, I have appreciated his guidance. The Leader of the House, Brad Hazzard, and Anthony Roberts also helped me.

In finishing, I wish to speak about the parliamentary Lions Club. I say to Labor Party members who are here now: When we return after the next election, I encourage you to have your new members in this place consider joining the parliamentary Lions Club. In the past three years we have raised \$600,000. Of all the Lions clubs, it is the most prestigious, and it would good if members of the Labor Party could contribute to it. This is not The Nationals Lions club, or the Liberal Party Lions club; it is a bipartisan parliamentary Lions Club. I note that the member for Mount Druitt said that he did not have the privilege of joining our Lions club. I wish everybody here the very best for Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) [6.18 p.m.]: It is a great privilege to speak this evening and extend my felicitations for Christmas and the festive season. Mr Acting-Speaker, you and I were part of the class of 2011 who were here for the opening of this Parliament, and here we are four years later saying merry Christmas and wishing everybody well for the next few months. In giving my short address this evening I would first of all like to thank the Clerks of this House, as well as the former Clerk, Mr Russell Grove. My thanks to the new Clerk, Ronda Miller, Les Gönye and all the wonderful people who make this place tick. From the bottom of my heart, thank you; it has been an absolute honour and a privilege to work with you and get to know you.

To the Speaker, the Assistant-Speaker and the Acting-Speakers in this Chamber, we know how difficult your roles are and we value your contributions. I thank them all. To all the Whips—Government and Opposition—thank you, especially to the member for Mount Druitt, Richard Amery, who I have come to know over the past four years and who I am sure I will continue to get to know. I thank him for his kind words, his wisdom, his leadership and his witty interjections. He will be sorely missed, but I am sure we will see him very soon. To Jan in the Whip's office we say farewell—not goodbye—and see you soon. Thank you for the wonderful years of service you have given to the Labor Party as secretary in the Whip's office.

I wish all the departing members well especially Nathan Rees, Dr Andrew McDonald and Carmel Tebbutt and I thank them for their kind words and guidance over the past four years. To the Leaders of the House—Government and Opposition—I say thank you, especially to Michael Daley for his mentorship and guidance in my first term. I wish them all a merry Christmas. I thank the Legislative Assembly attendants, Danny, Ian, Steve, April and Chris. They are wonderful people and deserve medals for sitting in the Chamber and for putting up with our speeches. I am sure they are seldom thanked for what they do, but I say thank you and I am sure other members join me in doing that.

I thank the cleaners who make this Parliament look wonderful. When our visitors come into Parliament House and say, "Wow", one of the reasons is that our cleaners do a wonderful job. I am sure that our cleaners are not thanked enough. To our dining room staff, Café Quorum staff, Philip Freeman and the amazing chefs who give us wonderful food, I say thank you. Once again, when visitors come into Parliament House they realise what a special place this is. I thank all those brave men and women in security who stand outside Parliament House come rain, hail and shine to protect us. I especially thank my good friend Mr Lionel Varkoe.

I wish Hansard staff a merry Christmas. I hope they rest well over the break and give their hands and ears a rest as I am sure the Fifty-sixth Parliament will be no different. To my wonderful electorate staff—Stella Patane, Mathew Craig and Jess Daniele—I say thank you for giving me wonderful support and guidance over the past four years. To the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. John Robertson, I say thank you for your wonderful leadership and hard work in what are rebuilding years for us. I look forward to continuing the journey with John Robertson in the Fifty-sixth Parliament and I thank him for the faith he put in me by appointing me to the Opposition shadow Cabinet. I wish all those members who are leaving well in their endeavours. One thing we all have in common is our representation in this Chamber and the passion we have for our constituencies. I say to all those members: Congratulations on a job well done.

The Fifty-fifth Parliament pretty much has been my steepest professional learning curve. I thank the people in the Fairfield electorate for bestowing on me the greatest honour at a difficult time for the Labor Party.

I cannot say thank you enough and I look forward to continuing to work with the Fairfield electorate over the next few years. To all the members of this Chamber who have given me time to get to know them, and for them to get to know me, I say thank you for your wonderful friendship. The member for Kiama, who is in the Chamber, and I have had many discussions over the past four years. I thank him and everyone who is in the Chamber. It is nice to know that when we walk out of this Chamber we can be friends, we can sit down and have a drink and put aside our political differences. I have been involved in a number of committees and I thank the hardworking committee staff and chairs of those committees. It has been a steep learning curve—something I have never experienced before but that I look forward to experiencing in the next Parliament.

I thank Dr Geoff Lee, the member for Parramatta and coach of the Parliamentary Friends of the Wanderers and all the many parliamentary friends groups. These groups bring us together as members of Parliament and demonstrate to the community that we can work together towards common goals and put aside our political differences. I wish everyone a very happy and holy Christmas, and a safe New Year. I look forward to returning in the Fifty-sixth Parliament.

Mr ANDREW GEE (Orange) [6.25 p.m.]: In contributing to this debate I acknowledge my wonderful and hardworking staff at the Orange electorate office: Rebecca Mackay, office manager, and Rosie Pritchard. I could not ask for two more loyal or hardworking people to operate the Orange electorate office. They go above and beyond the call of duty, work well beyond 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and do a wonderful job serving this Parliament and the people in the Orange electorate. In many ways Bec, the office manager, is the glue that holds the office together. She organises all the meetings and the correspondence, has it all in folders and never misses an opportunity to place one of those folders under my nose to ensure everything is signed and out on time. She does a fantastic job. Rosie is a dynamo, handles the media and is outstanding and an absolute star. She is responsible not only for the media but also for constituency work. I cannot speak highly enough of her skill and her commitment to the job. I would be lost without Bec and Rosie and convey my deep thanks to them tonight.

I also mention the people who help us on a part-time basis, including Jude Patton, who recently joined us, and the great Don Mahoney, who works not only in our electorate office but also is an international dog judge. We are all very proud of Don, the international dog judge and man of mystery, as he undertakes his international travels. I thank Anna Derham, who recently gave birth to a wonderful new daughter, and Rhys Williams for their hard work. I am extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and loyal team and I acknowledge them in the House tonight. I also thank the hardworking staff of the Parliament, including the Hansard staff, the Clerks Ronda and Les, as well as Rebecca Cartwright and Col Hatton in the Whip's office. I think some of us drive Bec around the twist sometimes.

Mr Gareth Ward: She does it to us.

Mr ANDREW GEE: She does do it to us, as the member for Kiama rightly pointed out, but we get there in the end. I am grateful for their forbearance. I wish all retiring members well, including the great Jenny Gardiner, George Souris, Don Page and John Williams from The Nationals; and from the opposite side of the aisle, Richard Amery, Dr Andrew McDonald and Nathan Rees. I have referred to only a few, but there are other retiring members. I have enjoyed working with them all, including the member for Mount Druitt, despite the fact that he engages in gratuitous lawyer bashing at times. I have certainly enjoyed his being in the House, his contributions and his service to New South Wales over an extraordinarily long time.

Dr Andrew McDonald is another member who will be greatly missed. He has a charity of spirit which is rare in New South Wales politics. I certainly wish him well as I do other members on the Opposition side, including Nathan Rees. To all retiring members I say: Congratulations on serving the people of New South Wales. I particularly thank the State and Regional Development Committee staff, who worked so hard to complete the Downstream Gas Supply and Availability in NSW report and the Inter-regional Public Transport report. I will not name them all because many people have worked on the committee's inquiries and I am grateful for their assistance.

I wish all members a wonderful 2015. As Mr Amery pointed out in his valedictory speech, there may be members retiring who do not know it yet. I wish all members well as we head into the election. It will no doubt be a hotly contested affair. Hopefully we will see members back here in the new year. On behalf of the constituents of Orange, I thank the New South Wales Parliament and all the staff for their hard work in ensuring that democracy in New South Wales functions the way it does. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr DARYL MAGUIRE (Wagga Wagga—Parliamentary Secretary) [6.30 p.m.]: As the Fifty-fifth Parliament draws to a close and as we march towards the election in March it is important that we reflect on the

past year. I begin by acknowledging the great leadership of Barry O'Farrell and Andrew Stoner, who brought us to government and led the first Liberal-Nationals Government in 16 years. They had a great impact and demonstrated great leadership.

Over the past four years the electorate of Wagga Wagga has faced many challenges—fires, floods and in recent times great tragedy and sorrow, which has been reported in the media. We have also seen great achievements. The new \$282.1 million Wagga Wagga Base Hospital will be topped in January and fitted out during the year. The staff will move into the new premises in January 2016. The new mental health wing has already been built and occupied, as has the new Lockhart Hospital, which the Minister for Health and I opened a few months ago. The \$17 million redevelopment of the Wagga Wagga courthouse is well and truly underway, as is the work on the \$40 million Kapooka Bridge. Funding has been allocated for the long talked about and long-awaited Gocup Road upgrade.

While all of these things occur, the Parliament must operate. For it to do that, we must have people to assist us in this place. During the 16 years that I have been a member I have never come across more professional people assisting members. Ronda Miller and her staff, Hansard, the clerks, security, the attendants and the caterers all make our life here so much better. You know who you are, whether you are a cleaner—Erma, Martha or Poppy—you are all important to us. There are too many to name tonight. We need good staff for this Parliament to operate.

I had the great honour of serving as the Opposition Whip from 7 April 2003 until 30 March 2011 and I became Government Whip on 25 February 2014 and served in that position until Premier Barry O'Farrell appointed me as Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Regional and Rural Affairs. I spent a total of 10 years, nine months and 51 days as a Whip. I am the second longest serving Whip in the history of the Liberal Party. It is a great honour and privilege to work with my colleagues, many of whom today have contributed to the seasonal felicitations and some of whom have made valedictory speeches. I wish them all well in whatever the future holds. I wish those members who are retiring health and happiness.

I particularly mention Mr Richard Amery, who is a great friend of mine. We share much in common and I will miss him. He is a comedian and I will miss his interjections. He has been a conscientious interjector and I will miss that. We will stay in touch because we have common interests such as the myocardial syndrome group. I extend my best wishes to Jan, who works tirelessly to ensure that this place runs well. In order to operate in this place we need great staff. Nicole Hatton and Rebecca Cartwright have been mentioned many times. They worked for me when I was the Government Whip and Nicole now works for me part time. One could not find any better staff. I have staff in the Wagga Wagga office who have worked for me for many years.

They include Margaret Pulver, Brenda Tritton, Sue Schiller, Paula Spencer, and a recent addition, Karen Jameson. They are the first and last impression of the electorate office. No member can work without their electorate staff. Of course, the local party branch and its members also support our work. The Liberal-Nationals Government marches towards the election asking the voters to give us the tools to finish the job. I look forward to working with my community. I have enjoyed every moment of my time in office. Being in government is far more enjoyable than sitting on the Opposition benches. They were 12 very dark, tough years in opposition. I never want to be there again and I will work hard with my colleagues to avoid it. We must ensure that we can continue to deliver the Liberal-Nationals policies that are making real changes to this State under the leadership of Mike Baird and Troy Grant. I have great confidence in the ability of our Premier and our Ministers, who are truly delivering results.

I know that we argue in this place, but the arguments should always stay within these walls. Many friendships have been built and fostered and continue long after members leave this place. We should all heed that important message. We should fight tooth and nail for what we believe is right in this place, but ultimately what we believe is right should make New South Wales a better place when we walk out the door for the final time. I wish everyone well. Have a very holy and Christian Christmas. I will see you all next year when the election battle begins. I wish everyone a safe and happy time with their families and friends.

ACTING-SPEAKER (Mr Mark Coure): It has been an honour to represent the electorate of Oatley. I was born there, I have lived and worked there and I now represent it in the New South Wales Parliament. I thank my staff over the years. I particularly thank Sam Ison, Marc Stanghieri, Chris Ashton and Tim Millar. I also thank the many community groups that I have been able to help over the years such as Pole Depot, Mortdale Community Services, Riverwood Community Services and Meals on Wheels. In fact, I volunteer on the second Friday of each month with Meals on Wheels and have been doing so for more than four years. These

groups cover every conceivable demographic and interest in the St George community. The people of the area band together to play sport, to protect the environment, to support our local hospital and schools and to provide for those who are less well off. They lobby members of Parliament and draw attention to important local issues.

I thank each and every person in my electorate who plays an important and vibrant part in the community and in our democratic system. I thank members on both sides of the Parliament. I particularly acknowledge the members who are retiring and the many decades that the member for Mount Druitt has served in this House. I thank my parliamentary colleagues who are very good friends. Many of us kicked around together years ago in the Young Liberal Movement of Australia. I refer in particular to the member for Kiama, the member for Menai, the member for Hornsby, the member for Bega, who is now the Treasurer, and the member for Willoughby, who is now the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and Minister for Transport. I acknowledge all my colleagues whom I have come to know over the years. My wife, Adla, is here today with our eight-month-old son. I met my wife in the Young Liberals movement. In fact, we were on the Young Liberals executive together with the member for Kiama.

I blame my wife for the election of the member for Kiama to the executive. The member for Bega and I did not want him there, and my lovely wife—before she was my wife or girlfriend—counted the numbers together with the member for Kiama and he was elected. I acknowledge the support of my wife, who is a great asset, and our eight-month-old son, James. Without your support I could not do this job. I love you both and say thank you. I say this all the time: it is tough being a member of Parliament. We work 6½ days a week, sometimes seven. I have a very supportive wife and family and I thank them very much.

To the leadership of our parties—Premier Mike Baird and Troy Grant, Leader of The Nationals, and former leaders my good friend Barry O'Farrell and Andrew Stoner—I thank you very much for all your help and guidance over the past 3½ almost four years. I could not have done this job without you. On behalf of my community, I thank you for the great work you have done as leaders of your respective parties. I have just realised that I have the final say in the Fifty-fifth Parliament. To all our parliamentary staff and members of Parliament, I wish you a very happy and holy Christmas. I look forward to working with you when we return to the Fifty-sixth Parliament.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 6.41 p.m. until
Tuesday 10 March 2015 at 12 noon.**
