



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament  
First Session**

**Tuesday, 13 September 2016**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Tuesday, 13 September 2016**

**The SPEAKER (The Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock)** took the chair at 12:00.

**The SPEAKER** read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

*[Notices of motions given.]*

## *Bills*

### **STEEL INDUSTRY PROTECTION BILL 2016**

#### **First Reading**

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

**The SPEAKER:** I advise the House that I have received a written authority from Mr David Shoebriidge, MLC, advising that the member for Keira will have carriage of the bill in the House. I order that the second reading of the bill stand as an order of the day for a future day.

#### *Private Members' Statements*

### **NORTH WEST PRIORITY GROWTH AREA ROAD NETWORK STRATEGY**

**Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (12:12):** I wish to update the House on the progress of the North West Priority Growth Area road network strategy. Residents of the north-west will be familiar with the historic traffic congestion at the level crossing at Garfield Road, Riverstone, which is the epicentre of this road network strategy. It has been a long-term challenge to deal with the growth happening across the north-west of Sydney on the back of an antiquated country road system. Until the election of this Government in 2011 nothing physically had changed on the ground to deal with that issue, despite the fact that thousands of homes were being built.

In the years since then a number of developments have taken shape and are nearing completion. People will be familiar with the massive upgrade of Schofields Road, which will link Windsor Road in the east with Richmond Road in the west, and provide, at present, a four-lane connection and, eventually, a six-lane arterial road connection between those two major arterial roads, linking the region for the first time in an east-west direction. That is the first piece of the strategy well underway, and while it has caused some traffic inconvenience and disruptions to locals as that work is ongoing, people are very appreciative of the obvious commitment to upgrading traffic capacity in the region.

Similarly Richmond Road will be constructed as a four-lane arterial road with capacity to go to six lanes between the M7 and the South Creek crossing at the northern extremity of the North West Priority Growth Area. That work is proceeding very rapidly indeed and I am confident that it will be completed by the end of this year and the pressure will ease on drivers travelling that major corridor. The missing links, however, through Riverstone and across the newly developing areas to the north and south of Riverstone are also planned and taking shape. During August there was an exhibition of the proposed Bandon Road corridor, a brand new link to which this Government has committed between Bandon Road and Vineyard on the northern extremity of the growth area, and Richmond Road near the Marsden Park development in the area of the land release known commercially as Elara. That new corridor will ensure that the industrial traffic using the Riverstone industrial area will no longer have to go through the middle of that old town. It will be a dramatic win for the locals when we achieve this.

While it will be some years in the making, the fact that we are delivering on our current commitments and people can see those roads being built will give everybody confidence that this road too will follow in that pattern. At the same time we are developing a local pressure point release by building a local road linking the Westminster Street Bridge at Schofields with Garfield Road on the western side of the railway line, called the Denmark Road link. That too has been exhibited for public comment and is now in the design stage with Roads and Maritime Services with the cooperation of Blacktown City Council. When that road link becomes available it will relieve pressure on that level crossing at Riverstone.

As we roll out the full strategy, there will be five crossings of the Richmond railway line between Quaker's Hill in the south and Vineyard in the north and moving from south to north they will be Burdekin Road, Schofields Road, the Westminster Street crossing, Garfield Road with a different crossing and then Bandon Road to the north. At the end of the release of the North West Priority Growth Area in the mid-2020s to 2030, all five of those crossings will be in place ensuring that traffic across the whole region moves vastly better than it does

now. It will also demonstrate that this Government has the foresight and the wherewithal to deliver the infrastructure that is needed to support the growth that is occurring, which is quite different from previous experience in New South Wales. I commend the Government, the Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Roads for working together to ensure that this can be delivered for the people of the north-west.

#### **TRIBUTE TO ERROL RUSSELL**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (12:17):** It is with great sadness that I pay tribute to a great man, Mr Errol Russell. Errol was born on 21 November 1953 and passed away on 23 August 2016. Errol is survived by his partner of 16 years, Maryanne McIntyre, his brother John and sister Beverly and their respective families. I came to know Errol and his loving partner Maryanne after being elected to Parliament in 2011. Errol was a regular visitor to the Fairfield electorate office, whether it was for assistance or just to say hello; Errol was always a pleasant familiar face. Not an Easter or Christmas would go by without Errol popping in to give his greetings and well wishes, and to catch up on his activities over those festive times. Errol was a great storyteller, proud of his Indigenous roots and his State of birth, Queensland. He also made a point of escaping back to Queensland whenever he had the opportunity—he was always looking forward to "getting back in touch with the land".

Errol was also a proud truckie. He would often tell me of his days as a truck driver travelling around the country while doing what he loved. Due to ill health Errol had to give away truck driving, however that did not stop him from attending every possible truck show in Western Sydney—nor from chewing your ear off about it. Errol was wheelchair bound for many years due to deteriorating health, however this did not stop him from getting the job done. He was an incredibly passionate man, a great community advocate, a fighter, and an all-round gentleman. On 7 May 2014, I spoke in this House about Errol, the hardships he had to overcome and his advocacy for improved mobility access throughout our rail network.

I got to know Errol very well from our campaigns for improved mobility access, and I developed a good relationship with him over the years. He felt that nobody should be discriminated against—in particular, nobody in a wheelchair. Errol believed that everyone deserved the same opportunity to access services. He said, "The level of service available should not be determined by your postcode." Errol was deeply committed to improving mobility access across New South Wales and service delivery for the elderly and mobility impaired individuals.

On many occasions, Errol detailed the frustration he felt with the state of the network and how it failed to cater to his needs. When he was riled up about a particular topic, he would refer to himself as a "bull in a china shop", a person who stood firm and would never back down from fighting for what is right. That being said, there were a few sure-fire ways to get Errol riled up: discussing the latest loss by his beloved Brisbane Broncos or mobility access on trains. I note that it was always Errol who would bring up these topics.

When I visited Errol at Braeside Hospital over the last couple of months he would say, "I'm not going to give up the fight, Guy, and I don't want you to either. I might not be here physically but I'll be with you every step of the way to make sure we get easy access to our train stations in Fairfield." His stance was spurred on by the hardships he had faced and the onerous amount of money he had spent on travelling to his medical appointments. All of this fuelled his passion and kept his fight alive.

I was honoured to have been asked by his family to deliver a few words at his burial at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. It was a truly great privilege, and the very least I could do for such a humble and remarkable man. Errol was loved by so many people. He built a connection with every person he met, so much so that a number of local businesspeople attended his funeral. One of those was Graham Ball, a local realtor who had come to know Errol over the years and who gave a heartfelt and moving eulogy on the day. The impact Errol had on so many lives is immeasurable. He will live on in our memories and we will always remember the good times and the great stories. Vale Errol Gordon Russell.

#### **TAMWORTH QUALITY BUSINESS AWARDS 2016**

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (12:22):** I inform the House of an excellent event that was held in Tamworth which showcased the engine room of our great city: the businesses that drive regional growth and economic development. I was privileged to be the MC of the Tamworth Quality Business Awards 2016. These awards, which are one of the largest and most prestigious business awards in our region, started in 1984. The original concept of the awards was to publicly recognise outstanding businesses within our community. Originally 10 awards were presented, but over the years the number of awards has increased and the event has become the Quality Business Awards that we know today.

The Quality Business Awards would not be possible without the support of a number of businesses in our region. On behalf of the Tamworth Business Chamber and the business community, I thank Telstra Business Centre North West NSW, WorkforceXS, Joblink Plus, Inland Technology, Defence Reserves Support,

Apprenticeship Support—Entrepreneurs' Programme, QantasLink, the NSW Minerals Council, the University of New England, Australian Training and Consulting, SafeWork NSW, New England Partners in Recovery, Better Health South Tamworth, BEST Employment, Burke and Smyth Real Estate, Corey's Catering, TAFE New England, Century 21 Real Estate, and Vertel. I also thank our media partners KEO Design, Southern Cross Ten, 2TM, 929FM, Newcastle Broadcasting New South Wales [NBN], the *Northern Daily Leader* and oOh!media. I give special thanks to Tamworth Regional Council for its generous support in hosting the awards at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre.

The 2016 major sponsor of the Quality Business Awards was Regional Australia Bank. I thank the chief executive officer Kevin Dupe for his continued support. This year there was outstanding support of our local business community, with more than 700 nominations for nearly 280 local businesses. Some 410 people attended the awards night, where 26 Quality Business Awards were presented. I sincerely congratulate all nominees, finalists and winners. Those winners were: Leading Edge Tamworth, the Austin Tourist Park, Deco Restaurant at CH On Peel, University of Newcastle Department of Rural Health, Headspace, Tamworth Event Planners, Laura's Skin Care, Aquanorth Pumping and Irrigation Specialists, Avro Metaland, Tamworth Valley Motors, Volcania Art Glass, Happy Smiles Dental Care, Tamworth Horse Transport, the Benevolent Society, SafeWork NSW, Horsanity, Serum Australis, Joblink Plus, Tamworth Fencing, Countrywide Strata Management, Daniel McCulloch, Nic Hinwood, Ada Maughan, Forsyths, and Rod Laing who won the Noel Park Award.

The business awards would not be possible without the excellent work of the Tamworth and District Chamber of Commerce and the board members who do so much to pull the event together. I thank president Lia Mahony and event organisers Alyson Hawkins, Mary Ryan-Garnett and Kimberly Sayner. It was an outstanding evening. I congratulate the business community on not only being part of the great city of Tamworth but also continuing to drive our city. I also sincerely thank all others who put so much effort into making sure the awards are a success each year.

I particularly congratulate Noel Park Award recipient Mr Rod Laing, who is the chief executive officer of Wests Entertainment Group and has done so much for the community through his club. He is continually looking to form community partnerships across our great region through Wests Entertainment Group. Once again, I congratulate Lia Mahony, president of the Tamworth and District Chamber of Commerce, and her board on an outstanding 2016 Quality Business, proudly presented by Regional Australia Bank.

#### NEPEAN HOSPITAL

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport) (12:26):** Nepean Hospital is an important piece of infrastructure in my community that is currently the subject of a significant amount of discussion. At the recent election we announced that we would plan the long-term future upgrade of Nepean Hospital. The hospital is under some stress because it has not received the long-term planning and therefore the long-term investment it has required in order to keep pace with population growth in the community that I am lucky enough to represent.

I recognise the important work of all staff of Nepean Hospital. To the doctors, nurses, administrative teams and plethora of other support staff who make the hospital function every day, I say in this Chamber a heartfelt thank you for the work they do. It is worth noting that over the past five years a significant amount of work has taken place at Nepean Hospital. We have opened a new oral health centre, which is one of the largest in the State. We have also opened a new mental health facility, built a new car park and opened the relatively new east block.

Although it is somewhat unusual, I recognise that the funding for the east block was allocated under the previous Government and the facility was opened during my time as the representative of the Penrith community. But here is the rub of the green: Had the community received the master planning work that it deserved we might have been able to get more up-front investment at an earlier stage. Instead, we got a short-term, politically opportunistic announcement that allowed us to obtain a reasonable sum of money—around \$100 million—which enabled us to open the east block facility in 2012. Here we are in 2016 and the Opposition is crying that we are neglecting Nepean Hospital.

I have done a bit of research to find out what the Labor Party committed to do during the last election campaign. It made an announcement about investing in Nepean Hospital, stating that it would set aside \$351 million for redevelopment. I note a recent announcement that that will be increased to \$370 million. Reference is made to the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Strategic Plan. As I said, the Baird Government made a commitment to spend \$4 million on planning before going ahead with any work. A policy document on the Labor Party's website states that "final decisions on the project design will be made following the \$4 million planning process". Is the Labor Party now telling my community that it intends to short-change it

by turning the sod without doing the required planning—that is, not doing its homework—or was it misleading it during the election campaign?

The funding proposal attached to the Labor Party's document entitled "A Better Way: Labor's Fully Funded Infrastructure Plan" allocates only \$116 million for infrastructure across the entire State. Labor's entire infrastructure plan for its first year in office was to be \$116 million. It proposed to allocate \$387 million in 2015-16, and \$916 million in 2016-17. The Labor Party told the people of Penrith that it would spend \$370 million on the hospital immediately. If that had happened, it would have had to explain to every member opposite what projects would be cut to deliver on that promise.

The Labor Party's policy states that it does not have the money to deliver, and that means that I do not trust that it will deliver in the future. What makes this worse is that its own policy states that it should spend \$4 million on planning before doing anything else. That is exactly what this Government has done by allocating funding for planning in the first year of this term of government and again this year. I was howled down in the community for supporting the planning process that will give the area the hospital it deserves. This evidence and its own policy demonstrates that the people of Penrith cannot trust the Labor Party to deliver on the redevelopment of Nepean Hospital.

### **GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY BAN**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (12:32):** Amongst the arguments and political point-scoring that too often dominate our time in this Chamber it is easy to forget the people whom our decisions affect. I am talking about the real lives impacted by the votes we cast, which we must then be prepared to stand behind. It is no secret that I opposed this Government's surprise banning of the greyhound racing industry. I will tell the Chamber why by recounting the stories of just two of the many thousands of decent, ordinary people in New South Wales who will be negatively impacted by the Premier's decision. Charlie Lamb is an Aboriginal man. He was born in 1961, and grew up as one of a family of eight in the small New South Wales town of Trangie. He struggled at school, but the greyhound industry opened up many opportunities for him and showcased his abilities and talents. He flourished in the industry and built a successful career.

Charlie and his wife own a 25 acre property at Swan Bay where they whelp, raise and train their greyhounds. Charlie has 50 to 60 dogs. He is racing seven to eight at the moment and about 20 are being trained. He has made a very good name for himself over the past 15 years. I can vouch for that because I have spoken to a number of people in the industry who speak very highly of him. Charlie is proud of the reputation he has built, but, as he told me, "It means nothing if this industry does not exist." The greyhound industry is Charlie's trade. He is 55 years old and he has no other employment to fall back on. He said that the Baird Government had stuck a dagger in his heart with this decision. He also said that he cannot understand why the Government wants to destroy an industry that creates so many jobs for blokes like him.

Charlie has heard, as we all have, that there may be compensation for people with greyhounds but this phantom compensation, about which the Government has offered scant details, is cold comfort; he does not believe that it will be anywhere near what his dogs are worth. The greyhound industry created a career path for Charlie, one that allowed him not only to build a life for himself but also to have a good job. For Graham Borrow, a 67-year-old local, racing and training greyhounds has been a lifelong hobby—he trained his first dog at 15. Mr Borrow and his wife, Heather, usually have two dogs at a time living with them. Currently, they have a retired dog that they once raced living with them. They have had her since she was a pup and they are now racing her son. The Borrowes have loved and cared for their dogs across generations. Before the Baird Government presented the Borrowes with a fait accompli as to the industry's closure they had ordered another dog before it was whelped. Nevertheless, even though they may not be able to race the dog, they are still going through with the purchase because they believe it is the right thing to do.

The closure of the greyhound industry will have more of an emotional impact than a financial one for the Borrowes because, unlike Charlie Lamb who may be out of a job, they have not built their lives around the industry and are not financially dependent upon it. The Borrowes are proud hobbyists. They love the lifestyle it gives them and they have raised and trained many greyhounds. The Borrowes maintain that the greyhound industry is a close-knit community and contend that the Premier does not know what he is doing to this group of people. Graham is devastated by the decision and is worried for his friends. Indeed, he believes that the Premier has taken this decision based on political expediency. Charlie's story and that of Graham and Heather Borrowes should be a reminder to us all that whilst we play politics in this House the lives of real people and their livelihoods are at stake.

## LUMINOSITY YOUTH SUMMIT

**Ms LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie—Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education) (12:36):** Today I bring to the attention of the House details about an annual event held in Port Macquarie aimed at empowering young people in our community. The Luminosity Youth Summit gives young people the drive to create change, start a business, follow their dreams and excel in their chosen journey. Themed, "Dangerous Ideas for Success", young people are challenged through interactive workshops and high energy presentations. For three days last month the Luminosity Youth Summit, now in its fourth year, took place at the Glasshouse Theatre. This year's event was attended by more than 300 young people and to date 1,000 young people have experienced the event.

This event greatly benefits young people who may struggle in school or are transitioning to work, as well as students who are already showing leadership within school. The presenters often showcase how success can be achieved in so many different ways. Luminosity Youth Inc. is about inspiring and lifting the leaders of tomorrow. We want to provide all youth with the opportunities to be able to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence so that they are fully equipped to be the best version of themselves, to live the life they aspire to achieve, and to not only meet but also exceed their career aspirations. A volunteer committee supported by local sponsors started Luminosity to give young people in the region access to high calibre presenters to inspire them to be change-makers and leaders in their communities.

The Luminosity committee works closely with local schools to identify young people who will benefit from sponsorship opportunities. This year, as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, I sponsored 10 Indigenous young people from schools and university to attend: Chelsie Smith; Kiara Tinning—also the Aboriginal Student of the Year in the Port Macquarie electorate; Rosemary Ella Saunders; Shaneiva Chatfield; Stephanie McManus; Paul Olsen; Kerrie Dargin; Tamika Cooper; Shauna Pope; and Sarah Harwood. Apart from Port Macquarie, Wauchope and Taree, students also travelled from Sydney, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast. Headline presenter and founder of The Entourage, Jack Delosa, told the crowd:

Luminosity means to light up from within and there couldn't be a more perfect word for a conference like this. Jack Delosa spoke in the opening session about how our young people can unlock their confidence and potential. Other presenters this year included Lorraine Murphy from The Remarkables Group, Jarrod Wheatley from Street Art Murals Australia, environmentalist Tim Silverwood, and Joshua Moses from Asian Aid. Previous presenters include journalist Alison Langdon, one of our locals; Maz Compton, music and entertainment journalist; Cas and Jonesy, Australian explorers and adventurers; Paralympian Kurt Fearnley; and Chaz Mostert, V8 Supercar driver. This event continues to grow each year.

I make special mention of the hard work that the committee members have undertaken in bringing this event to fruition and another successful year in 2016. Chair, Kate Wood-Foye; Joanne McNamara; Abby Artuso; Nina Cass; Shaarn Hayward; Zoe Van Mill; Jack Begbie; Aaron Patton; Ricky Pomroy; Sandra Wallace; and patron and co-founder, Dr Mueyesser Durur, all do an outstanding job and should be congratulated on their work and their commitment to the young people of New South Wales. I look forward to supporting next year's Luminosity Youth Summit and have no doubt it will again be an outstanding success.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport) (12:40):** I echo the words of the member for Port Macquarie and the Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education. She is doing an outstanding job in her community representing particularly the views of Indigenous communities as well as young leaders around the State. What she spoke about today is another demonstration of her commitment to young, skilled people across her community. Many regional communities in New South Wales do not always have access to the same opportunities that are presented in metropolitan areas. It is often through programs such as the one the member spoke about today that we are able to inspire young people to achieve their potential. Some of the names of people who have won awards or been recognised through this program in Port Macquarie set an outstanding standard to inspire other people in her community, and that can be set by no better person than the local member.

## TRIBUTE TO RICHARD NEVILLE

**Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (12:41):** Today I pay tribute to the late, great Richard Neville, who died last week at the age of 74 years. Richard was the co-founder, alongside Richard Walsh, of the groundbreaking satirical *OZ* magazine. He and his family lived in my electorate for many years. *OZ* magazine was launched on April Fools' Day 1963 as a magazine of dissent, and set about lampooning and offending as many establishment icons and values as it could. Neville, Walsh and *OZ*'s contributor artist Martin Sharp were twice charged with printing an obscene publication and both times were found guilty.

Neville was given a prison sentence for publishing a photo of himself and two other men urinating into a fountain. The public outrage at the sentencing and censorship of the magazine that followed provided the social backdrop to Neville being acquitted on appeal. The whole experience certainly raised the profile of the magazine and Neville himself. Richard Neville had not learned any lesson from this experience. After travelling the hippie trail overland from Australia to London he founded the London *OZ* in 1967, working with Martin Sharp again. Again he found himself convicted of obscenity. The magazine had captured the ire of the obscene publications squad.

Neville and others were charged with "Conspiring ... to produce a magazine containing obscene, lewd, indecent and ... perverted articles, cartoons and drawings with intent to debauch and corrupt". John Mortimer, QC, of *Rumpole of the Bailey* fame, assisted by the then junior counsel Geoffrey Robertson, said at the start of the trial that "the case stood at the crossroads of our liberty, at the boundaries of our freedom to think and draw ... what we please". Neville's conviction was also eventually overturned on appeal. Famously, John Lennon and Yoko Ono joined one of the protest marches at the time against the prosecution and organised the recording of *God Save Us* by the Elastic Oz Band to raise funds and gain publicity. Publications of *OZ* reached a peak of 80,000 around this time. *OZ* became the flag-bearer for counterculture in London during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Contributors included fellow Australians Germaine Greer, Robert Hughes and Clive James.

While always interested in politics and philosophy, as he got older and returned to Australia Richard Neville became increasingly interested in environmental sustainability. As part of his own television show *Extra Dimensions* he sought out alternative, non-mainstream projects that in turn eventually led to him exploring environmental issues and co-launching the Australian Futures Foundation, which helps businesses plan for the future, and gets businesses and environmental organisations working together to achieve outcomes.

Richard Neville's blog also dealt with environmental issues, and he spoke very strongly against militarism and war. Richard continued to write and he produced several books including *Hippie Hippie Shake*, his recollection of the 1960s, which was turned into a film in 2010 but is still unreleased. Richard Neville's high point of fame may have been in 1991 when actor Hugh Grant portrayed him in the television drama *The Trials of Oz*, which I am sure both amused and horrified him at the same time. Richard Neville is survived by his wife and speechwriter Julie Clarke and their daughters Lucy and Angelica. On his blog, the last entry dated 1 September 2009 is a kind of blank-verse poem that opens with the words:

A tragedy for humanity is that thinkers, philosophers & futurists, are 40 years ahead of politicians when it comes to sounding alarms.

I hope that the politicians in this place can look at Richard Neville's life and heed the alarms he was sounding about our environment and our future as a human race.

#### **ALBATROSS AVIATION TECHNOLOGY PARK MAINTENANCE BASE**

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (12:45):** On Monday 12 September I was delighted to play my part in celebrations at the landmark opening of Sikorsky Helitech and Lockheed Martin's purpose-built maintenance base at Albatross Aviation Technology Park. I was delighted to join Vice Admiral Tim Barrett, Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, on this important occasion. I am proud of Vice Admiral Barrett's service to our nation. Like me, he is a graduate of Bomaderry High School. I know his exemplary service to our nation has inspired many local young men and women to follow in his path of service. Our region can be very proud of all he has done and continues to do for our nation.

I was also very pleased to meet Mr Raydon Gates, Chief Executive of Lockheed Martin Australia, and Mr Sam Mehta, President of Sikorsky. The Shoalhaven has a long and proud history of providing innovative defence technology and services to the Australian Government and global defence industries. Having grown up, lived and worked in the Shoalhaven, I am very proud of our strong connection with navy as well as with the army and air force, and the contribution our local service personnel make to our national defence matrix. A defence base was established in the area in 1942 to primarily service the air force. HMAS *Albatross* was commissioned in 1948 as the Fleet Air Arm [FAA], as it still is today. Just recently, the new FAA headquarters were opened by the Chief of Navy as part of the \$192 million base redevelopment.

Defence and the defence industry employ about 2,500 people in the Shoalhaven in highly skilled, well-paid roles. Indeed, many of my friends and neighbours are directly employed by defence. This makes Defence a very important contributor to the local, regional and New South Wales economy, as well as a strong supporter of the local community. The Albatross Aviation Technology Park is being jointly developed by Shoalhaven City Council and the New South Wales Government to give technology companies operating in the aviation domain the opportunity to locate near one of Australia's major military aviation bases.

Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky's latest investment in the technology park marks an exciting chapter for the region's defence industry. Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky have formed a joint venture to build and provide Through Life Support logistics services for their combat helicopters to defence forces across the world. The new facility in the Shoalhaven encompasses two buildings: a maintenance repair and overhaul base, and a logistics centre warehouse that will provide Through Life Support logistics services for the Royal Australian Navy's new fleet of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters. The Australian Government has acquired 24 MH-60R Seahawk Romeo naval combat helicopters at a cost of more than \$3 billion to replace the current fleet of Seahawk Classics. The helicopters were built in the United States of America and then commissioned by the Royal Australian Navy squadron in Florida. I am advised that the whole squadron relocated to Florida for about 12 months of training.

The helicopters were then transported to Australia, were progressively brought into service and are now operated by 725 Squadron. The facilities cover more than 11,400 square metres and will house as many as 120 personnel with the knowledge and ability to keep the fleet in peak flight readiness during its estimated 30-year lifespan. The facilities will also house representatives from Brisbane-based Sikorsky Helitech, which specialises in helicopter aftermarket support, Lockheed Martin Australia's mission systems and avionics, and the United States Navy. While Naval Air Station HMAS *Albatross* personnel will perform day-to-day operational maintenance on the MH-60R fleet, these new facilities will be responsible for a higher level of maintenance at periodic intervals. Aircraft will be inducted for scheduled and unscheduled depot-level airframe maintenance, or deeper level maintenance, as it is known in Australia.

As the local member of Parliament whose electorate covers both Albatross and the Aviation Technology Park, I am proud of the contribution defence makes to the Shoalhaven community and the broader New South Wales economy. Through the New South Wales Department of Industry, we actively partner with industry, Shoalhaven City Council and the Shoalhaven Business Chamber to deliver initiatives that support the growth and development of the local defence industry. For example, the New South Wales Government has provided \$1.8 million to assist Shoalhaven City Council to upgrade critical infrastructure in the park that enables the construction of this facility.

The project is nearly finished, with the last component—an extension of a taxiway into the technology park—to be completed later this year. I acknowledge the vision of Shoalhaven City Council, particularly its general manager, Russ Pigg, and economic development manager, Greg Pullen, in pursuing the development of the technology park. It is a great asset that has helped to foster the growth of the local defence industry. I thank Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky for their continued support of the local defence industry. I will continue to be an advocate for further investments in defence and the defence industry, not to mention associated jobs and employment in our region.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport) (12:50):** I echo the words of the local member and Parliamentary Secretary for the South Coast. He has rightly identified an exceptional Australian in Tim Barrett, Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, who is doing an outstanding job. He has also recognised the Albatross Aviation Technology Park, which is a fantastic example of innovation, technology and highly skilled jobs being located in regional areas across New South Wales. Nowra has a long relationship and history with the naval fleet air arm. The continuation of the investment by the navy and international brands like Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky is a very strong indication of the strength of the economy in regional New South Wales. The opportunities that this aviation park and the selection of the MH Romeo aircraft will provide highly skilled jobs for young people in regional New South Wales, particularly on the South Coast.

#### **WILD DEER MANAGEMENT**

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (12:51):** I speak about wild deer management in the Illawarra, particularly within the electorate of Keira. Wild deer have been present in the Illawarra for decades after being introduced as a game and companion species in the 1800s. The majority of wild deer in the Wollongong local government area are Rusa deer. These deer are very social and are found in groups of up to 40 animals. Tragically, deer cause damage to a great deal of private property, create hazards for motorists and decimate the natural environment in the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area and Royal National Park.

In our experience in the Illawarra, residential fences do not prevent deer from entering property—they simply jump the fence. Neither do deer recognise boundaries of local government areas, conservation areas, schools, main roads or train lines. In my electorate of Keira, constituents regularly report damage to private property and express concern about near-miss incidents on the roads. Illawarra residents who live near the escarpment know only too well the damage deer can cause to property and vehicles. For years, the numbers of deer have been allowed to grow and communities have been left to manage the problem in the best way they can.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** Order! I call the member for Kiama to order for the first time.

**Mr RYAN PARK:** In a recent report into pest management across New South Wales entitled "Shared Problem, Shared Solutions", commissioned by the Premier, the Natural Resources Commission [NRC] estimated that farmers around the State spend around \$22 million per year to manage pest animals. In the same report the NRC identified the Illawarra as a main hotspot in New South Wales requiring urgent attention in the management of wild deer. In fact, the NRC made a very clear recommendation for the Government to change the status of all species of deer from game to pest animal. This will give land managers and local government the power to take real action. It will enable consistent management across the State with appropriate control methods.

In the Illawarra, Wollongong City Council has made significant efforts to control deer and has declared deer as a priority pest. However, this does not create enforcement powers, given that in New South Wales deer are still protected as a game species. Until recently council has been able to enlist assistance from the Northern Illawarra Wild Deer Management Program, with its cross-tenure control measures. I understand that funding terminated at the end of June for this program, leaving the future of deer control in the Illawarra without leadership and without resourcing. Any local control efforts cannot have a real impact when adjoining tenures are not a part of the plan. Neither can they have a real impact when the Government continues to ignore wild deer as a serious pest, which they are. We need real leadership; broad support from the Government in the form of long-term funding, coordination and consistent regulation; and policy for deer management across New South Wales.

I have a number of specific questions that I put to the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for the Environment. First, will the Government adopt the recommendations of the Natural Resources Commission to change the status of wild deer from game to pest species, in recognition of the serious social and economic impacts that this pest has on communities in the Illawarra and across New South Wales? Secondly, what actions will the Government take to ensure decisive, well-funded, coordinated control programs will be in place in the Illawarra and across the State? Thirdly, what actions will the Government take to control deer in the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area and the Royal National Park? Fourthly, what efforts will be made to ensure comprehensive consultation and coordination across tenures?

These are very real issues. Each year this continues to be a very serious problem. I want the Government to look at this not just from an environmental point of view but also from an economic point of view because of the huge burden it has on local landowners and local residents. I understand—as I am sure does the member for Kiama—that living close to the escarpment always has its challenges, particularly in terms of natural hazards, but we expect a government of any persuasion and of any day to make sure that serious action is taken to address this issue. This issue has got out of control within the Illawarra, particularly parts of the Illawarra. I call the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for the Environment to develop a very serious and real response to what is becoming a real problem within the community.

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (12:56):** What do you call a deer with no eyes? No idea. That is not what I would normally say about the member for Keira, but I will take his comments about this issue on board. The member for Keira raises a very legitimate and serious issue. Having spent some time living at Balgownie when I was studying at the University of Wollongong, I am very well aware of this issue. I thank the member for Keira for responsibly raising issues that are affecting not just his constituents but also members of the broader Illawarra community, particularly those who live along the escarpment. I take his comments on board very seriously; I will assist him in taking them up with the Minister for the Environment.

### **RUSTY IRON RALLY**

**Ms MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (12:57):** It gives me great pleasure to report to the House on the twenty-first Rusty Iron Rally that was held on the Father's Day weekend at Macksville. If there is any better event for Father's Day I have not seen it. The rally was the brainchild of Mal Cameron of South West Rocks. He hosted the first official get together of the like-minded machinery restoration enthusiasts at his home on 15 May 1994. Thirty-four people attended the meeting at the time, and from there it was decided to form an old machinery club. In June 1994 the Mid North Coast Machinery Restoration Club was born with the motto, "Promoting health and friendship among fellow restorers." In noting that date, I think that was probably the beginning of the men's shed period. I acknowledge that many of the principles of the men's shed was established by Mal Cameron and the group in creating and promoting friendship and support between fellows.

Thirty-five financial members started the club, and the club's first newsletter issued on 1 July 1994 was called "The Flywheel" and is still sent out each month. From 35 members in 1994, the club now has 260 members in three States: Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales. The first club display of tractors and engines was at Cassergrains Rose Garden at Sancrox. Each year the numbers grow. In the first year alone the display went to the Canberra National Rally, Kendall Swapmeet, Back to Bowraville, Macksville Pro-Ag, Bellingen show, the

Carnival of the Pines at Port Macquarie, the Wauchope show and, again, at Cassergrains 4x4 Expo. However, in December 2001 the Nambucca Agricultural Association approached the club wanting the 2002 Rusty Iron Rally to be held at the Macksville showground. More than 1,000 tractors and 250 engines went on show that year. The rally has been a thumping success at Macksville every year since then. There is a new clubhouse named after the club's worthy first president, Mal Cameron. Over the years—this is an extraordinary figure—the club has donated more than \$80,000 to local charities in the Oxley electorate.

The Rusty Iron Rally is a must-see event on the mid North Coast calendar. There were thousands of people in attendance over the Father's Day weekend. My good mate John South conducted the event as the master of ceremonies. I acknowledge the enormous amount of work that goes into producing this event. It does not receive government funding. The club does all the work and creates an economic boost for the community. All the money raised is returned to the community. I am proud to be associated with that great group of fellas, and I congratulate them on their work. On the same weekend I had the opportunity to attend the Bowraville Recreation Club to watch the Bowraville Tigers play in the semi-finals of the group two junior rugby league competition.

All that is good about young people playing sport was evidenced that day under a beautiful blue Bowraville sky. There is enormous support for the junior players. I acknowledge and congratulate Chris Perkins and the management team: senior vice president Danny Doolan; junior vice president Greg Tape; secretary Donna Willer; assistant secretary Jodie Moore; treasurer Jon Kenny; and registrar Lisa McKay. They are an incredible group of people. This year it was Bowraville's turn to host the semi-finals and it was a great show. I particularly enjoyed the women's tag team semi-final between Nambucca and Macleay Valley. Nambucca won the semi-final, but the following weekend lost in the finals at Coffs Harbour to Sawtell, 30-4.

There were eight finalists from the great electorate of Oxley amongst the clubs and teams. Of those eight finalists, there were four winners. Bowraville under 10s beat Nambucca Heads, 34-30; Smithtown under 11s beat Coffs Harbour, 24-12; Kempsey under 14s beat Bowraville, 41-34; Bowraville under 15s beat Woolgoolga, 42-22; and Sawtell under 16s were victorious against Macleay Valley, 28-22. I thank the players, supporters and volunteers who make it possible for those teams to take the field each week. I thank the referees. It was a brilliant event and inspiring to see fit, young people having a great time playing sport.

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (13:02):** I acknowledge and thank the member for Oxley for bringing to this House great news of wonderful community organisations and giving them thoroughly deserved congratulations. I acknowledge the twenty-second Rusty Iron Rally held at Macksville. It is growing in popularity—why would it not? It is an example of organisations preserving Australia's agricultural implements, machinery and history for the next generation. In many ways that generation has lost touch with our agricultural, rural roots. This will not occur at Macksville, with the Rusty Iron Rally team fostering its preservation. As the member for Oxley said, it is not only an entertaining Father's Day weekend but an opportunity to generate and return funds to the community. I congratulate them and thank the member for Oxley for acknowledging the event and recognising its organisers in this place.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** I congratulate the member for Northern Tablelands on his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary.

#### KYRAN'S RULE

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (13:03):** I recount the story of an inspirational family who have suffered untold heartache for three years following the loss of their son. In 2013, Grant and Naomi Day lost their six-month-old boy, Kyran. On 19 October 201, Kyran was taken to Shoalhaven Hospital, where he was incorrectly diagnosed with gastroenteritis when he was in fact suffering from a bowel obstruction. Kyran remained at Shoalhaven Hospital, where his condition deteriorated due to the incorrect diagnosis. Kyran's grandmother, Jane Carritt, questioned the diagnosis. While at Shoalhaven Hospital, regular checks by doctors and nurses had not been undertaken. For the 20 hours following his admission, Kyran's health continued to worsen, which prompted the Days to call an ambulance.

Mr and Mrs Day and their little boy were forced to wait four hours for an ambulance to take Kyran to the Sydney Children's Hospital because the paramedics reportedly were on a lunchbreak while simultaneously the request for a helicopter was denied. During the trip to Sydney, Kyran lost consciousness in the ambulance. He was described as "lifeless", and the ambulance was diverted to the Shellharbour Hospital. After admittance to the hospital, Kyran suffered several cardiac arrests before he was able to undergo surgery. However, on 22 October 2013, Kyran Day passed away. Since the loss of their little boy, Naomi and Grant Day have fought tirelessly to ensure that no family in New South Wales will have to suffer as they have. They have been fighting to implement Queensland's Ryan's Rule into New South Wales law.

Ryan's Rule was implemented in Queensland when two-year-old Ryan Saunders' life was lost, which was later declared to be preventable. Despite the protestations of his parents for alternative and additional assistance, young Ryan was treated only with Panadol for his bacterial infection. Unfortunately, Ryan passed away. Queensland Health noted: "Staff did not know Ryan as well as his mum and dad knew him". This is true for most, if not all, children. As I parent, I know that. This rule also is utilised in the Canberra Hospital with the patient and family escalation process, which provides an outline of the methods of receiving additional assistance if one's family is unsure of the quality of care that their family member is receiving. Patients are provided with a Call and Respond Early number, after which a CARE responder will examine the patient within 10 minutes—affording transparency in our healthcare system.

For three years, Naomi and Grant have dedicated their lives to ensuring that no other parent has to lose their child to a preventable death. Through the coronial process, Naomi and Grant have paid more than \$50,000 to match the legal capabilities of the healthcare system that defends doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers with barristers, assisting barristers and solicitors. Despite the alleged misconduct of nurses, Naomi and Grant have had to fight without any assistance in memory of their child, and for all other families who may face this issue in the future. However, for the couple it is a fight of love. They are fighting for families to have representation equal to the Government's when undertaking coronial processes. They are fighting for a transparent medical system—and what they hope to achieve is for the healthcare system to learn from its mistakes. To do this, Grant and Naomi want the coronial process to be the same as the process in criminal law, with equal representation at the inquest. This is an important step towards assisting families who have been hurt by alleged misconduct.

I will not go into all the details of this particular case, but I was alarmed to hear of the conduct of certain individuals in the care of young Kyran. Inspirationally, in an effort to fix the system, Naomi and Grant have not sought retribution; nor have they sought to speak against what understandably any parent would speak out against. Rather, what they have done is try to fix the system. Recently I was able to assist them with organising the meeting they had with the Department of Health. I thank the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, for the assistance from her office and for the compassion shown in relation to the Kyran Day case. An agreement has been reached that a photograph of Kyran will be used on posters around New South Wales healthcare centres, such as in antenatal classes, so that people are aware of the procedures. Moreover, the department is looking towards a coordinated national approach to transparency in the national healthcare system. I give my thanks to the Day family for making this possible: This is their achievement; this is their victory.

In telling the story of the Day family, I want to ensure that such tragic loss never again occurs in New South Wales. I am deeply saddened by the loss of little Kyran and so sorry for Naomi and Grant, both of whom are fighting day and night to ensure that no other child is hurt in our medical system. Both are ensuring that no other parents will have to suffer loss when a second opinion is justified. I urge all members of the House to take note of this story and to see the importance of instituting Kyran's rule as law so that the State will have a transparent and open coronial process. I stand alongside Mr and Mrs Day to see this change occur. On behalf of all children, parents and families across Australia, I thank them for their work to make this change happen.

#### **TRIBUTE TO CESSNOCK ELECTORATE SOLDIERS**

**Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (13:08):** I pay tribute to two of Australia's finest soldiers from the Cessnock electorate who unfortunately passed away in the past couple of weeks. Herbert Joseph Ferres, who is known as Burt Ferres, was one of the Rats of Tobruk. He was born and raised in Brighton-Le-Sands in the electorate of my good colleague the member for Rockdale. As a 14-year-old, he told a small white lie so that he could join the cadets. The joining age was 16. At the age of 17 he told another little white lie while wearing his cadet uniform so that he could enrol in the infantry. He told them that he was 20. This enabled Bert to be on a ship that left Sydney Harbour to head off to the war-torn Middle East. Bert was the only one up at the front of the ship with the officer on duty. Every other person was at the back of the ship, waving farewell to Sydney as they went out through the heads. Bert was looking forward to other things.

Bert ultimately served as a Rat of Tobruk—a badge that all rats wear with honour. While serving as a member of the 2/13th Battalion during the siege of Tobruk in 1941, Bert was one of the soldiers who held the Libyan port. The soldiers were referred to as "rats" in a German propaganda broadcast about the campaign. It was meant as an insult, but the Australians took it on as a nickname for a unit that became legendary. They were up against the formidable forces of Lieutenant General Erwin Rommel, widely regarded as one of the German army's finest tacticians. Rommel's Afrika Korps had never been defeated, and throughout the 241-day siege of Tobruk they generally outnumbered the Allies by at least two to one. Nevertheless, the Allies held out.

Bert's contribution was immense. On 29 November 1941, while posted to the left of his battalion and seeing it come under heavy machine-gun fire, Bert and three other soldiers ran towards the German machine-gun post. They took out the machine gun with their bayonets and hand grenades. They saved dozens, if not hundreds, of lives. For that Bert was awarded the Military Medal. In addition, he was awarded the Polish Cross of Valour

and two other Polish medals, one for services rendered to the Polish army on the battlefield. Bert was one of the few Australian servicemen awarded a Polish commendation. I was fascinated to find out at Bert's funeral that he was married to a lovely lady named Lottie, who was described as "a sassy lady". Bert sat beside Lottie's bed for the last five years of her life, after she had had a stroke, holding her hand so that she could sleep more comfortably. They say it was a love story that was one in a million.

The second gentleman I will speak about is Arthur Francis, OAM, CSC. Arthur and his family moved to Australia when Arthur was eight. They moved first to Cessnock and then to a little village called Kearsley. Arthur spent 33 years in the military, rising to become a regimental sergeant major of the Australian Army. He was one of three soldiers from Cessnock to have achieved that incredible rank. In 1964, at the age of 17, Arthur joined the regular army and was soon posted to serve in Malaya. He spent time on operational service in Malaya and Borneo before volunteering to serve in Vietnam in 1968. After his first 12-month tour he returned to Australia before going back to Vietnam for a second tour. He stayed with the platoon until 1975. At the end of Australia's involvement in Vietnam in 1973 Arthur went on to serve in Townsville, Kapooka and Brisbane and at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. In 1994 he was promoted to regimental sergeant major and served in the position for three years. Arthur retired in 1996. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia and the Conspicuous Service Cross for his achievements.

Arthur was married to Pam. They had two children, Simon and Stewart. I am happy to call Stewart a mate of mine. I knew Arthur for some years. About 15 years ago we set up an all-ages soccer team and Stewart brought along an old fella to play with our team. At the time Arthur was 55 years old and twice as fit as the rest of us 20-somethings who were trying to play the game. Since that time Arthur has been a friend. For Stewie's buck's show treat we decided to go paintballing. I guess it was a tour of duty. The regimental sergeant major was in his camouflage gear on the other side of the ravine. The first whistle went and the buck found himself with a paintball to the side of the temple and his dad giggling on the other end of the rifle. I do not know why we decided to go paintballing with a regimental sergeant major, but we did. My condolences to Pam, Simon and Stewart and their extended family. I commend Arthur and Bert. Lest we forget.

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (13:13):** I thank the member for Cessnock for expressing condolence and paying tribute to two former Army personnel who served this country so well. Bert Ferres, a Rat of Tobruk, served in the 2/13th Battalion and, as the member for Cessnock said, was honoured with a Military Medal and the Polish Cross of Valour. It is rare for these two honours to be bestowed on one individual, particularly an Australian. The member for Cessnock also talked about Arthur Francis, OAM, CSC. He served in the Army for 33 years and was a regimental sergeant major with two tours to Vietnam. These two people are thoroughly deserving of being recognised in this Parliament, as the member for Cessnock has done. On behalf of the Government, I pass on our sincere condolences to both families and acknowledge the service and sacrifice to this country of these two men. Lest we forget.

#### MATURE AGE EMPLOYMENT

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (13:14):** I draw to the attention of the House the plight of ageing Australians. In 2013 the Productivity Commission released a report that proposed raising the pension age from 65 to 70. We all know that we have an ageing population; soon the baby boom generation will retire and Australians will have to find a way to pay for it. The report highlighted the fact that Australians are living longer, our quality of life is better, and raising the retirement age will save Australian taxpayers \$150 billion in welfare and health spending. It goes without saying that we need older Australians to stay in the workforce for longer. It is also safe to say that this is something many older Australians would be open to—to continue to make a contribution. There will also be others who, for financial reasons, would see staying in the workforce as a necessity. But how does that look like in practice?

What happens when older Australians want to stay in the workforce, but employers are not open to hiring them? There is enough anecdotal evidence to suggest that there exists an ageist bias in relation to employment, and this is something we desperately need to address. We need to challenge employers to review their attitudes toward older Australians and start looking at them for their ability and experience, rather than writing them off simply because of their age. The *Sydney Morning Herald* recently reported on the experience of Ricci Bartels. After a career working in employment services, at the age of 63 she still wanted to work, but she has not yet been able to find an employer willing to give her a go. She says:

You are really stigmatised and cast off into a netherland when you lose your job at a mature age.

The article also references research from the Brotherhood of St Laurence, which found that "40 per cent of recipients of employment services last year were mature age Australians who spent more than a year on income support". In the current economic climate, it is not uncommon to see redundancies and it is quite often through no fault of your own if this happens to you. I will outline the case of a friend of mine, John Safajou, who recently

related to me his frustration in trying to find employment as a mature age executive in the information technology [IT] sector. He joined a multinational organisation in 1990 and, as a senior member of the IT management team, was involved in defining the strategy, road map, projected deployments and production support of enterprise resource planning [ERP] systems and infrastructure framework to support the Asia-Pacific [APAC] region. John was accountable for an operational team of up to 25 resources, both in-house and remote, across 10 time zones and 15 subsidiaries. He managed operational expenditure [opex] and capital expenditure [capex] budgets relevant to project scopes.

The organisation adopted a new strategy to outsource all of its shared services to an external service provider. He was extensively involved in the transition process and knowledge transfer to the new service provider. Once the handover process was completed, his services were no longer required and he was made redundant in June 2015. He has not been able to secure a role yet, and he has prepared the statistics from his attempts to find a work role. He recounted his experience to me; John has provided me with a list of nearly 400 jobs he unsuccessfully applied for over the course of a year. He only applied for jobs where there was a strong chance of being shortlisted. All applications were for permanent or contract roles, and he was very flexible with regard to location—in fact, he applied for jobs all over Australia. He applied for roles through agencies and directly to the companies, then contacted the organisations twice a week to check on the status of the application. This is a man who clearly wants to work—the effort of applying for so many roles alone is truly impressive.

But as they say, no experience is a wasted experience. John made use of his time by tabulating the data and forming a comprehensive report of his job search. The results combined with the feedback he received from employers point very strongly to an inherent bias against older Australians in the workforce. Some of the recurring trends in feedback include: His loyalty to a single organisation over his career works against him, and he was quite often "over qualified" even though he was open to less senior roles. Although he is a consistently strong candidate, there is a large pool to choose from, including applicants who are eligible to work under section 457 visas. In relation to more than 75 per cent of the positions he applied for, he was not even notified when the positions had been filled. John says there must be a system in place that assists mature age employees who have been made redundant through no fault of their own. Their experience, knowledge and expertise must not go to waste. If this were simply the experience of one person, we could say it was just an anomaly. Something else must be going on.

#### NEWCASTLE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle) (13:20):** Yesterday I welcomed the Victorian Government's decision and announcement to build 65 new metro trains in Victoria. This decision of Premier Dan Andrews will create 1,100 rail manufacturing jobs. In comparison, zero jobs will be created by the Baird Government's decision to build the next New South Wales intercity train fleet in South Korea. Let us compare the respective purchases. In Victoria there will be 65 new trains and in New South Wales there will be 65 new trains. In Victoria it is a \$2 billion spend and in New South Wales it is a \$2.3 billion spend. In Victoria it means 1,100 jobs and in New South Wales it means zero jobs. In Victoria it is 161 apprenticeships and in New South Wales it is zero apprenticeships. In Victoria it is 60 per cent local content and in New South Wales it is zero local content.

**Mr Jonathan O'Dea:** Point of order: It is not customary to take a point of order during private members' statements, but the member's statement should be about local and community issues within his electorate and not a criticism of the Government. I ask the member to respect that principle.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** Order! I remind the member for Newcastle to address matters concerning his electorate or constituents.

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP:** This private members' statement is about the people of Newcastle and the Hunter because they have just seen a \$2.3 billion contract go to South Korea instead of to the two train manufacturers in Newcastle and the Hunter—which could have generated thousands of jobs in our region and boosted our economy enormously. Not only are our light rail carriages being constructed overseas but now these rail carriages will be constructed overseas. It is an absolute disgrace. The Premier's failure to mandate local content not only for rail manufacture but also for New South Wales infrastructure projects will see investment go overseas and not stay in New South Wales. The Victorian Government is a responsible government that is investing in Victorian jobs and industry. New South Wales is investing in Korean jobs. Local content requirements create jobs and deliver economic growth.

The rhetoric of Minister Constance is about value for money. The Minister said on 1233 Radio in Newcastle that it is much cheaper to have the carriages built overseas, but Victoria can manufacture them for \$300 million less. This Government claims that a local build was 25 per cent more expensive. Where is the evidence? No evidence was provided when the Minister was questioned about that during budget estimates. The Baird Government should feel ashamed. It states on its Department of Industry website that it is proud of its

infrastructure spend, which is helping to train tomorrow's tradies. It is all well and good to launch these schemes for Sydney metropolitan apprentices. But what about Hunter unemployment, which is much worse under the Baird Government than it was under the former Labor Government?

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Drummoyne to order for the first time.

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP:** Twelve hundred jobs will go to South Korea. A local train manufacturer in Newcastle said to me, "What about the local apprentices?" The only apprenticeships available will be in South Korea for young Koreans. Only two weeks ago in this Chamber I questioned the Government's decision to purchase these rail carriages. Only two months before that I questioned the Government on the light rail carriages being purchased from Spain. Newcastle has a very proud reputation for producing and repairing train carriages. Although we have two rail manufacturers in the Hunter, \$2.3 billion will float overseas to South Korea. What does the Baird Government have against manufacturing jobs in Newcastle and the Hunter? What has happened to supporting Australia and Australian jobs?

**Mr Stephen Kamper:** Why do you hate Australians?

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** Order! The member for Rockdale will come to order.

**Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP:** I have spoken with local workers and they are absolutely gutted. The Baird Government is continually turning its back on local manufacturers in Newcastle and the Hunter. We have a very proud manufacturing history, with Goninans and Forgacs leading the charge. Why are we looking to Korea to create carriages when our industry is calling out for work? Invest in Newcastle and in Novocastrians—it is time for their fair share. Build them here.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** Order! I remind members that private members' statements will be heard in silence.

#### LINDFIELD EDUCATION PRECINCT

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (13:25):** Today I will focus on some wonderful local news on the education front. An innovative new education precinct will be fully operational on the University of Technology Sydney [UTS] Lindfield site at the beginning of 2019. It will set new educational standards for New South Wales. This state-of-the-art school will include a preschool, out of school hours care, a Department of Education office and a centre for doctor of philosophy students, plus a conference and training centre. Forty million dollars will be spent to create this world-class learning facility, with money happily allocated in this year's budget. The school will see most of the current on-site buildings remain, with some to be altered or refurbished. There will also be additional development work necessary on site.

To be particularly mindful of sensitive site access and parking issues, it is vital that extensive community consultation is completed before building commences. This consultation process includes the presentation of master plan options, implementation plans and commencement dates for each aspect of the project. Following previous communications with the community, I understand that a number of advertised information booths will be on site on Saturday mornings—the first later this year—to provide an opportunity for people to receive information and ask questions.

The new school will accommodate more than 2,000 students from kindergarten to year 12, as well as 40 preschool places and 100 out of school hours places. It is envisaged there will be a series of six home bases, which are expected to develop their own distinctive characteristics. Families with young children in the area will feel reassured that their children will have ongoing access to local primary studies, followed by a world-class secondary education. This will also take pressure off other government high schools on the North Shore, including Killara High School and Chatswood High School in the neighbouring electorate of Willoughby. As the North Shore population grows, it is imperative that infrastructure keeps up with demand. Many new apartment block tenants have young families who need access to local educational and health facilities, and the Baird Government is delivering. It is essential for our children's long-term success that we continue to invest in education.

In 2015 alone, schools in the Davidson electorate received more than \$2.7 million in needs-based funding. This is largely due to the Gonski school funding agreements, which this side of the House signed up to first. Schools in the electorate of Davidson have benefited from New South Wales Government funding over the past four years. Local projects included major capital works at Killara High School and the rebuilding of Cromehurst School in Lindfield, as well as the completion of a major upgrade at Roseville Public School. In fact, schools in the electorate of Davidson have received more than \$28 million in upgrades and capital works since March 2011—and on top of that is another \$40 million. This investment is in addition to the \$70 million Northern

Sydney Schools Plan, which includes a range of projects to relieve public school capacity issues on the North Shore.

In our first term of government 18 new or relocated public schools were funded and 44 major upgrade projects were announced. We also announced funding for an additional 694 permanent classroom spaces, reducing the need for demountable classrooms at schools such as Killara High School. Those projects deliver more than 10,000 net additional public school places across the State. I thank Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli for his wonderful support for education in our area, particularly with the new school at the UTS site in Lindfield.

### **DRUMMOYNE ELECTORATE INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoynes) (13:29):** I am pleased to report to the House some of the great work that is happening in my electorate and to give a snapshot of what has occurred during the past 5½ years of this Government. I will never forget that the day after I was elected the headlines were that we need schools, they are at capacity, there are demountables everywhere. After 49 consecutive years of Labor neglect, we have delivered. We are progressing at a rate of knots with our \$15 million spend on the amazing new Lucas Gardens School in Canada Bay. The school community is being housed temporarily in the Lakemba electorate and will relocate to its brand-new facility early next year. There has been an historic agreement between the City of Canada Bay council and this Government to deliver a brand-new school building for Victoria Avenue Public School in Concord West. Two new Catholic primary schools will be opened in Mortlake and North Strathfield, and a new public school will be built at Wentworth Point in Rhodes.

In addition to that Education funding, over the past five years a significant number of Community Building Partnership grants have been awarded to Five Dock Public School, All Hallows Catholic Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School at Concord, St Ambrose School at Concord West, Abbotsford Public School, Drummoynes Public School, St Mark's Catholic Primary School in Drummoynes, North Strathfield Public School and Concord West Public School. Those are just some of the amazing, life-changing programs that this Government has delivered over the past 5½ years.

We have also delivered on transport. Knowing that as we speak 4,600 road projects are underway across this State makes it easy to see that jobs and growth and all the things we have been talking about are coming to fruition. It is great news. In my electorate a wonderful upgrade of Drummoynes ferry wharf and a complex upgrade of Huntley's Point ferry wharf have been completed. We are planning the upgrade of Chiswick ferry wharf, and Abbotsford and Cabarita ferry wharves will also be upgraded. An amount of \$100 million has been allocated for upgrades to ferry infrastructure along the river in my electorate and this year the rollout of the brand-new ferry vessels that we promised to service the Parramatta River will begin. An unbelievable amount of infrastructure is being delivered in my electorate.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** Order! I call the member for Rockdale to order for the first time.

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI:** That is not to mention the new ferry wharf that will be completed this term at Rhodes. As I said, a massive amount of infrastructure projects are underway across the State. We are starting to catch up with the problems caused by the non-planned residential developments constructed under Labor's notorious part 3A legislation. The Labor Government delivered buildings with very little infrastructure to support them. We are now seeing upgrades to schools and public transport and all the things that people expect in their neighbourhoods. On another front, I will talk about the many sporting fields in my electorate. Recently I had the pleasure of having Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres visit my area to announce \$200,000 towards an upgrade of our Australian Football League fields at St Luke's. That was warmly received by the community. That is in addition to a \$500,000 commitment made by the Federal member for Reid, Craig Laundy. We are delivering for our communities at both Federal and State levels.

I also had the pleasure of taking the Minister for Sport to Concord Golf Club, where we hit a few practice shots in the new, state-of-the-art golf simulator, which was made possible by a \$40,000 allocation through the Community Building Partnership program to one of the great golf courses not only in my electorate but also in the State. The simulator is on the site of the original Sydney Golf Club. Concord Golf Club has a fantastic golf course and plans are afoot to spend \$4.2 million on upgrading it.

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands) (13:35):** I congratulate the effervescent, hardworking member for Drummoynes, who delivers for his electorate. The member gave a wonderful summary of some of the many projects on which he has been working. They include the new Lucas Gardens School and the \$15 million that will be spent on a school at Canada Bay. He also spoke about transport, the new wharves that are being planned and which have been upgraded or delivered, and the sports facilities projects that have been delivered in his electorate. They are only some of his achievements. Five minutes is not enough time to detail

everything that he is doing. He is called "the Package" for very good reason. He certainly delivers a big package, and when it comes to his electorate he is delivering in spades. I congratulate the member on his achievements and thank him for updating the House about his and this Government's great work in Drummoyne.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** I will now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

#### *Visitors*

### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Welcome to our guests in the gallery this afternoon. In particular, I extend a very warm welcome to the 48 students and their teachers from St Paul's High School, Booragul, in the gallery today, guests of the member for Lake Macquarie. I also acknowledge 20 students in the gallery today from the University of New South Wales.

#### *Commemorations*

### **CENTENARY OF FIRST WORLD WAR**

**The SPEAKER (14:20):** On 15 September 1916 during a part of the broader Battle of the Somme at a place now recorded as Delville Wood something new emerged on the battlefield: the "tank". The idea of mechanised fighting machines stretched back to a prototype built in the fifteenth century, envisaged in the drawings of Leonardo da Vinci and, like so much of the modern world, predicted in detail by H. G. Wells in his 1903 story *The Land Ironclads*. Resistance by military traditionalists with a romanticised view of the role of cavalry in warfare meant that development of the concept did not occur until Churchill and others began to see its potential in the early months of the Great War.

In December 1915 orders were given for the rapid development of the machine, which was given the codename "tank" in an effort to mislead foreign intelligence into thinking it was a new water tank for use in the Middle East. The new machine was designed to resist machine-gun fire, cross contested territory, ride over barbed wire and surmount trenches. By the end of the war the tank had proven to be one of the most formidable weapons deployed by both sides and had redefined modern military tactics to focus on armoured warfare. As a result, the great tradition of Australian troops mounted on their stout Waler horses gave way to a new style of mounted warfare and the creation of the first Australian Tank Corps in 1927.

#### *Members*

### **MEMBER FOR WOLLONGONG**

#### **Resignation**

**The SPEAKER:** I advise the House that on 31 August 2016 I received a letter from Noreen Hay, resigning her seat as member for the electoral district of Wollongong.

#### **Vacant Seat**

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** I move:

That in accordance with section 70 of the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912, the seat of the member for Wollongong be declared vacant, by reason of the resignation of Noreen Hay.

#### **Motion agreed to.**

**The SPEAKER:** I further advise that in accordance with section 33 of the Constitution Act 1902 and section 70 of the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act 1912, I wrote to the NSW Electoral Commissioner John Schmidt on Thursday 1 September 2016 to: first, confirm Ms Hay's resignation; and, secondly, to advise of my intention to issue writs on Friday 23 September 2016 for by-elections to be held in the seats of Orange, Canterbury and Wollongong on Saturday 12 November 2016. Mr Schmidt subsequently confirmed receipt of my correspondence by email and I issued a media release the same day giving notification of my intention to issue the writs.

*Bills***GREYHOUND RACING PROHIBITION BILL 2016****POPPY INDUSTRY BILL 2016****LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING) BILL 2016****Assent**

**The SPEAKER:** I report receipt of messages from the Governor notifying His Excellency's assent to the bills.

*Governor***ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**

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

T F BATHURST  
Lieutenant-Governor

Government House  
Sydney, 26 August 2016

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

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT**

**The SPEAKER:** I report receipt of the following message from His Excellency the Governor.

DAVID HURLEY  
Governor

Government House  
Sydney, 27 August 2016

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

*Presiding Officers***TEMPORARY SPEAKERS**

**The SPEAKER:** I inform the House that, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 20, I nominate Melinda Jane Pavey as a Temporary Speaker in place of Adam John Marshall.

*Ministerial Statement***WILLIAM TYRRELL**

**Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing) (14:24):** Sadly, I spoke in this place one year and one day ago to declare that a little boy was missing and had been missing for a year. Unfortunately, today I speak again to say that little boy is still missing. For two years the family of toddler William Tyrrell have had to live not knowing what happened to their innocent little boy. Yesterday, the Premier, the police commissioner and officers in charge of the investigation together announced the State's first ever \$1 million reward for information leading to his recovery. Police are following several lines of inquiry. There have been 2,800 calls to Crime Stoppers from members of the public and more than 1,000 calls related to possible sightings of William. Each of the calls is logged and followed up, which has led to more than 11,000 pieces of information that police are sifting through.

William's parents and his sister have lived every day since his disappearance in hope and fear, not knowing if William is being looked after, if he is loved, safe and warm. All they want are answers to their many questions. Somewhere, someone has those answers. Someone in our community knows what has happened to William. That person, or perhaps people, need to come forward now. Do not wait for police to come to you. Dozens of volunteers remain committed to the Where's William? campaign, which is assisting police with every piece of information gathered to help bring William home.

Over the past two years Williams' parents have ensured that everyone in Australia knows about William Tyrrell. His innocent face adorns bus stops, the backs of taxis, and roadside billboards. Hundreds of people participated in the Walk for William event to raise awareness of his case and to ensure that he remains in the minds of the community. They have painted the streets in red and blue, which are the colours now synonymous with William Tyrrell, to reflect his love of Spiderman, which was the costume he was wearing when he disappeared.

I remind everyone that they can contact Crime Stoppers anonymously on 1800 333 000. The smallest piece of information could assist detectives to find William and bring him home. The New South Wales Government will continue to do whatever it can to bring this little boy home to his family, where he belongs, including yesterday's announcement offering a \$1 million reward. I make it clear that the investigation into the disappearance of William Tyrrell is unprecedented and unique. As such, the reward we have offered is also unique. It is the highest reward ever offered in New South Wales, but this has been on the advice of detectives leading the case for his recovery. Those detectives believe there may still be a chance that William is alive and they have asked for the \$1 million reward to help bring him home. Every resource has been provided to Strike Force Rosann, which has been established to investigate William's disappearance.

There is a perception that police use rewards as a last resort. This is not the case. In fact, police have clear strategies in place. In this instance, the announcement of this reward is part of a broad strategy to solve this case. It is unique because police strongly believe William could still be alive and there is the potential for him to be found and returned to his family. Some have questioned why this case in particular was deserving of a \$1 million reward over other equally heart-wrenching cases. I stress to all victims, their families and New South Wales communities that rewards are never based on the value of a victim. This case is unique and the belief that William is still alive was one key aspect that was taken into consideration when determining the amount of this reward.

The New South Wales Government offers rewards on the advice of the NSW Police Force. Rewards are typically offered to generate interest in an unsolved case, to remind the public that the case remains unsolved, and to garner information where required to ensure that all avenues of information are being followed. This Government, like those before it, respects the role of the NSW Police Force and its Rewards Evaluation Advisory Committee [REAC], which is responsible for setting the amounts and timing of rewards. The NSW Police Force has internal procedures for determining when the offer of a government reward should be sought. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis by REAC and consideration is given to a whole range of factors, including the value of the information that police hope is out there in relation to a case. Unfortunately, there are currently more than 215 rewards on offer for unsolved cases, including murder, theft, bushfires and even missing people. All of these cases have friends and families who are still looking for answers, and understandably they want all avenues fully investigated.

I know that the NSW Police Force does a fantastic job in trying to solve each and every tragic circumstance, and in supporting each and every one of those families. Can we, as a society, do more? Can the Government do more to bring closure to these families? I am open to looking at our current system and ensuring that it meets the needs of the community. This Government will provide all the support asked for by the NSW Police Force in this regard. Today we come together as a Parliament of the people, wearing our red and blue "Where's William?" pins—I thank every member of the House for doing so—to show our bipartisan, unwavering support for the police investigating his disappearance; the volunteers assisting them; and his parents and his sister, who desperately want answers. Most of all, our thoughts and prayers are for William, whom we all want to see returned home.

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (14:31):** On behalf of the New South Wales Labor Opposition I share the sentiments of Minister Grant and the Government. It is two years on, and we have not given up hope. Since William's disappearance, members of this House and I have prayed for William's safe return and we have never given up hope. Many of us in this place would recall the campaign launch in 2015 in the Jubilee Room, which was the start of Where's William? Week, which runs from 12 to 18 September. William's disappearance has captured the hearts and minds of people not only in New South Wales but also across the country. The picture of the young boy in the Spiderman suit brings to mind the reality of how important it is to keep the children in our community from harm's way.

I trust the NSW Police Force, under the care of Chief Inspector Gary Jubelin, will continue to do their best to find William. Last year many of us in this Chamber not only witnessed the grief but also felt the grief of Mr and Mrs Tyrrell and their family. Everyone—all parents and families—wants children to be safe. We will stop at nothing to ensure the safety of children. Last year in Parliament, Simon Gleeson performed the Where's William? theme song, "Bring Him Home", which left not a single dry eye in this place. I will end this short address with some of the words of the song. It goes:

Bring him peace, bring him joy,  
He is young, he is only a boy.  
...  
You can take, you can give,  
Let him be, let him live.

On behalf of all members in this House, I ask: Bring him home.

*Question Time***LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL**

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:35):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Have there been any shortcomings or failures at Liverpool Hospital recently that the community has a right to know about?

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER (North Shore—Minister for Health) (14:38):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I am very proud of the work that is done by our local health districts to ensure that any incidents that occur in our hospitals are reported through the incident management system. Incidents are reported to the Clinical Excellence Commission for proper review and reporting. Where there are changes to be made following those incidents, they are fed back to the local health districts and the hospitals. This is much more transparent, and the quality of our reporting is much greater than it ever was under the Labor Government. The other thing that is really important for people to realise is that before I became the Minister for Health, in 2011, there was no requirement for any of the State's public hospitals to be accredited. Did members know that? They did not even have to be accredited. Many of the hospital administrators actually pulled back from having assessments for voluntary accreditation because they knew the hospitals would fail.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Crossbench members will cease interjecting.

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER:** In 2012 accreditation became mandatory, and all our hospitals are now accredited. All our staff have complied with the requirement to report incidents through the incident management system to the Clinical Excellence Commission. Our boards and the chairs of those boards look at those reports at their meetings. In many cases, the reports are displayed publicly in the board's own minutes on the internet. If that is not an improvement on what happened before 2011, then I would be very surprised.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will curtail their discussions across the table.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLMENTS**

**Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (14:40):** My question is addressed to the Premier. How is the Government responding to a once-in-a-generation surge in enrolments in public schools?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I am sure all members will be interested in this answer. Members should listen to this answer rather than interject before the Premier has even opened his mouth.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) (14:40):** I thank the member for Parramatta for his question. He is an advocate not only for his community but also for the whole of Western Sydney.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members will cease interjecting.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** Not a day goes past that this Government does not think about how it can make the lives of the people of Western Sydney better—indeed, of people across the entire State.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members will cease interjecting.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** There are opportunities in every portfolio, but obviously Education is a critical portfolio in which this Government is delivering a number of reforms, a number of initiatives and great investment under the Minister for Education. Last week the Government was very proud to announce what it will do if there is an increase in enrolments and how it will deal with that. What the Government will do is what it has done across all portfolios: provide capital investment. I was very proud to be at Auburn North Public School where the Government announced 40 new classrooms that will accommodate 900 additional students across Auburn North Public School, the Lidcombe Public School and the Marie Bashir Public School. I am very proud to be a member of a government that is doing that. Rapidly growing communities require new investment in Western Sydney schools. The Minister for Education has given the Government a big tick and I would have thought the Opposition would be excited about that.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. The Minister for Education and the shadow Minister for Education will cease arguing across the table.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** In the budget the Government also announced a new school in North Kellyville, permanent classrooms at Rosehill Public School and increased capacity at Oran Park Public School. The member for Camden attended the announcement, and the people love him. Everywhere the member for Camden turns, he is helping his schools and his communities, and I am very proud to see that. I would have thought the Opposition would love that the budget provides for 100 new permanent classrooms to accommodate more than 2,600 additional students. That is what this Government has been delivering. The shadow Minister knows that that is a very good thing.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Lakemba and the member for Parramatta will cease arguing across the table.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** As the Government invests in classrooms, it is ensuring that they are not just single, standalone classrooms; rather, they are part of the schools for the future. The Government wants the best possible facilities to be delivered, and that is exactly what it is doing. The Government is not only building the best possible schools and providing extra capacity but also appointing additional teachers to the front line. There will be additional teachers everywhere, which is what the Government must do. Since 2011, approximately 3,800 additional teachers have begun working in New South Wales schools. I would have thought every member of this House would be very pleased that those teachers have been making a huge difference to our kids by giving them the education they deserve. Yes, there is more to do, but we have the best Treasurer in the country here in this House.

The Government announced as part of the budget more investment in schools. Following those announcements, I would have thought the Leader of the Opposition would say, "Yes, that is fantastic!" I would have thought also that the member for Strathfield would say that is fantastic and that it is great to have the investment in schools in her electorate. But, sadly, that did not happen. The Leader of the Opposition visited Lidcombe Public School and while he was there he asked for more funding. He seemed to have forgotten that the Government is putting more money into Lidcombe Public School. Effectively, the Leader of the Opposition was endorsing the Government's actions, but he just did not realise it.

The Government is very proud to be delivering for public schools across the State. The Minister for Education has done everything possible to ensure that the State has education facilities while at the same time providing support for teachers. That is what Gonski funding is delivering. The New South Wales Government was the first government to sign up for Gonski funding, and that funding is delivering additional resources and providing every student with the same level of funding. The Government is ensuring that funding is allocated on the basis of need. Through significant investment, it is delivering the classrooms of tomorrow. That can happen only by making decisions that ensure that flexibility is part of the State's fiscal management. That is what this Government has done: made the decisions, invested in required services, and provided investment to ensure that schools and teachers have everything they need to look after our children.

*[Business interrupted.]*

*Visitors*

#### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the Leader of the Opposition, I welcome John and Maria Harwood, who are the parents of the member for Shellharbour, and Jill and Michael Goodwin and Helen Cameron, who are all guests of the member for Shellharbour.

*Question Time*

#### LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL PATIENT DEATHS REVIEW

*[Business resumed.]*

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:45):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. In light of the Minister's previous answer, I ask: Will she confirm that there is a backlog in reviewing patient deaths at the Liverpool Hospital?

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER (North Shore—Minister for Health) (14:46):** Members of the House need to remember that two million patients are admitted to our hospitals in New South Wales every year. For the vast majority of those patients, it is a very happy experience. Our clinical staff—doctors, nurses and others—do an absolutely marvellous job of providing healthcare for them. People can be absolutely assured that they get the best possible healthcare in this State's hospital system. But not everyone recovers. Not everyone is in a position where they can survive. That is as it has always been.

I am particularly grateful to the former shadow Minister for Health, Dr Andrew McDonald, who members may remember as "Dr Mac". He is a paediatrician who retired from Parliament at the last election, but who has returned to work in the public health system. Last week or the week before he said on the radio that the error rate within the State's hospital system has been pretty stable and that, because it is a system that relies upon human judgement, there occasionally will be human error. Nothing has changed; in fact, I believe the situation has improved. Certainly, the reporting of human error has improved since I became the Minister for Health, as have the inquiries that have occurred since then.

**STATE INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (14:47):** My question is addressed to the Treasurer. How is the Government's record investment in infrastructure helping to make New South Wales the number one State in which to do business?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will cease interjecting.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:47):** In case the Opposition is wondering, there is a thing called Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS], which produces new figures. They come out every couple of weeks. This Government knows that Opposition members do not like to hear the truth.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Maroubra will come to order. I call the member for Rockdale to order for the second time. The Treasurer has the call.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I thank the member for Ku-ring-gai for his question because he, like other Government members, appreciates what private sector investment for New South Wales means for jobs, what it means for economic growth, and what it means for this Government's capacity to deliver for the people of this great State. I was very pleased that last week new figures released by the ABS again confirmed that this State is the fastest growing of all the States in our nation. The figures show that New South Wales is growing at the fastest rate since before the global financial crisis.

This has not happened by accident. One particular fact that I was most pleased with indicates that New South Wales is the only State in the nation to record growth in business or private investment. That was at a rate of 4.2 per cent, so we are the only State that is recording an increase—or any growth at all—in business investment. In fact, when we talk about our overall growth it is interesting to note that New South Wales is growing at more than three times the national result. Our State final demand grew 3.7 per cent, which again is a very healthy position to be in. We know this does not happen by accident. Unlike those opposite, we know that when we invest government money in infrastructure that spurs on private investment, which in turn allows us to ensure that the roads, the rail, the hospitals and the schools we are building are matched by private investment.

Not only are we spending a record \$73 billion on infrastructure over four years but also we have our \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW plan. It is no surprise that in New South Wales we are accounting for more than half of the infrastructure pipeline in the nation. It is also no surprise that we can count more than 320 cranes around greater Sydney and New South Wales. We know this is in stark contrast to those opposite. They do not support infrastructure. They do not support private investment—unfortunately, it is true. Given his comments on the public record, we know that the shadow Treasurer does not even know the difference between public investment and private investment.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Rockdale he is on two calls to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We know those opposite have the capacity to build infrastructure, but they certainly do not know how to encourage private investment. We know that the combination of those things will ensure greater outcomes. Wherever we look there is extra private investment spurred on by our infrastructure spend—whether it is in the Sydney central business district, whether it is in the growing communities of the north-west, the greater west, the south and the south-west or whether it is in Newcastle. We are still trying to understand why the member for Newcastle and the member for Maitland do not support the revitalisation of Newcastle.

We also know that government-funded roads upgrades in rural and regional New South Wales are having a very positive impact, as is Business in the Bush. We know that in rural and regional New South Wales we are seeing more jobs, an improvement in the freight task and, of course, the encouragement of private investment in many of our regional towns and communities. We know that when we invest in infrastructure, when private investment comes in to support that infrastructure, it means more jobs and better quality of life for all our citizens, no matter where they live in this great State. We know the Labor Party never got this, and never will. [*Extension of time*]

We know that when those opposite were in government there was a string of cancelled projects, and the shadow Treasurer was in the thick of it. Our economy was the worst in the nation, and what have they shown us since the last election in terms of competence?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There are too many interjections coming from Opposition members.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** All those opposite know how to do is to cancel projects and make sure there is no private investment. They do not know how to create jobs. Certainly, they do not know how to deliver for the people of this great State.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I again remind the member for Rockdale that he is on two calls to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We call on the shadow Treasurer to stop rehashing old policies. We call on him to actually read the budget papers. I was very interested recently when he had a go at us because of our back office efficiency dividends. He wanted more information about our back office efficiency dividends. That information is in the budget papers—he should read the budget papers. While those opposite try to figure out the budget papers, we note that they had a record of axing projects and discouraging investment by the private sector. We on this side of the House are delivering for the great people of this State.

#### LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL PATIENT DEATHS REVIEW

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (14:54):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health. Will the Minister launch an investigation into the backlog of death reviews at Liverpool Hospital, which was highlighted at a recent meeting of the South Western Sydney Local Health District Board by Professor Neil Merrett?

**Ms JILLIAN SKINNER (North Shore—Minister for Health) (14:54):** Congratulations to the Opposition—it has discovered that the board minutes are on the internet. That is how Opposition members are finding out all this information. Why do they know it? Because of the open transfer of information and the accountability of this Government. The board will be investigating this matter as usual, as it should.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members will cease shouting. How could anybody answer a question with the level of interjections and the shouting?

#### STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (14:55):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. What investments are being made in delivering the Government's major infrastructure projects? Is the Minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (14:55):** I thank the member for his question. I am not aware of any alternative approaches, because there are no alternatives. Those opposite have no plans, no alternative approaches.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is too much audible conversation coming from members on both sides of the Chamber.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** They have no idea; they are completely clueless. When those opposite were in government, there were lots of project cancellations. The State is now in a global sweet spot when it comes to infrastructure investment. As the Treasurer has just outlined, the level of private sector interest in the New South Wales infrastructure program is at levels unseen in this State's history. We have a \$73 billion program, and a lot of that investment is being spent on transport and roads—in fact, well over \$40 billion of it is being spent on public transport and roads. In the next 12 months alone, the budget for roads and transport is bigger than the combined roads and transport budget of every other State and Territory.

That means we are getting outcomes for communities across the State. After 16 years of a major infrastructure drought under those opposite, it is flooding in terms of infrastructure investment. Mega projects such as the metro and light rail, and projects in Parramatta, Newcastle and the Sydney central business district, NorthConnex, WestConnex and the Princes and Pacific highways mean we are investing at levels that will enable us to set up the State for decades to come. It is pleasing to see the progress of all those projects—the professionalism of the project teams and the relationships with private sector consortiums to ensure that all projects are on time and on budget. In fact, the Government is now delivering well in excess of 600 projects worth more than \$10 million each. That goes to show every community in this State is set to benefit from the program.

We are giving infrastructure, and we are giving it in a way that brings a smile to so many people across the State. People around the world are paying close attention to our infrastructure spend. I know throughout the economies of Asia there are governments that are particularly interested in the infrastructure investment that is now starting to happen in Western Sydney. Whilst we are talking about giving, I came across a company extract the other day in relation to giving. The company is called the Australian Labor Party (N.S.W. Branch) Gifts Proprietary Limited. It is a private sector company that is listed with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. I looked at the directors. There is one Luke Aquinas Foley.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I cannot hear the Minister due to the level of noise.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** What amused me about this is that he was a director at the same time as Sam Dastyari. There is someone who does not give; he is a receiver. I have to say that I am trying to work out exactly what the Australian Labor Party (N. S. W. Branch) Gifts Proprietary Limited does. Maybe those opposite, who have no plans for infrastructure, might actually talk about what gifts they are planning on giving.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I will find it very difficult to rule on the point of order of the member for Strathfield because I could hardly hear what the Minister was saying due to comments and noise from Government members. I apologise to the member for Strathfield in advance if I am not able to rule on her point of order because I have not heard anything, but I will listen to what the member has to say.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Thank you, Speaker, and your apology is accepted. My point of order is taken under Standing order 129. This question is about transport and infrastructure and, given that I have the shadow portfolios responsible for this area, I am keen to hear about it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I apologise again; I did not hear adequately what the Minister said to be able to rule whether his comments were relevant.

*[Extension of time]*

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** The reason I am raising this is that there is another company called Labor Party Investments Proprietary Limited. I look forward to going into that, because it seems that that company has a little interest in infrastructure, but I will touch on that on another day. Today I say this: This Government has a committed plan. It has Infrastructure NSW delivering the assurance, the governance and the project management across an infrastructure program that is the envy of all other jurisdictions across Australia—and it has not happened by accident.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I again remind the member for Rockdale that he is on two calls to order.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** It has happened because we took the tough decisions to recycle capital, to set up an infrastructure fund, to put windfall tax gains into the fund, and to start pumping them back out into productive infrastructure across New South Wales. While those opposite want to pretend that they are going to form some sort of government, all they want to do is cancel infrastructure project after infrastructure project, opposing WestConnex, opposing light rail, opposing metro, and the list goes on. We will expose them time and again for the ongoing cancellation policy of what is a brilliant infrastructure program.

#### GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY BAN

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:02):** My question is directed to the Premier. I refer to his remarks on 2GB radio this morning in relation to greyhounds, "No-one's saying that and, you know, my understanding of reading that is the context that it, it could well be that it's across the community. I mean, any, any campaign that you create, I mean, there, there are low levels of literacy across the community, I mean—"

**The SPEAKER:** Order! What is the member's question?

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** "—multicultural communities, as an example. I mean, there are low levels of—"

**The SPEAKER:** For goodness sake! What is the member's question?

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** It is important, Speaker, yes.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It may be important to the member for Maroubra. The member will ask his question. This is inappropriate.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** I know it is, Speaker. You should say something to the Premier about it.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Maroubra will ask his question or resume his seat. If the member does not ask a question, I will call for the next question.

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** Why will the Premier not just apologise to the people in the greyhound industry whom he is bankrupting and now insulting?

**Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) (15:03):** For a start, I was not on 2GB this morning.

**The SPEAKER:** That is even more bizarre!

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** The Opposition can try to take words from public servants and turn them into whatever narrative it likes, but it knows that is not true. The Leader of the Opposition did not ask that question, did he? The man of principle did not ask that question. No, he will not do that; he will get others to do that. I am surprised the member for Maroubra did it. The reason Opposition members are getting so shrill and the reason the Leader of the Opposition did not ask the question is that Labor's animal welfare plan—the first plan, the first policy, from this man of principle over there—says:

A civilised society cares for its people and looks after those who are vulnerable.

We agree with that. It continues:

A civilised society also ensures that its animals are treated humanely.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I again remind the member for Rockdale that he on two calls to order. This is his final warning.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** The Leader of the Opposition said:

I have said I want New South Wales to be the economic powerhouse of the nation as well as lead the country in environmental protection and social justice. Ensuring the humane treatment of animals is part of this vision.

That is what he said.

**Mr Michael Daley:** I think the Premier is picking the wrong time to go on the attack. I would have thought an apology was warranted. The question was: When will the Premier apologise?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier remains relevant to the question that the member asked.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** He says sorry every other day—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Swansea will come to order. I will direct the Clerk to stop the clock if the member for Swansea continues to interject.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** We understand that Labor has stood up for animal welfare, but why did the man of principle change his animal welfare plan all of a sudden? It is because he saw a political opportunity. He does not stand for that; he stands for nothing and offers nothing. That is what he does. Ultimately, Labor will end up exposed because the people in that party know that is the truth.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have ruled that the Premier is being relevant to the question. Does the member for Strathfield have a different point of order?

**Ms Jodi McKay:** It is Standing Order 129. The question is about—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have ruled that the Premier remains relevant. The member for Strathfield will resume her seat.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** But it relates to whether the Premier will apologise to the greyhound owners.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have ruled on the relevance of the answer. The member for Strathfield will resume her seat. The Premier has the call and remains relevant to the question he was asked.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** As I have said in relation to this, just because the Opposition says it does not make it true, and Opposition members know it is not true.

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

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** Those opposite can try to use public service words to turn it into something they want to use for political purposes, but they know it is not true. They are actually better than that—that is the truth of it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Interjections will cease.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** We know what the Leader of the Opposition thinks on this issue. We know what he has said in private. He has taken a different political stand, because that is what he wants to do. If he wants to do that, he can. He can use pictures of himself with Sam Dastyari and a greyhound. I can tell members that in that picture the only one with his head held high is the greyhound. The reason the Leader of the Opposition does not come in here and ask those questions is that he does not believe in the position he is prosecuting.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Has the Premier completed his answer?

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** Yes.

**APPRENTICESHIPS AND SKILLS TRAINING**

**Mr THOMAS GEORGE (Lismore) (15:07):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Regional Development, Skills and Small Business.

*[Interruption]*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members will come to order. They have had their bit of fun.

**Mr THOMAS GEORGE:** How is the Government's record \$73 billion infrastructure spend giving apprentices and trainees the skills they need for the jobs of tomorrow?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (15:09):** My wife says that I always jump up a bit too quickly. I thank the member for Lismore for asking the fourth question today, which relates to infrastructure and skilling up our future generations. Last week the Premier, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and I announced the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program for New South Wales. I come from the Monaro, where we often talk about the great Snowy Mountains scheme and its legacy.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Londonderry to order for the first time. I warn the member that if she continues to interject she will be removed from the Chamber.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Construction commenced on the scheme in 1949 and it was commissioned in 1971.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Its legacy is skill sets, entrepreneurs and businesses and, of course, a strong multicultural and diverse community. I have spoken previously about the partnership between TAFE NSW and Lendlease and the 600-plus subcontractors at Barangaroo. They are part of the Barangaroo Skills Exchange, which has already seen more than 10,000 employees receive 17,000 training outcomes, including more than 600 apprentices. The same program has been established at Darling Harbour. This Government has an opportunity to lead in skilling up the next generation. Last week we announced the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program for New South Wales, which is leveraging off the \$73.4 billion being spent on infrastructure in this State. We will pick two pilot or demonstration projects.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the first time. She will cease interjecting.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** The first project will be stage two of the Lismore Base Hospital, which is a \$180 million investment by this Government to provide this important facility for the Lismore community. We will attach some skills outcomes to that infrastructure project. We can talk about bridges, roads, schools and hospitals, but we must also talk about the beneficiaries of that infrastructure spending. Those beneficiaries are young people because they will have the opportunity to gain skills. The Government has implemented a \$20 billion program in New South Wales involving both the Lismore Base Hospital and the Sydney Metro projects. Attached to those projects are skills targets that will ensure we build our workforce not only for the construction industry but also for those who normally miss out when the economy is growing. The first target is that 20 per cent of the total project labour will be what we call "new learning workers".

Having worked in the construction industry, I know that many people involved in it have decades of experience but no recognised skill sets. This Government will enable them to train up, to skill up and to have their existing skills recognised. In addition, 20 per cent of all trade positions must be occupied by apprentices. That will provide an opportunity for young people to work on some of the key projects that we know will be underway for the next three, four, five and six years. They will have the rare opportunity to complete their apprenticeship on the one project. The Government also intends to double the number of women working in industries that have not traditionally employed them. We will ensure that women are part of the booming construction industry and that they have equity of opportunity.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have warned the member for Port Stephens to cease interjecting. I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the second time.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** The Government is also stipulating that 1.5 per cent of the total contract value must be directed at supporting Aboriginal participation. That will allow individuals or businesses to participate in the State's infrastructure program. Again, it will create not only a skilled workforce for the future but also future entrepreneurs. This will be tied to the contract procurement process, and it will provide local opportunities for small businesses, traders and contractors. However, and more importantly, young people will gain the skills they need to be prosperous. We know that financial independence is the key to prosperity, and that that independence

is the result of having a job or a career that ensures a great lifestyle. April Brewin is a 27-year-old mother of two who was working weekend shifts to make ends meet. When she heard about the opportunities available through the Sydney Metro pre-employment program, she was first to sign up and has now gained a Certificate III in Process Manufacturing (Concrete Production). Since gaining that qualification, she has undergone on-the-job training and is now on the factory floor. [*Extension of time*]

Ms Brewin now has full-time employment with a company that will continue to be involved in the Sydney Metro project. This Government has the opportunity to skill up young people and to give them opportunities. Our legacy is not only fantastic infrastructure, which grows the economy, creates jobs, and services our communities, but also young people with the opportunity to gain skills so that they can be part of and benefit from this period of prosperity.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Across New South Wales we are seeing an increase in enrolments in public-provided TAFE and private vocational education. Private providers are partnering with the Government in skilling up the young people of this State.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the third time.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** We have seen significant increases in enrolments in vocational education, which is in contrast to what is happening nationally.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Londonderry for the last time.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Enrolments in TAFE in 2015 were 429,000. That figure has been passed already this year, and is more than the budgeted figure of 469,000. We still have four months left of this year, which includes the peak enrolment period for 2017. Young people are being trained in this State, and that is being made possible only because of our industry partnerships. Consult Australia stated:

Government needs to take the lead in leveraging their investment in infrastructure to achieve the greatest economic and social benefit. New South Wales is showing how this can be done.

The Civil Contractors Federation stated:

The NSW civil construction industry is the envy of all other States and Territories and initiatives like this demonstrate that in NSW we have a Government ready to work with industry to maximise the potential benefits from this kind of record investment.

This partnership between public and private training providers and with industry will ensure that we leave a long-lasting legacy— [*Time expired.*]

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members on the front bench will come to order. The member for Keira will come to order. Opposition frontbench members are behaving in a childish manner.

#### **GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY BAN**

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (15:16):** I direct my question to the Premier. Why did he invent a civil emergency as the pretext to deliver a \$1.6 million taxpayer-funded propaganda campaign to demonise thousands of law-abiding citizens who engage in greyhound racing?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I am tempted to rule that question out of order.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) (15:17):** I did not. The Leader of the Opposition knows that is untrue, but he does not care about the truth.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The question is contrary to the guidelines, and I could have ruled it out of order. Members will come to order.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** Given the position the Leader of the Opposition is taking, it is no wonder that Jason Clare is preparing to come up the Hume Highway. We know what the Labor Party does best: It personalises issues. When members opposite are in trouble, they get very personal. In a broad context, just because members of the Opposition say things does not mean they are true.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Lakemba will come to order. The member for Bankstown will come to order. They will heed the rulings of the Chair or be removed from the Chamber.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** The Leader of the Opposition tries to create class warfare about an issue that has nothing to do with class.

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

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** He has even brought class warfare into the health arena. He has tried to argue that the Government directs its health spending to favoured electorates. That is what he has argued. What sort of appalling behaviour is that? He has said that we are happy to spend money at the beaches, but not in Western Sydney. That is what he is trying to do.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Maybe you should have spent the \$1.6 billion on health, Premier. Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Swansea does not have to make an introductory comment to a point of order or breach of a standing order. The member has been here long enough to know that.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** I apologise.

**The SPEAKER:** I am sure that is a sincere apology. The Premier will resume his seat so I can hear whether there is a point of order to what was a spurious question in the first place.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** It was not a question. I was making a point that had the Premier spent the \$1.6 billion—

**The SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** That is not my point of order; I was just responding to you.

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

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** My point of order is that the Premier is not being relevant to the question.

**The SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. The member will resume her seat.

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** I finish on that point about the Leader of the Opposition doing whatever it takes to get into power—class warfare in health? Let us do that. That is what he is happy to do. The Leader of the Opposition might understand what hospitals and what else we have invested in in Western Sydney. Under this Government, Blacktown, Campbelltown, Westmead—

**Mr Luke Foley:** Point of order: The question was about greyhound racing and the demonisation of law-abiding people, not about hospitals. I refer to Standing Order 129, relevance. Why is the Premier demonising law-abiding citizens?

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

**Mr MIKE BAIRD:** There it is: The real Luke starts to come out. He tries to keep it down—does not let it come out—but then it comes out. It is the real Luke right there—the same real Luke who plays class warfare with hospitals.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Kiama will come to order. I call the member for Kiama to order for the second time.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 73—in so many ways. Premier, let us shut down Parliament for the rest of the day and we will debate greyhound racing. I dare you.

**The SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. Opposition members will come to order or they will be removed from the Chamber.

### STATE POPULATION GROWTH

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (15:22):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Planning. How is the Government planning for the State's growing population?

**Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Planning) (15:22):** I thank the member for Castle Hill for his question. He is a tireless advocate for his community, which includes many of the hills of north-western Sydney—Beaumont Hill, Box Hill, Castle Hill and Rouse Hill—and is one of the fastest-growing electorates in New South Wales. His electorate alone will have 78,850 new children under the age of 20 by 2036 on the current projections—many of whom will be related to the member for Castle Hill. New South Wales is in many ways the State—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Government members will come to order. There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. The Minister has the call.

**Mr ROB STOKES:** New South Wales is growing. New South Wales is a State of opportunity. This morning I had the opportunity to go for a brisk walk and I saw that spring was in full swing. Everywhere there are the signs of reproduction—birds, bees, bandicoots, and people as well. This State is growing so quickly that it is

making even our demographers blush. The latest projections show that our population is projected to grow from 7.2 million people—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Rockdale will resume his seat. I call the member for Rockdale to order for the third time.

**Mr ROB STOKES:** —in 2011 to 9.9 million people by 2036. Those projections are up 225,000 on previous estimates from just a few years ago. In the case of metropolitan Sydney, our city is projected to grow from 4,296,217 in 2011 to 6,421,850 by 2036. That is another two million residents and an increase of 167,000 on 2014 figures. A burgeoning population is a sign of New South Wales' success. This growth is a by-product of the strength of the New South Wales economy, which is the fastest growing in the nation. Its effect is to encourage interstate and overseas migration, and to provide opportunities and optimism to support growing families.

We are growing 50 per cent faster than the average of all the other States and twice as fast as Queensland and South Australia. It comes as no surprise that we are one of the fastest-growing regions and, in the case of Sydney, one of the fastest-growing cities across Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] countries. As has been mentioned during this question time, this Government will spend more than \$73 billion on infrastructure over the next four years. This year New South Wales will spend more on transport infrastructure than the capital budgets for transport in both New York and London. We will see more spending directed to road and rail than all the other States combined.

People are responding by recognising the opportunities that this investment is bringing and the lifestyle they could enjoy. People want to live here, they want to start their families here and they want to grow their families here. Who could blame them? New South Wales is the State of opportunity. Our Government is taking proactive steps in planning for our growing population's future. First and foremost, it is spending record amounts on infrastructure. It is also connecting land use and transport planning through a renewed focus on regional and district planning. Our Government is committed to regional areas, and is investing \$6 billion in proceeds from the lease of our State's electricity network outside Sydney.

The Government recognises there are great opportunities for growth not only in metropolitan Sydney but also across the regions of New South Wales. There are great opportunities for growth in our strong network of historical market towns such as Griffith in the Riverina, Orange in the Central West and Lismore on the North Coast. The Government is preparing and delivering new regional plans to manage growth and to deliver jobs in all the regions for the first time in the history of New South Wales. These will work together as a spatial plan for the entire State over the next 20 years. We on this side of the House are also doing the strategic planning that was neglected under those opposite. The reasons for so many of our infrastructure problems today is that governments such as those led by former Premier Wran and former Premier Carr sold off the very infrastructure corridors which were planned for and which were needed so desperately. This is serious, because the loss of those infrastructure— [*Extension of time*]

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members will cease interjecting. The member for Kiama and the member for Hornsby will cease shouting at the member for Shellharbour.

**Mr ROB STOKES:** It is important to mention the loss of those infrastructure corridors because their loss 20 or 30 years ago, through short-sighted populism, today adds unnecessary cost, complexity and conflict to projects which were needed many years ago and which have taken the Baird-Grant Government to deliver.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Port Stephens is on her final warning.

**Mr ROB STOKES:** Those projects are absolutely important to undergird the future growth of our city and our State. We know that this State is growing. We know it is a State that offers tremendous hope and opportunity. That is why so many people want to live here and why we have created the conditions in which people are comfortable to grow their families. To offer this hope we need to plan for the future. That is what the Baird-Grant Government is doing.

#### *Documents*

### INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

#### Reports

**The SPEAKER:** I announce receipt, in accordance with section 78 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act, of the report of the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled "Investigation into NSW Liberal Party Electoral Funding for the 2011 State Election and Other Matters", dated August 2016, received out of session on 30 August 2016. I order that the report be printed.

**AUDITOR-GENERAL****Reports**

**The CLERK:** I announce receipt, in accordance with section 63C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, of the Performance Audit Report of the Auditor-General entitled "Sale and Lease of Crown Land: Department of Industry—Lands", dated September 2016, received out of session on 8 September 2016 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION****Government Response: Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Reports of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption**

**The CLERK:** I announce receipt of the Government Response to Report 1/56 of the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled "Review of the 2013-2014 Annual Reports of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption", received out of session on 8 September 2016 and authorised to be printed.

*Documents***AUDITOR-GENERAL****Reports**

**The CLERK:** I announce receipt, in accordance with section 14A of the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984, of the report of the Audit Office for the year ended 30 June 2016, received out of session on 9 September 2016 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE****Reports**

**The SPEAKER:** I table the following reports of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee entitled:

Citizen's Right of Reply—Eastern Suburbs Football Association, Report 4/56, dated September 2016

Citizen's Right of Reply—Champion Homes, Report 5/56, dated September 2016

**The SPEAKER:** I order that the reports be printed.

**Reports printed.**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE VALUER GENERAL****Report: Report on the Tenth General Meeting with the Valuer-General**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS:** As Chair: I table the report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General entitled "Report on the Tenth General Meeting with the Valuer General", dated September 2016. I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****Reports**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS:** As Chair: I table the report of the Committee on Children and Young People entitled "Review of the Annual 2015 Report of the Advocate for Children and Young People" Report 1/56, dated September 2016. I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 24/56**

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN:** As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled "Legislation Review Digest No. 24/56", dated 13 September 2016. I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN:** I also table the minutes of the committee meeting regarding Legislation Review Digest No. 23/56, dated 23 August 2016.

*Members***PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES**

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** On behalf of Mr Mike Baird: I inform the House that on 25 August 2016 the following members were appointed as Parliamentary Secretaries to the offices indicated:

Mr Adam John Marshall, MP  
Parliamentary Secretary for Northern NSW and Renewable Energy

The Hon. Bronnie Taylor, MLC  
Parliamentary Secretary for Southern NSW and Regional Communities.

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following petition signed by fewer than 500 persons has been lodged for presentation:

**Surry Hills Light Rail Station**

Petition calling on the Government to build a second light rail station in Surry Hills at the Wimbo Park-Olivia Gardens site, using appropriate landscaping to minimise visual and noise impacts and provide a quality park for the local community, received from **Ms Jenny Leong**.

**RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

**The CLERK:** I announce that the following Ministers have lodged responses to petitions signed by more than 500 persons:

The Hon. Paul Toole—Local Government Mining Veto—lodged 2 August 2016 (Ms Tamara Smith)

The Hon. Troy Grant—Greyhound Racing Industry—lodged 3 August 2016 (Ms Sonia Hornery)

The Hon. Andrew Constance—Route 328 Bus Services—lodged 9 August 2016 (Ms Gabrielle Upton)

*Business of the House***BUSINESS LAPSED**

**The SPEAKER:** I advise the House that in accordance with Standing Order 105 (3) General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) Nos 794 to 835 and 837 to 854 have lapsed.

**BUSINESS REMOVED**

**The SPEAKER:** I advise the House that, in view of the resignation of the member for Wollongong and in accordance with past practice, I order the removal from the Business Paper of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices) Nos 862, 872, 880, 886, 907, 917, 926, 934, 936, 938, 1023, 1029, 1033, 1042, 1051 and 1056 standing in the former member's name.

*Motions Accorded Priority***STATE INFRASTRUCTURE****Consideration**

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (15:32):** My motion calls on the House to support the New South Wales Government spending a record \$73 billion on infrastructure over the next four years, and notes that New South Wales is spending more on road and rail than all other States combined, and that under the leadership of the member for Auburn New South Wales still has no plan for New South Wales. I feel as though everything

I was going to say has already been said during question time. There is a notion of what I call intergenerational responsibility that underpins the nature of integrity in government. By intergenerational responsibility, I mean what does this Government leave for our children and grandchildren? A good government will deliver infrastructure that is necessary for the children of the future.

The Minister for Planning outlined that Sydney is growing at an exponential rate and that there is an increased necessity for us to ensure that we put in place the infrastructure for the future. It would be an abrogation of that responsibility if we did not embark upon the planning that is currently being delivered in New South Wales. The Minister also alluded to the irresponsibility attached to what I call the "opposition of gunnas": We were gunna do this and we were gunna do that, but we never did it. It is a notion that epitomises the policy planning of the Opposition.

If we look back to the County of Cumberland Planning Scheme, we note that the project is now known as the "WestConnex" and was planned as far back as 1958. But it was never delivered by any government—until this Government. In fact, most of the land associated with that planning was sold by governments intervening. We now know why there is a responsibility for us to deliver the projects. Our failure to deliver those projects will leave it in the hands of people who have no responsibility whatsoever. This is an opportunity for Opposition members to debate this topic and say, "Here are our infrastructure policies and these ones are yours, which we are going to abolish." [*Time expired.*]

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

### Consideration

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:36):** I admit that the motion I read out to the House before question time is a bit longwinded. I can sum up the motion by saying that the House should note that the Government and its constituent members, particularly its Ministers, are behaving badly. We have seen this before. When the wheels start to fall off, discipline in government starts to suffer, and the indicators of that have manifested themselves. The first indicator, of course, is that from time to time people cross the floor. In the past couple of weeks we have seen former Ministers crossing the floor in this place. There are now whispers in the corridor about why they did it and why the Premier and the Deputy Premier destroyed the greyhound industry. The whispers in the hallways are proliferating around Parliament now. It is like a confessional.

Government members are lining up to make their confessions in the shadows. Ministers then start talking about jockeying for leadership. Of course, next they rush to get their snouts in the trough. Panic is starting to set in. Why would it not? Let us look at what happened on Saturday. In the Blacktown council area there was an 11 per cent swing to Labor. Labor has regained its majority, going from seven to 10 councillors. Where is the member for Penrith? No amount of stadium upgrades will help him. In Penrith there was an 11 per cent swing to the Australian Labor Party. In the Blue Mountains, Mayor Greenhill doubled his popular vote, with an 8 per cent to 10 per cent swing across the board for other councillors. In Liverpool there was a 7.6 per cent swing to Labor.

**Mr Gareth Ward:** Remember 2011?

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY:** The member for Kiama can shout all he likes, but he is a marked man as well. The latest poll has him going. Sit there and take in the ambience, member for Kiama, because your days are numbered, my friend. In Sutherland, in the electorate of the member for Heathcote, there was a 26 per cent swing to Labor. He should pre-pay for his Opal card now because he is leaving this place. It is instructive to note which Ministers were the first to rush to get their snouts in the trough. I was completely flabbergasted when I found out yesterday that the Minister for Police is minting his own coins. I have been a Minister for Police. I have a whole swag of those coins. I looked at them this morning and none of them have my face or name on them. Congratulations to the Deputy Premier. I feel sorry for the Minister for Skills. He is sacking TAFEs up hill and down dale, and destroying enrolments. There are 85,000 fewer enrolments. He is flogging off courses to private enterprise, but nobody knows who he is. No wonder he is spending taxpayers' money. And so it goes. We will have fun watching the cardigan unravel— [*Time expired.*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion of the member for Epping be accorded priority.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....	50
Noes .....	32
Majority.....	18

## AYES

Anderson, Mr K (teller)Anderson, Mr K (teller)	Aplin, Mr GAplin, Mr G	Ayres, Mr SAyres, Mr S
Baird, Mr MBaird, Mr M	Barilaro, Mr JBarilaro, Mr J	Berejiklian, Ms GBerejiklian, Ms G
Bromhead, Mr SBromhead, Mr S	Brookes, Mr GBrookes, Mr G	Conolly, Mr KConolly, Mr K
Constance, Mr AConstance, Mr A	Coure, Mr MCoure, Mr M	Crouch, Mr ACrouch, Mr A
Dominello, Mr VDominello, Mr V	Elliott, Mr DElliott, Mr D	Evans, Mr LEvans, Mr L
Fraser, Mr AFraser, Mr A	Gibbons, Ms MGibbons, Ms M	Goward, Ms PGoward, Ms P
Grant, Mr TGrant, Mr T	Gulaptis, Mr CGulaptis, Mr C	Hazzard, Mr BHazzard, Mr B
Henskens, Mr AHenskens, Mr A	Hodgkinson, Ms KHodgkinson, Ms K	Humphries, Mr KHumphries, Mr K
Johnsen, Mr MJohnsen, Mr M	Kean, Mr MKean, Mr M	Lee, Dr GLee, Dr G
Maguire, Mr DMaguire, Mr D	Marshall, Mr AMarshall, Mr A	Notley-Smith, Mr BNotley-Smith, Mr B
O'Dea, Mr JO'Dea, Mr J	Patterson, Mr C (teller)Patterson, Mr C (teller)	Pavey, Ms MPavey, Ms M
Perrottet, Mr DPerrottet, Mr D	Petinos, Ms EPetinos, Ms E	Piccoli, Mr APiccoli, Mr A
Provest, Mr GProvest, Mr G	Roberts, Mr ARoberts, Mr A	Rowell, Mr JRowell, Mr J
Sidoti, Mr JSidoti, Mr J	Skinner, Ms JSkinner, Ms J	Speakman, Mr MSpeakman, Mr M
Stokes, Mr RStokes, Mr R	Taylor, Mr MTaylor, Mr M	Toole, Mr PToole, Mr P
Tudehope, Mr DTudehope, Mr D	Upton, Ms GUpton, Ms G	Ward, Mr GWard, Mr G
Williams, Mr	Williams, Ms LWilliams, Ms L	

## NOES

Aitchison, Ms JAitchison, Ms J	Atalla, Mr EAtalla, Mr E	Barr, Mr CBarr, Mr C
Car, Ms PCar, Ms P	Catley, Ms YCatley, Ms Y	Chanthivong, Mr AChanthivong, Mr A
Crakanthorp, Mr TCrakanthorp, Mr T	Daley, Mr MDaley, Mr M	Dib, Mr JDib, Mr J
Doyle, Ms TDoyle, Ms T	Finn, Ms JFinn, Ms J	Foley, Mr LFoley, Mr L
Harris, Mr DHarris, Mr D	Harrison, Ms JHarrison, Ms J	Haylen, Ms JHaylen, Ms J
Hoenig, Mr RHoenig, Mr R	Hornery, Ms SHornery, Ms S	Kamper, Mr SKamper, Mr S
Lalich, Mr N (teller)Lalich, Mr N (teller)	Lynch, Mr PLynch, Mr P	McDermott, Dr HMcDermott, Dr H
McKay, Ms JMcKay, Ms J	Mehan, Mr DMehan, Mr D	Mihailuk, Ms TMihailuk, Ms T
Minns, Mr CMinns, Mr C	Park, Mr RPark, Mr R	Parker, Mr JParker, Mr J

## NOES

Smith, Ms T Smith, Ms T	Warren, Mr G (teller) Warren, Mr G (teller)	Washington, Ms K Washington, Ms K
Watson, Ms A Watson, Ms A	Zangari, Mr G Zangari, Mr G	

## PAIRS

Davies, Ms T Davies, Ms T Hancock, Ms S Hancock, Ms S	Robertson, Mr J Robertson, Mr J Smith, Ms K Smith, Ms K
----------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------

**Motion agreed to.****STATE INFRASTRUCTURE****Priority**

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (15:45):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Supports the Government spending a record \$73 billion on infrastructure over the next four years.
- (2) Notes that New South Wales is spending more on road and rail than all other States combined.
- (3) Notes that under the leadership of the member for Auburn, the Opposition still has no plan for New South Wales.

I start by alluding to the reference made by the Minister for Regional Development to the legacy of the Snowy Mountains scheme for the people of New South Wales. That scheme was emblematic of a government that had a vision for the future and was able to deliver infrastructure for this State. In many respects, this Government will deliver a similar legacy for this State. Across the State one can see a great number of cranes in the sky, as was previously referred to by the Treasurer. The people of Sydney see more cranes in the sky than do the people of Dubai. This Government is rebuilding this State because we have an obligation to leave for the children of the future a State that they can comfortably call home.

One of the major obligations of government is to improve people's standard of living. The best way to deliver that improved standard of living is by concentrating on the essentials: health, education, roads and public transport. The New South Wales Government is delivering all of those things for the generations of the future. The Minister for Regional Development also alluded to the fact that the infrastructure programs the Government is embarking upon are delivering jobs for the citizens of this State. He alluded to the number of people engaging in education programs and apprenticeships so that their futures are assured.

I have made a number of visits to the North West Rail project as incremental parts of the project have been delivered. It has been fantastic to see the number of people who have worked and been trained on that project. I witnessed a wonderful scene where both mum and dad worked on the project. They said it was fundamentally important to their family. The delivery of jobs for the people of the State is primarily in the mind of the Government. I am proud to be a member of a government that knows the best thing we can do for a person is to ensure the delivery of a job. It is much better to deliver jobs than to pay welfare.

Underpinning all that is an obligation to families. The time people spend in congested traffic—which can result in journeys taking between one hour and one and a half hours a day—is fundamentally time that is stolen from families. The Government owes it to families to get people to and from work in the best possible manner, which means the delivery of a better public transport system, such as NorthConnex, a light rail service from Parramatta to Strathfield, and a light rail service from Parramatta to Carlingford. All of those projects have been embraced by the Government because they are public transport projects that will deliver people efficiently to and from their homes and relieve traffic congestion.

The challenge to the Opposition is to tell us the projects that Labor will cut or not deliver and then tell us the projects it will deliver. If the Opposition does not have an inventory of the projects it will deliver, it is saying to the people of New South Wales, "We have no plan for the future." This debate provides the Opposition with an opportunity to say whether it has a plan for the future that is different from the Government's plan. It has the opportunity to tell us the projects it will cut and the projects it will deliver.

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (15:51):** Boy oh boy, it is always tough to follow the member for Epping in debate. The motion he moved is very interesting. It states:

That this House:

- (1) Supports the Government spending a record \$73 billion on infrastructure over the next four years.

I want to make a minor point about the way that budgets and economics function relative to a small thing called the "consumer price index", or CPI, and a small thing called "inflation", or whatever one wishes to call it. I would hope that the amount Labor spent five years ago would be less than the amount the current Government is spending now. It is a difficult concept for The Nationals to understand, so I will put it to the members of the Liberal Party. Basically, what I am referring to is inflation and its effect means that every year there is record spending. I note that the member for Epping is looking perplexed, but I assume he realises that every year becomes a record spend. Has he got that? I am just making sure he has got it. It is a difficult concept for him to understand.

Again I say to the member for Epping, "Warning, warning, warning. When you are a bit way down on the totem pole and a ministerial officer gives you a speech to read, it is a good idea to have a close look at it and say, 'Hmm, maybe I won't do this one. Maybe I'll flick this to the guy who is ranked number four'." It is interesting that the member for Epping talks about the Government's record. I assume he drives to Parliament House along a major piece of infrastructure or travels along a rail line that was built by a Labor government. Let me list Labor projects in the Epping electorate: the Lane Cove Tunnel and the Epping to Chatswood rail line. They are Labor projects.

Government members may not know those projects but I am sure the people in their electorates do. They are fairly "small" pieces of infrastructure that are worth billions of dollars, and they are in the Epping electorate. The member for Epping referred also to record infrastructure, yet in his electorate Labor delivered the Lane Cove Tunnel and the Epping to Chatswood rail line. It has been very smart of Liberal Party strategists to send the member for Epping into the House to lead this debate. It is fantastic. What else did Labor deliver? Labor's projects include the Olympic Park rail link; the Inner West Light Rail service, which some Government members might know of; the Parramatta to Liverpool T-way; the Millennium and Waratah rail carriages, and railway and clearway projects. Nothing big—only multibillion dollar infrastructure projects.

It is always interesting to note how this Government has fared with blowouts. The intercity train fleet, which started at \$2.8 billion, is now sitting at the nice, ripe figure of \$3.9 billion. Even on The Nationals figures, that project's blowout is \$1.1 billion. WestConnex, which is a project that continues to consume the budget, began at \$10 billion but now is approximately \$17 billion. The CBD light rail project—which is another fantastic project, wow—has gone from \$1.6 billion to \$2.1 billion. The Sydney Metro project has increased in cost from \$11.5 billion to \$12.5 billion. What a fantastic track record of delivering infrastructure.

Then, of course, we come to the Government's wonderful performance of delivering health infrastructure. The member for Mount Druitt knows better than anyone else the unbelievable state of Nepean Hospital. That fabulous hospital is glaringly in need of a major infrastructure upgrade, but this Government has only allocated \$1 million for planning. What a fantastic and amazing investment; I am sure the consultants around town really enjoy this Government. When we examine comments such as "record infrastructure", I am sure that next year's expenditure will also be a record investment. It might be a revelation to Government members that in another three or four years there is yet another record investment. Labor had a record investment every year, and, yes, this Government has a record investment this year. That does not make this Government a good government—just a government that can deliver ministerial speeches.

**Ms MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (15:56):** While listening to the speech of the Opposition spokesman, I was thinking that he has more front than Myers and a hide larger and thicker than the world's biggest elephant. How can a former deputy director of the Department of Transport, who was in charge of the Rozelle Metro project, deliver a speech containing false accusations and which is a pathetic attempt at explaining the record of the Labor Party. He does not do justice to the people of New South Wales, who understand that the economy of New South Wales is forging ahead and is driving the nation's economy.

When the member for Keira was the deputy director of the Department of Transport, New South Wales was languishing at the bottom of the ranking for economic performance in Australia. Now New South Wales is number one. The difference is the infrastructure spend of this Government not just in Sydney but, more importantly, also in regional New South Wales. I refer to projects such as the Pacific Highway and Princes Highway upgrades, which are transforming communities and, most importantly, saving lives. For decades, previous Labor governments debated the issue and passed the buck when it came to taking responsibility for the Pacific Highway. Former Labor governments were prepared to allow the Federal Labor Government to contribute only 50 per cent of the cost of the upgrades. But when the Coalition Government came to office, things changed overnight.

The Coalition Government put politics behind us and concentrated first and foremost on the infrastructure, the future of this State and the lives of children and families. That is why on 22 July the Nambucca-Urunga section of the Pacific Highway was able to be opened. That project was a \$780 million spend. If Labor members had done their job a little bit better while in government, that highway would have been completed at least 12 months ago. It is incredibly sad that communities along that section of the highway were catastrophically and traumatically affected because of delays in completion of the upgrade. That delay was solely because previous Labor governments played politics for 16 years. But at last that section of the Pacific Highway is now open. The travelling time of people from Valla, Nambucca and Macksville going to their jobs in the major regional centres is much shorter. That project will provide economic stimulus, jobs and opportunities to the region. This Government was elected to construct these projects, and we have been doing so since we came to government. In nearly six years we have transformed the North Coast and South Coast regions. [*Time expired.*]

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (15:59):** This is the most arrogant motion I have heard from the Government. I will bring Government members back to earth and put things into reality. The mob opposite have been in government for the past 5½ years, and what do we have? We have hospitals, education and TAFE in crisis. Mount Druitt Hospital, under this Government, has become a Clayton's hospital—

**Mr Troy Grant:** Point of order: I know the member for Mount Druitt is a recent member—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is the member's point of order?

**Mr Troy Grant:** The member is misleading the House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order. The Deputy Premier will resume his seat.

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA:** A Clayton's hospital is a hospital you have when you do not have a hospital. The truth hurts. Instead of Government members patting themselves on the back, they should be very, very worried. The Deputy Premier and the Minister for Regional Development are very fortunate that council elections were not held in their electorates this month, because if council elections had been held their electorates would have sent them a message. The Government should have paid attention to the message sent from last weekend's local government elections. While Government members are patting themselves on the back and calling the people of New South Wales illiterate, I can tell them that the people of New South Wales have woken up to them and have sent them a message. Those opposite are flogging public assets and squandering funds like drunken sailors. Let us have a look at the motion before us. Those opposite are patting themselves on the back for spending \$73 billion on infrastructure, yet over the past 5½ years they have blown out their budget by \$10 billion.

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (16:03):** In reply: I am very surprised by the inability of those opposite to be self-analytical. This was an ideal opportunity—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member will be heard in silence. I remind the member for Rockdale that he is already on three calls to order.

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** This was an ideal opportunity for those opposite to suggest proposals that would be of benefit to New South Wales and would deliver for the future of the State. This motion is an acknowledgement of the terrific job this Government is doing. The problem of self-analysis is probably best outlined by one of the Labor Party's own. In 2011, in a bestselling book called *Power Crisis: The Self-Destruction of a State Labor Party*, this is what a prominent Labor Party member had to say:

In 2011 the Labor Party is based on appointment by grandees. It is a party of, by and for insiders. As the party avoids meaningful reform, the status quo has defenders who note the electorate is not interested in party reform. They say the ALP is distracted by such navel gazing. What the electorate has worked out is the quality of modern Labor governments. How could Labor be providing a critical mass of capable MPs, given what the ranks of the party has been reduced to?

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** Who said that?

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE:** Rodney Cavalier. Rodney Cavalier has in fact belled the cat on the Labor Party. I thank the member for Keira for his "great" contribution. He is a former secretary of the Department of Transport, but in his contribution he failed to mention the projects that went bankrupt in this State under a Labor government. He ought to hang his head in shame for those projects, of which he was an architect. They include the Rozelle project, the Lane Cove Tunnel project, the Cross City Tunnel project, all of which were either not started or went broke. I thank the member for Oxley for her contribution, as well as the member for Mount Druitt. [*Time expired.*]

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that the motion moved by the member for Epping be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....48  
 Noes .....32  
 Majority..... 16

AYES

Anderson, Mr K (teller)Anderson, Mr K (teller)	Aplin, Mr GAplin, Mr G	Ayres, Mr SAyres, Mr S
Barilaro, Mr JBarilaro, Mr J	Berejiklian, Ms GBerejiklian, Ms G	Bromhead, Mr SBromhead, Mr S
Brookes, Mr GBrookes, Mr G	Conolly, Mr KConolly, Mr K	Constance, Mr AConstance, Mr A
Coure, Mr MCoure, Mr M	Crouch, Mr ACrouch, Mr A	Dominello, Mr VDominello, Mr V
Elliott, Mr DElliott, Mr D	Evans, Mr LEvans, Mr L	Fraser, Mr AFraser, Mr A
Gibbons, Ms MGibbons, Ms M	Goward, Ms PGoward, Ms P	Grant, Mr TGrant, Mr T
Gulaptis, Mr CGulaptis, Mr C	Hazzard, Mr BHazzard, Mr B	Henskens, Mr AHenskens, Mr A
Hodgkinson, Ms KHodgkinson, Ms K	Humphries, Mr KHumphries, Mr K	Johnsen, Mr MJohnsen, Mr M
Kean, Mr MKean, Mr M	Lee, Dr GLee, Dr G	Maguire, Mr DMaguire, Mr D
Marshall, Mr AMarshall, Mr A	Notley-Smith, Mr BNotley-Smith, Mr B	O'Dea, Mr JO'Dea, Mr J
Patterson, Mr C (teller)Patterson, Mr C (teller)	Pavey, Ms MPavey, Ms M	Perrottet, Mr DPerrottet, Mr D
Petinos, Ms EPetinos, Ms E	Piccoli, Mr APiccoli, Mr A	Piper, Mr GPiper, Mr G
Provest, Mr GProvest, Mr G	Roberts, Mr ARoberts, Mr A	Rowell, Mr JRowell, Mr J
Speakman, Mr MSpeakman, Mr M	Stokes, Mr RStokes, Mr R	Taylor, Mr MTaylor, Mr M
Toole, Mr PToole, Mr P	Tudehope, Mr DTudehope, Mr D	Upton, Ms GUpton, Ms G
Ward, Mr GWard, Mr G	Williams, Mr RWilliams, Mr R	Williams, Ms LWilliams, Ms L

NOES

Aitchison, Ms JAitchison, Ms J	Atalla, Mr EAtalla, Mr E	Barr, Mr CBarr, Mr C
Car, Ms PCar, Ms P	Catley, Ms YCatley, Ms Y	Chanthivong, Mr AChanthivong, Mr A
Crakanthorp, Mr TCrakanthorp, Mr T	Daley, Mr MDaley, Mr M	Dib, Mr JDib, Mr J
Doyle, Ms TDoyle, Ms T	Finn, Ms JFinn, Ms J	Foley, Mr LFoley, Mr L
Harris, Mr DHarris, Mr D	Harrison, Ms JHarrison, Ms J	Haylen, Ms JHaylen, Ms J
Hoening, Mr RHoening, Mr R	Hornery, Ms SHornery, Ms S	Kamper, Mr SKamper, Mr S
Lalich, Mr N (teller)Lalich, Mr N (teller)	Lynch, Mr PLynch, Mr P	McDermott, Dr HMcDermott, Dr H
McKay, Ms JMcKay, Ms J	Mehan, Mr DMehan, Mr D	Mihailuk, Ms TMihailuk, Ms T

## NOES

Minns, Mr C  
Minns, Mr C  
Smith, Ms T  
Smith, Ms T  
Watson, Ms A  
Watson, Ms A

Park, Mr R  
Park, Mr R  
Warren, Mr G  
(teller) Warren, Mr G  
(teller)  
Zangari, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

Parker, Mr J  
Parker, Mr J  
Washington, Ms K  
Washington, Ms K

## PAIRS

Baird, Mr M  
Baird, Mr M  
Davies, Ms T  
Davies, Ms T

Smith, Ms K  
Smith, Ms K  
Robertson, Mr J  
Robertson, Mr J

**Motion agreed to.**

*Bills***LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION BILL 2016****First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Mr Troy Grant, read a first time and printed.**

**Second Reading**

**Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing) (16:14):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Bill 2016. At the last election the Government made a commitment to review the oversight arrangements for law enforcement agencies in New South Wales. The Government delivered on this promise by commissioning former shadow Attorney General, Mr Andrew Tink, AM, to undertake this review with a view to simplifying and streamlining the current oversight system. The terms of reference for Mr Tink's review required him to examine and report on any gaps in the current oversight system, the functional overlap between the existing oversight agencies, options for a single oversight agency and a recommended model for police oversight, including guidance on its design, structure and establishment.

Mr Tink consulted widely throughout his review and received a number of detailed written submissions from stakeholders. He also held meetings with a number of stakeholders to further inform his review. Mr Tink provided his final report to the Government on 31 August 2015. The final report of the Tink review is impressively thorough. It contains a very useful historical context on the evolution of police oversight in New South Wales; an in-depth analysis of the current police oversight system, including its strengths and flaws; an examination of oversight systems in other jurisdictions; and, most importantly, a number of comprehensive evidence-based recommendations. The Government accepted Mr Tink's recommendations, and they form the basis of this reform. I take this opportunity to once again thank Mr Tink for his undertaking and for the comprehensive review that he presented to Government.

The NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission perform incredibly important roles, and are at the forefront of the fight against crime and the protection of community. However, as these agencies are given significant powers and authority to perform their functions, it is also important that there is an effective oversight system in place. Oversight of the NSW Police Force and Crime Commission is currently undertaken by three different agencies: the Police Integrity Commission, commonly known as PIC, the Ombudsman and the Inspector of the Crime Commission. Although these agencies are meant to have different oversight functions, there are overlapping responsibilities.

The *Tink Review of Police Oversight* confirmed what the Government has long suspected: The current system is outdated and complex and the overlapping responsibilities between existing oversight agencies cause confusion, inefficiencies and failures. It is simply not necessary to split the oversight arrangements for the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission across three different agencies. This reform is therefore well overdue. The establishment of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, which will be known

as the LECC, will create a single civilian law enforcement oversight body that will exercise the functions currently undertaken by the PIC, the Ombudsman and the Inspector of the Crime Commission.

The PIC and the Inspector of the Crime Commission will be abolished, and the Ombudsman's jurisdiction as it relates to police will be transferred. To this end, the LECC will be responsible for the oversight of the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission complaint investigations, as well as investigating matters that could amount to serious misconduct or serious maladministration. The Government will support the LECC in the exercise of its functions by transferring to LECC the budget of the abolished Police Integrity Commission, and the budget of the police and compliance branch of the Ombudsman's office. This funding will allow the LECC to proactively recruit a properly trained, skilled and experienced staff to fulfil its oversight responsibilities. The LECC will have the responsibility to monitor a NSW Police Force critical incident investigation in real time. This is a new oversight function that was recommended by the Tink review.

For those who are not aware, a critical incident is essentially an incident involving a police officer that results in the death or serious injury of a person. The bill outlines the circumstances in which a critical incident will be declared. This includes where the death of a person is caused by the discharge of a police officer's firearm, during the application of force by a police officer, or as a result of a police operation. Due to the serious nature of critical incidents, and the need to determine how and why a death or serious injury has occurred during a police operation, it is important that highly skilled and appropriately resourced personnel undertake critical incident investigations. The NSW Police Force has some of the best investigators in the world, particularly the elite Homicide Squad, which currently leads critical incident investigations involving the death of a person. It is therefore appropriate that the NSW Police Force retain responsibility for investigating critical incidents. This was a recommendation from the Tink Review.

However, it is equally important that an investigation into a critical incident be conducted in an impartial, objective and thorough manner. The families of people involved in a critical incident, as well as the general public, rightly expect this. While the Government has full confidence that the NSW Police Force conducts impartial, objective and thorough critical incident investigations, LECC oversight will ensure public confidence in this process is maintained. The LECC will be notified when a critical incident is declared, and will be able to monitor all stages of the investigation. The LECC will be able to attend the scene of a critical incident, view recordings or transcripts of witness interviews and liaise with senior investigators. If any issues with the conduct of a critical incident investigation are identified, the LECC will be able to bring this to the attention of the Commissioner of Police, and, where applicable, the Coroner.

The LECC will be given some extraordinary powers to exercise some of its functions, including the ability to hold hearings and compel people to give evidence, even if that evidence might incriminate the person. It is therefore important that the LECC be held accountable for the use of these powers, as well as for its general conduct. The new position of Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission is being created to oversee the operations of the LECC. This position will replace the Inspector of the Police Integrity Commission, which is being abolished. The inspector of the LECC will be responsible for investigating complaints against officers of the LECC, as well as auditing and scrutinising the LECC's operations. The inspector will report directly to Parliament. The inspector will also have responsibility for monitoring the compliance of law enforcement agencies with legislative requirements relating to the use of covert powers, such as telecommunications interception.

The purpose of law enforcement oversight is to prevent, detect and investigate corruption and misconduct by law enforcement officers, and to provide accountability for the exercise of the powers given to police and Crime Commission officers. It is essential in ensuring the integrity of the New South Wales criminal justice system. It is therefore fundamentally important that there are no gaps in the oversight system. It is for this reason that the commencement of the legislation establishing and governing the LECC will be staged. Some provisions of the bill will commence straightaway. This will allow for the Chief Commissioner and commissioners to be appointed as soon as possible. This will also allow the structure and organisation of the LECC to be finalised. Importantly, the provisions providing the LECC with its investigation and oversight powers will not commence until the LECC, as an organisation, is ready to commence operations. The current oversight arrangements will therefore remain in place until this time.

I now turn to the detail of the bill. Part 2 provides the key definitions and concepts that underpin the LECC's jurisdiction. Of particular importance are the definitions in division 2. Division 2 provides for the kinds of misconduct that fall under the LECC's jurisdiction. These are police misconduct, administrative employee misconduct and Crime Commission officer misconduct. Police misconduct relates to a sworn police officer within the meaning of the Police Act 1990. Administrative employee misconduct relates to any employee of the NSW Police Force who is not a sworn police officer. Crime Commission officer misconduct relates to the Commissioner for the Crime Commission, an Assistant Commissioner for the Crime Commission or any other officer of the Crime Commission within the meaning of the Crime Commission Act 2012. Officer misconduct

includes conduct that constitutes a criminal offence, corrupt conduct, unlawful conduct or a disciplinary infringement. This division also defines serious misconduct.

In general, the LECC will be able to investigate only misconduct that constitutes serious misconduct. Serious misconduct is conduct that could result in prosecution for a serious offence, which is an offence punishable by five years' imprisonment or more, or a serious disciplinary action, being action that could result in termination of employment or a demotion; a pattern of misconduct or maladministration carried out on more than one occasion or involving more than one officer that is indicative of systemic issues; or corrupt conduct. The LECC will also have jurisdiction over maladministration involving the NSW Police Force, the New South Wales Crime Commission, and individual officers. The LECC will be able to investigate officer maladministration only of a serious nature.

Misconduct matters management guidelines are also provided for in part 2. These are agreements entered into between the LECC, the NSW Police Force and New South Wales Crime Commission that outline how misconduct matters are dealt with by the parties to the agreement, including the types of misconduct matters that should be investigated and when a misconduct matter should be referred to the LECC. Where the content of misconduct matters management guidelines cannot be agreed between the parties, the Chief Commissioner of the LECC may determine the content.

Part 3 of the bill provides for the constitution and management of the LECC. The LECC will be led by a Chief Commissioner, a Commissioner for Integrity and a Commissioner for Oversight. The Chief Commissioner must be a serving or retired judge of a superior court of record within Australia. The Commissioner for Integrity and the Commissioner for Oversight must have special legal qualifications. This means the two commissioners must be Australian lawyers of at least seven years' standing. Part 3 also outlines the decision-making process for the LECC. Clause 19 (2) provides that decisions to investigate or hold an examination must be made with the agreement of the Chief Commissioner and at least one other commissioner. Clause 19 (3) provides that certain decisions, including the decision to hold a public examination, can be made only with the unanimous agreement of all three commissioners.

To ensure the LECC exercises its functions independently of the Government, clause 22 provides that the LECC and the commissioners are not subject to the control or direction of the Minister responsible for administering the LECC Act. Part 4 explains the functions of the LECC, including its functions to detect, to investigate and to expose serious misconduct and serious maladministration, to refer less serious misconduct matters to the NSW Police Force and the Crime Commission for investigation, and to oversee the investigation or handling of those referred misconduct matters. When exercising its functions, the LECC must have regard to the objects of the Act, which are outlined in part 1. In relation to misconduct matters, the LECC must exercise its functions in accordance with any misconduct matters management guidelines. When exercising its education and prevention function, the LECC must comply with relevant information protection principles contained in the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998, and the Health Privacy Principles contained in the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002.

This part also allows the LECC to make findings, form opinions and make recommendations in the exercise of its functions. This includes making a finding that serious misconduct has occurred and recommending the action to be taken. However, the LECC will not be permitted to make a finding that a person is guilty of committing an offence. Where the LECC provides a report to the Commissioner of Police or the Crime Commissioner that contains a finding or opinion, disciplinary action will be able to be commenced based on the LECC's finding or opinion. The Commissioner of Police or Crime Commissioner will not be obliged to undertake a new investigation into the matter before commencing disciplinary action, but may choose to do so.

The functions of the LECC include assembling evidence that may be admissible in the prosecution of a person for a criminal offence and providing that evidence to the Director of Public Prosecutions. This part also establishes the LECC's inspection function. In order to determine whether the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission are complying with relevant legislative requirements, the LECC must inspect the records of both of these agencies at least once every 12 months. The LECC may undertake further inspections at any time. The LECC must also keep under scrutiny the systems established by the NSW Police Force and the New South Wales Crime Commission in relation to misconduct matters.

Part 5 of the bill outlines how complaints or information about misconduct or maladministration are to be dealt with by the LECC, the NSW Police Force, the New South Wales Crime Commission and various other public agencies. Division 1 of part 5 imposes a duty on the principal officer of a public authority to report to the LECC any matter that the officer suspects on reasonable grounds could be misconduct or maladministration. The LECC may issue guidelines that provide that certain matters do not need to be reported.

Division 2 of part 5 outlines the process by which a complaint about misconduct or maladministration may be made. Any person can complain to the LECC about conduct of a police officer, Crime Commission officer or NSW Police Force administrative employee that could be misconduct or maladministration. Likewise, any person can complain to the LECC about conduct of the NSW Police Force or Crime Commission that could constitute agency maladministration. This part does not affect any other rights of a person to complain about the conduct of an officer of one of these agencies. For example, complaints against police officers are able to be made in accordance with the Police Act 1990.

A complaint to the LECC must be in writing. However, the LECC is able to accept complaints that are not in writing if it considers it is appropriate to do so. In this case the complaint will be reduced to writing as soon as practicable. A member of Parliament can also lodge a complaint on behalf of a person as long as the person consents. The bill clarifies that in this situation the member of Parliament does not become a complainant but can be given information about the progress or outcome of the complaint if the LECC considers it to be appropriate. Division 3 of part 5 outlines how a complaint or information about possible misconduct or maladministration must be dealt with. When the LECC receives or becomes aware of a misconduct matter it must provide notice to the agency to which the matter relates. Notice does not have to be given if it is not in the public interest to do so, for example if giving notice to the agency would prejudice a future investigation.

Clause 44 provides for the types of decisions that can be made by the LECC in relation to a misconduct matter, including whether to investigate the matter itself, to refer the matter to the NSW Police Force, the Crime Commission or another agency for investigation, and whether to oversee its investigation by another agency. This clause also requires the LECC to have regard to any misconduct matters management guidelines when deciding how to deal with a matter, but leaves the ultimate decision as to how to act with the LECC. Clauses 45 and 46 provide a list of factors that the LECC may take into account when deciding how a misconduct matter will be dealt with or whether to commence an investigation into conduct that may be serious misconduct or serious maladministration.

Part 6 sets out the LECC's powers of investigation, which, like the Police Integrity Commission [PIC] and the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC], are modelled on the investigative powers of a royal commission. These powers can only be used to investigate the types of misconduct matters set out in clause 51. This includes investigations into conduct that could amount to serious misconduct, serious maladministration or agency maladministration. Part 6 investigation powers can also be used for investigations into conduct of the Commissioner of Police or a Deputy Commissioner, or the Crime Commissioner or an Assistant Crime Commissioner, that could amount to misconduct or maladministration. The threshold of serious misconduct does not need to be met in these cases.

When undertaking an investigation under Part 6 the LECC will be able to hold examinations. An examination can be held in private or in public. The LECC will be able to compel people to appear at an examination held under part 6. A person is not entitled to refuse to appear and give evidence at an examination. As with other investigative bodies exercising royal commission powers, a person is not entitled to refuse to answer any question or produce a document or other thing on the grounds that answering the question or producing the document might incriminate the person. The privilege against self-incrimination is therefore abrogated. However, if a person objects to answering a question on the grounds of self-incrimination, clause 74 imposes restrictions on how this evidence can be used in certain circumstances. Part 14 also permits the commission to impose further restrictions on how examination material can be used.

Part 7 provides the mechanism by which the LECC can oversight a NSW Police Force or Crime Commission investigation of a misconduct matter. In accordance with part 8A of the Police Act as well as any misconduct matters management guidelines issued by the LECC, the NSW Police Force will be responsible for investigating most misconduct matters that relate to police. Oversight can be conducted by requesting reports and reviewing the outcomes of the investigation by the police or the Crime Commission, or, if the LECC is of the opinion that it is in the public interest to do so, the LECC will also be able to more closely monitor a police investigation under clause 101.

When monitoring a police investigation a LECC officer will be able to be present as an observer during any interviews conducted by police officers for the purposes of the investigation, confer with those police officers about the conduct of the investigation, and request the nominated contact for an investigation to provide reports on the progress of the investigation. The LECC will also be able to require the Commissioner of Police to provide specified information to inform the LECC as to whether a misconduct matter is being dealt with adequately by the NSW Police Force. The LECC's authority to oversight an NSW Police Force critical incident investigation is contained in part 8 of the bill. Clause 110 outlines the features of critical incident. In summary, it is an incident involving a police officer that results in the death of or serious injury to a person.

When an incident exhibiting the features outlined in clause 110 occurs, the Commissioner of Police may declare the incident to be a critical incident. It is usual practice for the responsibility of declaring a critical incident to be delegated to a region commander. As soon as a critical incident is declared, the LECC must be informed. The Commissioner of Police or delegate can revoke a critical incident declaration at any time. The LECC must also be informed of this. When undertaking a critical incident investigation, the critical incident team must examine and report on the matters outlined in clause 113, including the lawfulness and reasonableness of the conduct of the police officers involved. This clause also provides that a critical incident investigation should be undertaken in accordance with the NSW Police Force critical incident guidelines as far as is practicable and operationally appropriate.

The critical incident guidelines are not mandatory, however, and a departure from the guidelines does not affect or invalidate a critical incident investigation. After a critical incident has been declared and the LECC has been notified, the LECC may monitor a critical incident investigation if it decides it is in the public interest to do so. Clause 114 outlines the powers the LECC can use when undertaking its monitoring role. This includes being able to attend the scene of a critical incident, having access to recordings or transcripts of witness interviews, being able to observe witness interviews with the consent of the parties involved, and being able to require the senior investigator to provide access to all relevant documents and reports prepared by police in relation to the critical incident.

When undertaking its monitoring role, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission will not be able to control, direct, supervise or interfere with the carrying out of a critical incident investigation. However, if during the course of an investigation the LECC considers that the factors outlined in clause 113 are not being examined adequately, or that the investigation is not being conducted in a competent, thorough or objective manner, or that any directions issued by the Coroner under section 51 of the Coroner's Act are not being complied with, the LECC will be able to communicate this to the senior investigator, the Commissioner of Police or the Coroner.

Part 9 of the bill establishes the Inspector of the LECC. The inspector will be responsible for auditing the operations of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission to ensure compliance with the law, investigating the conduct of the LECC and its officers, and assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of Law Enforcement Conduct Commission policy and procedures relating to the legality and propriety of its operations. The inspector may exercise those functions whether or not a complaint has been made. Clause 124 outlines the powers the inspector has when carrying out his or her functions.

The Inspector of the LECC will also be given responsibility for inspecting the records of relevant agencies in accordance with relevant covert powers legislation, including the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) (New South Wales) Act 1987, Surveillance Devices Act 2007 and Law Enforcement (Controlled Operations) Act 1997. This will include the relevant records of the ICAC. This inspection function is currently undertaken by the Ombudsman. The amendments transferring this function to the Inspector of the LECC are contained in schedule 6 to the bill. Schedule 6 also makes consequential amendments to other pieces of legislation.

Part 13 of the bill provides for the interactions between the LECC and other agencies, including agencies from other jurisdictions. Clause 165 outlines the relationship with the Ombudsman. Conduct of the LECC or an officer of the LECC is not subject to the Ombudsman's jurisdiction under the Ombudsman Act 1974. The only exception to this is if a matter involving the LECC or an officer of the LECC is referred to the Ombudsman by the Inspector of the LECC. Likewise, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission or officers of the LECC will not be subject to the jurisdiction of the ICAC unless a matter is referred to the ICAC by the Inspector of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission.

The bill is moving the NSW Police Force from the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman to the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission. Conduct of the NSW Police Force or a member of the New South Wales police will not, therefore, be able to be made the subject of a complaint, inquiry, investigation or other action under the Ombudsman Act. Clause 165 does, however, allow the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission to consent to the Ombudsman dealing with a matter under the Ombudsman Act if the matter falls under parts 3A and 3C of the Ombudsman Act, and the child protection and disability jurisdiction of the Ombudsman as these types of matters often involve multiple agencies.

Part 14 imposes obligations of secrecy and non-disclosure on officers of the LECC as well as other people involved in investigations, examinations and the exercise of other functions of the LECC. Ordinarily, a person, such as a witness, who is required to provide the LECC with information, evidence, a document or other thing is not permitted to disclose this to any other person. However, the bill provides important welfare-related exemptions to the normal non-disclosure provisions. These exemptions allow a person to disclose information that would normally be subject to a non-disclosure provision to a registered medical practitioner or registered psychologist where this disclosure is necessary to receive medical treatment such as psychiatric care, treatment or counselling.

Schedules 1 and 2 to the bill contain provisions relating to the commissioners, assistant commissioners, inspector and assistant inspectors. Schedule 3 contains savings, transitional and other provisions. Schedule 3 will ensure there are no gaps in law enforcement oversight by providing that the LECC can continue to deal with any matter commenced by the Police Integrity Commission, Ombudsman or Inspector of the Crime Commission prior to the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission commencing operations. All records of these agencies will be transferred to the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission. Schedule 3 also confirms that responsibility for completing Operation Prospect will remain with the Ombudsman. With the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Ombudsman will be able to commence prosecutions for offences arising out of Operation Prospect. The Ombudsman will also be able to exercise certain powers in relation to police, but this will be strictly limited to Operation Prospect. Any new investigations arising out of Operation Prospect will be conducted by the LECC.

Schedule 5 amends the Police Act 1990. While a large number of amendments being made to the Police Act are to replace references to the Police Integrity Commission with the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, substantial amendments are being made to part 8A. Part 8A provides the legislative framework for complaints management and investigation within the NSW Police Force. Substantial amendments to this part are required in order to give the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission jurisdiction over NSW Police Force complaints and to ensure the Police Act is compatible with the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission legislation.

Schedule 7 contains an important welfare-related reform relating to parties who are compelled to give evidence before the Crime Commission, ICAC, Ombudsman and the Police Integrity Commission. Schedule 7 amends various Acts to provide an automatic exemption to secrecy provisions governing these aforementioned agencies when disclosure of certain information is required to be given to a registered medical practitioner or registered psychologist for the purposes of receiving medical treatment such as psychiatric care, treatment or counselling.

This bill improves law enforcement oversight in New South Wales by removing the unnecessary overlap and duplication between the existing oversight agencies. A single civilian oversight agency will be far more efficient than the current three oversight agencies. The establishment of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission is yet another example of this Government's commitment to reforming areas that have been neglected in the past. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

## **LAND AND PROPERTY INFORMATION NSW (AUTHORISED TRANSACTION) BILL 2016**

### **First Reading**

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

### **Second Reading**

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (16:49):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time. The Land and Property Information NSW (Authorised Transaction) Bill 2016 enables the private sector to invest in and operate the titling and registry business of Land and Property Information [LPI] for a period of 35 years. Until 1 July this year, LPI was comprised of three main divisions: Titling and Registry Services, Spatial Services, and Valuation Services. Titling and Registry Services administers the land title register in New South Wales while Valuation Services assesses land values to help determine rates and land tax, and Spatial Services creates and maintains mapping data for New South Wales. This bill authorises the granting of a concession to operate the titling and registry services of LPI. The Valuation Services and Spatial Services divisions will not be included in this transaction. They will be retained within the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, under the very capable instruction of the Minister for Finance, Services and Property, Minister Perrottet.

In May this year the Government announced its intention to proceed with this transaction after accepting the recommendations of a comprehensive scoping study into the business. The study found that the involvement of the private sector would be of long-term benefit to consumers, to industry and to taxpayers generally. The private sector will have strong incentives to invest in new technology, resulting in significant improvements to the system, and benefits for consumers. Expected benefits of private involvement in LPI titling and registry services could include: faster processing times, the introduction of new services for customers, providing a better business to business—B2B—experience for business customers and greater investment in technology and innovation.

In addition, the transaction would free up valuable government funds to invest the net proceeds of the transaction into new infrastructure across the State, including the stadia package. This will help boost economic growth and productivity throughout New South Wales. This bill provides for the term of the concession to be 35 years and for titling and registry services to return to government after that period. Should the initial concession be terminated before the end of the 35 years, this bill authorises the Government to re-tender with a term of up to

35 years or to return the titling and registry services back to the Government. The re-tendered concession cannot be granted to the same entity that held the original authorised concession.

The bill sets out the roles and powers of the Treasurer and the portfolio Minister. The Treasurer has overall responsibility for the transaction, with the portfolio Minister having responsibility for the ongoing oversight of the concession arrangements. The bill provides a range of legislative and regulatory mechanisms to protect both staff and the integrity of the property titling system in New South Wales. The bill requires the concession arrangements to include provisions specifying the standards that the operator is required to comply with, and establishes a penalty regime should the operator fail to comply. In addition to the service standards, the concession arrangements are to provide for the authorised operator to operate and maintain the register, the delegation of the titling and registry functions from the Registrar General to the operator, and the functions of the Minister and the Registrar General in overseeing the authorised concession.

The Government has also moved to ensure that the rights of employees affected by the transaction are protected—as we always do when it comes to private involvement in the operation of public assets. Award employees will be provided with an employment guarantee of two years after transferring their employment to the new operator. For temporary employees, the employment guarantee is the remainder of their current term of employment immediately before the transfer date or a period of two years after the transfer date, whichever period ends first. Transferring employees will of course also have continuity of entitlements, including those relating to superannuation, annual leave and long service leave.

The need to maintain the integrity of the Torrens system has been at the forefront of the Government's considerations during the design of this legislation. Over the past months the Government has consulted with the wider industry on this matter, such as the bodies representing conveyancers and the legal profession. We acknowledge their input and feedback, in particular, from the Law Society of NSW. The assistance of the society is greatly appreciated. The bill establishes the mechanisms for the Registrar General to be the regulator of the titling and registry business. The Registrar General will be a public sector employee. The bill introduces new provisions to allow the Registrar General to monitor and enforce the authorised operator's performance in operating the titling and registry services. Performance will be monitored through clearly defined service levels, key performance indicators and obligations that ensure the security of the data.

The Government will continue to guarantee the Torrens titling system backed by the Torrens Assurance Fund. All applications for compensation from the Torrens Assurance Fund will continue to be made to the Registrar General. This will ensure the continued strong backing of the Torrens system by the State's guarantee of title. The Government is committed to ensuring transparent and stable prices for regulated services provided by LPI titling and registry services. The Government will monitor and regulate the price of services, so that price increases for regulated services will be limited to a maximum of the consumer price index during the concession period. This will provide users and industry with additional certainty and stability.

Paramount in the Government's considerations has been the security of the data collected and managed by the operator. That is why the LPI transaction will mandate, through the concession arrangement, that the Government will retain full ownership of all land title data. The bill stipulates that data must be stored in Australia, and that the operator must adopt appropriate data security and fraud detection practices. The Registrar General will have regulatory oversight of these matters through the concession deed. In order to ensure the integrity of the register, the concession arrangements will include robust step-in powers. In addition to these contractual powers, the bill includes statutory step-in powers. These can be exercised where there is a threat or a likely threat to the integrity of the register and will allow the Government to operate the business if this becomes necessary in emergency circumstances. These safeguards will ensure the integrity of the system and the protection of data collected, and guarantee transparency and certainty for the industry.

The Government is committed to protecting and promoting competition and innovation amongst information brokers, service providers and others who are in the business of providing access to titling and registry services or offer products that use information from the registry. The bill requires that the concession includes measures that protect competition in downstream markets. Under the concession deed, the Registrar General will approve the standard terms on which the concession holder is to deal with its wholesale customers and intermediaries and the Registrar General will have power to resolve any disputes over access. The Government will continue to make property sales information available under the Open Data Policy.

The bill specifies that the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 applies to the private operator as if it were a public sector agency in the same way that it currently applies to LPI titling and registry Services. This bill makes amendments to the Real Property Act 1900—RPA—and other land titles legislation to allow the operator to perform the operational functions of the register, but under the oversight of the Registrar General. Under the new arrangements, the Registrar General will be responsible to ensure that the requirements

of the Real Property Act are performed. The power and duty to register dealings and plans will be delegated to the authorised operator, who will be required to comply with all Acts and laws applying to land registration.

Rules and requirements will be put in place by the Registrar General to enable stakeholders to engage effectively with the registry business. These requirements will take the form of lodgement rules. The Registrar General's Directions, which have been a valuable source of information for all users of the system for many years, will continue to be provided as guidelines. The bill makes a significant amendment to the Real Property Act to give the Registrar General administrative review powers. Any person dissatisfied with a decision of the authorised operator can apply to the Registrar General for review. The operator will be required to give effect to any decision of the Registrar General made as a result of a review.

Finally, the rest of the bill is very similar to other transaction bills that have passed through this Parliament. It includes provisions that allow the Government to take the necessary steps to facilitate the transaction, including arrangements for the transfer of assets and functions. The Government is confident that this transaction will result in better outcomes for customers, for the industry and ultimately for the taxpayers of New South Wales. This bill provides an opportunity for the State to increase innovation in the land and titling industry, and to unlock capital to invest in infrastructure. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

## **FAIR TRADING AMENDMENT (COMMERCIAL AGENTS) BILL 2016**

### **First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Mr Victor Dominello, read a first time and printed.**

### **Second Reading**

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (17:00):**

I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Fair Trading Amendment (Commercial Agents) Bill 2016. The bill repeals the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 and provides for the transfer of responsibility for regulation of commercial agents in New South Wales to NSW Fair Trading. The bill also introduces a less costly and burdensome regulatory regime for this occupation. The current Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act 2004 provides for the licensing of commercial agents and private inquiry agents in New South Wales. The NSW Police Force currently has responsibility for issuing licences and enforcing the Act. The Act defines commercial agent activity as debt collection, process serving and repossession of goods. Private inquiry agent activity is defined as investigation or surveillance of people. Under the Act, a commercial agent or private inquiry agent business operator must hold a master licence and employees must hold an operator licence. Licensees must undertake prescribed training, be fingerprinted and considered a fit and proper person.

In 2014 the Legislative Assembly legal affairs committee of this House conducted an inquiry into debt recovery in New South Wales. The committee found that the existing licensing system imposes unnecessary costs and delays and is out of step with the modern debt collection industry. On 11 February 2016, on the basis of evidence about the low level of risk posed by face-to-face agents and the small numbers of such agents, the New South Wales Government agreed to the introduction of a negative licensing system for all commercial agents. In today's industry around 80 per cent of debt collectors work in call centres and have no face-to-face contact with debtors. The committee also noted that the debt collection industry is also subject to a range of other laws that provide protection to consumers. These include the Australian Consumer Law [ACL], the Australian Securities and Investments Commission [ASIC] Act 2001 and the National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009.

Under the Australian Consumer Law and the ASIC Act, commercial agents undertaking debt collection are prohibited from engaging in deceptive or misleading conduct, unconscionable conduct, and physical force, undue harassment or coercion. The National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009 requires commercial agents who collect debts arising out of consumer credit and who own the debt, which include debts bought from another person, to obtain an Australian credit licence and comply with the Act's requirements in relation to training, standards of conduct, an internal dispute resolution procedure, and membership of an external dispute resolution scheme. Approximately 75 per cent of the debt collection market relates to consumer credit and much of the rest of the market relates to utility debts.

The telecommunications, energy and water industries have codes of conduct that cover complaint procedures and debt collection practices, and those industries belong to external dispute resolution schemes such as the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman or the Energy and Water Ombudsman. Industry members are required to comply with those codes in addition to conducting requirements under the ACL and the ASIC Act.

The committee recommended that the New South Wales Government introduce a negative licensing scheme for commercial agents who have no face-to-face contact with debtors, while retaining positive licensing for commercial agents who do have face-to-face contact. The latter are often referred to as "field agents". A negative licensing scheme means that a person does not need a licence to work in an industry but they can be excluded from the industry on specified grounds prescribed by legislation. This contrasts with the existing positive licensing scheme, which prohibits participants from working in the industry unless they hold a licence issued by the regulatory authority.

The committee also recommended that responsibility for commercial agents and private inquiry agents be transferred from the NSW Police Force to NSW Fair Trading. The Government agrees that NSW Fair Trading is best placed to regulate commercial agents. However, it considers that responsibility for private inquiry agents should remain with the NSW Police Force in view of the greater risks posed to the public by the intrusive nature of such agents' activities. On 4 August this year my colleague the Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing introduced in this House the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016. That bill removes the regulation of private inquiry agents, or private investigators as they are called, from the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act, and includes them as a class of licence under the Security Industry Act. This bill will repeal the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act and insert a new section within the Fair Trading Act 1987 for the purpose of introducing a negative licensing system for approximately 2,000 licensed commercial agents in New South Wales.

In relation to field agents, the Government considers that, given the small number of commercial agents who undertake face-to-face work in New South Wales—there are estimated to be around 200 to 300—and the very small number of complaints and evidence of misconduct from such agents, a positive licensing system for face-to-face agents would place unnecessary costs and regulatory burden on the commercial agent industry and on government. In its evidence to the committee, the NSW Police Force stated that it views the commercial agent industry as having a low risk profile suitable for negative licensing. Under the negative licensing system, people who have been convicted of serious offences, breach of consumer protection provisions relating to harassment or coercion, or who are bankrupt or insolvent will be prohibited from acting as commercial agents. Commercial agents will be required to comply with rules of conduct and the Commissioner for Fair Trading will be able to exclude people from the industry for breach of those rules. The rules of conduct will be developed in consultation with the industry and consumer groups.

I will now outline in more detail the provisions of the bill. The bill repeals the Commercial Agents and Private Inquiry Agents Act and inserts a new part 5 into the Fair Trading Act. The bill defines commercial agent activity as debt collection, process serving and repossession of goods. Debt collection includes collecting debts on behalf of another person, or collecting debts that have been acquired from another person. The bill does not apply to police officers, members of the Defence Force, public service employees, a law practice or legal practitioners, registered company auditors, general insurers, loss adjusters or their employees, or officers and employees of an authorised deposit taking institution. The bill provides that it is an offence for a person to carry out commercial agent activity if the person is a disqualified person.

A disqualified person is someone who is: under 18; an undischarged bankrupt or taking advantage of bankruptcy laws; a corporation that is subject to a winding up order or for which a controller or administrator has been appointed; a person who has been convicted in the past five years of an offence involving violence, fraud, drugs or dishonesty, punishable by imprisonment for three months or more; a person who has been convicted of a breach of provisions prohibiting harassment and coercion in the Australian Consumer Law or the ASIC Act; a person who has been convicted of any other offence declared by the regulations to be a disqualifying offence; a person who is the subject of an exclusion order prohibiting them from acting as a commercial agent or a controlled member of a declared organisation within the meaning of the Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Act 2012. Harsh new penalties for operating as a commercial agent or operating a commercial agent business will also be introduced. Fines of up to \$110,000 in the case of a corporation or \$22,000 or imprisonment for 12 months, or both, in the case of an individual will apply.

These new penalties will ensure that there is a strong deterrence for non-compliance. The bill allows the Commissioner for Fair Trading to require a person who has contravened the Act or the rules of conduct to show cause why they should not be prohibited from carrying out commercial agent activities. After considering any submissions made by the person, the commissioner may make an order prohibiting the person from acting as a commercial agent or imposing conditions, restrictions or limitations on the person's ability to act as a commercial agent. The commissioner may publicly notify the making of an exclusion order against a person, and the commissioner's decision to impose an order is subject to administrative review.

The bill allows the regulations to prescribe rules of conduct for the commercial agents, including prohibiting certain practices. These rules may deal with, among other things, matters such as prohibited practices

such as use of physical force, harassment, coercion, misrepresentation, threats, illegal entry to premises, impersonating a government employee or exposing a person to ridicule the keeping of records, provision of information to the commissioner, handling of complaints, advertising, or employment of disqualified persons. Commercial agents must comply with any rules of conduct, and each director of a corporation must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the corporation complies with the rules.

The New South Wales Government is committed to the reduction of red tape, while also ensuring the protection of consumers. This bill will ensure that private investigators continue to be licensed by the NSW Police Force, while commercial agents are subject to a less costly regulatory regime, which is appropriate for modern debt collection practices. It is intended that once regulations are prepared and in place this bill and the Security Industry Amendment (Private Investigators) Bill 2016 will commence together in 2017. Accordingly, I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

**FINES AMENDMENT (ELECTRONIC PENALTY NOTICES) BILL 2016**

**Returned**

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

*Private Members' Statements*

**PALLIATIVE CARE**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (17:12):** We all know that death is inevitable. Contemplating our own mortality can evoke intense feelings of anxiety and fear for many of us. For some people, however, death is an ever-present part of life, particularly for those suffering from a terminal illness. For many of these people, palliative care offers them the chance to live their life as fully and comfortably as possible. A 2014 study by the Grattan Institute titled *Dying well* highlights a growing need for improved experiences of dying in Australia. The study found that over 70 per cent of people want to die at home, surrounded by their love ones in a safe and comforting place. However, only 14 per cent of these people get the opportunity to do so. Rather than leaving this life in a place where they feel comfortable, they are restricted to living their last days in hospitals or nursing homes. This does not seem right.

Across Maitland and Dungog there are 79 individuals currently receiving palliative care, as they have chosen to die at home. On Monday, the *Maitland Mercury* ran a front-page story on the restrictions of our local palliative care service, due to a lack of funding by the New South Wales Government. Fiona Murphy of Rutherford was diagnosed with terminal cancer and given only weeks to live. Her only wish was to die at home. Between 8.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. palliative care nurses visited the Murphy household to offer Fiona pain relief and improve her quality of life. But, due to a lack of government funding, this care stopped at 5.00 p.m. This meant Fiona suffered discomfort and pain during the night. With no palliative care nurses available, she was unable to be administered any pain relief. No-one should have to experience this.

A month ago I made an urgent representation to the Minister for Health after I was contacted by a woman whose father receives palliative care. She was distressed and agitated. Due to the lack of 24-hour palliative care services, her father suffered unimaginable pain and discomfort during the night. All she asked for was more funding to ensure more nurses were on the ground. To date, I have not received a response from the Minister, not even an acknowledgment. The Minister needs to act urgently. The Minister needs to think about the 79 palliative care patients currently in Maitland and Dungog who have chosen to die at home. They deserve the care and support we all wish for. Our local service is short staffed and stretched to the limit. More government funding is needed. Fiona Murphy's last wish was to die at home, surrounded by her family, in a dignified way without pain. Only a 24-hour palliative care service would have guaranteed this. No-one else should have to suffer like this in their last days.

The Maitland community is growing at a rate of five new people a day. We have many people coming to the area without the support of their family to help in times of crisis because their family members are out of town or interstate. This means that families like the Murphys, who have to stay home to look after their ill family members, are at a heightened risk of poverty afterwards. I find it appalling that we do not have all the nursing positions filled, as this places more stress on the rest of the palliative care team. It is good to see that the Hunter New England Health, Lower Hunter health sector manager Lynne Bickerstaff has recognised the need for a 24-hour service. It is now up to the Minister to provide the funds for it.

Palliative care saves the hospital system money, and an investment in palliative care would save hospital resources for those who can recover from illness and injury. But, more importantly, it provides dignity and

assistance to those with terminal illnesses. This is not just an issue confined to Maitland; 83,000 people from across New South Wales have signed petitions calling on the Minister and this Government to increase funding for palliative care services. We have a responsibility, as representatives of our communities, to fight for vital services. Individuals, families and professionals are calling out for more funding. It seems as though the Minister is just not listening.

In talking about palliative care, I take this opportunity to congratulate citizens of Maitland who participated in the Relay for Life. I signed the palliative care pledge on that day because I think it is important to provide palliative care services. The participants in the Relay for Life, which went from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., raised \$91,000 for cancer services in Maitland, which is great. I wish them every success in the future. I urge the Minister to look at funding for palliative care and to make sure that families like the Murphys are not left to suffer in silence and on their own.

### **CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING SCHOOL**

**Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst—Minister for Local Government) (17:17):** I am pleased to speak about a great initiative being undertaken by the New South Wales Government and Charles Sturt University [CSU] in Bathurst. Recently I had the opportunity to visit the university's new engineering school, a \$15 million investment in a state-of-the-art building in which tomorrow's engineers are being educated. As we know, there is a shortage of engineers in regional communities across this State. With this new facility, CSU will ensure that we can address that need. I am a graduate of CSU and it is very pleasing for me to see the significant improvements and programs on this campus as this Government delivers for regional communities.

Charles Sturt University has a proud history and a strong record of its graduates finding full-time employment in companies around the world. A couple of weeks ago I met with members of the CSU campus, the mayor of Bathurst and representatives of the business community for the announcement by the New South Wales Government that it would be investing \$1 million over the next two years in programs and initiatives to be run by Charles Sturt University. This will enable local firms and entrepreneurs to grow and develop. Importantly, this initiative will help to create jobs and develop opportunities in our own backyard. The Boosting Business Innovation Program is a multi-region hub program across the CSU footprint. The program is built upon the values that CSU has developed.

I am very pleased that this announcement will pave the way for Charles Sturt University [CSU] to undertake a broad range of activities that will allow Bathurst and the surrounding region to take advantage of the digital revolution. Small businesspeople are very busy. When technology grows at the rate it is growing today, small businesspeople need opportunities—and that is exactly what Charles Sturt University will offer. The university will support those who wish to establish new businesses, without forgetting about the many wonderful existing businesses that want to grow and expand. This program will provide those opportunities.

The investment will also establish the Digital Showcase and Start Up Hub in Bathurst, which will provide access to technology, training and mentoring. It will include an acceleration program to develop existing technology businesses and provide training and support that is designed to assist individuals and build small businesses in our region, as many cannot afford to pursue or coordinate it on their own. Opportunities for business will increase as a result of the university engaging with Reliance, one of our small business operators, and its Incubator program. The university will provide tailored programs and technical support for growth, as well as business networking and training events.

Entrepreneurs and businesses looking to expand their start-ups will have access to \$150,000 in technology vouchers. These vouchers will provide access to expert advice or the opportunity to realise a new business opportunity through regional incubation and acceleration programs. Businesses and entrepreneurs involved in structured CSU programs will also be able to access business mentorship and will benefit from peer-to-peer support and knowledge sharing with other entrepreneurs. The other part of the investment component is establishing a mobile Indigenous Entrepreneurship Pop-Up Innovation Hub. The pop-up hub will visit various locations across New South Wales to work with Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs to develop technology, business and innovation ideas.

The pop-up will stay in each community for a week and become an open classroom or a co-working space for the entrepreneurs and community organisations wishing to engage in the program. The content will be delivered by a range of carefully chosen experts, who are selected according to the needs of the participants, and successful Indigenous entrepreneurs. Over the week, the space will be open for other individuals and community members to visit and host events to generate further community engagement. Once the pop-up moves on, there is a follow-up capacity through the CSU online learning community to maintain engagement and deepen the impact. I am very pleased that Minister Barilaro has delivered this \$1 million initiative over the next two years because it will make a significant difference to communities like mine and those in the Central West.

## CASTLE HILL ELECTORATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (17:22):** It is with great pleasure that I give an update on some wonderful organisations doing great things in my community. I have mentioned in this Chamber before the high calibre of athletes performing at the Budokan Judo Club. On 21 July I had the privilege of awarding specially minted medallions to the club's gold medallists at the 2016 national championships. Congratulations to Saskia Brothers, Zach Colman, Emma Leishman, Liam Stewart, Kincső Mihalovits, Naomi de Bruine and Kyle McIndoe, who all won gold in their respective weight divisions. On that night I also had the honour of presenting brothers Nathan and Josh Katz as Budokan's representatives at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. These two brothers made history as Australia's first brothers to compete at the Olympics in judo, with Josh becoming Australia's youngest ever male Olympic judoka at just 18 years and 220 days. When asked about the opportunity to represent Australia and compete with his brother Nathan, Josh said:

I'm extremely proud to be able to compete for Australia at the Olympics as it's something I've dreamed about since I was a little kid ... It's really amazing to be able to share the whole Olympic experience with my brother. We've been training partners since we were kids and we want each other to achieve everything the other one does.

After giving it their best, both Nathan and Josh have signalled their intention to use this year's experience to push for a medal in four years' time at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. As Parliamentary Secretary, I recently had the great privilege to attend the Australian Asian Business Federation's Investiture Ceremony here in the New South Wales Parliament. Given that there is a very strong Chinese women's conference in my electorate, I am pleased to inform the House of the fantastic work the Hills Chinese Women's Association does. This association was established in 1992 with the aim of providing support to Chinese women, especially those who have recently migrated to Australia. The association does this by organising weekly activities and giving these women a support network as they settle into their new community.

In addition to its regular weekly activities such as Yuan-Ji dance classes, the association runs a volunteer home visiting team, which has allowed more Chinese women to get involved and participate in various community activities. The association was presented with a community award by Western Sydney Area Health Service for the amazing volunteer work it does in this regard. In 2001 a large number of the association's members received special certificates of acknowledgement for their volunteer work. The then chairperson Mrs Claire Lee was also presented with the International Year of Volunteers Community Champions Award by Prime Minister John Howard. In 2011 Mrs Lee was again awarded with the Victor Chang Community Service Award for her long and continuous service in the association. In June 2013 she received a Medal of the Order of Australia.

The association currently organises many activities, including weekly discussion sessions, trips to galleries, museums heritage properties and restaurants, and one-day bus tours to other areas of Sydney. Of particular note is the specialised care the association offers to women who suffer from mental health issues. The association is understandably very proud of the service it provides across our community. On 20 May this year the association, with the help of TRI Community Exchange, organised a Volunteer Recognition Event to award 24 of the association's volunteers. Those recognised included Joyce Atwal, Heidi Suen, Grace Au, Astor Chan, Sanny Yeung, Betty Tam, Connie Chan, Jackie King, Sandra Leung, Cissy Ip, Yvonne So and Clare Tan. I particularly acknowledge the work of the association's hardworking chairwoman, Rosanda Kwok, who is an outstanding community leader. I look forward to continuing my friendship with and support of the association, as I have no doubt it will continue to serve the community well for many years to come.

I also recently had the pleasure of attending the twenty-seventh annual general meeting of the Castle Hill Branch of the Red Cross, a wonderful group of local people who go above and beyond the call of duty by giving support to those most in need. It was lovely to hear from Chris Mansfield, the New South Wales membership team leader, who spoke about the enormous contributions made by our local Castle Hill branch. As Chris said, the Castle Hill branch is one of the hardest working branches of the Red Cross and is generously supported by donors in our community. Congratulations to president Jean Swayne, vice-president Lorraine Williams, OAM, Donna Fraser, Rhonda Slender, Helen James, Lorraine Williams, Gai Glenny, Colleen Wardell, Anita Fetherstonhaugh, Elizabeth Fenton and all the outstanding members of the Castle Hill branch. I thank all of them for their incredible service. We are certainly privileged in the Hills to have some wonderful community organisations punching well above their weight. I appreciate, acknowledge and commend all of them to the House.

## INNER-WEST BUS SERVICES

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (17:27):** Inner-west residents rely on bus services being accessible, safe, affordable and on time. We rely on buses to get to work or school, visit the doctor, go to the library or the shops, and visit friends and family. Buses, and indeed all forms of public transport, are a vital link between people and their communities. But, increasingly, inner-west residents cannot depend on buses to get them where they are going on time. To make matters worse, the Government's total elimination of paper tickets, and now the scrapping

of the Opal free trips incentive, means people have lost the free travel they were once entitled to. We have an absurd situation where travelling by bus is now more expensive, despite being less reliable.

I am regularly visited at my office by constituents furious about their buses being late and about how poor the service can be. Labor recently obtained hard data to show how bad the problem has become. Through a freedom of information request, we are able to see how bus routes really stack up. More than 2,660 complaints were made about bus services in my electorate of Summer Hill across the year 2015-16. The worst offending route was the 423 from Kingsgrove through Marrickville and Newtown to the city, with 393 complaints. The 461, running along Parramatta Road between Burwood and the city, was close behind. The 438, which services Haberfield and Leichhardt to Camperdown and the city, was not far behind that. The 428, which runs from the city through Marrickville, Dulwich Hill and Canterbury, was another route that received numerous complaints—258, in fact.

The people of Ashbury, a lovely small suburb just near Ashfield, have only one bus service, the irregular and often infuriating 413, which racked up 220 complaints. As bad as these numbers are, one of my Facebook followers pointed out that these are only the bus services that people have not given up on. Some bus services are such a disaster that people have given up complaining about them. I recently asked people to let me know which bus route they would nominate as the worst. I will share some of those comments. One resident stated:

The 444 is a phantom, until there's three of them whizzing past, moments after you gave up and decided to walk.

Another stated:

I guess the 370 wasn't in the top 5 because technically if the buses never show up, it's not a real route.

Yet another stated:

Jo, I wish they were more frequent and more reliable. I catch the 413 and have to go in peak hour even though I shouldn't need to, to guarantee arrival by 10am at USyd. I'd be out of the peak push if they were reliable. I can't be the only one.

Another stated:

423 for sure. For the past three years it has either driven straight past me and my pram at bus stop, or refused us entry eight times. Eight! The driver who refused, said I would have to (take sleeping baby out and) disassemble and store it. It was 41 degrees that day.

My favourite states:

I don't know if it's still a route but the 355 was like Bigfoot back in the day. Some say it exists. You might see it fleetingly but its status is yet to be confirmed.

While this comment was generally tongue in cheek, we have a real problem with our bus services and the Baird Government is not acting quickly enough to fix it. The member for Strathfield and shadow transport Minister pointed out recently that nearly one-third of all buses in Sydney's fleet have racked up enough kilometres to travel to the moon and back, which is more than 756,000 kilometres. Despite that, the Baird Government has added only 13 new buses to the fleet in the past six months. Buses cannot run on time if they are constantly out of service. As well as failing to invest in new buses, the Baird Government's approach to making the buses run on time is simply to remove bus stops.

The Government's "Sydney's Bus Future" plan outlines projects designed to increase the efficiency of the bus network, reportedly including the removal of bus stops in and around Marrickville. It is true that buses will be faster if they are not required to stop for passengers. However, I ask the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure to consider what this plan will mean for elderly passengers, for passengers with disability, or for parents with prams or young children. Removing bus stops makes our transport system less accessible and it is not the answer.

I also note the many complaints my office has received about the changes to Opal fares that have eliminated free travel after eight trips. This change will see two-thirds of passengers who make 10 or more trips a week pay \$560 more a year. Many inner-west residents have let me know how the scrapping of the incentive has affected them. Many feel tricked by this Government, which said Opal was all about convenience and cheaper fares. In fact, we were encouraged to game the system if we could. It was supposed to be all about getting more people to use public transport. Of course, abolishing free trips has had the opposite effect. One resident told me that she works four days a week and on the other day she used her free trip to take her two children to their activities. She will not be doing that now; she will be using her car instead. Public transport is a basic right and making it more expensive will hit vulnerable people hardest.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (17:32):** As a former Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and having worked in the public transport industry for 22 years prior to entering this place, I acknowledge that it is outrageous for any bus driver to drive past someone waiting at a bus stop. I will certainly not be an apologist for

Sydney buses. That issue should be taken up with the Minister, and the drivers concerned should be condemned. However, one of the most oft-heard complaints about buses is that they run late. As the member for Summer Hill acknowledged in her contribution, all the services to which she referred involve travel on Parramatta Road. The member has been a vocal opponent of the WestConnex project.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** That is not what you do in response to private members' statements.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS:** That project will alleviate traffic congestion on Parramatta Road and will provide far better public transport services and more on-time running of buses.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Shame on you.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS:** I will not be lectured to about shame by the member for Strathfield. [Time expired.]

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Strathfield that the Parliamentary Secretary is entitled to respond to private members' statements.

### MORISSET PUBLIC SCHOOL 125TH ANNIVERSARY

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (17:34):** All members have schools in their electorates with wonderful stories to tell of the achievements of their students and faculty. Many of those schools are equally renowned for the wonderful lives, careers and stories that their former students create in their post-school years. Last Friday I was among many special guests at the 125th anniversary celebrations held at Morisset Public School. The school is one of those that can proudly reflect on its history and its former students. It was wonderful to meet the school's oldest surviving former student, 95-year-old Phyllis Trimble, who was on hand to ring the school bell with the school's two youngest students, Tiffany White and Elizabeth Swan.

The bell itself was thought to have been lost when the school moved premises in 1985, but it was thankfully later found at a Fennell Bay home, where it was being used as a door bell. It has now been restored and re-dedicated to the school. Ms Trimble recalled how she was unable to ring the bell when she attended the school as a student between 1927 and 1933 because girls were simply not afforded the honour. Thankfully, those days are well behind us. The celebrations also featured the official launch of a book by renowned local historian Doug Saxon entitled *Morisset Memories 1891-2016*. I was honoured to have been asked to launch the book, which details the remarkable history of the town and, of course, the large part played by the school in shaping that history. Among the stories in the book is that of Bernie Goodwin, whose life was honoured in 1974 when a memorial park was dedicated to him.

Born in 1928, Bernie attended Morisset Public School until 1935. He went on to serve in the Second World War, and was lucky enough to return to Morisset with life and limb intact. He later bought the local bus service, which did the regular school runs as well as tourist trips. On 15 March 1973, Bernie lost his life trying to rescue four young swimmers at Moonee Beach. He had driven the boys to the beach as part of a school excursion by students from Morisset High School. He saw that the boys were caught in a rip and acted selflessly to save them. He brought three to shore and then swam out again to rescue the fourth. However, the strong current swept him and the young teenager about 300 metres out to sea. The *Newcastle Herald* reported at the time that Bernie hung onto the teen before three surfers pulled the boy to safety, but Bernie disappeared and was never found.

Hope Mullard was Bernie's cousin, and his extraordinary life is also covered in Doug Saxon's book. Hope joined the Royal Australian Air Force at the age of 19. After the war, he studied engineering and architecture, but returned to Morisset in 1953 and opened a service station. He then began a remarkable crusade campaigning for community projects. His work saw the establishment of Morisset Golf Club, where he later served as president for 19 years. He also served as president of Morisset Rotary Club, was a long-time member of the local fire brigade and even ran a movie theatre at the local hall for many years until television came along and demand for community movie nights faded.

Robert "Dutchy" Holland was another of the school's high achievers. Bob attended the school between 1952 and 1957 and played a lot of cricket there and on his family's farm just down the road. Of course, he went on to play cricket for New South Wales and Australia. His best-known sporting achievement was the 10 wickets he took against the West Indies in a test match in 1986. I extend my best wishes to Bob and his wife, Carolyn, who were recently seriously assaulted while trying to protect a local cricket ground. We are all pleased they are both recovering.

I have acknowledged Doug Saxon and his wonderful work, and I extend the same acknowledgement to the school's current principal, Kathryn Duncan, and her staff, who have gone to great effort to celebrate and preserve the history of the school and its place in the town of Morisset. I am very proud of Morisset and its wonderful community. When it was first established it was an isolated settlement to the south of Lake Macquarie.

Roads were dusty tracks and the town survived mainly on the back of local farms, logging, the Morisset Hospital, and its proximity to the main northern rail line. It has come a long way, and I have no doubt that our local schools, their students, teachers and the school community have played a big part in making our area such a great place to live. Morisset has a great history, and with a strong community such as that found at Morisset Public School I am sure it will also have a great future. I am sure that the House will join with me in wishing Morisset Public School a happy 125th anniversary.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 17:38 until  
Wednesday 14 September 2016 at 10:00.**