



New South Wales

Legislative Assembly

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament
First Session**

Thursday, 20 October 2016

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 20 October 2016

Presiding Officers

ABSENCE OF THE SPEAKER

The CLERK: I inform the House that the Speaker is unavoidably absent and in accordance with Standing Order 15 the Deputy Speaker will perform the duties of the Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (The Hon. Thomas George) took the chair at 10:00.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER read the Prayer and acknowledgement of country.

[Notices of motions given.]

Bills

CHILD PROTECTION (WORKING WITH CHILDREN) AND OTHER CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2016

WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY AMENDMENT (CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME) BILL 2016

Returned

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the abovementioned bills without amendment.

Documents

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The CLERK: In accordance with section 63C of the Public Finance and Audit Act I announce receipt of the Special Report of the Auditor-General entitled "Agency Compliance with the GIPA Act", dated October 2016, received 20 October 2016.

Bills

STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL (NO 2) 2016

Second Reading

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (10:13): On behalf of Mr Brad Hazzard: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

As this bill was introduced in the other place on 12 October 2016 and is in the same form, the second reading speech appears at pages 16 to 17 in the proof *Hansard* for that day. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (10:13): I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2) 2016. The Opposition does not oppose the bill. This type of bill containing miscellaneous minor amendments to a significant number of Acts and statutory instruments, otherwise unrelated to each other, has been a commonly used tool for 30 years for governments of all political persuasions. Schedule 1 contains minor and non-controversial amendments broadly of a policy nature—from taxonomical references, to bees, to renaming Government Property NSW to Property NSW, to correcting the spelling of Morisset, and to renaming the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, which will become Place Management NSW.

Schedule 2 contains amendments that result from changes in Commonwealth legislation that saw the functions of the Australian Crime Commission extended to include functions formerly undertaken by CrimTrac relating to the provision of systems and services for the sharing of national policing information. Schedule 3 deals with pure statute law revision such as missing words, punctuation and correcting the spelling of the word "metres" by removing the American version. The Opposition does not oppose the bill.

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (10:15): I support the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2) 2016. The objects of the bill are to make minor amendments to various Acts and instruments found in schedules 1 and 2, to amend certain other Acts and instruments for the purpose of effecting statute law revision found in schedule 3, and to make other provisions of a consequential and ancillary nature that

are found in schedule 4. This type of bill has been used since 1984 to ensure efficiency and avoid the need for separate amending bills.

Schedule 1 contains amendments to implement minor policy changes, make corrections and update terminology for 28 Acts and six instruments. Schedule 2 replaces the word "CrimTrac" with the words "the Australian Crime Commission" and related amendments in seven Acts and three instruments following the merger of CrimTrac with the Australian Crime Commission. Schedule 3 contains minor amendments identified by Parliamentary Counsel as part of the statute law revision program. Schedule 4 contains general savings, transitional and other provisions.

Matters dealt with in detail in schedule 1 include proposed amendments to the Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Act 1987 which will remove the term "hourglass" when describing investment facilities offered by the Treasury Corporation as these investment facilities have been renamed. There are consequential amendments to the Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulation 2015, the Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Regulation 2013 and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015. Proposed amendments to the Sydney Water Act 1994 will remove the term "hourglass" when describing investment facilities offered by the Treasury Corporation as these investment facilities have been renamed.

Proposed amendments to the Western Sydney University Act 1997 will change the terminology used to refer to non-academic staff and there are minor amendments to the composition, delegation and attendance requirements of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University. Proposed amendments to the Mining Act 1992 will clarify the process for giving notice of a proposal to vary authorisation such as a mining lease or exploration licence. Proposed amendments to the Petroleum Onshore Act 1991 will clarify the process for giving notice of proposal to vary an authorisation such as a petroleum exploration licence or production lease.

Proposed amendments to the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013 will clarify that the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy may, but is not required to, appoint more than four industry safety and health representatives for safety and health purposes such as implementing safety management systems at a coalmine. Proposed amendments to the Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2007 will replace the word "approved" with the words "approved form" to ensure consistency with other legislation. Proposed amendments to the Mental Health Commission Act 2012 will remove a prohibition preventing deputy mental health commissioners from being appointed for more than two successive terms of office and inserts a term limit of six years.

Proposed amendments to the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008 makes existing regulatory powers relating to the advertising, labelling and display of tobacco products available to e-cigarettes. Proposed amendments to the Government Property NSW Act 2006 will replace the words "Government Property NSW" with the words "Property NSW" throughout the Act to reflect the corporation's change of name. Proposed amendments to the Home Building Act 1989 will allow the Building Insurers Guarantee Corporation [BIG Corp] to be managed by a chief executive of the Self Insurance Corporation instead of the Minister. BIG Corp will remain subject to the control and direction of the Minister in the exercise of its functions. Further amendments will enable BIG Corp to delegate its functions to the staff of Insurance and Care New South Wales [icare], consistent with the amendments to the State Insurance and Care Governance Act 2015 that expressly confer on icare the function of providing services for BIG Corp.

Proposed amendments to the NSW Self Insurance Corporation Act 2004 will clarify that the NSW Self Insurance Corporation may, as intended, insure members of bodies established for the purpose of assisting an authority of the State, such as the audit and risk committee of a public authority. Further amendments confirm that the NSW Self Insurance Corporation may act for former State employees in dealing with claims that relate to their conduct whilst they were State employees. Proposed amendments to the State Insurance and Care Governance Act 2015 expressly confer on Insurance and Care New South Wales the function of providing services, including staff and facilities, for the Building Insurers Guarantee Corporation, in relation to the insurance scheme administered by BIG Corp. These amendments will formalise the existing arrangements, as Insurance and Care New South Wales currently provides services to BIG Corp under a service provision agreement.

Proposed amendments to the Real Property Act 1900 will require a person lodging a caveat to nominate an alternative address for service when the primary address for service is a box at a document exchange. The ability to nominate an alternative address for service was inadvertently omitted by amendments to the Real Property Amendment (Electronic Conveyancing) Act 2015. Proposed amendments to the State Records Act 1998 will change the name of the State Records Authority of New South Wales to the State Archives and Records Authority of New South Wales. Proposed amendments to the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority Act 1998 will change the name of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority to Place Management NSW.

Proposed amendments to the Boarding Houses Act 2012 will ensure registered providers of disability accommodation subject to a Commonwealth regulatory scheme will be excluded from the New South Wales regulatory scheme to avoid duplication of regulation. Proposed amendments to the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act 1999 will transfer functions under the Act administered by NSW Fair Trading from the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation to the NSW Fair Trading Commissioner. Further amendments replace reference to the Director General of the Department of Finance and Services, a position that no longer exists, with "Secretary". There are consequential amendments to the Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Regulation 2008.

Proposed amendments to the Holiday Parks (Long-term Casual Occupation) Act 2002 transfer functions under the Act administered by NSW Fair Trading from the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation to the NSW Fair Trading Commissioner. Further amendments replace reference to the Director General, a position that no longer exists, with "Secretary". Proposed amendments to the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 transfer functions under the Act administered by NSW Fair Trading from the Secretary of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation to the NSW Fair Trading Commissioner. Proposed amendments to the Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act 1948 will remove the requirement that a statement be in prescribed form, to reduce red tape and allow regulations to provide for a waiver or refund of fees payable under the Act. There are consequential amendments to the Landlord and Tenant Regulation 2015.

Proposed amendments to the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Act 1996 allow goods or records required to be produced by an authorised officer investigating matters such as unlawfully obtained goods to be sent to an address specified by the officer, instead of to the nearest NSW Fair Trading office. There are consequential amendments to the Pawnbrokers and Second-hand Dealers Regulation 2015. Proposed amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 will allow the Principal Registrar of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal to approve the form of warrants for possession under the Act instead of the NSW Fair Trading Commissioner. Further amendments remove faxes from being a means of service on a public service agency.

Proposed amendments to the Biosecurity Act 2015 will allow a local control authority, instead of the Secretary of the Department of Industry, to approve the form of application for a certificate as to weed control notices. Further amendments correct an error in the definition of "bee". Proposed amendments to the Fisheries Management Act 1994 will change "online trading system" to "online registration system" to better describe the system and avoid confusion with other systems. Proposed amendments to the Food Act 2003 update a reference to a repealed Act to ensure the Food Authority can continue to approve registered trading organisations to issue food safety supervisor certificates. Proposed amendments to the Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987 update the terminology "distribution network service provider" with "licensed distributor" to ensure consistency with other legislation. Proposed amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 will make minor amendments to the procedures and terms of office for voting members, chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and board members of Aboriginal land councils. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (10:24): On behalf of Mr Brad Hazzard, in reply: I thank members for their contribution to the debate on the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2). I acknowledge in particular the speeches made by the shadow Minister and member for Liverpool, as well as the member for Myall Lakes, on behalf of the Government. The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No 2) 2016 continues the statute law revision program, which has been in place for more than 30 years. Schedule 1 to the bill contains policy changes of a minor and non-controversial nature that are too inconsequential to warrant the introduction of a separate amending bill. It contains amendments to 28 Acts and related amendments to six instruments. Schedule 2 amends a number of Acts as a consequence of the enactment of the Australian Crime Commission Amendment (National Policing Information) Act 2016 of the Commonwealth. This schedule replaces the word "CrimTrac" with "Australian Crime Commission" and makes related amendments.

The bill also deals with matters of pure statute law revision, repeals various Acts and provisions that no longer have any operation and includes savings and transitional provisions, as well as other technical amendments. The amendments contained in this bill are of a minor and non-contentious nature. That is reflected by the lack of opposition to this bill expressed by Opposition members. The Government appreciates the Opposition's support for this legislation. As part of the ongoing statute law revision program, this bill enables minor policy changes to be made efficiently and for redundant legislation to be repealed. Overall, it ensures that New South Wales legislation remains as up to date and effective as possible. I commend the bill to the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA: On behalf of Mr Brad Hazzard: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

*Budget***BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2016-17**

Debate resumed from 13 October 2016.

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (10:27): I continue my remarks on the wonderful news that this year's budget has been not only for Parramatta but also for New South Wales. There is unprecedented investment in the electorate of Parramatta. Millions of dollars are flowing into the Parramatta area, and that is well deserved. I thank the Premier and the Treasurer for their support. But money alone does not make a great community. Parramatta has many community groups. They are the glue that holds the area together. One of those fantastic groups is the 1st Ermington Scout Group. I have seen on numerous occasions the wonderful work of the 1st Ermington Scout Group, teaching young people life skills, individual leadership skills and team-building skills. It is important to recognise the important work of Scouts, the volunteers and the parents who provide leadership.

I will mention some members of the first Ermington Scout Group: Xavier Calder, assistant Joey Scout leader; Stuart Bragg, assistant Cub Scout leader; Chid Chidamabaram, assistant trainee Cub Scout leader; Stephen Hughes, assistant Scout leader; Diane Higgins, Scout leader; Josie Botto, Peter Barber and Tallia Joel, assistant Scout leaders; Anne McCredde, Venturer Scout leader; Michael Briggs and Sandy Knox, assistant Venturer Scout leaders; Andrew McCredde, assistant trainee Venturer Scout leader; Mark Andrews, assistant group leader, leader in charge; Steven Spagnolo, committee group chairperson; Sarah Steel, secretary; Michael Majoor, treasurer trustee; Steven McMaster, quartermaster; Bruce Knox, webmaster; and Mario Caruana and Paul Grundy, volunteer adult helpers.

We are working with Sydney Water to resolve tenancy issues with the current site. I assure the whole community that I will make sure the headquarters remain on the site. I apologise that the issue has not yet been resolved but we are working hard with Sydney Water. The Minister and Sydney Water have assured me they will do what they can to make sure that the 1st Ermington Scout Group maintains occupation of its current site. I also acknowledge the great work of the Parramatta Lions Club. I make special mention of Jon Copson, past president; Leanne, the current president, who is doing a wonderful job; secretary Eric Rode, who has had a few health issues but is improving and I wish him all the best; and treasurer Lim Kok Lim, who is very good with figures.

The volunteers at Parramatta Lions Club raise lots of money for the community by holding barbecues at Bunnings or hosting the Kids Big Fun Day Out for children with disabilities, their carers and their families. They do much tireless work helping others, putting service before self. That is phenomenal. I also acknowledge the great work of volunteers at Carlingford Dundas Lions Club of which I am also a member. I congratulate president David Evans, secretary Clem Cawley, Siggy Rottham, Chris Bailey, Geoff Bailey, Peter Deane and Brian Curran, all of whom work hard. Carlingford Dundas Lions Club runs Camp Lionheart, which supports children at the Children's Hospital, Westmead, and also holds barbecues to raise money. It does wonderful work to make Parramatta the best community in New South Wales.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (10:33): I refer to the 2016-17 budget. Wyong is a growth area in this State. Recently I did a 10-kilometre walk through all the new suburbs in the area. On Virginia Road I saw the pre-works for a housing development and the "Sold Out" sign revealed that, even before construction of a single house, the entire estate has been sold. Along Hiawatha Road there is a new A. V. Jennings estate, where many lots have been sold and houses are being constructed very quickly. Multiple building works are taking place along Warnervale Road near the top of Louisiana Road down to Warnies Cafe near the railway station. Johns Road is changing from a very rural outlook to having many housing estates.

The Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council is very proud of its new estate at Bluehaven and has kept 11 of more than 100 houses for its elders. On the corner of Louisiana Road is another A.V. Jennings estate, where many tradesmen can be seen working. I have no doubt that because new housing is being constructed in my electorate a lot of people will move to the area. On a quick count, I estimate that more than 5,000 new residents will relocate to the Wyong electorate before the next State election, which will put pressure on health services, local roads and other vital facilities that are already being tested to the limit. Our local schools are currently at 100 per cent capacity. I have been pushing the Government for a long time to start planning a new high school to serve this growth area. I am not asking for it be built straightaway; we know that from planning to construction can take five years or more if done properly. However, I seek a commitment in next year's budget to start the planning process

so that local people know a school will be built in the future to meet their needs. There is also pressure on public transport.

There were some good things in the budget. Governments cannot help spending money in electorates in growth areas, particularly those with hospitals, a freeway, a railway line and other major infrastructure. That is why I have welcomed publicly the funding to upgrade the big intersection at Tuggerah at Wyong Road and the Pacific Highway. When I was in office during the Labor Government between 2007-11 I worked hard to secure \$42 million to upgrade Tuggerah Straight. The next stage is to upgrade the intersection.

Interestingly, the Liberal candidates at the 2011 election promised to keep the roundabout but to install lights that would operate only at peak hours, as occurs at Karalta Road in the electorate of Terrigal. Tuggerah is a major business growth area, with a new business park and retail outlets, and I knew that would not solve the problem. So we pushed for a major upgrade, at a cost of approximately \$150 million, to ensure long-term capacity. I am pleased to say that the Government listened to my calls, and those of Roads and Maritime Services, which had done a lot of work in the area, and commissioned an \$85 million upgrade of the intersection, with a 15-year capacity. Hopefully the new intersection will open in 2018.

An upgrade of the Enterprise Drive and Wyong Road intersection—another spot in my electorate that often becomes congested, particularly during the morning and afternoon peak hours—should open later this year. There were to be lights on the roundabout but Roads and Maritime Services won again and the Government has done the right thing and delivered a fully functioning intersection with traffic lights, which should relieve the pressure in that area. I am glad that the Government has followed Labor's Central Coast road plan, which we put together in 2010, and done all that is needed at those intersections. But there is still more work to do on our roads. There was some planning money allocated for the Link Road from Watanobbi to Sparks Road. It will run from the intersection that is being upgraded at Tuggerah, along Tuggerah Straight then through the township of Wyong and straight ahead to Sparks Road. That will create two excellent points of access to the freeway at Warnervale and Wyong, and relieve a lot of pressure along the Pacific Highway where there is a high volume of residential traffic.

In the budget a little over \$1 million was allocated for the planning of the Link Road, which we know will cost in the vicinity of \$45 million to construct. It is not an easy project because the road will run through wetlands and might require the building of a quite significant 400-metre bridge. I am pleased that money has at least been allocated to the planning. With all the new houses being built in the area it is extremely important that the Link Road is completed. Local residents affectionately call it the "road to nowhere", because part of it was constructed by the council before it ran out of money—there are two sets of lights and an intersection on Sparks Road before it comes to a dead end past Lakes Grammar. We need the final section of the road to be built to complete the project.

The real sticking point that we must push the Government on is the road through Wyong to the Pacific Highway, which has been in the planning stages for decades. In fact, the community gets upset when it receives more money for planning because almost \$15 million has already been spent on planning over the life of the project. I know that many members would love \$15 million to build a project, not just plan a project. This significant construction has had some problems because of the freight bypass, which Transport was first going to build on the eastern side of the rail line and then on the western side. Roads and Maritime Services has had trouble trying to plan the road because it could not get a commitment from Transport.

In this budget another \$1.5 million has been allocated for further planning and the project has gone out for environmental assessment, but people just want it done now. There has been much debate about bypasses, overpasses, underpasses and tunnels. Every option under the sun has been looked at; it is now time to get it done. When completed, that road, and the intersection at Tuggerah through Tuggerah Straight as well as the road to Wyong and the Link Road at Sparks Road, will make a significant difference to the region.

I ask the roads Minister and the Treasurer to allocate money in next year's budget to allow the work to start. Let us get some shovels in the ground and begin building the road. It can be built in stages, because it involves two new road bridges over the Wyong River, but work on the northern end of the road could be commenced now. The road reserve is already there and an intersection could be put in at North Road near the new Aldi to release some pressure immediately. On some days there can be a five- to six-kilometre traffic jam on that road, both in the morning and afternoon. My office is on the road. People can get out of their cars, run into my office to tell me they are unhappy and get back into their cars before the traffic starts moving again.\

Business interrupted.

*Bills***CLIMATE CHANGE BILL 2016****First Reading**

Bill introduced on motion by Ms Jenny Leong, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (10:44): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Climate change is real. It is happening, and it is clear that we need to step up our efforts massively not just in this place and in New South Wales but also across this country and around the globe if we are to prevent the most catastrophic impact of this reality on our planet, our lives, our people and our precious environment. But it is not all doom and gloom. The positive part of this reality is that people and communities in New South Wales, across this land and throughout the world are taking matters into their own hands. They are already acting to prevent dangerous climate change. They are calling on politicians and parliaments also to act now. Once again, it is the people who are leading the way and it is politicians and governments that are scrambling to catch up or are still living in denial, with their heads buried in the sand.

The Greens have a long, strong and proud tradition of standing with communities in supporting grassroots movements and raising and representing their views in the Parliament. In fact, our first parliamentary leader, Bob Brown, was the person most known for this. It is the foundation of our party as well as the inspiration behind why so many of us are here, including me. Communities and people on the streets will lead the way: Parliaments must respond, react and follow. By introducing The Greens Climate Change Bill 2016 to the Legislative Assembly we are continuing that approach. We are seeking to bring to this place the chants of the hundreds of thousands of people who have marched on the streets in climate actions such as Walk Against Warming and other protests. We are seeking to bring the determination of those who have occupied the offices of corporate polluters and foyers of our national parliaments and who have locked on to machinery and infrastructure to prevent it from destroying our natural environment and adding to climate change.

We are also seeking to bring the strength of the networks, groups and organisations that make up the global environment movement in this country and around the world. By introducing this bill, we are saying that The Greens have heard their calls. We have seen their determined actions and their strength and courage. We have seen them put their bodies physically on the line to save our planet and get action on climate change. We introduce this bill in solidarity with them and the actions they take on the streets, in the offices of corporate polluters and at mines and other sites of environmental destruction where they lock on and engage in non-violent direct action to prevent further damage to our natural environment.

With this bill we want to ensure that our State has a coherent and all-encompassing framework to make sure that the New South Wales Government delivers an adequate and coordinated approach to climate change. Before I outline the detail of the bill, I acknowledge the work of my colleague in the other place Ms Jan Barham who, along with her office, has done an incredible amount of behind-the-scenes work and community engagement to make this bill a reality. Ms Jan Barham is incredibly passionate about the protection of our planet and the wellbeing of the people who inhabit it. This legislation demonstrates her commitment to ensuring that we can all do something to take action on climate change because it is too great a problem to ignore. In the other place Ms Barham stated:

If this Parliament is to act in the best interests of the people of New South Wales, now and into the future, it is our responsibility to ensure that the laws of the State prioritise reducing the risks and impacts of climate change. There is an unprecedented but foreseeable risk and there are things that can be done to address it. It is our responsibility to act. That is why The Greens are bringing this bill to this place. I will now briefly outline what the bill will achieve. The bill contains a set of guiding principles, including a statement of scientific consensus regarding climate change and the international commitment to attempt to limit global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, that assert the need for planning and action across all aspects of government to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The bill provides that all New South Wales legislation is to be interpreted in accordance with the guiding principles and the Minister is to have regard to the principles when exercising his or her functions under this legislation. Climate change should not just sit within the Environment portfolio. The actions of this Government across a range of portfolios are contributing to dangerous climate change, and it is the responsibility of the portfolio Ministers and government departments to be ready to assist with mitigation and community support, recognising that disasters will occur as the impacts of climate change become a reality.

The bill sets a primary target of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, with interim targets of 25 per cent below 2000 levels by 2020, 40 per cent to 50 per cent by 2025, and 60 per cent to 80 per cent by 2030. As governments around the world are starting to live up to the obligations agreed to at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris—even big polluters such as China and the United States of America are moving to act—Australia continues to lag behind. All the major polluters are starting to move, yet

Australia lags behind. It is clear that what gets measured, gets done. That is why we need to set targets and have reporting. The emissions targets in this bill are consistent with the recommendations of the Climate and Health Alliance and the World Wildlife Fund. They are similar to the Climate Institute's recommendations and are in line with calls by international scientists and island states to maintain a realistic possibility of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade.

The targets will ensure that New South Wales commits to emissions reductions that reflect the scientific consensus requiring a rapid transition to a decarbonised economy and society. They will ensure that we deliver the leadership on climate change mitigation that is lacking at a national level. New South Wales has the opportunity to step up, and it is incumbent on us to do so because of the impacts that climate change will have on our environment and our community. The bill also includes a requirement that the designated Minister prepare two plans at four-year intervals—the NSW Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan and the NSW Climate Change Adaption Plan. The NSW Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan, which must first be prepared by June 2017, is to set a carbon budget for each year of the following four-year period and to identify strategic priorities and planned policies and programs to meet carbon budgets. The NSW Climate Change Adaption Plan, which must first be prepared by June 2018, is to assess the evidence about projected climate impacts and risks, and to identify strategic priorities and planned programs and policies for managing impacts, risks and vulnerabilities related to climate change.

The bill also requires all government departments, local councils and other public authorities to prepare a Climate Change Action Plan at four-year intervals, with the first plan due by the end of December 2018, to outline their planned contributions to climate change mitigation and adaption, and to achieve the priorities set out in the New South Wales plans. The bill also places obligations on public authorities for all functions to be exercised in a way that does not reduce the State's capacity to meet its emissions targets or to adapt to the likely impacts of climate change. Judicial review will be available so that legal action can be taken to remedy or restrain any actions or decisions that would decrease the State's ability to meet the emissions targets and adapt to climate change. Private entities committed to climate action can request to be bound voluntarily by the same obligations to produce action plans and be subject to legal review of actions. We know that what is measured, gets done. By setting targets, requiring reporting and putting in place checks and balances and obligations on public authorities, we will see integrated action by this Government.

The bill also includes the establishment of a NSW Climate Change Commission to provide independent advice and recommendations about climate change to the Minister, and to consult with and provide information to communities, local government, non-government organisations and businesses relating to action on climate change. The Minister is required to seek the commission's advice and have regard to it when exercising functions under the bill. The commission will also publish any advice and recommendations provided to the Minister and may publish special reports. The final element of the bill is a requirement for an annual climate change progress report by the Minister, to be made public and presented to Parliament. It would report on progress and actions in all aspects of the plans and functions provided under the Act, including an analysis of whether carbon budgets have been met. If a carbon budget is not met, the Minister must explain why not and set out a planned action to ensure that future budgets are met and to compensate for the excess emissions.

As I said earlier, governments around the world are stepping up to take this action, but not in Australia. Australian governments have fallen short consistently. While successive governments in New South Wales and nationally have pointed to specific initiatives and have introduced individual schemes and programs, none have successfully managed to make this a sustained, all-of-government integrated response to handling the biggest challenge that we face as a society. We need to introduce and support legislation in this State to address climate change through a whole-of-government approach. A number of nations, States and Territories have enacted climate change legislation—for example, the United Kingdom Climate Change Act 2008.

Key features of that Act include statutory long-term emissions targets, annual carbon budgets and an independent committee on climate change. Several pieces of climate change legislation have also been passed in Australia—South Australia's Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act, the Australian Capital Territory's Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, and the Victorian Climate Change Act. These Acts vary in the targets they set and other features, but each includes some of the same framework established in this bill. The Victorian Act originally included an emissions reduction target but, unfortunately, it was amended and the target was removed. Another review is now underway.

In New South Wales successive governments have continued to be addicted to the polluting fossil fuel industries. The corrupting influence that those industries have had on politics in New South Wales—on current and former Liberal-Nationals governments and former Labor governments—is well known. Earlier this year when The Greens member for Balmain, my colleague in this place, introduced the Mining and Petroleum Industry Political Donations Legislation Amendment (Corruption Risk Reduction) Bill 2015, which sought to reduce

corruption in New South Wales by banning political donations from mining and petroleum companies, the Labor Opposition joined the Government in opposing the bill. That bill attempted to stop the corrupting influence of the mining and petroleum industry on the decisions that are made in this place. As I said, the Labor Opposition joined the Liberal-Nationals Government to vote against it, allowing it to take corrupting donations from the mining and petroleum industry.

At about midday today in the other place my Greens colleague Mr Jeremy Buckingham will introduce the Mining Amendment (Climate Protection—No New Coal Mines) Bill 2016. This demonstrates the concerted and committed effort of The Greens in all Australian parliaments to make sure that we are responding to dangerous climate change. In New South Wales there is no coherent framework for ensuring that the Government delivers an adequate and coordinated response to climate change. In 2012, following the introduction of the Federal carbon price, the New South Wales Greenhouse Gas Reduction Scheme was scrapped. I repeat: This should not just be left to the Minister for the Environment. I will give an example.

Recently a health and climate change forum was held in our nation's capital. The preliminary findings of a survey had shown that 98 per cent of health professionals agreed with the need for a national strategy on climate, health and wellbeing. Forty Australian leading health and medical experts came together to raise the deep concerns of the health sector that there was no national health plan to deal with the impacts of climate change. The impacts discussed were the risks of injury and illnesses associated with extreme weather events such as bushfires, storms, flooding, heatwaves, mental health impacts of disasters and their aftermath, increased spread of infectious diseases and worsening of air quality. We know that there will be health impacts as a result of climate change and that our health sector will need to support the community as those impacts become real.

This is just one example of why we cannot allow climate change to continue to sit only within the Environment portfolio. Climate change should be responded to in the same way as other areas of government are—Health, Transport, Roads and Energy. The whole of government should be able to respond. That is why The Greens bill seeks to set a coherent framework across all areas of government. A coherent framework is particularly needed in Transport and Roads. The roads Minister is separate to the transport Minister, which means that we cannot have an integrated approach to dealing with the challenges of congestion in our cities and the challenges for people in our regional and rural communities being able to travel where they want to. The fact that we have a roads Minister who is intent on delivering roads and more roads while we have a transport Minister who is attempting to deliver transport projects demonstrates the need for a more coherent approach.

This bill will require current and future New South Wales governments across all departments, in coordination with local councils, to plan for and deliver effective action for climate change mitigation and adaptation to work towards ensuring human and ecological health and wellbeing, while recognising the need to plan for climate impacts on all people, particularly on the vulnerable and disadvantaged. It is also crucial when we see the kinds of attacks being made on native vegetation with land clearing, and on our wildlife and our marine life. The Greens are committed to working on this bigger issue, which is a whole-of-government issue. It is something my colleagues in the other place have continued to push for and it is something that we will continue to work for in a coordinated effort across this Parliament and with the community. I acknowledge Phil Bradley, a member of The Greens Climate Change Working Group, who has joined us today in the Chamber to witness the introduction of this bill.

It is crucial that there is an integrated response across the whole of government, as we have seen following calls from the health sector, as we have seen from communities standing up to protect their land and their water in the agricultural sector, and as we have seen from the innovative and creative renewable energy sector that has stepped up. One recent initiative in the electorate of Newtown is the creation of solar-powered beer in a partnership between Pingala and Young Henrys Brewery. I declare that I am an investor in this initiative. It would be wonderful if more people in this place declared an interest in the renewable energy sector as opposed to declaring an interest via donations from mining and petroleum companies which, unfortunately, is what we see on the register of most members in this place. I am proud to be an investor in a solar-powered brewery, an initiative that uses solar energy from the rooftop of Young Henrys Brewery to create renewable energy and allows community control and community investment in solar.

Mr Jai Rowell: What's the beer called?

Ms JENNY LEONG: I have mentioned it already; the member can go back to look at it. I am not going to do an advertisement. The New South Wales Government has the potential to respond to climate change, but members are struggling against themselves. On one hand we hear those on the other side encouraging the idea of investment in the renewable energy sector, but on the other hand we see a resistance to set any measurable targets. I say once again that if the Government will not set targets, if the Government will not make itself accountable and if the Government does not put obligations on all areas of government to meet those targets, we will not see

the action that is needed to address dangerous climate change. It is crucial that New South Wales government departments, agencies and local councils that engage in a range of activities develop climate action plans.\

Business interrupted.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (CARE AND PROTECTION) AMENDMENT (PROTECTION FROM SERIOUS OFFENDERS) BILL 2016

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 23 June 2016.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (11:04): In concluding my contribution to debate on the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Protection From Serious Offenders) Bill 2016, I extend my sympathies to those in the gallery who I understand have tragically lost their children. It is always a terrible thing to lose a child, but to lose a child at the hands of someone who has also acted as a parent is horrific. On behalf of all members in this place, I offer my sincere condolences for their terrible loss. We need bipartisanship to protect children. If we know that a child is at risk from a particular individual it is incumbent on us as legislators to address that risk.

On Tuesday in this place we spoke about the Working With Children Checks and the Government's major oversight in not excluding specifically prohibited persons from being on site in educational and other institutions where vulnerable children are located. In a fit of pique, the Minister refused to support the amendment put up by the Opposition on the basis of her personal feelings. Yet again, in this legislation we see the Minister showing the same kind of self-indulgent approach to the protection of vulnerable children in our State. This Government talks out of both sides of its mouth: It speaks of bipartisanship on the prevention of domestic violence, sexual assault and the protection of children, but the Government's actions show otherwise.

Similar legislation to this has been passed in South Australia. The community is sick of the lack of bipartisanship, the pettiness and the reannouncements of this Government that raise hopes but do not add funding, and of its constant failure to consult with all stakeholders on the legislative changes. These are difficult issues. It is a grave decision to say that a person cannot be a parent to another child. But when that person has been convicted of murder by an impartial court, any risk assessment would rightly damn the Government, which so badly fails to meet its responsibilities. I urge the Government to support this bill and to support the families of those who have lost a child.

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (11:06): I support the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Protection from Serious Offenders) Bill 2016, which makes substantive improvements for the safety of children in New South Wales. I acknowledge those in the gallery who are here to listen to this debate and who tragically lost loved ones—innocent children who were caught up in acts of violence—as a result of the actions of others. Those of us on this side of the House believe in this legislation and we believe in doing all we can to protect children from harm. My colleague the member for Bankstown has worked tirelessly on this bill for some time. When she introduced it for the first time last year, the South Australian Government was in the process of introducing similar amendments to its legislation. Since that time those amendments have been passed into law. It is time for New South Wales to play catch-up and to do its bit.

Prior to the inception of this bill last year, the member for Bankstown worked with many key stakeholders—many of whom are in the gallery today, and I acknowledge their tireless work in ensuring the welfare of children and families—and has pushed for real change for the safety of children in this State. As a parent of four children and as a former teacher, I know how important it is to keep children safe and I know the importance of keeping children away from people who want to harm them. I will put on record the history of this bill and what has transpired to bring us here today to debate it. Last year the member for Bankstown was gagged from speaking during the debate, and this year it appears that the Government wants to do the same to ensure that the bill does go to a vote. But we want to vote on this bill, there is no doubt about that.

Mr Chris Patterson: Point of order: The member is misleading the House. We have established that we are more than happy that this be voted on if it is not filled out by Labor. They cannot have their cake and eat it too.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. In accordance with Standing Order 73 the member for Fairfield should not incite Opposition members.

Mr GUY ZANGARI: I note the comments of the member for Camden who is now saying that the Government wants to give us what we want, and will vote on this bill. I note that Minister Hazzard is in the Chamber, standing up as always, trying to intimidate those opposite when he has lost his way. The Minister is not serious about protecting children from violent parents or guardians, and Government members are following his

lead. It is quite extraordinary that the Minister is pacing up and down. Government members have been willing to sit on their hands, blocking this legislation and denying children in New South Wales the protections they deserve.

I turn now to the aims of the bill which, as the Minister knows, are to ensure that children are protected from parents or guardians who have committed murder, manslaughter or other certain serious offences against their own children. There is no doubt that we want our children to be protected. If we can vote on this bill we can see what the Government will do. This legislation makes perfect sense to Opposition members. We invite Government members to join us in enhancing the protection of children in New South Wales. It is quite simple: Labor firmly believes that the rights and safety of all children must prevail over the rights of their parents or guardians who have caused serious or violent harm to any of their children. We know that. Let us not forget that the inception of the bill was sparked from the tragic deaths of Ikicia Leach and Bailey Constable, two young lives lost to violent and abhorrent crimes committed by someone who was meant to be protecting them.

Again I make special mention of those in the gallery—Jannice Florendo, mother of Ikicia; Martha Jabour from the Homicide Victims Support Group; and all the families present. Many of them have photos of these children. It gives one goose bumps to look at those photos and to realise that such violent crimes have been perpetrated against innocent children. As legislators we in this House must ensure that we have the legislative framework in place to protect innocent children, to keep them safe and out of harm's way from those who seek to perpetrate violent crimes against them. In conclusion, I place on the record my thanks to the member for Bankstown for her work in bringing this bill forward. I commend this bill to the House and I hope that the Government will be sensible enough to support it.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (11:13): On behalf of The Greens I speak in debate on the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Protection from Serious Offenders) Bill 2016. The Greens have considered this bill carefully. It is clear that we are addressing a significant issue. We have listened to the stakeholders and to the community. We know that this bill comes from a good place. We recognise that everyone in this place, including the shadow Minister, wants to ensure that children and young people are kept safe and are not at risk of abuse or neglect. No-one in this place would want to put children in such a difficult and high-risk situation where they could be subject to abuse or neglect. The question is how to do that and how best to achieve it.

The Greens believe that is best achieved by ensuring that the child protection system is as effective as possible in addressing risk and determining the best interests of the child in each case rather than legislating to require child removal in certain cases as proposed in the bill. I note that the provisions in this bill are similar to laws that have been passed recently by parliaments in New Zealand and South Australia, although this bill would cover parents who have been convicted of a broader set of offences than the legislation in those two jurisdictions. However, it remains unclear how these laws will operate in a practical sense. It is important to note that New Zealand and South Australia have different legal frameworks. The legal framework in New South Wales provides for a range of different laws to ensure child removal in a range of cases.

A commentary on the South Australian bill published by Rosemaria Flaherty and Susan Arney of the University of South Australia's Australian Centre for Child Protection pointed to challenges with this kind of legislation that may make it unviable, including that logistical problems cannot be responsible for actively tracking the reproductive activity of all relevant offenders and that it is unclear how the approach could include males whose paternity or status as a partner in relation to the birth of a child may be unknown. I also note under this State's existing laws that previous child removal and homicide can be grounds for the removal of a subsequent child.

Section 106A of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 provides that when considering a care application, the Children's Court must admit evidence relating to any instance in which the parent or caregiver has had a child removed but not restored, or has been named as a person who may have been involved in causing a reviewable death. This is taken as prima facie evidence that the child is in need of care and protection, which parents must then satisfactorily rebut. The current system provides for child protection in these situations. In conjunction with provisions of the Act that give the Secretary powers for emergency removal in cases of immediate risk of significant harm and to apply for care orders if satisfied that a child is in need of care and protection, the section that I refer to allows a case-by-case assessment of whether the parent's historical offences require or indeed involve the need for removal of the child. We have listened to key stakeholders in the area. I note that when this bill was first introduced to Parliament last year, the chief executive officer of the Law Society of New South Wales wrote to the Minister and members indicating that the society's Indigenous Issues and Family Issues committees do not support the bill.

As well as noting that existing laws allow case-by-case assessment of the need for child removal, the letter dated 27 November 2015 identifies that there is no evidence from the available case studies that the

department or Children's Court "have responded inappropriately to instances where a parent has previously treated a child in one of the ways set out in the bill." They were concerned about how the laws would work in practice and fit into the existing child protection framework, including with respect to the strong public interest in rehabilitation. I note also reference to the prohibition in the bill that female genital mutilation [FGM] should be a disqualifying offence. The bill identifies that FGM should disqualify a parent in the future, but the Law Society identifies that in relation to female genital mutilation offences it is appropriate to educate parents to ensure they realise there are stringent penalties in this country and that it is a cultural issue primarily affecting the African community, and should not prohibit parents from parenting in the future. I note also that a Child Protection Roundtable was held. CatholicCare, an important organisation in this space, issued a media release, which stated:

It is important that we acknowledge the unique circumstances of each child and family and ensure that the safety of the child is paramount. We need a law that is equally as sensitive to the individual conditions of each case as it is tough on parents who have perpetrated crimes against children. That goes to the issue of analysing each situation on its merits. The Government must be tough and take the matters seriously, but introducing broad legislation that includes a range of different offences prohibiting parenting in the future does not offer the same protection that a robust case-by-case merit assessment does. It does not provide the capacity to consider and address the individual circumstances of each case. Parliament must focus on improving the merit-based system. The number of children in out-of-home care has risen and the budget for the care system continues to increase. The level of investment in prevention, early intervention and risk assessment must be monitored constantly and augmented to ensure that all children and young people are protected from abuse and neglect.

Prevention and early intervention is the way forward rather than laws after the fact that will not focus on child protection. The latest caseworker dashboard from the Department of Family and Community Services shows that even though the caseworker vacancy rate is listed as 3 per cent across the State, a significant number of children reported at risk of significant harm are yet to receive face-to-face assessment from a caseworker. That is a challenge and there has been significant investment in that area. Each member would agree we can and should do better. Preventing harm is best achieved by having comprehensive integrated services that provide universal support to all parents, and target appropriate services and resources to specific families that have identified risk factors.

I note that the Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2 has begun an inquiry into child protection, with submissions received from many of the key stakeholder groups and evidence from a range of witnesses. The Greens will look to the expert evidence leading to recommendations about how to improve the child protection system, and encourage the Government and Opposition to support reforms that will ensure individual families at risk are receiving early supports to prevent risk, but are also being carefully assessed to ensure children are not left at risk of abuse and neglect. I encourage Labor and the Government to narrow their differences and to work together to enact legislation that does not divide the community or the Parliament.

Everyone has the same objective—the people in the gallery and those in the Chamber: We want to protect children. Abuse against children must be stopped. Expert evidence from other jurisdictions shows that New South Wales can and must continue to improve. Having a range of offences will ensure a parent is not able to continue parenting. Issues such as female genital mutilation should be looked at in a different light. The Greens encourage goodwill in the Chamber to improve child protection measures and hope that that continues in the future.

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (11:22): I join with previous speakers to thank the visitors in the gallery. There are many heartbreaking stories. Members acknowledge your presence in the Chamber today. No-one in the Chamber does not support enhancing child welfare protection. I note the Opposition's sentiment in relation to this bill. I note the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, the peak body with regard to children's agencies, does not support the bill in its current form. I acknowledge Minister Brad Hazzard for his work in this sensitive area. I acknowledge the contribution of The Greens member for Balmain and his sensible arguments.

I bring into this Chamber today my experience as a court officer who has heard some devastating cases. I understand the sentiment behind the bill is honourable. The Government believes it will seriously undermine the child protection agency's ability to build capacity. As the Minister pointed out, there is a comprehensive framework for monitoring and managing child offenders in the community that trigger an immediate response from child protection authorities when a child is believed to be at risk by virtue of being in the care of a person who has previously been convicted of a serious offence against a child.

Any person who has committed certain offences against a child including murder, sexual assault, assault, grooming, child prostitution, kidnapping or abduction is automatically placed on the child protection offenders register where they are subject to strict reporting obligations for between eight to 15 years, depending on the offence committed, and for life, if repeat offenders. They must report where they live and work, and the names and dates of birth of any children with whom they live or with whom they have contact. They cannot change their name without the approval of the Commissioner of Police.

As the Minister has highlighted, sufficient protections are in place under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act to address Opposition concerns regarding the reporting, investigating and removing of

children at risk of serious harm. The laws and policies created empower the Department of Family and Community Services to take whatever action is necessary to minimise the risk of harm to any future children of parents or guardians who have committed previous serious offences against their children.

The legislation enables the department to receive a prenatal report if there are grounds to suspect before the birth of the child that the child may be at risk of significant harm after birth. The department may issue a high-risk birth alert to hospitals to ensure that the hospital notifies the department immediately once the child is born. Further, when the department receives notification that a child is suspected of being at risk of significant harm, the department is empowered to undertake any investigations and assessments considered necessary to assess the risk to the child. If the child is considered to be in need of care and protection the department may take whatever action is necessary to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of the child.

I have seen this firsthand as a member of Parliament and as an officer of the court many years ago. I have seen people in my community where Family and Community Services has been involved in these horrific cases. I have seen the hard work that it does. It is challenging and sensitive, and I acknowledge there is always room for improvement. The power to take whatever action is necessary is all inclusive, covering everything from the provision of support services to the child and family to ensuring the protection of the child or young person through the use of the emergency removal powers. These decisions are made on a case-by-case basis as opposed to automatic removal of the child as proposed in the bill. Automatic removal policies, such as those proposed in the bill, remove the ability of an agency to develop unique responses to each family.

Every member wants what is best for the child. No two cases are alike, no case is black and white, and every case must be dealt with on an individual basis. That is what we are talking about. In many situations the safety and risk assessments, and the professional judgement of Family and Community Services [FACS] staff would likely lead to the child being removed. Such a decision must be an informed one based on the circumstances of the case and the current risk. Each situation is diverse and different factors may need to be considered, including the protection that can be provided by the non-offending parent. FACS and the NSW Police Force have the power to share information to assist caseworkers with assessments and investigations.

If the emergency removal powers are exercised the Children's Court must admit in proceedings and evidence that a parent has had a child removed from his or her care or has been involved in an investigation into the death of a child. Such evidence is considered prima facie evidence that the child in the proceedings is in need of care and protection. The onus is then on the parent to rebut the presumption. This ensures that applications are considered in light of any serious past child protection history. There is no corresponding legislative provision in the South Australian child protection legislation. The department is sufficiently empowered under the current framework to respond to concerns about the future children of parents or guardians who have previously committed serious offences against their children. The child protection offenders register includes not just parent offenders but any offender who has committed a serious offence against a child, such as a boyfriend, a babysitter or a family friend. The list goes on and on. It includes relatives who, unless they have significant parental responsibilities, are not covered.

In New South Wales, courts also have the power to make child protection registration orders against a person found guilty of other criminal offences. The Department of Family and Community Services [FACS] works closely with the NSW Police Force to support such applications being made to protect children from child offenders. I acknowledge the work of the police. I have seen firsthand the work they do in this area. Courts have the power to make extended supervision orders, with extensive conditions, for up to five years against an offender who has committed a serious violent or sexual offence against a child or adult and who is assessed as being at high risk of further violent or sexual offending. A breach of an extended supervision order carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

Courts also have the power to make child protection prohibition orders, the purpose of which is to control the behaviour of registrable persons who continue to pose a danger to children by preventing them from doing certain things, such as associating or having contact with specified people or being in a specified location—for example, a school. A breach of such an order carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. A parent who has committed a serious offence against a child is a significant indicator of risk to future children, warranting protective intervention, including the possible removal of the child. Where police, as a result of information received under the child protection offender register legislation, have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of significant harm, a report will be made to the Child Protection Helpline, which will initiate an immediate investigation and assessment.

The Association of Children's Welfare Agencies, the peak body for out-of-home care agencies, opposes Labor's bill on the basis that its amendments fail to take into account the individual circumstances of each case. It notes that a one-size-fits-all approach to child protection is potentially dangerous. There are potentially unintended and harmful consequences for children from this bill. For example, women may be deterred from accessing

antenatal healthcare services or other support services in order to avoid detection. This may be felt more acutely by certain disadvantaged groups, such as women affected by domestic violence or women from communities where female genital mutilation is a cultural practice. This is not an easy topic to talk about. I appreciate all members of this House working together. We always need to review what we do. I commend the Minister and his department for their work and the sensitive way in which they do it. I commend them for their commitment to all children in New South Wales.

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (11:32): I oppose the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Protection from Serious Offenders) Bill 2016.

[Interruption from gallery]

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I remind visitors in the gallery that they are not to interject. I have the power to clear the gallery. I do not wish to do that. The debate taking place is a debate of the Parliament. While I realise that it is an emotional subject, I remind visitors that there is to be no noise or disturbance from the gallery.

Dr GEOFF LEE: It is appropriate that I recognise the people in the gallery, who have taken time out to watch the debate on this bill. I reassure them that it is a priority of the Government and everyone in this House to make decisions and pass legislation in the best interests of children. That should be the highest priority of all of us here. No member in this place wants to put any child in danger. I recognise the presence in the Chamber of the shadow Minister for Family and Community Services, the member for Bankstown. The member has noble intentions in bringing forward this legislation. The member is doing her best to put something before the Parliament that can be debated in a logical way, via a process on which we all agree. Unfortunately, the legislation is simplistic. Worse, it may end up damaging some families and children. We are charged with passing legislation that protects vulnerable children.

The bill is simplistic because it does not address the complexities of real life. It would be wonderful if there were a black-and-white solution to real-life problems. Unfortunately, life is not always as simple as we would like it to be. As legislators we must consider the nuances. Unfortunately, not every family is perfect. People's situations are different. We must examine each case on its merits. We must undertake case-by-case merit-based assessment because of that complexity. I commend the shadow Minister for Family and Community services, but I point out that a simplistic, black-and-white approach can be problematic in the protection of families and children. I have spoken at length to the Minister about this. While the legislation appears logical, it does not deal with the great complexities of real life. It does not address the practicalities of different family situations. For instance, if a young mother with postnatal depression caused the death of a child, this legislation would eliminate the possibility of her ever having children of her own. The legislation is black and white. It is clearly simplistic.

I agree with the comments made by the member for Balmain that early intervention is essential to stopping risky behaviours in families. There is already comprehensive legislation to address that. Importantly, there are many people working in the Department of Family and Community services who go above and beyond their duties to identify, look after and case manage families who are experiencing difficulties. Many Family and Community Services staff are located in my electorate of Parramatta. They are dedicated people who have a difficult job to do. They are highly trained.

I commend the Minister and his staff for their passion and dedication. They work in difficult circumstances. When they receive a report that a child is at serious risk they go to visit the family. They may not know who is at home. They investigate the case, often in difficult circumstances. They put themselves in potentially threatening situations because they deal with families who are dealing with complex issues such as psychological problems, drug dependency and domestic violence. They may knock on a door without knowing the background to the situation, so they potentially put themselves at great risk of harm. They do so because they are dedicated to looking after children and achieving the best outcome for children.

Mr Brad Hazzard: They do an amazing job.

Dr GEOFF LEE: I acknowledge the interjection from the Minister. I put on record that the staff of Family and Community Services, especially case officers, do an exceptional job. They have a regulatory framework in which to investigate those situations. They are highly trained and highly experienced. We have to rely upon their experience—

Mr Brad Hazzard: Their professional judgement.

Dr GEOFF LEE: Yes, we rely on their professional judgement to make the right decisions. Our job as legislators is to give them the legal framework, the legislation to enable them to make decisions that are in the best interests of the child. It depends on family circumstances, where people are living and what difficulties they

face. Unfortunately this bill is a naïve approach to achieving a solution when nothing in real life is black and white, especially difficult cases where children are at risk. It is not a political approach to seek to divide on this bill as child protection is this Government's highest priority.

Unfortunately, this simplistic legislation does not adequately address the issue. As the member for Bankstown does not appear to understand the complexity of this issue it is our duty to debate it in this House. The Government, the Minister, The Greens, the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies—the peak body for out-of-home care agencies—and I oppose the bill as it fails to take into account the circumstances surrounding each case. The well-respected children's welfare agency recognises that a one-size-fits-all approach to child protection is dangerous. The Law Society of New South Wales opposes this bill and notes:

The Committee notes that the bill seeks to, among other things, require the removal of a child from the care of a parent or guardian with a previous conviction for a serious violent offence against their own child, with certain exceptions as significant mitigating circumstances.

The Committees are sensitive to the case studies that appear to have prompted the introduction of the Bill. However, it is not clear that the proposed reforms are necessary to achieve the policy aims, and would do so in any proportionate way. There is no evidence that the Department of Family and Community Services or the Children's Court have responded inappropriately to instances where a parent has previously treated a child in one of the ways set out in the bill.

The Law Society says that this bill is simplistic in nature and the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies opposes it. I commend the member for Bankstown for trying very hard but I cannot support this bill.

Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (11:42): I do not support the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Protection from Serious Offenders) Bill 2016 as it is unnecessary and unlikely to increase child safety. In fact, this bill could have serious consequences. Everyone in this Chamber and in this State acknowledges that child protection and child safety should be a high priority. However, adequate safeguards are already in place. The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 contains the necessary provisions for child protection and safety in this State and it has been amended on many occasions.

Hardworking members of the Department of Family and Community Services are intent on upholding the safety of all children in their care. I have no doubt that the member for Bankstown and shadow Minister for Family and Community Services had the best of intentions when introducing this bill but its provisions are simplistic. The same could not be said about children, families or about the abuse of children. This bill would enable the automatic removal at birth of a child from a parent or guardian who has previously committed a serious offence against his or her own child. However, those safeguards are already in place.

The Department of Family and Community Services already receives pre-natal reports and it issues high-risk birth alerts to hospitals and to doctors to ensure that such reports are made immediately when a child is born. Once these reports are received the department can take emergency action to remove a child if that child is considered to be at risk. In New South Wales child protection laws provide a strong framework for monitoring and managing offenders. These include requiring offenders to be placed on the child protection offenders register where they are subject to strict reporting obligations. Our laws require courts to make orders to control the behaviour of registered offenders who continue to pose a danger to children. Any breach of these laws amounts to an offence carrying a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. The courts also have the power to make extended supervision orders to control and monitor the movements of high-risk, violent or sex offenders.

As I said earlier, there is no quick fix for this serious issue. This legislation will enable the automatic removal of any children at risk, which may cause serious consequences. Taking a child away from its mother is not necessarily looking after the best interests of that child. As the Minister pointed out, some mothers in regional New South Wales have no direct access to services to deal with post-natal depression and should not have their children removed because of their lack of access to appropriate services. The Law Society of New South Wales said that there is no evidence to suggest that existing legislative and policy frameworks in New South Wales are inadequate, or that they fail to protect the children of those parents who have committed serious offences against them. The Law Society also said that the bill introduced by the shadow Minister does not achieve what it is intended to achieve, which is counterproductive. I do not support the bill.

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (11:46): In reply: I acknowledge all those who contributed to debate on the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Protection from Serious Offenders) Bill, in particular the members representing the electorates of Shellharbour, Maroubra, Maitland and Fairfield. The member for Wyong and the member for Prospect also wanted to contribute to debate on this bill but they relinquished their right to speak to give me an opportunity to reply. I acknowledge also the contribution of the Minister for Family and Community Services and members representing the electorates of Parramatta, Wollondilly, Drummoyne, Balmain, Oxley, Oatley and Epping. I apologise if I have forgotten to include other members who contributed to debate on this bill but as I was removed from the Chamber last week I might have missed their contribution.

The bill proposes to strengthen the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 to protect children and young persons from those who have been found guilty of certain offences where the victim was a child or young person and the offender was a parent or guardian of that child or young person. Unashamedly, this bill seeks to prioritise the rights of children over the rights of parents or guardians who cause serious and violent harm to their children. The measures in this bill will safeguard the interests of children by prioritising their safety—by keeping them safe from those who have caused them serious harm.

The Government has an obligation to stand up for and to strengthen the rights of vulnerable children in this State. I welcome the contribution of Opposition members who support this bill which will implement the provisions contained in South Australian legislation. The Minister said in his contribution to debate that this bill was introduced because of what occurred during a South Australian coronial inquiry. I remind the Minister that the South Australian Parliament enacted legislation in response to the South Australian Coroner's recommendations following an inquest into the death of Chloe Valentine.

The South Australian Children's Protection (Implementation of Coroner's Recommendations) Amendment Act 2016 was proclaimed on 28 April 2016. During his attempted filibuster, which took an hour, the Minister tellingly omitted this fact. The legislative amendments have been positively received by the public and by child protection stakeholders in South Australia. New South Wales has now been left behind in strengthening the rights of vulnerable children over the civil liberties of child murderers. I have stated previously in this place that this bill is not about partisan politics; it is about strengthening the rights and safety of children, and protecting their best interests.

In the past 18 months while I have been shadow Minister I have repeatedly told the Government that I will support any bill it puts forward to strengthen the rights of children in this State. In fact, I offer amendments and ways of improving bills when I believe they need improvement. I have introduced this bill twice. Last year I asked the Minister to put forward his own bill. He has not, so I ask this Parliament to vote on this matter today. I assure everybody in the public gallery and the Chamber that for as long as I am the member for Bankstown I will keep introducing this bill into this House until it is passed.

I note for the Minister's reference that the Liberal Opposition in South Australia did not oppose similar measures as those proposed in this bill to protect vulnerable children. In fact, the Liberal Opposition in South Australia worked closely with the Labor Government to negotiate a series of amendments regarding the application of the bill. I offered this Government the same opportunity and said that I was happy for all good amendments to be brought forward. None have come forward. Interestingly, during the second reading debate in South Australia the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Vickie Chapman, the member for Bragg, called on the South Australian Government to liaise with other State jurisdictions to implement similar legislation. She said:

The concept is not a bad one...I would suggest that the government, on its next agenda of discussions of attorney-generals and/or ministers for dealing with child protection, look at this issue.

Echoing his deputy leader, the Liberal member for Schubert, Stephen Knoll, said it was important that this type of legislation be passed. It seems that South Australian children are good enough to have this protection but New South Wales children are not. I reiterate that the strengthening of child protection legislation should not be a matter for political pointscoring. This is an opportunity for the New South Wales Government to prioritise the safety of vulnerable children. Interestingly, I note that The Greens also supported the legislation in South Australia. The core principle of our current child protection legislation is the safety, welfare and wellbeing of the child now and in the future. Contrary to the Minister's protestations during the debate, this bill does exactly that.

This bill ensures that the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children are paramount in all considerations, not the civil liberties of some of the most vile and violent criminals who have caused serious harm to children in their care. I note the New Zealand Parliament has also passed similar legislation to ensure that child killers are not given a second chance. Some Government members referred to the Law Society to justify their opposition to this bill. The Government recently proceeded to privatise Land and Property Information [LPI] despite the Law Society clearly stating its objections to that. Despite those objections the Government went ahead with its legislation relating to LPI. In his second reading contribution the Minister also forgot to quote our Legislation Review Committee, which said:

...the health, welfare and best interests of children must outweigh the protection of the family unit in instances such as those identified in the Bill. In particular, the Committee highlights that the Bill provides scope for the relevant government department to allow children to remain with their parent—it is appropriate in the circumstances. A parent who has a child removed or who is subject to a restraining notice can also apply to the Children's Court for the return of their child and revocation of the restraining notice. The Committee makes no further comments.

The provisions in this bill will protect children and young people from persons who have been found guilty of certain disqualifying offences when the victim was a child and the offender was a parent or guardian of that child. These are the most serious of offences and it is imperative that this Parliament pass this legislation. The offences

include murder, manslaughter, infanticide, assault causing death, acts with intent to murder, attempts to murder, attempts to murder by other means, and wounding or grievous bodily harm with intent. I note the Minister said that sexual offences were not included in this legislation. I asked him to put his amendment forward because I am always happy to strengthen the legislation we pass in this place. I said that this bill is the beginning. Let us start with it and then explore other ways in which we can protect the children in this State.

Recently the *Daily Telegraph* reported that Sandor Cikos, who killed his wife and two children 16 years ago, is now looking for love. He wants to start another family. Does any member on the other side honestly believe it is okay for someone like him to start another family after he killed his family in cold blood? This bill should be enacted for many reasons. I acknowledge some of the people in public gallery who have been instrumental in putting this bill together. From the Homicide Victims Support Group I acknowledge Executive Director Martha Jabour, President Robert Taylor and counsellors Denise Day, Clare Blanch and Minouche Goubitz. I also acknowledge Benjamin and Vivian Tranquilino, whose grandson was murdered at 11 years old; Rasa Aziz, whose family member, Maria, was murdered at two years, two months and 15 days old; Lesley Smithers, whose grandchild, Joey, was murdered at four years of age; Sandra and Robert Campbell and Emily Campbell, the family members of Bailey, who was murdered at four years of age; and Janice Florendo, the mother of Ikicia, who was murdered at seven months of age.

This legislation is about those families who have suffered incredibly. I pay tribute to all of them who are here today and who have been so strong in urging the Government to see reason. This legislation was well thought through with the assistance of Parliamentary Counsel and legal advice. It mirrors the legislation in South Australia. I ask the people in the gallery to ignore what the Government has said to belittle this legislation. It is the right legislation. I hope that Government members will not put their pride above children and will pass this legislation. Failing that at the very least I hope they will commit to introduce similar legislation in the near future. I can assure the House that the Opposition would support it.

I spoke previously about the actions of Benjamin Leach and about what happened to Bailey Constable. It is heart wrenching and heartbreaking. Mr Leach served less than four years in prison for manslaughter after he squashed his baby. He is now out of prison and has changed his name and had another child. The Minister knows that. Mr Forrest will be out of prison soon and we know Mr Cikos is looking to start another family. Those people can never be given a second chance. I thank Leader of the Opposition Luke Foley for being very supportive of this legislation and for encouraging me to introduce it. I thank him for his support. I assure the House that Labor will always stand with each and every one of those people in the gallery to stop child killers from ever being able to parent or reside with a child again.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

The House divided.

Ayes29
Noes51
Majority.....22

AYES

Aitchison, Ms J	Atalla, Mr E (teller)	Barr, Mr C
Car, Ms P	Catley, Ms Y	Chanthivong, Mr A
Crakanthorp, Mr T	Daley, Mr M	Dib, Mr J
Doyle, Ms T	Finn, Ms J	Foley, Mr L
Harris, Mr D	Harrison, Ms J	Haylen, Ms J
Hoenig, Mr R	Hornery, Ms S	Kamper, Mr S
Lynch, Mr P	McDermott, Dr H	McKay, Ms J
Mehan, Mr D	Mihailuk, Ms T	Park, Mr R
Robertson, Mr J	Warren, Mr G (teller)	Washington, Ms K
Watson, Ms A	Zangari, Mr G	

NOES

Anderson, Mr K	Aplin, Mr G	Ayres, Mr S
Barilaro, Mr J	Bromhead, Mr S (teller)	Brookes, Mr G
Conolly, Mr K	Constance, Mr A	Coure, Mr M
Crouch, Mr A	Dominello, Mr V	Elliott, Mr D
Evans, Mr L	George, Mr T	Goward, Ms P

NOES

Grant, Mr T
Hazzard, Mr B
Humphries, Mr K
Lee, Dr G
Marshall, Mr A
Parker, Mr J
Perrottet, Mr D
Piper, Mr G
Rowell, Mr J
Smith, Ms T
Taylor, Mr M
Ward, Mr G

Greenwich, Mr A
Henskens, Mr A
Johnsen, Mr M
Leong, Ms J
Notley-Smith, Mr B
Patterson, Mr C (teller)
Petinos, Ms E
Provest, Mr G
Sidoti, Mr J
Speakman, Mr M
Toole, Mr P
Williams, Mr R

Gulaptis, Mr C
Hodgkinson, Ms K
Kean, Mr M
Maguire, Mr D
O'Dea, Mr J
Pavey, Ms M
Piccoli, Mr A
Roberts, Mr A
Skinner, Ms J
Stokes, Mr R
Tudehope, Mr D
Williams, Ms L

PAIRS

Lalich, Mr N
Minns, Mr C
Smith, Ms K

Baird, Mr M
Berejiklian, Ms G
Hancock, Ms S

Motion negatived.

*Motions***WESTERN SYDNEY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (12:07): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Notes that the Government is investing record amounts of spending in Western Sydney on projects such as the North West Metro, Parramatta Light Rail, and WestConnex.
- (2) Recognises the positive impact this investment is having and will have on the living standards of the residents of Western Sydney.
- (3) Commends the Government for successfully rectifying the former Government's underspending on transport and infrastructure in Western Sydney during its 16 years in office.

This is a big good news story for the people of Western Sydney. A vast amount is happening right across the spectrum in Western Sydney, in stark contrast to what did not happen—

Dr Geoff Lee: For 16 long years.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: —for 16 long years before this Government won office. The New South Wales Government is getting on with the job of delivering twenty-first century infrastructure for the people of Western Sydney. We are making a record \$73.3 billion investment in public transport and road infrastructure across the State to ensure the ongoing prosperity of New South Wales. Front and centre of this investment is the Government's \$16.8 billion WestConnex project, which will primarily benefit the people of Western Sydney. WestConnex will have a hugely positive impact on the people of Western Sydney by slashing travel times and making the facilities and the opportunities of the greater Sydney region far more accessible.

On completion of stage 1A, the M4 widening, travel times will be cut by up to 74 per cent and, on completion of stage 1B, travel time will be cut by up to 40 minutes for traffic travelling from Parramatta to Sydney Airport, bypassing Parramatta Road. That is an immense saving for people trying to access a key facility in the metropolitan area. When completed in 2023, this 33 kilometres of motorway—including around 22 kilometres of tunnels—will improve the living standards of Western Sydney residents by slashing the time they must spend in traffic, which is wasting their time, spoiling their enjoyment of life, preventing them from contributing to the economy and stopping them from doing something more useful with their time. This Government wants to see families spending more time together and businesses thriving because the people of New South Wales will not be stuck in traffic.

Projects undertaken as part of WestConnex include upgrading the M4 from three to four lanes in each direction along an eight-kilometre stretch between Church Street, Parramatta, and Homebush Bay Drive, Homebush. The M4 East—the first underground section of WestConnex—will connect to the widened M4 and

extend it via twin motorway tunnels from Homebush to Haberfield, with three lanes in each direction. The M4 East will alleviate the gridlock that motorists face daily when they leave the M4 and come to a standstill on Parramatta Road. The King Georges Road Interchange upgrade involves widening and extending the eastbound on ramp and the westbound off ramp between King Georges Road and the M5 East at Beverley Hills. That too is a well-known bottleneck and needs to be addressed.

The \$4.3 billion new M5 will go from St Peters to Beverly Hills and will connect with the King Georges Road Interchange, which is being upgraded as part of WestConnex. It also includes twin tunnels up to nine kilometres long and the new St Peters Interchange on the site of the old Alexandria landfill. The new M5 will double the capacity of the M5 East by providing twin underground motorway tunnels, nine kilometres long, from Kingsgrove to the new St Peters Interchange, and will provide a quicker and more reliable trip for the people of the south-west. The \$7 billion M4-M5 Link is the final stage of WestConnex. It will be a tunnel connecting Sydney's two major corridors—the M4 and M5—and will create a new western central business district bypass.

The Government is also delivering for the people of Western Sydney through the Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan, in partnership with the Federal Government. With the population in Western Sydney expected to grow by one million people in the next 20 years, we are continuing to build the essential roads required to meet the needs of new and thriving neighbourhoods. We are investing billions of dollars to capitalise on and support the development of new growth centres, employment and the planned Western Sydney airport at Badgerys Creek, which is expected to open in the mid-2020s. Some of the road projects—and they are many and large—include Schofields Road, Richmond Road, Camden Valley Way, the Northern Road, Bringelly Road, Werrington Arterial Road and Hambledon Road in Schofields in my electorate.

Many other road projects will support the growth of the Badgerys Creek region. Those projects will make a vast difference to the way the region moves, travels, works and plays. They will allow people to get on with their business without the choking congestion that they currently experience. The number of full-time workers employed on those projects has increased by about a third, with more than 430 people working on the three projects under construction currently in the south-west. With the peak annual expenditure on Western Sydney infrastructure projects forecast to occur in the 2018-19 annual year, it is clear that even more opportunities lie ahead as more major stages of work move towards delivery.

The vast infrastructure spend in Western Sydney is not limited to transport and roads. I could go on about health and the investment we are making in Westmead Hospital, Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals and the Blacktown ambulance superstation. Those projects, either completed or underway, represent a vast improvement on the facilities available to the people of Western Sydney to ensure that their health needs are met—and there is more to come. That is the good news from a government that has its finances under control and that has charted a way forward to be able to afford infrastructure that includes not just the hospitals I have mentioned but also other infrastructure projects that are in the pipeline and on the way.

I can see that the member for Blacktown is excited about the Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals upgrade. Stage one has been completed and opened this year, and stage two is underway. These are magnificent projects for the people of the region, which did not happen under the Labor Government and that could not have happened because it had no idea of how to fund them—in fact, Labor has opposed every funding opportunity that we have created since we came to government. In education, new schools have opened or are in the pipeline at The Ponds, Parramatta, North Kellyville and Oran Park, and a new agricultural high school will be developed at the Hawkesbury Western University campus. But dearest to my heart, and the most impressive achievement in education, are the new schools for special needs that have opened or are being built at The Ponds and Glenmore Park. Those schools are much needed, and this Government has the funds to deliver them because it has taken the hard decisions. Kids with special needs will be assisted properly in those specially designed schools.

There is investment in sport and culture. I hope the member for Parramatta has the opportunity to talk about some of those projects, many of which are focused on his region. I also mention the investment in support of police in Western Sydney. The new police station built in Riverstone that opened this year is a classic example. The new police station that is underway for Mount Druitt will be warmly welcomed by the member for Mount Druitt. It shows the commitment of this Government to the people of Western Sydney which, sadly, his colleagues were unable or unwilling to make in their 16 long years in office. The Liberal-Nationals Government is providing for the people of Mount Druitt and of Blacktown.

Mr John Robertson: I remember when it used to be the Baird-Grant Government. What happened to that? After the greyhounds it just became a Liberal-Nationals Government. What happened? What happened to the Baird-Grant Government?

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: I acknowledge the interjection from the member for Blacktown, who is so excited he cannot contain himself in thanking this Government for providing for the people of Western Sydney.

I must also speak about buses. Buses are critical, particularly for the people of my electorate who depend on public transport for their daily commute to work and for other journeys. This Government has put on 8,500 new weekly public transport services across Western Sydney.

Dr Geoff Lee: How many?

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: Eight and a half thousand—and many of them are new bus services in my electorate. This Government is meeting the needs of the people of Western Sydney.

Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (12:16): I am pleased to speak in debate on this motion which, as we would expect, is about the Government congratulating itself on an infrastructure spend. What this motion does not do is explain the serious problems with the projects that are mentioned. It is rather odd that this motion is about transport infrastructure—WestConnex, Parramatta Light Rail and the metro—but the member for Riverstone could not fill seven minutes speaking about that. Instead, he spoke about sport, school infrastructure and health infrastructure—all of which are incredibly important but have nothing to do with the motion before the House. WestConnex, the M4 East, goes through my electorate so I am very familiar with the problems surrounding it, particularly the M4 widening and the M4 East. I agree in principle that if the M4 East takes traffic off Parramatta Road that is a good thing. However, there is no evidence to suggest that will happen.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I remind members of Standing Order 52. Members are entitled to be heard in silence. I will not hesitate to name members who continue to interject.

Ms JODI McKAY: I am happy to name the member for Drummoyne. As I said, I am completely supportive of taking traffic off Parramatta Road—in fact, my community would love that—but there is no evidence to suggest that that will happen. I will also speak about some of the other issues with this project, including the enormous WestConnex cost blowout.

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

Ms JODI McKAY: The cost has blown out from \$10 billion to \$17 billion. Part of the problem with the project is that it is being carried out by the very secretive Sydney Motorway Corporation [SMC]. We put legislation before this House to amend the Government Information (Public Access) Act to allow the Sydney Motorway Corporation to come under that Act. However, the Government rejected it and established the SMC. As we found out recently during budget estimates hearings, the chief executive officer of the SMC does not even have to answer questions in budget estimates. That is just extraordinary. I will speak briefly about the tolls that will go on the M4 early next year. We could be eight weeks away from a toll being reintroduced on the M4.

Mr John Robertson: Shame!

Ms JODI McKAY: The member for Blacktown understands the impact that this toll will have on his electorate. This toll will be introduced on the M4 early next year. It could be eight weeks away and the Government still has not told the residents of Western Sydney when they will be facing a toll on the M4. Of course, we have a toll that is increasing by at least 4 per cent every year. That is unheard of.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Drummoyne will remain silent.

Ms JODI McKAY: That is an extraordinary situation that again has not involved the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal or a review by the Auditor-General, which the Opposition supports. The Government needs to come clean about when this toll will be introduced. Then there is the compulsory acquisition process that has taken up a large part of debate in this House this week. That is because this report has been hidden for 2½ years. We have lobbied for 1,000 days and thousands of residents have been impacted by compulsory acquisitions caused by this Government. We know that houses will be acquired as part of infrastructure spending but it has to be done better. The Government knew that the system was deficient.

Mr John Sidoti: They were your laws.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Drummoyne that he is on a call to order.

Mr John Sidoti: She wants traffic congestion.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Drummoyne will not argue with the Chair.

Ms JODI McKAY: Given that the member for Drummoyne is at the table I am happy to talk also about the Parramatta Light Rail, which will benefit his electorate. I know he is supportive of that because we have spoken about it. I know the member for Parramatta, who is also in the House, is supportive of it and I am supportive of it. In fact, Labor was the first party to come out and support light rail from Parramatta through Sydney Olympic Park into Strathfield.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Drummoyne will come to order. If he continues to interject he will be removed from the Chamber.

Ms JODI McKAY: Labor committed \$1 billion to that project yet it took the Coalition a whole year—12 months—to support our proposal. We now find out that the Government is moving away from light rail. Last week the Government announced the master plan for Sydney Olympic Park, which included reference to light rail, which was great, but very little reference to the Australia Avenue roundabout, which was bad—

Mr John Sidoti: We are coming to there.

Ms JODI McKAY: You are coming to there; that is good. It would be great if the member for Drummoyne would lobby on behalf of his residents instead of toeing the party line. The Government now appears to be moving away from light rail. I find it extraordinary that it is in the motion. I support it because it will revitalise Strathfield and it will stop jobs leaking out of Sydney Olympic Park, as we saw with the Commonwealth Bank.

Dr Geoff Lee: To Parramatta.

Ms JODI McKAY: No, it did not go to Parramatta. The member for Parramatta failed because it did not go to Parramatta; it went into the city. This Government says one thing and it does another. North Strathfield residents are in a terrible situation. They are unsure whether the light rail will link up with North Strathfield station—which does not have an easy access upgrade—but I will give credit to the member for Drummoyne because he shares my deep, serious, enormous concern about this. He has not done anything about it, but he shares that concern.

Mr John Sidoti: I have actually got information; I will be delivering.

Ms JODI McKAY: Are we going to get an announcement? Is the member for Drummoyne confirming that there will be an announcement about North Strathfield station?

Mr John Sidoti: It will come from me, not from you.

Ms JODI McKAY: I can proudly announce that there is going to be an upgrade to North Strathfield station.

Mr John Sidoti: No, you're saying that.

Ms JODI McKAY: Awesome. I feel very strongly that this Government is mismanaging these projects. I have only a short time remaining but I want to talk about the metro. The Government released a 100-page glossy document this week, which was the business case for the Sydney Metro City and Southwest. What is amazing about the document is that, of those 100 pages, 20-plus pages are glossy photos. The business case justifies a \$12.5 billion project with 20 glossy photos. Also of concern is that the Government cannot even confirm the cost of this project. It could be \$11 billion or \$12.5 billion—but, by the way, it was \$9 billion. We oppose this motion categorically. [*Time expired.*]

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (12:23): I support this important motion and congratulate the member for Riverstone on moving it. He is a true champion of the people of Western Sydney and of investment in infrastructure in Western Sydney. He knows that the people of Western Sydney deserve to get their fair share. The contribution by the member for Strathfield was disappointing. I will correct the record and remind the member for Strathfield that just because she says something does not mean it is true.

As the member for Parramatta, I am proud of the Government's track record in attracting jobs from the Sydney central business district to Parramatta. Eventually 5,000 public servants will move to Parramatta; indeed, the Department of Education is moving its offices to Phillip Street. I was sad to hear the comments of the member for Strathfield about WestConnex, condemning the people of Western Sydney to sit in traffic when they could be spending time with their families. I remind members opposite that Labor sold off the corridor for the WestConnex but this Government is building the missing transport link that the people of Western Sydney want. It was great to hear Lucy Turnbull, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Sydney Commission, in her Bradfield address last night acknowledge the importance of Parramatta as the "Central City".

Mr John Sidoti: Sydney's second CBD.

Dr GEOFF LEE: No, the member for Drummoyne is wrong—the Central City. I am sorry to say that the member is wrong but we have fair criticism on our side. She said that Parramatta will be the centre for Sydney's population, commercial and government. It is the right spot. As Lucy Turnbull said, would it not be wonderful to see a new Parliament House in Parramatta by the mid-2020s? I put on record today that I will do everything I can to get Parliament to move to Parramatta. The old Government House is in Parramatta Park. We could make the

middle of Parramatta Park the capital of New South Wales. We could have a heritage Parliament House just like this one and we could make Parliament House in Macquarie Street a tourist attraction. Indeed, 200 years ago Parramatta was the centre of Australia. It is a wonderful opportunity.

Opposition members may oppose efforts to help Western Sydney—I do not know why because it deserves more. I conclude by thanking the member for Riverstone. He can rest assured that all Government members are behind the Parramatta Light Rail, with \$1 billion in Restart NSW. The Government is looking at the value capture mechanism to fund it. Windfall profits made by developers should be ploughed back into providing valuable infrastructure such as light rail, bridges, roads and public transport that the people deserve. It is not all about the developers; it is about building communities and servicing their needs. It is about investing in schools, hospitals, roads, jobs, parks, and sporting and entertainment facilities. That is why I support this wonderful initiative.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (12:28): I make a brief contribution to debate on the motion moved by the member for Riverstone. I am sorry that the member for Riverstone has been chosen to deliver the Government's propaganda. If one says something enough people might just believe it. That is the philosophy of members opposite. Instead of standing in this place and delivering the Government's propaganda, the member should get his own house in order and concentrate on infrastructure in Riverstone. There is no mention in the motion of the Riverstone overpass that has been overwhelmingly rejected by the people of Riverstone. I highlight what one Liberal councillor said in the *Rouse Hill Courier* on February 2015, just before the last State election. Would members not think that Liberal councillors would support their State member? I quote one of the Liberal councillors who said, "The people of Riverstone have been forgotten for a long time and the State Government is not listening."

Mr Clayton Barr: Was it Bart Bassett?

Mr EDMOND ATALLA: No, it was not Bart Bassett, it was one of his colleagues.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I remind the member for Mount Druitt to address his comments through the Chair.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA: The motion speaks of the positive impact this investment has on the people of Western Sydney. I inform the House of the not so positive impact on the people of Western Sydney. All they are getting are M4 tolls, higher electricity prices, cuts to Mount Druitt Hospital, massive underspending on maintenance in Western Sydney schools, and the decimation of TAFE. That is what the people of Western Sydney will remember the Government for, not the propaganda spread in this Chamber. It is disappointing to hear the constant self-congratulatory messages and the noisy proclamation that for 16 years the Labor Government delivered nothing. Let me inform the House what the Labor Government delivered: completion of the Sydney orbital road network, the M7, M5 East and the contract for the M2.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The member for Oatley will come to order.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA: Who built the Cross City Tunnel? Labor spent more on the Pacific Highway than any other State or Federal government in history. The member for Riverstone is bragging about a Riverstone police station.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Oatley will be placed on a call to order if he does not cease interjecting.

Mr EDMOND ATALLA: The Labor Government built 37 police stations. Match that! The Coalition's contribution can be written on the back of a postage stamp. Labor built 37 police stations and the Government brags about one police station at Riverstone. When the Government can match Labor's achievements it will have the right to brag.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! I ask all members to comply with Standing Order 52.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (12:32): There we have it. That certainly cleared the air. It is a hard act to follow. Actions speak louder than words and the north-west metro, the Parramatta Light Rail, WestConnex, and Blacktown Hospital are examples of major infrastructure in my area. In southern Sydney there have been upgrades to Oatley and Narwee stations, upgrades to schools and the redevelopment of St George Hospital. This Government takes infrastructure rebuilding seriously. It is getting on with the job of rebuilding this State while those opposite did nothing for 16 years. The member for Strathfield was a Minister in the last failed Labor Government. She sat around the Cabinet table and did nothing. The north-west metro, the Parramatta Light Rail, WestConnex, Blacktown Hospital and many other projects in Western Sydney were never started, planned or funded under the failed Labor Government. The member for Riverstone and the member for Castle Hill, along

with this Government, are getting on with the job of rebuilding the infrastructure for which Western Sydney has been crying out.

Ms Trish Doyle: What do you know about Western Sydney?

Mr MARK COURE: A lot more than the member for Blue Mountains does. This Opposition is against public transport. It is a party that, while in government, promised up to 10 transport plans but delivered none. Members opposite did nothing for 16 years. I commend the member for Riverstone for moving this important motion. He has done an outstanding job representing his community and the communities in Western Sydney, both Labor and Liberal electorates. This Government is building infrastructure that has been desperately needed for decades. This Government is the best friend Western Sydney has had. The Opposition had 16 years to deliver upgrades to hospitals, roads and freeways. This Government is expanding the light rail network in Parramatta, has announced upgrades to Olympic Park, and is building the infrastructure that Parramatta and the southern suburbs have needed and for which they have been crying out.

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (12:34): Yet again a Government backbencher comes into the Chamber and seeks to ingratiate himself with the Premier by indulging in mindless backslapping in the form of this motion. The member for Riverstone is having a laugh with this motion, and so he should be because it is a joke. The Baird-Grant Government has an infrastructure program that is in tatters. WestConnex is a white elephant, the north-west metro will blow out by billions of dollars, and the Parramatta Light Rail has been slammed for having a poor cost-benefit ratio, which is bureaucrat lingo for a waste of money.

The member for Riverstone is welcome to visit the Blue Mountains electorate at any time and see the wonderful record of Labor investment in infrastructure. Labor widened the highway from Springwood to Katoomba. It was built for the people of the Blue Mountains and the Central West and, unlike this Government, Labor did not whack a toll on it at the first opportunity. The failed WestConnex project is a money-grabbing exercise and motorists in Western Sydney are the victims. The toll gantries were the first thing completed on WestConnex. That is where the priorities of this Government lie—in robbing the people of New South Wales. It is \$8 each way for the privilege of going to work every day.

People go to work, their wages have flatlined and they have been downgraded from full-time positions to part-time positions. The cost of living is soaring and it is impossible to buy a home. That is the legacy of this Government, a legacy of failure and empty political spin. Government members are rabble and the member for Riverstone is complicit in the waste, mismanagement and incompetence. The member should be ashamed. Every day Government members are wasting time in this place slapping each other on the back while failing to get the basics right.

Yesterday I spoke in the Chamber about the width of the new trains. It is boring me to death, but it beggars belief that the Baird Government is buying trains that are 20 centimetres too wide for the tracks in the Blue Mountains. The trains do not fit the tracks. It would make me sick with anger if it were not so funny. That sums up the Baird Government from start to finish. It is a joke, and it is making the people of New South Wales the punchline. The people of Western Sydney deserve better than this. They deserve better than a transport Minister who does not know how wide his trains are. They deserve better than a Minister for Western Sydney who lives in Manly.

They deserve access to the quality education of which this Government has robbed them. They deserve an opportunity to work on big projects such as train manufacturing, but those jobs are being sent offshore to South Korea. Perhaps they should build the new trains in Lithgow in the Central West; that way they could quickly check for size. That is more homework than the incompetent Minister for Transport has bothered to do. This motion should be laughed out of the Chamber for the joke that it is, and the member for Riverstone should take himself off and speak to the many thousands of concerned Western Sydney residents who do not want to pay sky-high tolls on a road they already own. This hopeless Government could not run a bath, much less the State of New South Wales. The Government should be laughed out of office because nowadays it is nothing but a sick joke at the expense of the taxpayers of New South Wales.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (12:39): By leave: It gives me great pleasure to participate in this debate on infrastructure projects in Western Sydney.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I remind the member for Oatley that the member for Castle Hill does not need any assistance.

Mr RAY WILLIAMS: As Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier for Western Sydney I spend a great deal of time outside my electorate. I have made a large number of friends across the Western Sydney area. I am humbled and somewhat embarrassed when friends in Whalan, in the electorates of Londonderry, St Marys and Mount Druitt stop me and say, "For years we voted Labor. Unfortunately, it did not do us any good. We were let

down for so many years. We recognise that your Government is doing a marvellous job of providing the infrastructure that we truly need. The hundreds of millions of dollars going into projects such as Nepean Hospital are greatly appreciated. In particular, the \$20 million that you committed to in Opposition so that we could park at the hospital was a great improvement." It is one thing to have a hospital, but if people cannot park there that is a problem.

I made friends in Mount Druitt because I represented the then shadow Minister for Health when the Labor Government closed the emergency department at Mount Druitt Hospital. I supported those people in the same way as I supported people when the Labor Government slashed bus services around Whalan and Mount Druitt. I was more than happy to do media events with those people to help them to have restored the bus services that they deserved. I am truly humbled by the friends I have made in Granville and Auburn who have said to me, "The \$1 billion investment in Westmead Hospital will secure health care for our families for years. When the \$20 million WestConnex project is implemented, our families will be able to travel freely alongside Parramatta Road." The Government is providing so many more opportunities for them.

The member for Blue Mountain spoke about the importance of education, and I absolutely agree. The Government is investing \$420 million in school infrastructure in Western Sydney. The George Bass School for students with special needs is being built in the electorate of Bankstown. The Government is also building Wentworth Point Public School in the electorate of the member for Auburn. They are worthy facilities. The Government was more than happy to include those areas in its \$64 billion infrastructure budget in this term.

I am hugely embarrassed when I bump into people in Cabramatta and they say, "We never thought we would see an upgrade of Cabramatta High School after 16 years of Labor Government. Pass on our appreciation to Mr Baird. These upgrades would not have happened if not for your Government's genuine and sincere investment in infrastructure for Western Sydney." People who live in Quakers Hill, Marayong, Penrith and Castlereagh have for years lived in fear of flood. They are grateful that our Government is investing in raising Warragamba Dam to protect them from floods in the years ahead. They greatly appreciate the investment in New South Wales by Mike Baird's Government.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (12:43): In reply: I acknowledge the contributions made by the members representing the electorates of Strathfield, Parramatta, Mount Druitt, Oatley, Blue Mountains and Castle Hill.

Mr Mark Coure: And Drummoyne.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: Yes, I acknowledge the interjections of the member for Drummoyne. A substantial change is occurring in the Western Sydney region through the massive investment that is taking place. It is worthy of note, given the scale, the magnitude and the scope of what is happening in all portfolios across the region. I am particularly proud that the investment is happening regardless of politics. It does not matter who holds the electorate and by what margin. Investment is not predicated on the basis of whether the Government is winning an electorate, losing an electorate or holding it by a certain margin. Investment is on the basis of need. It is a hallmark of the Baird-Grant Government and the O'Farrell Government before it: We invest in facilities and provide services where they are needed. The people of Western Sydney recognise that we are investing on a basis that is blind to politics. It is about whether services and facilities are needed. The member for Strathfield acknowledged that, in principle, if the WestConnex project removes traffic from Parramatta Road it is a good thing.

Apparently she cannot believe that people will drive on WestConnex and therefore move off Parramatta Road; it is a little implausible. I acknowledge her progress on the issue. She is coming around to it. She is starting to agree that WestConnex might be a good thing. It most certainly will be for the people of the region. That is the important point. The member for Mount Druitt tried to run the old line that Labor in the west has been running for some time—that the M7 was built on Labor's watch. If so, it was against Labor's wishes. Not one dollar of State Labor money went into the project. I acknowledge the contribution made by the member for Mount Druitt. As a member of Blacktown City Council at the time, he invested in banners opposing the funding of the project. He opposed the funding model. He did not want it to go ahead on that basis, so he paid for some banners. As for the road, sorry about that, member for Mount Druitt, but a Liberal Federal Government built it with some assistance from the private sector.

Mr John Sidoti: He mentioned the Cross City Tunnel.

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: The Cross City Tunnel was his proudest achievement. I will let that go through to the keeper because it is not in Western Sydney and it is not a great model to hold up. The member for Blue Mountains had a tale of woe. She repeats that tale of woe every time she speaks. She cannot see the infrastructure for the cranes. She cannot see the wood for the trees. Right across the region things are happening.

One does not have to tell the people of Western Sydney that the Government is investing in infrastructure; they can see it. It is happening around them. One can drive along Old Windsor Road and see the skytrain taking shape. One does not have to tell anybody or parade it to anyone. It is out there. It is visible. It is the same with works across the region. The member for Blacktown was excited when I spoke about Blacktown Hospital earlier. It is a magnificent facility. It is great to go and have a look. It is almost like being in a motel. It is a wonderful place.

Mr John Robertson: Can you get me an invite?

Mr KEVIN CONOLLY: I will get the member for Blacktown an invite. I will get him invited to the hospital. It is an exciting time to be part of Western Sydney because we are transforming the region for the better, for the people of New South Wales.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The question is that the motion moved by the member for Riverstone be agreed to.

The House divided

Ayes44
Noes31
Majority.....13

AYES

Anderson, Mr K
Barilaro, Mr J
Conolly, Mr K
Crouch, Mr A
George, Mr T
Hazzard, Mr B
Humphries, Mr K
Lee, Dr G
Notley-Smith, Mr B
Pavey, Ms M
Piper, Mr G
Sidoti, Mr J
Stokes, Mr R
Tudehope, Mr D
Williams, Mr R

Aplin, Mr G
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)
Constance, Mr A
Dominello, Mr V
Goward, Ms P
Henskens, Mr A
Johnsen, Mr M
Maguire, Mr D
O'Dea, Mr J
Petinos, Ms E
Provest, Mr G
Skinner, Ms J
Taylor, Mr M
Upton, Ms G
Williams, Ms L

Ayres, Mr S
Brookes, Mr G
Coure, Mr M
Evans, Mr L
Gulaptis, Mr C
Hodgkinson, Ms K
Kean, Mr M
Marshall, Mr A
Patterson, Mr C (teller)
Piccoli, Mr A
Rowell, Mr J
Speakman, Mr M
Toole, Mr P
Ward, Mr G

NOES

Aitchison, Ms J
Car, Ms P
Daley, Mr M
Finn, Ms J
Harris, Mr D
Hoenig, Mr R
Leong, Ms J
Mehan, Mr D
Parker, Mr J
Warren, Mr G (teller)
Zangari, Mr G

Atalla, Mr E (teller)
Catley, Ms Y
Dib, Mr J
Foley, Mr L
Harrison, Ms J
Hornery, Ms S
Lynch, Mr P
Mihailuk, Ms T
Robertson, Mr J
Washington, Ms K

Barr, Mr C
Chanthivong, Mr A
Doyle, Ms T
Greenwich, Mr A
Haylen, Ms J
Kamper, Mr S
McKay, Ms J
Park, Mr R
Smith, Ms T
Watson, Ms A

PAIRS

Baird, Mr M
Elliott, Mr D
Gibbons, Ms M
Perrottet, Mr D
Roberts, Mr A

Crakanthorp, Mr T
Lalich, Mr N
McDermott, Dr H
Minns, Mr C
Smith, Ms K

Motion agreed to.**RHYS COLEFAX PROSECUTION**

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I am sure members understand the gravity of the motion the member for Heffron is about to move. It is of an emotional and political nature. I ask that members from both sides of the House treat the motion with the gravity it deserves. It is not a matter that is before the courts and therefore not sub judice, but I warn members that I will treat harshly any interjections.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (12:55): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Condemns the Attorney General for failing to discharge her obligation in considering whether there is sufficient evidence to charge Rhys Colefax with an offence for the manslaughter of Eliza Wannan and William Dalton-Brown, whose deaths were occasioned as a result of a vehicle driven by Rhys Colefax on 27 January 2010.
- (2) Calls upon the Attorney General to discharge her own lawful duty and determine under section 8 of the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 whether an indictment should be presented on behalf of the Crown, or publish reasons why she considers Rhys Colefax should not be put on trial.

This is one of the most serious motions a member can move on a non-partisan basis. I thank the Government for its courtesy in allowing this motion to be debated today. The first paragraph of the motion condemns the Attorney General for failing to discharge her obligation. I understand the Government will not support such a motion because it would require the Attorney General to resign, and it is my view that she should. The second paragraph simply asks the House to require the Attorney General to discharge her lawful duty and make a determination under the Criminal Procedure Act whether an indictment should be presented, or explain why one should not, for the offence of manslaughter.

The Attorney General is not an ordinary Minister. It is the obligation of the Attorney General to ensure the administration of justice. Her duty goes back to the thirteenth century in English times when the function of the Attorney is to preserve and protect the rule of law. Two young people, Eliza Wannan and William Dalton-Brown, were killed by Rhys Colefax on 27 January 2010 at Molong. The matter was subject to an inquest by the Coroner. The Coroner made certain findings that I will draw to the attention of the House. The Coroner said:

It was the Australia Day long weekend 2010, and a group of between 60 and 100 friends and acquaintances from the local area, the majority of whom were between 17 and 19 years of age, many of which had returned to town after completing their first year at University, gathered at the shearing sheds of the property at Belgravia Road, Molong known as "Ridgeview" to catch up, and socialise and party. Many drove and parked their cars at that property and intended to spend the night. Alcohol was available and food was provided by Mrs Christopherson during the evening. But for Eliza Wannan and William Dalton-Brown and their respective families this evening of joy was to become a tragedy, when the swag which they shared that night was run over and they were crushed by a vehicle driven by Rhys Colefax.

The Coroner made these findings, amongst others, of uncontroversial fact:

1. Rhys Colefax was the owner and driver of the motor vehicle registered number XRZ-611 (NSW) that ran over and crushed both Eliza and William at about 5:00am on 26 January 2010;
2. at the time he was the holder of a Learner's licence and was unaccompanied when driving the vehicle that ran over Eliza and William: ...
4. he had been drinking that night at the party to some unknown extent. I said there were other relevant findings. I gave the House the definition of involuntary manslaughter and quoted *Nydam v R*, saying that the definition is when an accused, by intentional act or omission, causes the death of a person in circumstances which involve a great shortfall of the standard of care a reasonable person would have exercised and which involve such a high degree of risk of death or grievous bodily harm that doing the act merits criminal punishment. I said that the issue is whether or not a 17-year-old holding a learner's permit, having drunk alcohol and driving across a paddock knowing that 60 to 100 people could be sleeping in the paddock, had acted as defined in *Nydam v R*. I said that whether the act constitutes manslaughter seems to be a question for the jury.

I then said that in my experience, bearing in mind the Coroner terminated the inquest and referred the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions [DPP] to consider a charge of dangerous driving causing death and did not consider manslaughter, this matter may well have slipped through the cracks. When the Attorney proposed to amend the bill that is what I raised in the House. When she returned all the Attorney said was that the Director of Public Prosecutions determined there was insufficient evidence to warrant the prosecution of the indictable offence. It was that which caused me to move the motion.

After I moved the motion—bearing in mind the definition of involuntary manslaughter, that the question is a jury question and that the facts are reasonably uncontroversial—I was concerned that the Attorney General needed to consider whether this person should be put on trial. The Attorney's staff came to see me and asked me about my concerns. I told them that it looks like a manslaughter case to me but said that if a Crown Prosecutor

had provided advice that it was not manslaughter and they showed it to me confidentially I would accept it even if I disagreed with it. I was told a few weeks ago that my request to see that advice had been refused.

During my career I have been trusted with the most sensitive information from security agencies and police intelligence. Simply showing me that manslaughter had been considered by the Crown would have been enough for me. The reality is that there was a refusal to do so. The only inference I can draw is that there is a cover-up. Two young people died nearly seven years ago, there are grieving families and a person looks as though he should be put on trial for a jury question. A decision has been made by somebody. That decision should now be made by the Attorney General. If the House carries the second part of my motion she would be required to do that now.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI (Murray—Minister for Education) (13:02): I will not support the motion moved by the member for Heffron because of the language in it. The need for this debate is unfortunate because, as the member for Heffron said, it concerns the deaths of two young people almost seven years ago. I agree that this seems to be one of those rare cases that has slipped through the cracks. The facts are relatively undisputed that on 27 January 2010 a young person, Rhys Colefax, drove a car over Eliza Wannan and William Dalton-Brown and caused their deaths. I do not think those facts are in dispute; however, other things are.

William's father, Gerard, lives in my electorate. I have known him for many years, even before I became a member of Parliament. As a father I do not think parents ever get over the death of a child, particularly in circumstances like these in which two young people were enjoying their lives and a tragic incident occurred that caused their deaths. Gerard comes to see me regularly and William's mother consulted the former member for Orange on this matter. The former member did a lot of work to try to get some justice for the families of these two young people.

As I said, the basic facts of what occurred on the night are not in dispute, but I can only imagine how it must affect the families to know that the driver was not charged with a single offence. I know there are technicalities in this case, but the driver did not get so much as a parking fine. It is incredibly difficult to think that not a single charge was laid when the actions of one person caused the deaths of two people. I know there are questions as to what offence was committed and what charges can be laid. I take on board the comments of the member for Heffron about the possible charges. I make no comment on that because I am not a legal expert. There are additional issues concerning the evidence that was collected on the night of the event and subsequently, which I understand clouded the assessment of what sorts of charges could be laid in this matter.

I have been told that the father of Rhys Colefax was in the police force and there are some suggestions that the police did not collect evidence in the way they should have. Taking on board the comments by the Assistant Speaker at the commencement of this debate I will not pass any judgement on that. One does not need to be a parent to understand the grief that families must feel when their children have been killed as a result of the actions of another, deliberate or otherwise, and no-one has been brought to account. Rhys Colefax has his personal anguish and I am sure that he wishes that day had never occurred, but it is easy to understand the frustration of the families over the fact that he has not faced a single consequence, a single moment of questioning or even a minor charge of any sort. I think it is for good reason that those parents will continue to pursue this matter until justice of some sort is done and is seen to be done on behalf of their two young children.

I commend the Attorney General, who I have met with on a number of occasions about this matter, along with her office and departmental staff. I also commend the Minister for Justice and Police. There has been lots of correspondence and lots of meetings about this, particularly with William's father. The families want justice to be done. They want the young man who was driving the vehicle to face some consequence. I completely understand that and feel incredible sympathy for those families. It is a matter of this having fallen through the cracks. The Attorney General's department and the police have been involved in regard to whether there is evidence available for a charge to be laid and whether the evidence was collected properly and adequately. At the end of the day, the parents do not care about process: they care about justice and they need some closure.

I think everybody in this House would understand the heartbreak those families will continue to experience until something substantial is done to ensure that justice is done and is seen to be done. As I said, I cannot support the motion because of the charged language it contains; however, I certainly think there is more to be done in examining the actions that led to the deaths of Eliza and William and to ensure some consequence follows. I will not support the motion but I certainly think more needs to be done.

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (13:09): I support the motion moved by the member for Heffron. The Minister for Education was right on two points—namely, that this matter has fallen through the cracks and that more needs to be done. The aim of this motion is to try to get more to be done. To date the Attorney General's response has been that this is entirely a matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions and she has no role in it. That is my reading of what she said when she addressed the Parliament on 18 November 2015. That response must fail

as it is inadequate in the circumstances of this case and flies in the face of the words in section 8 of the Criminal Procedure Act which refer to what the Attorney can do. More importantly, it flies in the face of the actions of both the current Attorney General and the former Attorney General. Let me give an example.

On 24 May this year the Attorney received a brief of evidence from police with respect to the murder of Colleen Walker, Evelyn Greenup and Clinton Speedy-Duroux. On that day the Attorney announced she would make an application to the Court of Criminal Appeal for a retrial of a person previously acquitted. The Attorney did not seek any advice on this course of action. Indeed, she made a virtue of that in the media commentary. She did not rely on the Director of Public Prosecutions. In fact, on several occasions the Director of Public Prosecutions decided to do precisely the opposite. That is entirely inconsistent with saying in this case that she must rely on the Director of Public Prosecutions.

On 17 July 2013 the Hon. Greg Smith, SC, a former Attorney General in this Government, announced he was calling for the file to consider whether he should appeal in a case in which the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided not to appeal a sentence that had been imposed on an offender. I note that the member for Epping, his chief of staff at that time, is nodding his head in agreement. This offender had committed aggravated sexual assault and aggravated indecent assault on his daughter. The case was referred to as *R v B*. On 25 July 2013 the then Attorney General announced that he had determined to lodge an appeal in that case despite the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Once again, that was a case where an Attorney in this Government has not done what the Director of Public Prosecutions said. In fact, precisely the opposite has been done.

What this motion seeks does not go as far as those actions. It does not say that we think an indictment should be returned, but we say that the Attorney should exercise her statutory function and give it some consideration. We do not demand that a manslaughter charge be brought, but we say consideration needs to be given to the matter. We say that because, in the words of the Minister for Education, it appears as though this matter has "fallen through the cracks". Discussions up until now, and certainly at the termination of the coronial inquest, were based upon dangerous driving causing death. A discussion then followed about whether it occurred on or near a public road and that led, sensibly and rationally, to a change in the law. It did not consider the question of manslaughter. That is why we think this matter has fallen through the cracks.

Mr Brad Hazzard: How is it appropriate then to be condemning the Attorney General for making an appropriate decision? How is it appropriate or is it straight political? But you would not do that.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PAUL LYNCH: In response to the interjection, I have been very careful not to be partisan about this. Brad, you know the sorts of speeches I can give. I am not giving one of those.

Mr Brad Hazzard: Normally you do not on this sort of thing, but I am sorry to say it sounds remarkably like you are.

Mr PAUL LYNCH: We are pointing to what a Minister on your side has described as something falling through the cracks. Whether or not you like that description, that is what your side has said.

Mr Brad Hazzard: That is an entirely different—

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: Order! The member for Liverpool will direct his comments through the Chair. The Minister for Family and Community Services, and Minister for Social Housing will cease interjecting.

Mr PAUL LYNCH: This matter has fallen through the cracks because manslaughter has not been considered and under section 8 of the Criminal Procedure Act the Attorney has a statutory obligation to consider that. Given that this Government has previously had Attorneys who have done that, it seems entirely inappropriate for it not to happen on this occasion.

Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse—Attorney General) (13:13): Members will recall the tragic deaths of Eliza Wannan and William Dalton-Brown who died after being run over by a vehicle in 2010 while sleeping in a swag on a private property at Molong in the State's Central West. The loss of those promising young lives in such awful circumstances is truly horrible. The impact on their immediate family and friends, as well as the wider community, is enormous. There is torment and grief. Last year I visited with William's mother, Lee, his father, Gerry, and his sister, Sally, and I spoke at length with them for a number of hours. I offer my condolences once again to the Wannan and Dalton-Brown families.

The circumstances surrounding Eliza's and William's death have been the subject of investigations by police, the Coroner, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Ombudsman. The member for Heffron may recall that the Deputy State Coroner forwarded this matter to the Office of the Director of Public

Prosecutions to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to prosecute a person with an indictable offence. As set out in the Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1986, the general responsibility for the prosecution of criminal proceedings, and any subsequent appeals, is vested in the Director of Public Prosecutions. This is because an independent, impartial director is an essential element of a fair prosecutorial process, free from political interference. A decision to prosecute any alleged offence is based on consideration of a number of issues, including the sufficiency of the admissible evidence, general legal principles, public interest and prosecutorial guidelines.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions carefully reviewed the evidence in this matter and determined there was insufficient evidence to warrant a criminal prosecution against the driver of the vehicle. The decision by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions not to prosecute the driver was based on the lack of evidence to warrant a criminal prosecution for an indictable offence. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is not required to give reasons for a decision not to prosecute. Nevertheless, I am advised that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has at all times endeavoured to be professional and compassionate in its dealings with the families. I am further advised that a senior member of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has frequently written, and met, with both families to take them through various issues related to this case.

Let me turn now to the contention of the member for Heffron that he should see the confidential advice from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions on this matter. The member knows full well that the material is privileged and that it is not the Attorney General's material in the first place. It is truly disappointing, and frankly distasteful, for the member for Heffron to try to score political points from this tragedy. I can only wonder as to the timing of this motion before the House. But if one believes the member for Heffron, he knows what is best. He once again demonstrates the height of professional arrogance. He wrongly assumes the Ombudsman, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the police need their work second-guessed by him. It is also an attack on the professionalism of the men and women who have worked at providing justice for victims, including for the Wannan and Dalton-Brown families.

We are all deeply saddened by this tragic loss of two young lives, and the hopes and dreams that the loss of life snuffed out. As a mother, I can only imagine the deep, deep grief that would consume any parent who lost a child. The Government takes the issues raised in this motion very seriously. That is why we moved amendments in 2015 to address inadequacies highlighted in the current laws. It followed a government-commissioned review by the former Supreme Court judge, the Hon Justice William Windeyer, AM, which involved extensive consultation with stakeholders, including family members. The report of the Deputy State Coroner into the deaths did not make formal recommendations; it highlighted the limitations of the current law where a fatal accident occurs on private property.

The amendments were made to ensure that police have the power to arrest a driver for alcohol and drug testing following a fatal, or likely to be fatal, motor vehicle accident regardless of where it occurs, on road or off-road. Any evidence of intoxication may then be used to support a prosecution if the driver is charged with dangerous driving occasioning death under the Crimes Act 1900. While these reforms do not take away the pain for the families of Eliza Wannan and William Dalton-Brown, they demonstrate that their lives were not lost in vain: an important change to our laws has been made. The deaths of Eliza and William are tragic, sorrowful and devastating. It is bitterly disappointing that the member for Heffron is grandstanding in this way in the House. His attacks on our justice system are unwarranted. It says more about him than anything else. I commend my speech to the House.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (13:20): In reply: I will not dignify the Attorney General's remarks about politicisation because it is a ridiculous and absurd response. Her advisers should tell her that section 30 of the Director of Public Prosecutions Act provides that "Nothing in this Act affects any functions of the Attorney General that the Attorney General has apart from this Act". The Director of Public Prosecutions does not take away the power of the Attorney General; the Attorney General has the same power to indict.

I very much appreciate the remarks of the Minister for Education. This matter was only brought to my attention following a debate in the House effectively seeking changes to section 52A of the Crimes Act. Accusing the former member for Orange of putting me up to it is not the case at all. I heard the debate in the House and I made a contribution to it. At all times I was genuine in saying that this matter has slipped through the cracks on the bare, uncontroversial facts that the definition of "involuntary manslaughter" is appropriate and that the question is one for a jury, that the test is an objective test and that the law in *Nydam v R* has been approved by the High Court in *The Queen v Lavender* (2005) 222 CLR and in *Burns v The Queen* (2012) 246 CLR, per Chief Justice French.

The law is abundantly clear in relation to involuntary manslaughter: it is one of those objective tests that is uniquely retained for the jury. Because the facts are uncontroversial, even if there is a problem with the police investigation—I know there have been complaints about the police and their handling of the matter and I have

been careful in not intruding into the police investigation; I have confined my remarks as to what constitutes manslaughter—and even with a motion condemning the Attorney General, she has still not provided this House with a reason, or a legal reason why manslaughter was not considered. She has not confirmed that manslaughter was considered by the Director of Public Prosecutions and she still refuses to exercise her own power under section 8 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

As I pointed out to the Attorney General's staff, I know the Attorney General is not an appellate repository for every person who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions, but the power remains with the Attorney General in the event that something, as the Minister for Education said, slips through the cracks. The family of the young people who are deceased, to whom I have subsequently spoken, simply want to know whether or not there is sufficient evidence to indict Rhys Colefax for manslaughter. If there is sufficient evidence, he should be indicted. If not, it should be explained to that family. As a member of Parliament, and with my legal experience, it is my duty to be a voice in this House when the person who caused the death of two young people has not been brought to justice because of an error. What I say to this House is not political and nor is it intended to be. I had no choice as to the wording of the motion. The Attorney General failed those two young people and she should be condemned.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Ayes27

Noes52

Majority.....25

AYES

Aitchison, Ms J
Car, Ms P
Daley, Mr M
Finn, Ms J
Harrison, Ms J
Hornery, Ms S
McKay, Ms J
Park, Mr R
Washington, Ms K

Atalla, Mr E (teller)
Catley, Ms Y
Dib, Mr J
Foley, Mr L
Haylen, Ms J
Kamper, Mr S
Mehan, Mr D
Robertson, Mr J
Watson, Ms A

Barr, Mr C
Chanthivong, Mr A
Doyle, Ms T
Harris, Mr D
Hoenig, Mr R
Lynch, Mr P
Mihailuk, Ms T
Warren, Mr G (teller)
Zangari, Mr G

NOES

Anderson, Mr K
Barilaro, Mr J
Brookes, Mr G
Coure, Mr M
Elliott, Mr D
Goward, Ms P
Hazzard, Mr B
Humphries, Mr K
Lee, Dr G
Marshall, Mr A
Parker, Mr J
Perrottet, Mr D
Piper, Mr G
Rowell, Mr J
Smith, Ms T
Taylor, Mr M
Upton, Ms G
Williams, Ms L

Aplin, Mr G
Berejiklian, Ms G
Conolly, Mr K
Crouch, Mr A
Evans, Mr L
Greenwich, Mr A
Henskens, Mr A
Johnsen, Mr M
Leong, Ms J
Notley-Smith, Mr B
Patterson, Mr C (teller)
Petinos, Ms E
Provest, Mr G
Sidoti, Mr J
Speakman, Mr M
Toole, Mr P
Ward, Mr G

Ayres, Mr S
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)
Constance, Mr A
Dominello, Mr V
George, Mr T
Gulaptis, Mr C
Hodgkinson, Ms K
Kean, Mr M
Maguire, Mr D
O'Dea, Mr J
Pavey, Ms M
Piccoli, Mr A
Roberts, Mr A
Skinner, Ms J
Stokes, Mr R
Tudehope, Mr D
Williams, Mr R

PAIRS

Lalich, Mr N
McDermott, Dr H
Minns, Mr C

Baird, Mr M
Gibbons, Ms M
Grant, Mr T

PAIRS

Smith, Ms K

Hancock, Ms S

Motion negatived.**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I will now leave the chair and the House will resume at 2.15 p.m.*Visitors*

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I extend a very warm welcome to school principals Nickie Bartlett of Lismore South Public School, Gareth Hockings of Wyrallah Road Public School, Mark Spencer of Goonellabah Public School, Helen Craigie of Bexhill Public School, Lesley Mills of Tabulam Public School, Trisha Parker of Brunswick Heads Public School, Diana Foley of Yamba Public School, Michael Taylor of Casino West Public School, Rebecca Denning of Tregear Public School, Shane Fletcher of Woodburn Public School, Christine Dorward of Drake Public School and Michelle Snee of Clunes Public School, guests of the member for Clarence and the Deputy Speaker. Welcome to the gallery. It is lovely to have you here. I also acknowledge Luca Crakanthorp, proud son and guest of the member for Newcastle, who has just come from the NSW Public Schools State Drama Festival.

Question Time

AUSGRID LEASE

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:20): My question is directed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer disclose the multiple she achieved on the regulated asset base of Ausgrid in her sale announced today?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:20): I was so pleased to stand beside the Premier at 12.30 today to announce an outstanding deal for the people of New South Wales—gross proceeds of \$16.2 billion. It is off the back of \$10.258 billion on the first transaction. I note there was market speculation just minutes prior the press conference that the State would get gross proceeds of \$10 billion. Guess what, we got \$16.2 billion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I would like to hear the answer.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The Leader of the Opposition should do his research on the regulated asset base [RAB] multiple and the earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation [EBITDA] multiple—if he knows the difference—and then talk to the House about value for money.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order.

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

Mr Michael Daley: My point of order is Standing Order 129 and Standing Order 73. It is not for the Treasurer to challenge the Leader of the Opposition.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. I call the member for Maroubra to order for the first time.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I confirm, further to the advice given to the Leader of the Opposition, that on any measure, whether the RAB multiple, the EBITDA multiple or gross proceeds, this is an outstanding deal for the people of New South Wales. All this week and last week the Government has spoken about being the party for the workers. Today the Government entered into partnerships with IFM and AustralianSuper. If those opposite are not aware, AustralianSuper is 50 per cent owned by the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I direct the Treasurer to cease inciting Government members to interject.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: By way of further information, the AustralianSuper board of directors includes the secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the national secretary of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, the former secretary—

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order: The question was clearly about the multiple on the regulated asset base, not about who is on the board.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The EBITDA multiple is better on this transaction than the previous transaction. I ask those opposite what they have against the six million workers investing in New South Wales.

AUSGRID LEASE

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (14:26): I address a question to the Premier. Will the Premier inform the House how the Government is delivering on its commitment to rebuild New South Wales?

Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) (14:26): What a day for the people of New South Wales. It is an unbelievable day for this great State because today signals the biggest infrastructure investment in the history of this State. It is confirmed on the back of the lease. Opposition members hate it. They do not want more schools, hospitals, a metro or roads. This Government does. Today this Government is delivering for the people of New South Wales, Madam Speaker.

Mr Ryan Park: Your name is not Madam Speaker; it is Mr Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: There are several clear and longstanding rulings by Speakers of the House that multiple interjections are particularly disorderly. The member for Keira is now on a call for the slightest of transgressions when Government members are behaving like they are at a football match. I ask the Deputy Speaker to referee both sides of the House fairly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will. I call the member for Maroubra to order for the second time. The member for Keira stood up and did not take a point of order. The Premier has the call.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I say to those opposite, a week is a long time in politics. Before the election we heard all types of claims from the Opposition. Labor predicted doom and gloom. The shadow Treasurer said:

... the sale will only generate—

the Opposition does not know the difference between a sale and a lease—

proceeds of between \$10.4 billion and \$10.9 billion.

Hello, hello! We have already achieved more than that and we have done only two. The shadow Treasurer said:

The Government has wrapped this motion in all the usual hype and hyperbole that attends this sort of discussion—its members keep rabbiting on about \$20 billion as if it is real.

It is real, champions. There is money coming to the State. Where do you get to, Madam Speaker? The member for Keira—

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: Mr Deputy Speaker, my point of order goes to the fact that you are male and not female. The Premier once again said "Madam Speaker". Please note that I took a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I appreciate the support of the member for Strathfield, but there is no point of order.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: We all remember that in August in this place the member for Strathfield spoke about the transaction, and, yes, we did hit a speed bump. The member said, "You are stuffed." Today it goes the other way: the Opposition is, because the people of New South Wales are winners on the back of this Government. That is where we are at.

Mr Jihad Dib: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question was about how the Government is rebuilding New South Wales, but all the Premier has done is talk about how the Government is selling New South Wales.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Premier did point out the difference between a sale and a lease, which the member for Lakemba did not pick up on. The Premier is answering the question. I know members are excited because this is the last sitting day before a break, but from now on questions and answers will be heard in silence.

[Extension of time]

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I thank the member for Heathcote for his question and for his interest in the great future of this State. As the member for Heathcote knows, the lease allows the Government to build the infrastructure that this State desperately needs. That is exactly what the Government is doing. It is slightly embarrassing that the Leader of the Opposition decided to become involved in this debate. In the election campaign he did not know the difference between a sale and a lease. Fair enough. Then he started to talk about EBITDA. Does the Leader of the Opposition know what EBITDA is? I invite him to tell the House what it is.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! This is not a debate. The Premier will continue. The Treasurer will resume her seat.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: What is the multiple of what? Will the Leader of the Opposition tell members what EBITDA is? Does he know what EBITDA is? He does not know.

Mr Paul Lynch: Point of order: My point of order is that the Premier is breaching standing orders and behaving in a grossly disorderly manner by directing questions to the Leader of the Opposition. That is a flagrant breach of the standing orders and it is entirely inappropriate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will have an opportunity to answer later.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I will tell the Leader of the Opposition what EBITDA means. It means earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation. That is how to understand the value of assets. The Leader of the Opposition has been saying, "They got more for the sale of the Port of Melbourne." That is a bigger asset. The EBITDA multiple is the same. For heaven's sake, the Leader of the Opposition should not embarrass himself. It is dangerous to do that. It is good news for the people of New South Wales that we are in government. Today we have delivered for the people of New South Wales \$16.2 billion to get this State moving. We are investing in roads, schools, hospitals and rail. We are proud to be delivering for the people of New South Wales.

AUSGRID LEASE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member asking the question will be heard in silence. I call the member for Kiama to order for the second time.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (14:34): My question is directed to the Treasurer, Mr Deputy Speaker—to use the correct term. Every home owner knows not to accept the first bid at an auction.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I inform the member for Keira that I am a former auctioneer and they do accept one bid. The member will be heard in silence.

Mr RYAN PARK: Why has the Government sold Ausgrid without going to a full competitive tender process?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:35): I do not quite know where to start in answer to that question. First, as I said, about half an hour before the press conference, there was market speculation that the Government would achieve up to \$10 billion in gross proceeds. We achieved \$16.2 billion. Secondly, members of the Opposition have not noticed that the Government has been running the Ausgrid tender process for 10 months. I know the shadow Treasurer has difficulty understanding the difference between public and private money and Government and the market, but the market gave us very detailed information in the 10-month process. The Opposition cannot handle the truth. The Government got an absolute cracker of a price. Not only did we get a great price; we have two great partners in IFM and AustralianSuper. It would be remiss of me not to talk about some of the IFM board members.

Mr Luke Foley: They are my friends. They are texting me to tell me how cheaply they got it.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Mr Greg Combet is a board member. The Leader of the Opposition has just disclosed that he received a text about the price. Would he please tell the House what the text says?

Mr Luke Foley: They got it from you for half the price.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: This is why Labor should never again be in government in New South Wales. Labor has no idea about how to run a transaction process. What really distresses Labor more than anything is that the people of New South Wales are going to get the roads, rail, schools and hospitals they need. Why does the Opposition not support that? I hang my head in shame—

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: The question was a simple one about why the Government did not go to competitive tender.

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

Mr Michael Daley: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. Why did the Government not go to tender? The Treasurer should answer that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am finding it difficult to hear the answer, but I believe the Treasurer has been relevant. There is no point of order.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: It is very disappointing that the Opposition does not seem to know what a tender process is. There was a nine-month tender process for Ausgrid. I ask those opposite: What have

they got against having six million workers investing in infrastructure in this State? What have they got against a great price, great partners and more infrastructure for the great people of this State? Today is a great day for the people of New South Wales but it is a very bad day for the Leader of the Opposition and that lot opposite.

AUSGRID LEASE

Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (14:40): My question is addressed to the Treasurer. How has the Government delivered another outstanding outcome for this State through its Ausgrid transaction and what will this mean for the people of New South Wales?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:40): I know that the member for Camden, like every other person on this side of the Chamber, appreciates the extra spending that his electorate will receive to support the vital infrastructure our community needs. This is a good opportunity for me to thank our new partners, IFM and AustralianSuper, because working with the State Government has realised this outstanding result for the people of New South Wales.

Ms Kate Washington: You should be thanking all the people of New South Wales for having sold their assets.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: What have you got against Aussie super and IFM? What have you got against vital infrastructure? We know those opposite do not like being around today because it is such great news.

Mr Brad Hazzard: They look absolutely miserable. They don't look happy.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: They do not look happy. I will go back to their time in government. I know that Opposition members do not want to be reminded of their dodgy deals with the gentraders. I know they do not want to be reminded that every time they announced an infrastructure project they cancelled it. Today is a reminder to the people of this great State that this Government delivers on its infrastructure commitments. Because of the interjections, I think I should disclose the other unions that have links with these organisations. In addition to the organisations I have mentioned, I am pleased to say that Aussie super and IFM also have links with the following unions—

Mr Anthony Roberts: Name them!

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The Electrical Trades Union and Unions NSW. It is not just workers in New South Wales who are contributing to our infrastructure program but also workers in South Australia because SA Unions is also linked to these organisations, as is the Victorian branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, the National Union of Workers and the Queensland Council of Unions. It is great to see not just New South Wales workers but also workers in other States investing in this great asset.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We know it is a difficult day for those opposite and we know that, more than ever, this puts pressure on the Leader of the Opposition to defend his job.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We on this side of the Chamber are extremely proud that our Premier made this commitment to the people of New South Wales before the election, and we have repaid that trust to the great people of New South Wales. Today we continue to deliver on our commitment and to demonstrate that we are an honest government that has openness and transparency in relation to these processes—in stark contrast to those opposite. More than anything, I am so pleased that members on this side of the House who support this transaction can be assured their constituents will get the vital infrastructure they have needed for decades.

AUSGRID LEASE

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (14:44): Mr Deputy Speaker—

[Interruption]

Just keep Milat locked up, mate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Emergency Services will come to order. Members will come to order. I would like to hear the member's question, as I am sure would everyone else.

Mr Andrew Constance: Have you sold your house lately, mate?

Mr RYAN PARK: How is Bega, mate?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that the question to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure: How is Bega?

Mr RYAN PARK: No. I was just responding to the interjection from the Minister.

Mr Andrew Constance: Bega is a beautiful place on the far South Coast.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat.

[Interruption]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The question is not directed to the Minister. He will resume his seat.

[Interruption]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. Does the member for Keira have a question?

Mr RYAN PARK: My question is directed to the Treasurer. The Treasurer's guidelines for unsolicited proposals rule out the direct sale of a government-owned entity. Why has the Treasurer broken her own rules to accept an offer made without any competitive price tension?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer will be heard in silence.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:47): That is an embarrassing question because, unless the shadow Treasurer missed it, we went to the election saying to the people of this great State that we would be doing this transaction. It has been on the public record for more than two years that we were going to do this transaction. I do not know what Opposition members missed.

Mr Ryan Park: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! What is the member's point of order? The Treasurer has been relevant to the question.

Mr Ryan Park: I refer to Standing Order 129.

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

Mr Ryan Park: I asked why is it being sold through an unsolicited proposal. I referred not to the sale itself but to the way it was done.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We not only went to the people of New South Wales saying that we would lease this asset but also undertook a robust market process for nine months. Whilst Opposition members were trying to do the numbers to make the member for Maroubra the new Leader of the Opposition we on this side of the Chamber have been getting on with the job of doing what we need to do to be a good government.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I know that on a prior occasion the shadow Treasurer was caught out because he did not understand the difference between private capital and government money. We know that he did not quite get the difference between recurrent and capital expenditure. But surely he noticed a tender process that went for nine months.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: During that process domestic interested parties were invited to participate and global parties were invited to participate. And guess what? During that process not one of those consortia did not require Foreign Investment Review Board approval—that is, every consortium had to go to the FIRB. This consortia is unique because it is all Australian.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: What have members opposite got against that? The only conclusion—

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: The only conclusion I can draw from the question from the shadow Treasurer is that those opposite oppose an all-Australian consortium investing in State infrastructure. That is what members opposite are saying. This proposal is unique because it is an all-Australian consortium. Members opposite are saying that they do not support it. They do not support process. We know they do not support public

transport or infrastructure. Now we know they do not even support their own union funds. What do they have against the six million Australian fund members?

Mr Jihad Dib: Point of order: The question was about the process and whether the Government followed its rules.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer has answered that part of the question. The Treasurer is being relevant to the question. There is no point of order.

Mr Jihad Dib: About the process?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume his seat. I call the member for Lakemba to order for the first time.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: It is an absolute disgrace that not only do those opposite not support infrastructure for the great people of this State but also they are now opposed to an all-Australian consortium that does not require approval from the Foreign Investment Review Board.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Maitland to order for the second time. I call the member for Maitland to order for the third time.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: It is not a good day for members opposite, and it is getting worse. I say to members opposite that they should appreciate and respect the fact that Australian workers are investing in infrastructure in this great State. [*Time expired.*]

CENTRAL WEST INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (14:52): My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier. How is the Government's record investment in roads and water infrastructure making a difference to the communities of the Central West?

Mr Ryan Park: What about the Adler? How did we go on the Adler?

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

Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Deputy Premier, Minister for Justice and Police, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Racing) (14:52): The only thing shot down today is your political ambitions, you lunatics. What a wonderful day this is for the people of New South Wales and the Central West. Before discussing today's announcement—which we are all celebrating across the State—let us not forget what members opposite left us with in the Central West when we came to government. Members opposite denied regional communities what anyone would think were basic entitlements: access to potable water and sewerage services. Did members opposite deliver those things to Central West country towns in their 16 years? No, they did not. Did they invest in the road networks in order to vitally improve the economies of Central West communities? No, they did not. The member for Oxley understands the value of the investment in her electorate. To cite just one example, we allocated \$780 million for the Nambucca Heads to Urunga upgrade on the Pacific Highway, which was completed earlier this year.

That is the sort of investment the member for Oxley witnessed, before today's historic announcement. Following today's announcement, imagine the investment that will be going to her region and across New South Wales. It will supercharge the prosperity of the regions for a long time to come. When it comes to the Central West, to which the member referred in her question, when we came to Government the Parkes local government area was denied access to even basic requirements. It was a terrible situation. Under the Country Towns Water Supply and Sewerage program, the Parkes local government area received \$6 million to upgrade and strengthen Lake Endeavour, \$18 million for a new water treatment plant, and \$9 million for a new sewerage treatment plant. It begs the question: During their 16 years in government, why did members opposite not give the people of the Central West basic services such as water security and sewerage services? Why did they not do it? Why did they deny those basic services to the people of the Central West? I can go on and on with examples.

Let us look at Orange. As an important regional city in the Central West, Orange needs water security to cater for its population growth. Orange was getting close to running out of water. What did members opposite do about it? Absolutely nothing. When we came to power, we invested \$21 million for a pipeline from Orange to Blayney and into Carcoar Dam and \$16 million for a pipeline from Orange to Molong Dam and from there to Cumnock and Yeovil. We ensured that those communities have access to a basic and vital service that members opposite could not find it in their hearts to do or in their minds to prioritise. What did they want to spend money on? The Rozelle metro. That project cost \$500 million and they did not lay a centimetre of track; yet they would not give the good people of regional New South Wales water or sewerage, the lousy fools. What is wrong with them?

Mr Guy Zangari: Point of order: My point of order is about unparliamentary language such as "lousy fools" and "lunatics". I ask that the Deputy Premier use parliamentary language, not unparliamentary language as he has been doing in this diatribe.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I find it hard to judge the comments of the Deputy Premier against the comments of the member for Fairfield.

[Extension of time]

Mr TROY GRANT: Members opposite can ponder the comment of the Premier that a week is a long time in politics. To members opposite it is going to feel like a lifetime because every single day we are in this House they will hear from us about our continuing investments. By running a good government we now have an even greater capacity to make the basic investments that members opposite denied Central West and regional communities for 16 years. That denial of basic services is over.

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

Mr TROY GRANT: The investment is flowing and it will continue to flow.

AUSGRID LEASE

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:58): My question is directed to the Treasurer. Given that the Government sold Ausgrid without a competitive option, is it not the case that the public will never know what price the market would have paid for the asset?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:59): In response to the Leader of the Opposition's question, the public has every confidence that this is a cracker of a price.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition has asked a question and the Treasurer is trying to answer it. The Treasurer will be heard in silence.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: We went to the election saying to the people of this great State that we will have a \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW fund. Guess what? We are going to have a \$20 billion Rebuilding NSW fund. That is how the public knows—

[Interruption]

Mr Clayton Barr: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 52 and your previous ruling, Deputy Speaker. You said—just before the "Hear, hear" from Government members—that the Treasurer would be heard in silence. Those opposite were the first in the Chamber to interject and there have been no repercussions.

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

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: I barely got a sentence out before the member for Cessnock jumped up. Those opposite are in denial. We ran a market process for nine months. Guess what? That gave us a very good indication of what people were prepared to pay for this asset. It is not in the interests of the State for government to speculate because we might get a lower price than we would otherwise receive. Market speculation in the first round—when every single player, nationally and internationally, was in a very robust competitive process—said that the State would be doing "very well" if we got gross proceeds of \$13 billion or \$14 billion. Guess what we have today, with an all-Australian consortium? We got \$16.2 billion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Government members will listen to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will be heard in silence.

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: It is not my habit to gloat, but \$16.2 billion in gross proceeds by any measure is an outstanding result. As a government, we are especially proud of today's result because it will mean that we can deliver all the infrastructure projects we said we would deliver. Those opposite left an infrastructure trail of destruction when they were in government. They delivered not one single project they announced on time or on budget. As much as it pains me, I will remind those opposite of some of the comments made after the failed gentrader transaction. Did they tell the people of New South Wales they were undertaking that transaction? No. Did they get a price that was value for money for the taxpayer? No. This is what Frank Sartor had to say about the transaction—

Mr Jihad Dib: Who?

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Exactly. Frank Sartor said, "The implementation of NSW's failed power sale should get a permanent place in textbooks on government studies as a great case study on how not to

do things." Who was the Minister for Finance at the time of those transactions? It was the member for Maroubra. I have taken time in the House today to detail all the unions that have close associations with AustralianSuper and IFM, but this is what the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union said about its failed transaction, "A dud deal. I think it's a disgrace, the government stands condemned for basically ..." — [*Time expired.*]

SERVICE NSW

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (15:05): My question is addressed to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property. How has Service NSW delivered for the people of Orange and Parkes, and what other benefits has the Government delivered to the people of New South Wales?

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (15:05): I start by commending you, Deputy Speaker, on the great job you are doing in the chair today. You are welcome back any time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will be heard in silence.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: No other government has done more for improving services in this State than the Baird-Grant Government. While the party of yesterday on the other side of the House is lined up to defend motor registries, paper forms and fax machines, we on this side of the House have delivered the greatest service delivery reform in the history of the world. Service NSW continues to deliver for the wider community in the Central West with several one-stop shops, including at Bathurst, Cowra, Deniliquin and Broken Hill and the popular centres at Parkes and Orange. The Orange service centre was the fifth store to open, and it is the first centre to open in the Central West. It brought with it access to hundreds of services and transactions. Many were previously unavailable in the area under the dark days of Labor, which ran the regions into the ground with its usual combination of neglect and incompetence.

The Orange service centre has already served more than 260,000 people, with an average service time of under 10 minutes and a strong customer satisfaction score of 98 per cent. In November last year we also welcomed the opening of a brand-new service centre in nearby Parkes. Parkes—once famous for *The Dish*, now famous for Service NSW—has a satisfaction score of 99 per cent. Both teams at Orange and Parkes are very active in their local communities, participating in events such as the Elvis Festival, the Parkes Show and Henty field days as well as fundraising in their local areas. The Orange and Parkes stores continue to deliver for their local communities and are proud examples of the Service NSW customer-focused culture in action. The New South Wales Labor Party and its union mates have done everything they can to oppose this important reform. We can see this attitude in their choice of candidate for the seat of Orange. His name is Bernard Fitzsimons.

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

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order: My point order relates to Standing Order 129. Candidates for the Orange by-election are not relevant to a question about Service NSW.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The member for Swansea will resume her seat. The Minister is being relevant to the question.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I apologise. I have been informed by the Leader of the Opposition that his name is Bernard Fitzsimon. He is 60 years old and a proud member of Young Labor.

Mr Greg Warren: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 73. Personal reflections and improper motives are outside the scope of the question the Minister was asked.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The Clerk will stop the clock. A number of members are on three calls to order and they have continued to interject. If they continue to interject they will be removed from the Chamber. The Minister will be heard in silence.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order: The Minister just made a comment about a member being 60 years of age. That is an ageist comment.

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

Ms Yasmin Catley: Is he suggesting that anyone who is 60 should not be in this place?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume her seat. The member for Swansea should be thankful she is still in the House. The Minister will be heard in silence.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I will move on. It has been a great week for the Baird-Grant Government—today's funding announcement of \$16 billion, Gonski funding, more funding in every school, and a great response to the land acquisition process. As the Minister for Education pointed out, good news for this

State is bad news for Labor. But the person in this place who has been most angry this week is the member for Summer Hill. She was kicked out of the House on Tuesday, she was bullying the Premier yesterday, but I have never seen her more angry than she was in her university days.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The clock will not be restarted until everyone comes to order.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The member will resume her seat.

[Extension of time]

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: The interesting thing was that the member for Summer Hill was protesting about the expansion of the University of Sydney to Orange.

Mr Paul Lynch: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. I call the member for Maroubra to order for the third time.

Mr Paul Lynch: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 73. Mr Deputy Speaker, you know enough about the standing orders to know that the Minister is entirely out of order, as is the fact that the clock has stopped.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister has the call.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: I return to land acquisitions. The member for Summer Hill is also angry because as a result of the great response—

Mr Clayton Barr: Point of order—

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

Mr Clayton Barr: It is Standing Order 129. The question is about Service NSW. The Minister is now talking about land acquisitions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will continue. He is being relevant to the question.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: After the great response, the member for Summer Hill can no longer use her constituents as political pawns in the fight against The Greens.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Strathfield is making a habit of standing on the spot and not stating her point of order. Is the member ready to take her point of order or does she need more time?

Ms Jodi McKay: No, I do not think so.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will resume her seat.

Ms Jodi McKay: I asked for the call to take a point of order.

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

Ms Jodi McKay: It is the first time you have actually a member to state the reason for the point of order.

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

Ms Jodi McKay: The point of order relates to Standing Order 73 and Standing Order 129. It could relate to a myriad standing orders.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is being relevant to the question.

Ms Jodi McKay: The issue is that he is not being relevant at all.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr Michael Daley: Point of order: Mr Deputy Speaker, you ruled on the point of order in respect of Standing Order 129 but you did not rule on the point of order in respect of Standing Order 73. Could we have your ruling, please?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Minister has returned to the leave of the question.

Mr Michael Daley: Standing Order 73 has nothing to do with that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. I remind him that he is on three calls to order.

Mr Michael Daley: I am asking for your ruling.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will resume his seat.

Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET: It is a great day for the people of this State—and I can give 16 billion reasons why. [*Time expired.*]

Mr Andrew Fraser: Point of order: Well over a minute was wasted by the Labor Party taking myriad points of order. I ask that the Minister's time be reinstated so that he can give his answer.

Mr Michael Daley: To the point of order: It is clear that there has been some sort of understanding today, following the sale of Ausgrid, that the greatest latitude be extended to Government members, and today, with the greatest respect to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, the House has been a complete and utter farce.

Mr Anthony Roberts: Further to the point of order: First and foremost, I congratulate you on your speakership today, Mr Deputy Speaker. As one of those who listened to the Minister, I got a great wealth of information from him, and I thank him for that. I do not think he requires another minute.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I did not intend to give it to him.

ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (15:18): My question is directed to the Minister for Education. Considering there is a parliamentary inquiry examining the Ultimo Public School move, will the Minister pause any further decisions on the matter until the committee has released its recommendations?

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI (Murray—Minister for Education) (15:18): I thank the member for her question. I recognise her position as The Greens education spokesperson and congratulate her on that appointment. The answer to the question is no, we need to get on with this project. On the issue of education assets, \$1 billion from the proceeds of the long-term lease of the poles and wires will go towards the construction of new schools and the expansion of existing capacity. On behalf of the students of New South Wales, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Treasurer on having negotiated such a fantastic deal on behalf of this State. I have a mountain bike that I was going to sell on eBay, but I will ask the Treasurer to handle that sale given the results she has been able to achieve. I might suggest a new website: egladys.

This is good news because it supports what I have said over the past few weeks: everyone wants to spend money but it is about how one gets the money to spend. Labor opposed it every step of the way, and I know today is bad news day for Labor. At the next election this Government will go to the people and ask them to make a decision on who they think should run this State and who they think would be best placed to handle, for example, a lease of a significant public asset, where we seek to achieve maximum value for the people of New South Wales. We will go to them with this transaction—\$16 billion added to the proceeds of the previous sale. That is what we got for our lease.

Mr Jihad Dib: Point of order: I would like to hear an answer about Ultimo Public School, as was asked in the question, rather than a statement about poles and wires.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: We will go to the people of New South Wales with that record of long-term leases. Labor will go to the people on its record of long-term leases—those three cafes in Circular Quay. Didn't those opposite do a great job? They demanded a public tender. They could not even lease out three cafes in Circular Quay without some dodgy crook deal with Labor mates. It will be a long time before the people of New South Wales give Labor the opportunity to handle \$16 billion of their money. Labor could not handle three cafes in Circular Quay.

That is just the stuff Labor leased. What about the stuff Labor gave away, such as mining leases? It gave away \$100 million worth of mining leases to the goat herder, Eddie and his goats. He went to the Minister and said, "I've got half a dozen goats. I've got to run a few goats. Have you got a bit of country for me?" "Oh yeah, here's a mining lease." Our transaction is good for education. We are rebuilding the school at Ultimo because of the growing population. Currently the school accommodates 360 students; we will increase that to 775. There are other enrolment pressures in Sydney and in other parts of New South Wales, including at Maitland, and we must find the proceeds to cater for that. Some of those proceeds will come from this transaction.

Ms Kate Washington: Selling off wetlands.

Mr ADRIAN PICCOLI: No. I understand the sentiment of the question, but we cannot pause the process here. We must get on with it because it will take some time to construct the new school to make sure that we can accommodate those students. I thank the member for her question.

AUSGRID LEASE AND STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (15:23): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier reiterate for the benefit of members opposite how the Government is rebuilding New South Wales, and any related matters?

Mr MIKE BAIRD (Manly—Premier, and Minister for Western Sydney) (15:24): I thank Opposition members, who by way of their superannuation funds came into the lease for the assets of New South Wales. I thank them for their superannuation contribution. The great news for the people of this State on the back of this lease, which was overseen by this great Treasurer, is an unbelievable price that will deliver infrastructure across New South Wales. The future is very, very bright.

Ms Jodi McKay: Point of order: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr MIKE BAIRD: Just make something up.

Ms Jodi McKay: Isn't that what you are doing?

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

Ms Jodi McKay: My point of order is Standing Order 59, tedious repetition. We have heard this time and time again. The Premier is using the same words and the same phrases. There is nothing new. He has even said the same thing about the Treasurer about five times today. We really do not need to hear this again.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will continue to answer the question.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: I know members opposite do not want to hear that across New South Wales there are more schools, hospitals, roads and transport but that is what today is about. Those opposite can try to turn this into a bad news day. I know the Leader of the Opposition has all of a sudden become a transaction king—I love it. If one looks at his track record and career, transactions are all over it—he has done so many transactions in his career. But it is zero. He has done none and it shows. He started to say that the Port of Melbourne got more. Well, that is because it is a bigger asset.

He does not understand cash flow and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation [EBITDA] is a number, so I will tell him. He wants to know how this compares, so I will tell him. He spoke about the Port of Melbourne, which was 25 EBITDA. It actually matched what we got for Botany, which is 25 times EBITDA. Newcastle was 27 times EBITDA. One then moves to a separate asset class, and with separate assets there are different multiples. I am making sure that members opposite understand. In terms of transmission businesses, we heard they were very happy with the price for TransGrid. The multiple was 14.6 times EBITDA.

Today, Ausgrid was 15.3 times EBITDA. All I am doing is giving members the facts. Members opposite do not know the difference between gross and net. They do not know anything about transactions, but what they do know is how to create a scare campaign. They can create a cracker of a scare campaign. This is what the Leader of the Opposition said in the election, "If he can't get the price he claims he will get, many of his infrastructure promises will have to be dropped." Guess what? We on this side of the House will build more infrastructure and, quite frankly, the Leader of the Opposition should be clapping. He should be out there saying, "This is great for New South Wales. What a little ripper—more schools, more hospitals, more rail." Why not? I do not understand it.

The former shadow Treasurer interjects. In August he said, "The sale price is heading south, so what projects will you cancel?" We are not cancelling any; we are doing more. Back in August the member for Keira said, "Quite frankly, Baird's budget is simply buggered." I do not know about that. What did the member for Maroubra say in the McKell masterpiece, that transformational speech that will change the shape of the Labor Party forever? He said that the lease would raise \$10 billion. I am just letting him know that it raised \$16.2 billion. Yet today he says he wants more. When he gave the speech he wanted \$10 billion; we got \$16.2 billion and he is now saying that he wants more. Under the leadership of this Government—I am sure they missed this news as well—the unemployment rate in New South Wales has dropped today to 4.9 per cent. It is going down. New South Wales is back and running. *[Extension of time]*

It is clear that this side of the House stands up for what it believes in, and that is what good leadership looks like. The Leader of the Opposition, as a man of principle, is about to do a preference deal with the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party at a by-election. So what does the member believe in? I cannot believe it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Troy Grant: That is why you did not ask me about guns, you cowards.

Ms Yasmin Catley: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 73. The Premier is calling the Leader of the Opposition "Mopsy."

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Premier will refer to the Leader of the Opposition by his correct title.

Mr MIKE BAIRD: The Labor Party is willing to do a deal with the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party to win an election.

Mr Clayton Barr: Point of order—

Mr Jihad Dib: You are dealing with One Nation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Lakemba will resume his seat. The member for Cessnock was on his feet when the member for Lakemba barged to the lectern.

Mr Clayton Barr: Based on the Deputy Premier's interjection and the suggestion by the Premier that Labor has done a deal with the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, will the Deputy Premier rule out that the Adler shotgun negotiations are not part of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party deal he is seeking to achieve?

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

Mr MIKE BAIRD: This State has a government that stands up for what it believes and delivers to the people of New South Wales, and there are 16.2 billion reasons that prove it.

Personal Explanation

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (15:33): By leave: I refer to the Premier's recent answer. I have done no deal with the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. The Premier should withdraw the claim.

Petitions

PETITIONS

The CLERK: I announce that the following petitions signed by fewer than 500 persons have been lodged for presentation:

Powerhouse Museum Ultimo

Petition requesting the retention of the Powerhouse Museum in Ultimo and the expansion of museum services to other parts of New South Wales, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Ice Smoking Room Proposal

Petition requesting that the Legislative Assembly rejects any plans for an ice smoking room to be built or operated in the south or south-west region of Sydney, received from **Ms Melanie Gibbons**.

Safe Schools Coalition

Petition requesting that the Government prevent the use of the Safe Schools Coalition program in government schools and support for holistic anti-bullying approaches, received from **Mr Thomas George**.

National School of Art

Petition requesting that a long-term lease be provided to the National School of Art for its site, that it remain independent and that the Government continue its funding, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

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**.

Route 389 Bus Service

Petition requesting more reliable 389 bus services, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Ferry Services

Petition requesting new inner-city ferries, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Social Housing

Petition requesting that the Sirius building be retained and its social housing function be continued, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

Pet Shops

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

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 27/56

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Melinda Pavey): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (15:36): As Chair: I speak to the Legislation Review Committee's twenty-seventh digest for the Fifty-sixth Parliament. I will briefly discuss the committee's comments in respect of five of the bills introduced into Parliament in the past sitting week. The committee considered the Child Protection (Working with Children) and Other Child Protection Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and made comments in relation to employment rights, rights of appeal, presumption of innocence, privacy, self-incrimination and property rights.

The committee noted that cancelling an individual's Working With Children Check may have an immediate impact on their current employment. The committee also noted that this amendment removes an appeal right and removes in some instances the presumption of innocence. The committee also had privacy concerns in relation to the sharing of information with other agencies. The committee highlighted that providing a power to compel the production of information may impact on an individual's right against self-incrimination. The committee observed that the power of entry granted to the Children's Guardian may impact on the quiet enjoyment of property.

The committee considered the Civil Remedies for Serious Invasions of Privacy Bill 2016 and made comments in relation to the extinguishment of a cause of action on death and matters that should be in principal legislation. The committee noted that if a party to an action for serious invasion of privacy dies, the plaintiff, or their estate, would no longer be entitled to pursue the action under this scheme. The committee observed that the term "government entity" was not defined in the bill. Instead, the regulations may prescribe entities, or classes of entities, as either falling inside or outside of this definition. The committee prefers that these entities be defined or listed in principal legislation.

The committee considered the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and commented on issues including privity of contract, privacy and matters appearing in the regulations rather than in the principal legislation. The committee noted that when the Housing Corporation enters into concurrent leases with registered community housing providers, doing so will breach privity of contract between the Housing Corporation and the tenant. This may have privacy implications for the tenant. The committee observed that the establishment of a local registration scheme is to be subject to the Community Housing Providers National Law (NSW), depending on "any modifications" that may be prescribed by the regulations. The committee noted that this provides a wide ambit for what may be provided for in the regulations. The committee provided some comments in relation to the Justice Portfolio Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2016, specifically in relation to the right to a fair trial and open justice.

The committee noted that the proposed amendments remove the restriction that prevents the Children's Court from hearing certain committal proceedings jointly between child and adult co-defendants where the adult is more than three years older. The committee noted that replacing a judge mid-trial may also impact on the defendant's right to a fair trial. As discussed previously by the committee, the prerecording of evidence may impact on an accused's right to a fair trial. However, the committee is still of the view that the advantages in prerecording a child's evidence outweigh the identified concerns. The committee considers that prerecording a child's evidence, including the evidence of non-victim witnesses, will improve the quality of the evidence obtained and, most importantly, protect vulnerable witnesses. The committee therefore made no further comment.

The committee commented on the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Container Deposit Scheme) Bill 2016 and noted the introduction of strict liability offences and the reversal of the onus of

proof. It noted that the bill introduces strict liability in relation to a number of offences. The committee will always comment where strict liability occurs, as the Crown is not required to prove intent, negligence or recklessness on the part of the accused. However, in those circumstances strict liability is designed to ensure compliance with the new measures and further the objectives of the Act in reducing litter and improving the environment.

The committee made no further comment on that. The committee also highlighted provisions in the bill that reverse the onus of proof with regard to the prosecution of certain offences under the Act. Reversing the onus of proof is contrary to the fundamental principle that the prosecution bears the burden of proof. However, the committee noted that the participation of suppliers in the scheme is crucial for the scheme to work and placing obligations upon them is not unreasonable in the circumstances. That concludes my remarks on this digest. I thank the committee staff and members for their input. I commend the digest to the House.

Report noted.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

Report: Adequacy of the Regulation of Short-Term Holiday Letting in New South Wales

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Melinda Pavey): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (15:41): As Chair: I am pleased to speak to the report of the Committee on Environment and Planning on the adequacy of the regulation of short-term holiday letting in New South Wales, which I tabled yesterday. I am confident the committee found the right balance in this report. The sharing economy is here to stay, and the planning laws must be brought into the twenty-first century to reflect the new reality. It is vital that we make our laws work in the fairest and most effective way possible so that we can enjoy the benefits of change without losing the things we value. The committee resolved to undertake this inquiry after receiving a request for assistance from the Minister for Planning, Mr Rob Stokes.

Short-term letting has been a traditional activity in New South Wales, especially in holiday areas, for many years. For decades beach house owners have managed the letting of their own properties or put them in the hands of local real estate agents. Letting has occurred with little fuss. It has made a significant economic contribution, while not always permitted under the local planning scheme. What has changed, however, has been the growth of the sharing economy. The sharing economy is here to stay. It is now much easier for people to advertise their properties on Airbnb or Stayz, whether it is their principal place of residence, an empty beach house or an investment property, for short-term occupation. The numbers the committee heard about, not just in holiday areas but across the State, showed that the growth in online short-term letting has been rapid and widespread.

The committee heard polarised views from stakeholders. Many people supported an easing of the rules as a way to grow tourism and help them earn income from under-utilised assets, while others said that short-term letting was incompatible with residential living. The traditional accommodation sector said that short-term letting had an unfair advantage because it did not face the costs and obligations of a commercial operation. There was consensus, however, on the need for a consistent definition of short-term letting within planning legislation. The current arrangements for regulating short-term letting are fragmented and confusing. Across New South Wales 12 councils permit short-term letting but under 12 different definitions and sets of conditions. Some councils set limits on the number of days a property can be let. It ranges from 45 days to no limit. Others limit the number of bedrooms or guests. In the bulk of council areas, short-term letting is not permitted but still occurs in great numbers, which generates a limited numbers of complaints. Many councils have adopted a pragmatic approach to unlawful use and sensibly respond only when they receive a complaint.

The committee recommends that short-term rental accommodation be defined and permitted in New South Wales. It has a long history yet generates few complaints. With the right regulation and compliance regime, it can be permitted in residential areas. An effective compliance system must be developed. The committee recommends that this can be achieved within the existing planning legislation. Importantly, it should be a regime that focuses its energy and resources on identifying and solving problems, not on over-regulating the majority of properties that comply with the rules. The committee recommends that better use of some existing planning tools will help to achieve this compliance regime. These include the Holiday and Short Term Rental Code of Conduct, newly legislated investigative powers and streamlined development assessment. Further, relatively minor amendments to planning and strata management legislation, based on existing and proposed models in Queensland and Victoria, will improve the situation for people adversely affected by short-term rental accommodation.

The committee recognised that short-term rental accommodation in strata properties is a special case. It sympathised with the people who gave evidence of neighbours and landlords within their buildings who have no respect for the rights of others. Prohibition is the last resort. The committee believes that steps should be taken to increase the rights of strata residents and owners corporations, including the right to recover costs from short-term

rental landlords. Importantly, the committee recommends that the Government review these incremental changes in three years to make sure that they are delivering positive results. The growth of short-term letting via online platforms is a small part of the phenomenon that is the sharing economy. Undeniably, the growth of the sharing economy is causing disruption within the traditional economy. The committee believes that its recommendations can deliver effective responses to this disruption without stifling the growth of an industry that is delivering economic benefits for our State.

I am grateful to the 212 people and organisations who made submissions to the inquiry, the 48 people who appeared as witnesses to give evidence in Sydney and Tweed Heads, and the many who wrote, emailed and telephoned to give advice or track the inquiry's progress. I thank committee members for their contributions, including the deputy chair and member for Tweed, Geoff Provest; the member for Seven Hills, Mark Taylor; the member for Macquarie Fields, Anoulack Chanthivong; and the member for Balmain, Jamie Parker. I also thank the member for East Hills, Glenn Brookes, who began the inquiry and chaired the committee until March this year. This was a long inquiry. I thank my colleagues for their patience in analysing so much complex information and for their insight in finding practical ways to address the matters before the committee. I commend the report to the House.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (15:47): I thank the House for the opportunity to contribute to this take-note debate. I acknowledge the comments made by the chair of the Committee on Environment and Planning. I thank him for his chairmanship. I also thank the former chair, the member for East Hills, who saw the inquiry through its early stages. I take this opportunity to thank Mr David Hale and the committee staff for their work. Technology and innovation have changed the way that participants operate in the holiday letting industry. The committee is aware of the impact of new entrants to the sector, such as Airbnb and Stayz. They have made the sector more successful and allowed a larger number of renters and suppliers of houses to enter the market. The committee considered not only new entrants to the sector but also established participants. It also looked at whether the current regulations were fair for all participants.

The committee received a number of submissions from all stakeholders, including new entrants and current bed and breakfasts, the Hotels Association and councils. I thank them for their time. The committee's goals were to see whether the current regulatory framework fits an industry that has changed. We are looking in the future for consistency and clarity for all stakeholders, new entrants, local councils and those who rent short-term accommodation across Sydney. It is good for people to go to different parts of the State as it stimulates the economy, especially in regional areas. We need to grow the market, and short-term accommodation is the way to do that.

The committee looked at ways to ensure greater consistency. I look forward to the Government's response to the committee's recommendations which will inform people of their rights and obligations under the new regime. I understand the difference between Torrens title and strata title accommodation. The committee heard the concerns of those living in strata title properties and will seek to ensure they have peace of mind and that any short-term or illegal subletting contracts are properly managed and will not adversely impact on their rights. I look forward to hearing other comments relating to this matter, as councils need some direction and those who rent and those who supply the market need clarity. If the rules are clear and consistent, everybody will know their rights and obligations. Once again, I thank my fellow committee members and the committee secretariat for this great report.

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (15:51): I am pleased to speak in debate on the report of the Committee on Environment and Planning entitled, "Adequacy of the regulation of short-term holiday letting in New South Wales." As the member for Tweed—all members would be aware that the Tweed is this State's premier tourist destination—I was pleased to be able to work with my colleagues on this inquiry, which was all the more important as we received many submissions from the North Coast. Nearly one-quarter of the 212 submissions were from North Coast residents. After the City of Sydney, the next highest number of submissions was received from the Tweed-Byron area. I was happy to join the committee in Tweed Heads on 7 March 2016 for its first public hearing.

We heard from a wide cross-section of witnesses, including Tweed and Byron councils, traditional and short-term rental accommodation providers, tourist industry representatives and, last but not least, local residents. As the chair said, short-term letting is already a permitted use in 12 councils in New South Wales. Tweed and Byron councils are not among those 12 councils. Yet short-term letting has been going on in the Tweed and Byron council areas for many years—probably since the first holidaymaker arrived and looked for a place at the beach to rent. The experience of councils, however, is different.

In Tweed, short-term letting proceeds without much comment. Tweed council responds to the small number of complaints it receives. Council would like to clarify the current confusion around short-term letting, and is waiting for our report and the Government's response to proceed further with its plans to amend its local

environmental plan. In particular, we would like to see the Holiday and Short-Term Rental Code re-examined and the Government play a greater role in ensuring that the code covers the whole industry, sets clear standards, and is widely communicated. We also suggest that the credibility and acceptability of the code can be improved by including community representatives on its management board.

The most important thing about designing regulations for any industry is that they target the problems and do not waste precious resources regulating people who comply with the rules. That is why we rejected the idea of a registration scheme for short-term rental accommodation. Registration would be expensive and bureaucratic; it would focus on the whole industry rather than focusing on rogue operators who have no respect for their neighbours. The provisions we recommend would enable councils to focus on party houses, such as homes booked for wedding receptions and hens' nights. Councils should be given the power to slap a 12-month ban on people who do not understand their obligation to be good neighbours.

Landlords who suffer this type of restriction on their income will soon learn to behave responsibly. Finally, I address the question of the impact of the sharing economy on traditional accommodation providers. I expect that hotels and bed and breakfasts may suffer some impact. At the boundary between short-term rentals and bed and breakfasts, some businesses might operate more profitably down the scale. We should find ways to assist them to make this transition as smoothly and cheaply as possible. I thank the chair, my friend and colleague the member for Oatley, Mark Coure, for doing such an effective job. I acknowledge the previous chair, Glen Brookes, the member for East Hills, and commend the member for Seven Hills, the member for Macquarie Fields and the member for Balmain for their good ideas and cooperative spirits. Finally, I thank the committee staff for their excellent support and patience—David Hale, Leon Last, Abigail Turingan and Christopher Herbert. This report will set up the framework for greater economies, particularly in tourist areas up and down the coast and out to the west. I commend the report to the House.

Mr JAMIE PARKER (Balmain) (15:55): I contribute to the take-note debate on the report of the Committee on Environment and Planning—an important step forward in many respects in managing short stay accommodation. I originally raised this matter with the Minister for Planning and I appreciate that it was referred to the committee for investigation. In my electorate, Leichhardt municipality is the predominant council. It experienced significant issues relating to the non-permissibility of Airbnb. It is not permissible to have Airbnb activities in any council area, whether one is in the City of Sydney, Leichhardt or Marrickville councils. Short stay accommodation is not permissible in a residential area, which is ridiculous.

Councils took strong action and imposed \$1 million fines to ensure that it did not continue and that individuals offering short stay accommodation complied with development consents. Change was needed and this report has taken a commonsense approach to dealing with that issue—an exempt and complying regime following the recommendations put forward by the City of Sydney. If individuals lease their property for a prescribed time they are exempt and there is no requirement for them to seek permission when they go on holiday. The issue relates to those individuals who want to rent their properties for 60 days or 90 days a year. We heard evidence to the effect that some individuals lease more than 140 Airbnb properties and that they are operating commercial business, and that is where the concerns arise. When the threshold is reached, a complying development certificate is required for any work that is required to be carried out. For example, councils may require things such as wired fire alarms, bushfire management plans and so on to provide more certainty and to ensure that places that are available for rent 24 hours a day, seven days a week are safe for tenants and hosts.

The evidence clearly showed that if people insured their properties, whether in the City of Sydney, Leichhardt, Marrickville or other council areas, insurance companies would not pay out as this short stay accommodation is not permitted in a residential zone. We must ensure that those who take out insurance policies are not just throwing their money down the drain. My focus was to look at submissions from the City of Sydney. My electorate includes the council areas of Ultimo, Leichhardt, Lilyfield, Annandale and Glebe. The committee adopted the recommendations of the City of Sydney and said that what occurs in Victoria under the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal [VCAT] should be examined in order to ensure that strata properties have the power to manage antisocial behaviour and deal with social and financial impacts. I trust that the committee's recommendations resolve some of the problems that have been highlighted. In the City of Sydney and Oaks serviced apartments case, whole tower blocks were turned into glorified serviced apartments when in fact they were residential premises. That matter must be carefully addressed.

These issues should be reviewed in three years if the additional powers—the party house, the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and the exempt and complying development certification powers—do not work. In my view and in the view of other committee members, the prohibition issues should be examined. That means banning short stay accommodation in strata buildings if we cannot ensure that these rules work. The issues relating to strata accommodation are significant and need to be addressed. Overall I thank my committee colleagues. We fought and argued a lot but we worked diligently and cooperatively and put aside partisan arguments. I thank all

those witnesses who attended the hearings. I call on the Government to get rid of the confusion, to introduce certainty and to make this work for everyone in New South Wales.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Melinda Pavey): I congratulate the committee on its work and this report. It will create a constructive way forward for the tourism industry.

Report noted.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Report: Workplace Arrangements in the Point to Point Transport Industry

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Melinda Pavey): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (16:00): I am happy to speak as chair of the Committee on Transport and Infrastructure with regard to the report on our inquiry into workplace arrangements for the point to point transport industry, which was published in the House yesterday. In summary, the terms of reference required the committee to look into the operation and impact on the point to point transport industry of chapter 6 of the Industrial Relations Act. From the evidence we heard in the inquiry, it seems the point to point transport market is still finding equilibrium. Customers are still changing their preferences between taxis, hire cars and rideshare providers such as Uber. These changes have largely been driven by technological disruption from ridesharing platforms.

Historically, the taxi industry has been heavily regulated not only in the sense of non-licensed carriers having been excluded or limited from competing against taxis and hire cars but also because of other anomalous industrial regulations which were allowed to intrude into the sector. Following the freeing of competition in the market after Parliament passed the Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016, the inquiry investigated whether other reform is necessary to ensure competitive neutrality in this evolving market. The evidence before the committee disclosed, first, that the point to point transport market consists mainly of taxis, hire cars and rideshare transport sectors, the best known being Uber and GoCatch services.

Currently, chapter 6 of the Industrial Relations Act applies to the taxi and hire car sectors of the point to point transport industry but, when the Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016 comes fully into operation, chapter 6 of the Industrial Relations Act will also apply to the rideshare sectors of the industry. Chapter 6 of the Industrial Relations Act and the determination made under it only has limited application. These provisions apply only to drivers who do not own their own vehicles. Seventy per cent of the hire car and almost 100 per cent of the rideshare sectors are unaffected by them. The determination is lawfully avoided by owners ensuring that they do not have the same driver work for more than 40 hours per week. These industrial provisions provide a perverse incentive for casual and not full-time work by drivers and there is no minimum income for drivers currently specified by chapter 6 of the Industrial Relations Act and the determination made under it.

The Federal legislation, the Independent Contractors Act, expressly does not apply to arrangements governed by chapter 6 of the Industrial Relations Act. A repeal of chapter 6 of the Industrial Relations Act insofar as it applies to the point to point transport industry would bring the New South Wales point to point industry under the provisions of the Federal Independent Contractors Act. Therefore, a repeal of chapter 6 of the Industrial Relations Act would not leave drivers unprotected but give them rights to challenge their contracts and the fairness of their arrangements in Federal courts. It is for this reason that the committee made recommendation 1, which is in the following terms:

The Committee recommends that the NSW Government gives consideration to amending section 307 of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* (NSW) to remove contracts of bailment from Chapter 6 and thereby taking those contracts out of the jurisdiction of the Industrial Relations Commission.

It is the committee's opinion that this recommendation ought to be considered by the New South Wales Government in order to ensure competitive neutrality in the industry. The committee also looked into other workplace issues such as dispute resolution and driver fatigue, which resulted in recommendations 2 and 3, which I will not read. I thank the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, the Hon. Andrew Constance, for requesting that the committee examine the issues, which it did. We were given important work to do and I am grateful for his referral. I also thank my fellow committee members for their dedication and collegiality. It has been my pleasure to chair our meetings and to hear the contributions from my colleagues. Finally, I thank the Legislative Assembly committee staff for the expertise and professionalism they applied to assisting the committee and me in our work.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Melinda Pavey): I thank the member for Ku-ring-gai for his contribution and his work as Chair of the committee.

Business interrupted.*Matter of Public Importance***DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:05): Domestic and family violence is a national shame. In New South Wales around 30,000 reports of domestic violence are made to police each year. Fifty per cent of incidents go unreported. Across Australia more than one woman a week dies at the hands of an intimate partner. Intimate partner violence is the leading contributor to death, disability and ill health in Australian women between 15 and 44 years of age. In the context of the upheaval and tearing apart of the family home that follows domestic violence, women's access to ongoing employment—the key determinant of their ability to save themselves and their children from future violence—is on a precipice. Domestic violence is a terrible crime that has intergenerational economic consequences for families, victims and survivors. It also causes poverty and homelessness, creating a lower standard of living for all those affected. The sheer amount of women affected by domestic and family violence also negatively impacts business productivity across Australia.

More than a decade ago domestic violence cost Australian businesses around \$175 million each year, with employee absenteeism, permanent loss of labour and employee deaths all contributing factors. Without any effective intervention, that figure is projected to rise to \$500 million in the next five years. As shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, shadow Minister for Small Business and a former managing director of a small business, I know firsthand the impact of this horrendous crime on our workers and State productivity. We must all intervene to stop domestic and family violence. Most importantly, while we are addressing prevention, early intervention, behavioural change and the legal consequences for perpetrators, we need to do much more to help victims to recover their lives. Domestic violence leave is a key tool we have as legislators and the Government has as an employer to act to assist victims and survivors of this terrible crime. Former Australian of the Year Rosie Batty said:

The ability to maintain your employment, keep your job, it helps secure somewhere to live, it helps you to have that ongoing working contact with your colleagues, it's a really important part of your journey.

We know the loss of a job would further erode the self-esteem of a person who has suffered the impact of violence. Labor acknowledges that many employers are already paving the way in domestic violence leave. They include major companies such as Telstra, NAB, Virgin Australia, Ikea and Blundstone Australia, to name a few. Through their actions those employers are helping to reduce the stigma that often accompanies domestic violence. Of course, it was the former Labor Government that in 2010 introduced domestic violence leave for public sector workers.

In the budget estimates process earlier this year, I asked every Minister for information about the way their agencies were implementing paid domestic violence leave. The Government presented a confusing and disjointed response. Most agencies gave the approved standard lines that each agency is responsible for implementing New South Wales government policy; the information sought is not collected centrally. I asked myself why this was the case. I then read some of the other responses from Ministers who came clean and admitted in one case, for example, that in three out of five of their agencies domestic violence leave had not been implemented. The implementation of domestic violence leave goes beyond the benefits of giving life back to victims of domestic violence by helping them get back on track and promoting their self-esteem while protecting their right to employment.

It also asks employers important questions. It asks them to look at their policies around domestic violence and to ask themselves basic questions such as: How does domestic violence leave get disclosed to the employer? Who does it get disclosed to? How do they protect that information? What are they doing to address discrimination against victims of domestic violence? What are they doing to ensure adequate access to employer assistance programs and financial, psychological, legal and medical help? What are they doing about ensuring that perpetrators do not access records of victims? How are they protecting private information about their employees and their clients from perpetrators both within and outside their organisation? How are they ensuring that perpetrators cannot get allies to assist them in abusing women? What training have they given to staff to help them assist both staff and clients in responding to domestic violence? The union movement has already advocated for more than 1.6 million workers to have access to paid domestic violence leave. However, it needs to be a universal right.

Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (16:10): The New South Wales Government strongly supports initiatives that enable and support victims of domestic violence to continue to participate in the workforce. As members know, New South Wales public servants already have access to certain leave entitlements to enable and support victims of domestic violence to enter and return to the workforce. I understand that Minister Goward met with Unions NSW today to discuss its proposal, and she will be having that discussion at the Council of Australian

Governments with other Premiers, Chief Ministers and Ministers at the end of the month. The Minister recently wrote to Premier Andrews to welcome the opportunity to drive a national approach on key issues and to ensure that we are working with other jurisdictions to improve the way we prevent domestic and family violence, hold perpetrators to account and support survivors.

To put this into perspective, Labor spent \$3 million in its last budget on domestic violence-specific initiatives. We announced \$300 million in this year's budget over the forward estimates. One of our priorities is committing to an ambitious target to reduce the domestic violence reoffending rates by five percentage points, from 14.2 per cent to 9.2 per cent, by 2019. To help achieve this, we are working on a range of domestic violence programs focusing on supporting victims, targeting perpetrators and encouraging social and cultural change. What are those programs? The Domestic Violence Evidence in Chief [DVEC] program is an Australian first. In 2015 legislation was introduced to allow victims to give evidence in chief by way of a prior recorded video or audio statement. We thought perhaps 5,000 people would use it; we had 10,562 in the first year—more than double the number originally expected. The expanded use of DVEC is increasing conviction rates and reducing pressure on victims giving evidence in court.

Our hardline policing with suspect target management plans [STMP] mean that we are able to identify and target serious recidivist offenders. Since we introduced them a year ago, 454 people have been placed on STMPs and 176 arrests have been made by local area commands managing STMP targets. In 2015-16 some 268 offenders in custody participated in the EQUIPS behaviour change program—a 140 per cent increase on the previous year. In the budget we announced our \$20 million Innovation Fund, which will address cultural and behavioural change to benefit victims and help to change perpetrator behaviour.

The New South Wales Government leads the nation in tackling domestic violence. We are creating, and importantly funding, a system that is responding to one of the biggest social issues affecting the lives of women, men and children. For the first time in New South Wales, rather than having a patchwork of services, the Government has created a domestic and family violence system that responds in a consistent and effective way. In the 2016-17 budget, the investment in specialist domestic violence initiatives doubled to more than \$300 million over four years. This is in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars the Government spends each year to combat domestic and family violence through mainstream services involving justice, police, health, child protection, social housing and homelessness.

The Government has also launched the NSW Domestic and Family Violence Blueprint for Reform: Safer Lives for Women, Men and Children. The blueprint provides a policy framework for reform of the domestic and family violence response in New South Wales and sets the direction for a domestic violence system for the next five years. The blueprint is a culmination of an intensive process of consultation with people who have been affected by domestic and family violence, as well as those who work tirelessly to stop it. Safer Pathway is an integral part of the system and will be rolled out across New South Wales over four years. In the 2016-17 budget, \$53 million over four years has been allocated for a statewide rollout, with \$7.8 million allocated in this financial year to roll out 21 new sites and expand two existing sites. We have heard from police, the services on the ground and the community about how effective this initiative is to provide rapid, consistent, multi-agency support.

The 2016-17 budget builds on a number of other measures already announced and that are underway to further prevent and respond to domestic and family violence. These include New South Wales being the first State to establish a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme so that people at risk can find out whether their partner has a violent history; the first State to introduce laws that allow for the enforcement of domestic violence orders that have been made in another Australian State or Territory; and statewide use of groundbreaking, innovative policing tools such as Domestic Violence Evidence in Chief and suspect target management plans. I am proud that New South Wales is leading the nation in tackling domestic violence. We are doing this by making record investment in providing support to victims and holding perpetrators to account. It is more than money. We have now forged and fully funded a service system that responds to crisis and also intervenes early to prevent future violence. Those on this side of the House are fiercely committed to breaking cycles of violence. New South Wales will continue to be the champion of social policy that makes people's lives better.

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (16:15): I contribute to the discussion on this matter of public importance because domestic violence leave is a matter of public importance, and it is particularly important in the context of the Council of Australian Governments [COAG] meeting to be held in December. The Victorian Premier, Labor's Daniel Andrews, is calling for domestic violence leave to be included on the COAG agenda, following the recommendations of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence. I hope that our Premier supports its inclusion on the agenda and also a national right to access paid domestic violence leave.

Domestic violence leave is essential because it prevents further harm to the long-term health and wellbeing of the victim. In many industrial instruments, the 10 days leave provided allows workers to attend court appearances and medical and legal appointments and to make safety and relocation arrangements when they are

trying to leave a violent relationship. In doing so, it reduces the risk of poverty and homelessness, which is so often experienced particularly by women leaving violent relationships. The 2015 Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, said at a conference last year that paid domestic violence leave would have made a huge difference to how she managed the 12 months before her son, Luke, was killed by his father, Rosie's violent ex-partner. Rosie said:

I can't tell you how many days I spent in court ... I was making statements to police, taking time out of my day and following up on things connected to charges.

She went on:

Paid domestic violence leave, I believe, can ultimately mean the difference between someone possibly losing their job and falling into poverty, and not being able to find rental accommodation. I see this as a really critical step.

The need for family or domestic violence leave in the workplace is also shown in the case of a woman whom ABC's *Lateline* called "Caroline". She said:

It was as bad as it could get. He threatened to kill me.

When the violence began the small office where Caroline had worked for years supported her. She had to attend appointments with doctors, lawyers, financial advisers and her son's school principal. Eventually her employer became impatient. She was forced to give up the domestic violence counselling sessions she had signed up to for her and her son and eventually she was forced to resign. Caroline's employer said:

You're always off, you're always late. What are you going to do about it?

Caroline said:

It came to the point where [I said] I can't do anything about it. I have to do this.

Every year more than 400,000 people across Australia experience domestic violence and every year domestic violence costs the Australian economy more than \$16.8 billion. Paid domestic violence leave will send a strong message to the community that domestic violence is unacceptable and that we, as a society, will properly support people leaving violent relationships. The COAG must discuss domestic violence leave in December. As I said, I hope that the Premier supports its inclusion on the agenda and also a national right to access paid domestic violence leave.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (16:18): By leave: I make a brief contribution to the discussion of this matter of public importance. The Greens support domestic violence leave as a universal workplace entitlement. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Australian Services Union. I was unable to join the rally it held outside Parliament House last week but I support the union's claim for 10 days paid domestic violence leave for all workers. It is incredibly important that Australia takes steps in this direction. I point out that the International Labour Organization [ILO] is currently seeking advice from Australia, particularly from the Australian Council of Trade Unions, which is urging the ILO to follow Australia's lead in providing domestic violence leave. Australia can make a positive contribution to an international convention on violence against women and men at work. As a State, we should be advocating and supporting paid domestic violence leave, and Australia as a country can contribute to global protections.

Domestic violence leave is a provision that recognises the spread of domestic violence within our community. It is the responsibility of our workplaces, our governments and our society to work to recognise the spread of domestic violence, to protect survivors and victims of domestic violence and to ensure that they are provided with support in their workplaces. We know that women often have to decide whether to escape family violence situations or to stay at home because of the financial reality of how they will manage. If there are actions we can take in this place to mandate domestic violence leave that will support women in those situations we should do that. The Greens support domestic violence leave and we support the campaign for it. We recognise that it needs to be pushed for. Domestic violence leave should not be politicised but recognised as something that can help women who are trying to escape domestic violence to maintain their workplace rights.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (16:21): In reply: Last week the Australian Services Union [ASU] convened a rally outside this place that was attended by several hundred people. I take this opportunity to thank Mark Morey from Unions NSW; Natalie Lang and Jan Primrose from the ASU; Sharan Burrow, the leader of the International Trade Union Confederation; all the other very many union members too numerous to name; and frontline community workers and members of the community who participated in that rally. At the rally the New South Wales Leader of the Opposition renewed Labor's commitment from the 2015 election to double domestic violence leave to 10 days. When we consider how difficult it can be for women to uproot themselves from their home—perhaps move children from school, manage any financial consequences, seek legal advice, and find medical and dental care for them or their children—in just five days, we can see there is a real and practical argument for extending that leave to 10 days, particularly when many women suffer from complex

trauma as a result of the long and sustained campaign of violence that has been waged against them in their own home.

At the rally, the Leader of the Opposition appealed to the Premier—who will attend the Council of Australian Governments [COAG] meeting later this month—to take the matter to COAG. In this place I asked the Premier whether he would join the push for domestic violence leave to be included in the National Employment Standards [NES]. The national minimum wage and the National Employment Standards make up the minimum entitlements for employees in Australia. An award, employment contract, enterprise agreement or other registered agreement cannot provide for conditions that are less than the national minimum wage or the NES. They cannot exclude the NES. The NES currently includes 10 minimum employment entitlements that must be provided to all employees covered by the national workplace relations systems. Only certain entitlements apply to casual employees. This move is supported by frontline workers in the community sector and has the backing of the Australian Law Reform Commission, the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Victorian Government. In relation to this issue, the Premier said:

We have provisions here. If we can strengthen them, of course I am happy to strengthen them.

I appeal respectfully to the Premier today to strongly and clearly commit to increasing the entitlement to domestic violence leave to 10 days and, further, to support and prosecute the case for its inclusion in the NES at COAG at the next meeting held later this month. In conclusion, I thank the member for Charlestown, the member for Newtown and the member for Albury for their contributions to this discussion. However, I am concerned when I see members come into this place with prepared speeches. I urge them to consider the operation of the domestic violence process and how it works. One criticism was that it did not cover all local area commands. We now have a patchwork system that covers only four local area commands in the State.

Community Recognition Statements

DONNA COLOMBINI, VET TRAINER/TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage, and Assistant Minister for Planning) (16:24): I congratulate Gynea Bay resident and TAFE NSW teacher of Hair and Beauty Donna Colombini on her achievement in winning the Vocational Education and Training [VET] Trainer/Teacher of the Year at the NSW Training Awards last month. Donna's experience spans more than 36 years as a hairdresser and 16 years as a TAFE teacher, and for the past five years she has been a head teacher. She is known as a committed mentor to her teaching team and to her students who is continually striving for innovation and quality. She is also a board member of the Hair and Beauty Association [HABA] and was voted into this position by employers and industry practitioners, which shows how respected she is in the industry. The NSW Training Awards provide an annual showcase of the world-class vocational education and training offered in New South Wales and allow us to pay tribute to the wonderful teachers and trainers, like Donna Colombini, who impart their skills and industry knowledge to the cohort of VET students.

EAST CAMPBELLTOWN EAGLES PREMIERS

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (16:25): Members of the House are well aware of my love for rugby league, so it gives me great pleasure to ask the House to acknowledge the mighty East Campbelltown Eagles under 19s and reserve grade teams on winning their respective premierships earlier this year. The under 19s took out the Sydney Combined Competition Under 19s premiership, beating a tough Berala side at Belmore Oval. The boys came from behind after a slow start and put on 54 unanswered points to win the game 54-12. After a tough-fought season against sides from all across the Sydney Basin, it was fantastic to see the mighty Eagles come out on top. Not to be outdone, the reserve grade team beat a determined East Hills side, coming away with the title after a 26-10 victory. It is a great achievement for a community-based club to win two titles in 2016 and a testament to the hard work of the club both on and off the field. Rugby league has the amazing ability to bring communities together, and with the Eagles winning two titles this year their community will continue to grow stronger. I ask the House to join me in congratulating the East Campbelltown Eagles.

MID NORTH COAST FREEMASONS

Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (16:26): I inform the House that a Taree Freemason will carry on the valuable community work of the lodges on the Mid North Coast as District Grand Inspector. The local area district 13 of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory welcomed incoming Grand Inspector Wayne Broome at a ceremony where he received the Baton of Office in front of members representing all nine lodges. This ceremony dates back to when the first lodge was consecrated in 1878.

The district includes lodges from Forster, Gloucester, Taree, Wingham, Laurieton, Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Kempsey and South West Rocks. The retiring Grand Inspector Alan Williams of Port Macquarie

handed over the patent of office and baton to Wayne Broome for the term 2016-18. Freemasonry has had a strong presence in the region for in excess of 138 years. Freemasons come from all walks of life, trades and professions. Local members include a world kickboxing champion and many other sportsmen. Freemasons have contributed large amounts of money and physical assistance to many charities and community groups in the local area. I congratulate Mr Broome on his appointment.

SENIOR DAY CARE PROJECT

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (16:27): I recognise the official launch on 15 October, at Carnes Hill in my electorate, of the new CNA—Italian Australian Services and Welfare Centre Inc. centre-based Senior Day Care Project. The aim of this group is to provide high-quality and efficient services for older Italian Australians in the community. This is to counter the risk of isolation and to increase social interaction. A six-month trial of Thursday day care has been proceeding in the Fairfield council area. This is now being extended to the Liverpool council area, with the project proposed to run every Tuesday and Wednesday.

This is a particularly valuable initiative of this not-for-profit group. According to the 2011 Census, the Italian language is the fourth most spoken language in the Liverpool local government area. It is also a community whose aged component is growing. There are hopes to expand the program beyond its present proposed scope. The day care program supports and strengthens the use of language and memory abilities and tries to establish a domain compatible with participants' cultural and social life. The organisers of this initiative should be congratulated.

ELOUERA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (16:28): Today I acknowledge Elouera Surf Life Saving Club, which held its annual general meeting on 24 July 2016. I thank the club for appointing me as a vice patron. Elouera is a friendly, family-oriented club with members ranging in age from five to 80 years and is home to some of the country's top ironmen and ironwomen. The club is fast approaching 50 years of surf lifesaving in the Bate Bay area and has won almost every surf lifesaving title, from district to international competitions.

I congratulate the executive and board of management on the 2017 season: patron Brian Thompson, executive director Peter Carney, Darren Galea, David Kowald, Rory Gillespie, Cameron Simpson, Peter King, Christine Cupitt, Megan Evans, Michael Randazzo, Mike Batty, Michael Byrne, Ron Hegarty and Michelle Fretten. I also thank the outgoing executive and board of management for their efforts in the 2016 season, particularly executive director Warren Smith for his leadership and ongoing commitment to the club and to our local community. Further congratulations go to Dennis Parker and Ian Cameron, who are newly named life members. On behalf of our community, I thank the dedicated volunteers who provide us with the safety and security to relax and enjoy our summer days, and I wish the club all the best for the 2017 season.

PACT CENTRE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (16:29): Recently I visited the PACT Centre for Emerging Artists at Erskineville, which for more than 50 years has been mentoring and nurturing our brightest performance artists. The centre caters for artists in their first five years of professional practice. Artists lucky enough to be selected to a residency at the centre are given space, support and creative freedom to test new ideas. The centre is a place where performance artists involved in acting, dance and many other forms of artistic expression come together to hone their skills and, at the same time, learn how to market their talents to survive in the very competitive, professional arts industry. Katerina Douglas, artistic director of the centre, explained to me how tough it is for young artists to break into the industry. Given that artists are some of the most prominent and recognisable Australians on the world stage, the Federal Government should rethink funding cuts that have hit hard grassroots arts organisations, including the PACT Centre for Emerging Artists.

RIVER OF STORIES COMPETITION

Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (16:29): Barry Young is an Albury author and member of the Rotary Club of Albury Hume. Fourteen years ago he approached schools and organisations on the border with a proposal to create a short story competition to stimulate students' interest in reading and writing. This initiative resulted in a project known as the River of Stories. From an initial five schools and 78 entries, the competition has now grown to 14 schools competing with more than 500 entries in the short story and poetry sections. The awards were held last Saturday in the Albury Library Museum, sponsored by Albury City Council, the Commercial Club Albury, Dymocks Albury and the Hume Bank. Individual winners were Louis Denton of Albury High School, Lois Beloved from Trinity Anglican College, Isabella Brunt from St Paul's College and Ashleigh Hall from Wodonga Middle Years College, Huon Campus. Congratulations to those young writers and to the schools for their encouragement. I thank Barry Young and the Rotary Club of Albury Hume for their vision and commitment to this project. May the River of Stories continue to flow for many years.

Business interrupted.*Petitions***CORRECTIVE CENTRES EDUCATION SERVICES****Discussion**

Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (16:30): I speak this afternoon on the very important petition signed by 14,005 citizens requesting that the Government reverse its decision to reduce education roles in Corrective Services in New South Wales and maintain quality public provision of adult education and vocational training in correctional centres. I welcome the visitors in the public gallery today. They are passionate about quality education in our correctional facilities. I acknowledge the presence of members of the NSW Teachers Federation and Mr Robert Long, who has been traversing the State far and wide speaking to people in the regions and in metropolitan Sydney about the Government's decision to sack quality teachers in Corrections.

I acknowledge also the teachers who are in the gallery. On 12 May 2016, they were given the Government's decision, handed down under the cover of darkness at Saint Barnabas Church in the city—ironically it was in a church—on the day that the Government also made the decision about forced council amalgamations. Effectively, it was an attempt to smother the issue so that people would not realise, understand or know what was happening. I acknowledge Sister Audette, who has provided wonderful support to many inmates over many years and who has given me an insight into the plight of individuals who had been abused, mistreated and left out of the system through no fault of their own but who were given the opportunity to read, write, gain an education and move on with their life post-release. I commend Sister Audette. She is a guardian angel in our society. She still campaigns for those who have been marginalised, and I thank her for being here today. I acknowledge also the great work of Phillip Chadwick and Stewart Burkitt, who talk to the community and make people realise what the Government is doing.

This Government knows the cost of everything but the value of nothing—especially the value of educators within our corrections system. The Baird Government's reforms to reduce operating costs in Corrections involve replacing qualified and trained professionals. Labor knows, but the Government does not, that teachers teach and clerks file documents. It is very simple. One cannot reduce the conditions of 152 educators and say, "Guess what? We are going to give you the opportunity to be a clerk. You're educated. You've done all that study. You've worked with the most hardened criminals in our society but we are going to make you just a clerk." Minister Elliott is in the Chamber. That decision indicates he does not value what those teachers do as professionals. Labor does. I draw the attention of the House to comments made by Minister Elliott in question time on 14 September 2016, when he said:

The New South Wales Government is reforming the way prison education is delivered so that more than double the number of inmates complete literacy and numeracy courses.

We know that to complete these courses qualified teachers are necessary; it is as simple as that. Before inmates can complete vocational education and training and before they touch a computer they need to know how to read and write. It is like doing a Technology and Applied Design [TAD] program to design a house—one cannot do it without knowing the basic principles of design. The Government does not understand that. The Minister continued:

As I said before, Corrective Services teachers are very committed and are doing a very good job. They are certainly not the ones to blame for anything that has gone wrong. The model is to blame.

The Minister is throwing the baby out with the bathwater. He does not value educators, who are highly trained and highly skilled. That is why I am here to represent the views of the 14,005 people who have signed this petition.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Veterans Affairs) (16:36): I acknowledge the petition and understand there is a lot of emotion around this debate. But what we have just heard from the member for Fairfield is gold-plated hypocrisy. The member as the shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs spent an entire year neglecting veterans. He did not ask one question about veterans' welfare.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): Order! Members will come to order.

Ms Prue Car: People are wanting to hear your answer to this.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: If you stop interrupting, I will finish.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): Order! Opposition members will cease interjecting or they will be removed from the Chamber.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: I make that point because the member for Fairfield is using teachers to make a political point. He did not talk about Labor's record on privatisation or how for 16 years the Labor Party in New South Wales and in Canberra was only too happy to privatise and outsource. Labor's record is deplorable.

Mr Guy Zangari: Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 76. I ask that the Minister be drawn back to the leave of the petition.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): Order! I direct the Clerk to stop the clock. The Minister will return to the leave of the petition.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: My point is that the issue raised by the Labor Party does not come from an honourable place. I place on record that this reform is about the quality of work of teachers in our correctional centres. They do a great job. The problem is we have the wrong model. Labor governments in other States have acknowledged that the model we are using at the moment is wrong. A recent review found that the current education model in correctional centres was not sufficiently focused on literacy and numeracy. Let us not forget that this reform is about literacy and numeracy and the Government doubling the amount of prisoners who are doing literacy and numeracy courses. We have not heard one word from the Labor Party about an alternative policy. Those opposite know that Labor governments interstate are implementing this policy.

Reducing the rate of reoffending is crucial to integrating offenders safely back into the community and preventing them from returning to prison. We must reduce reoffending to improve community safety. That is the essence of this reform. Under the existing model education in prison is not flexible, it cannot adapt to the individual needs of inmates in custody. It is important that there is a capacity to deliver year-round services in the prison. This is not high school; it is adult education. Adults will implement the education policies. I will not be lectured by the Opposition. Teachers currently accrue 11 weeks holiday a year and that is not efficient use of the potential hours available.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): I warn Opposition members that if they do not cease interjecting I will remove them from the Chamber. There will not be any calls to order.

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT: Of the hours potentially available for teaching in 2015, only 62 per cent were used. There have been negotiations with the Teachers Federation to increase teaching weeks per annum through teachers staggering their leave. Regardless of the way leave is scheduled, the full teaching load cannot be delivered. The new prison education model will provide more opportunities to learn and develop employment skills. It will more than double the number of inmates completing literacy and numeracy courses to 1,840 per year. It will increase the number of inmates doing vocational education and training activities by 20 per cent. It will deliver savings of up to \$5 million per year to be redirected into programs that reduce reoffending. This is not a cost-saving measure.

This Government model is consistent with other Australian Labor States such as Queensland and Victoria. It is moving from an in-house provider model to an outsourced model. The Labor Party is aware of the model, but on this occasion it does not want to listen. Teaching staff will not be clerks, as has been suggested. They will have the necessary qualifications determined by the Standards for Registered Training Organisations, such as TAFE, and registered training organisations from which the unions receive funds. Corrective Services uses TAFE and other external providers to deliver other programs to inmates. I recently announced funding of \$273 million to reduce reoffending. With this funding, the reduction in inmate education over the past three years will be addressed.

Mr JIHAD DIB (Lakemba) (16:41): I acknowledge those in the gallery who have been insulted by the Minister. They have now heard firsthand from the Minister. The Government can afford the reform—it has just spent question time telling the House how much money it has made by selling off public assets. The Minister speaks about veterans affairs because he does not want to speak to the reality of this petition, which is about cutting education. The Government deflects and blames others. The Government must take responsibility for its actions. The Minister stated that education is not feasible. I will provide some context to the discussion. At the moment, prisons are at record occupancy levels. Cutting education services provided by professionals and people who are highly trained is a terrible idea.

Someone had the bright idea to cut 132 of the 152 staff. They need to have a look at themselves, because that will not work. The education allowance was reduced from \$89,000 for qualified teachers to less than half for providers to meet key performance indicators. This is not verification of what education is about. The Minister has stated it will reduce recidivism and increase literacy and numeracy skills. The Minister is on the wrong track. Recidivism will not be reduced by restricting access to education. The reason for incarceration is to provide consequences for actions and to rehabilitate and assist inmates to restart their lives once they have served their time. Education is key to a more productive life. Education is not something that should be skimmed on or cut in

an effort to save money. When qualified teachers are replaced by clerks or service providers it is another way to make education a tick-a-box exercise. Education is about much more than that.

Whilst I am not dismissing the value of private providers, members should not kid themselves for a moment that this is not simply about cost cutting and lowering the standards of education delivery. Will the Opposition allow this in our schools? Absolutely not. Imagine the outcry if the Opposition said that it wanted to dismiss the teachers and replace them with people who are less qualified. It is a terrible idea. Our policy is different. On whom is the Government inflicting this policy? The Government is inflicting it on the most vulnerable. Life is the sum of the people one has met. Those opposite should meet with some people whose lives have changed because of the teachers who are there.

[Interruption]

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): I call Government members and the Minister to order.

Mr JIHAD DIB: Has the member opposite met those people? I have met those who have made prisoners' lives a lot better. When those opposite cannot handle what they are hearing they start deflecting, interrupting and confusing because they do not want to accept the truth, which is that the Minister does not want to do this. He wants to cut money, and he makes up any excuse to deflect us to a different topic.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): I know that it is Thursday afternoon and everybody is a bit too excited and has had too many sugary drinks at lunch. Opposition members found it difficult to remain quiet during the last three minutes when a Labor member was speaking. I warn members that I will remove them from the Chamber if they continue to interject.

Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (16:45): It is great to be here; it is a bit like Groundhog Day. I acknowledge the teachers in the gallery and start by saying that the Government respects and values teachers. This is about the Corrective Services institutions that the Government runs. The Government is obliged to run prisons. Part of running prisons is reducing reoffending rates. That is at the centre of running a corrections system. We have a recidivism rate in New South Wales that is intransigent at around 42.5 per cent, and it has been fixed at that rate for the past 15 years. This is an attempt to create additional educational opportunities within the Corrective Services system.

People who are sentenced to a corrections institution for less than 12 months do not qualify for education programs, and that must be addressed. If it is not, then we are neglecting an important component of potential recidivism rates. The program that the Minister is introducing is focused primarily on reducing recidivism rates and reaching more prisoners who need education. A lot of programs that are delivered in prisons are just that—programs. We need real outcomes in terms of educational opportunity. When I was the chief of staff to the former Attorney General, I had the opportunity to visit every corrections institution in this State. One of the startling things I saw was the opportunity for education. But guess what?

Mr Jihad Dib: Well, do not sack teachers.

Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: We are not sacking teachers; we are introducing a different delivery system for educational programs. Every teacher employed in corrections institutions will be a qualified teacher. It is a different model. Those opposite should get their heads around the fact that this is not about reducing educational opportunities, it is about reducing recidivism. In having that focus in the running of jails, the Government sees the need to create opportunities for prisoners leaving jails and to reduce reoffending. That is what is required of this program and that is why the Government is embracing it.

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (16:48): By leave: I speak on behalf of The Greens, including the member for Balmain, Jamie Parker; the member for Ballina, Tamara Smith, who is our new spokesperson on education; and my colleague in the other place Mr David Shoebridge, who has been leading the campaign against this Government's plan to privatise many assets in this State. Today we are debating the privatisation of adult prison education services. One could come into the Chamber at 4.30 p.m. on any Thursday and find a petition signed by tens of thousands of people in New South Wales objecting to the agenda of the Baird Liberal Government to privatise assets. The community needs to run an anti-privatisation agenda as the Baird Government seeks to sell off and privatise anything and everything.

It is appalling that the Government is privatising adult prison education services in New South Wales. The plan of the Baird Government to privatise prison education services is a backward and damaging step, especially at a time when prisoner numbers are at record levels. Education is a proven way to reduce reoffending. We know that without education in the prison system rehabilitation is even more difficult. It is hard to understand what possible rationale this Government has for this plan other than to cut the quality and coverage of teaching in

correctional facilities to help beat the enormous cost it faces from the blowout in prison numbers. The Baird Government has put aside \$3.8 billion in additional funding to build new prisons, privatise prisons and employ new prison officers. At the same time, it is cutting costs in crucial education services. This is an attack on not only public education services but also prisoners, some of whom are already marginalised and disadvantaged citizens. I recognise that my colleague in the other place Mr David Shoebridge is working to secure an upper House inquiry into the provision of education for inmates in New South Wales correctional facilities.

I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of people who have campaigned hard on this issue. I acknowledge the Public Service Association, the Teachers Federation, Justice Action and the Community Justice Coalition for their work. Their campaigns out on the streets, in the community and in prisons are ensuring that this Government is held to account when it attempts to once again privatise a service. Once again the Government has failed to deliver for the people of New South Wales. The Government is interested only in profits and big corporate interests. It is interested only in its own agenda. It is not interested in disadvantaged people in our community. The Greens stand here in support of the 14,000 people who signed this petition and in disgust at the Baird Government's attempts to privatise our education system.

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (16:52): By leave: It is with great pleasure that I contribute to debate on this petition. As a member with a correctional centre in my electorate of Upper Hunter, St Heliers Correctional Centre in Muswellbrook, I have had contact with former prisoners who have come out of the system and done very well. In fact, I organised for one to visit the Minister for Corrections only a month ago. I have had discussions with teachers at St Heliers and I send one message: teachers will still be teaching. More prisoners will have the opportunity to access numeracy and literacy classes, which are the basics of an education. That will help people who are in the system and will stop recidivism. As the Minister has pointed out before, The Greens and Labor like to have a go at the so-called privatisation of everything. Let us not forget TAFE. If the Opposition is having a go at this change, then it is having a go at TAFE.

Ms Prue Car: Don't talk about who is having a go at TAFE. That is you.

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN: When will the member for Londonderry ask the Minister a question about TAFE?

Ms Prue Car: I have got the Minister on the ropes about TAFE and you know it.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): The member for Upper Hunter will address his comments through the Chair. The member for Londonderry will remove herself from the Chamber until the conclusion of the discussion on the petition.

[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Londonderry left the Chamber at 4.53 p.m.]

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN: Through you, Mr Temporary Speaker, I ask the member for Londonderry, as she leaves the Chamber, when she will ask the Minister a question about TAFE. TAFE is bidding for the contract, so if Opposition members are having a go at the system—

Mr Guy Zangari: This is about teachers.

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN: The member for Fairfield is right. This is about teachers and, like all education, about the students. It is about who is receiving the delivery. If it is a health matter, it is about the patients. If it is about education, it is about the students. Let us not forget that. If the Opposition is having a go at this system, the Opposition also is having a go at TAFE.

Mr Guy Zangari: No.

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN: Yes, Opposition members are.

Ms Yasmin Catley: No, we're not.

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN: I say that because TAFE is bidding for the contract. The teachers who are currently employed by the system will have the opportunity to work for TAFE and deliver that very same educational program.

Ms Tanya Mihailuk: No, they can't.

Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN: Yes, they will. Opposition members can shake their heads all they like, but those who are currently employed in the system will have that opportunity. I acknowledge the people in the gallery and respectfully ask them to remember that there is a bigger opportunity involved. Education is all about the students. In this case, it is about the inmates.

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (16:55): By leave: I also acknowledge the people in the gallery and thank them for the amazing job they do for some very complex people in our society. As mentioned by members on both sides of the House, this discussion is about people who are receiving education, and we should not lose sight of that. But what is happening in this situation is that the Government is considering changing the qualifications of the people who are delivering the courses. I spent 23 years in education. One of the most important things about delivering education is that when dealing with complex people individual courses have to be delivered that are designed specifically for those individuals.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Bruce Notley-Smith): Does the Minister for Corrections wish to join the member for Londonderry?

Mr DAVID HARRIS: The problem with the proposal we are discussing is that if the required qualification is a certificate IV, it can be acquired in a very short time. Most people in the public gallery would have a bachelor or master's degree in education and they are the type of people we need to teach literacy and numeracy to those complex individuals. The Government stated that through its new initiative it will be able to deliver courses to more people, but I suggest that the Government should keep the current teachers and add more people. If the Government wants to start a program that addresses people who are in prison for less than 12 months, then the Government should make that change. The Government should change the rules but it should not get rid of people who are highly qualified and who are experienced in dealing with complex individuals. Many of them have decades of experience in dealing with people with complex needs and they are very committed to their role.

The very same thing is happening in TAFE. It is a race to the bottom instead of the aim being to increase quality. I ask the Government to acknowledge the work that is being done by qualified people who are currently employed in the system and, if improvement is desired, add more people of their ilk to the system. I urge the Government not to get rid of experienced people who are already in the system. A point made by the member for Cessnock, who also has a jail in his electorate, is that prison officers are sometimes not available to escort prisoners to education courses, and that is part of the problem. That problem is not being addressed by the Government. If a prison officer is off work because of illness, individuals will not be able to attend their courses. The Government should address that problem as well.

Mr David Elliott: That is not true.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: Minister, the people in the gallery are nodding their heads and I trust them because they work in the prisons every day. I will believe them every time. I urge the Government not to come up with simple solutions. I urge the Government to make things better, not worse.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (16:58): By leave: I contribute to this discussion to bring some balance to it. The Tamworth electorate has a jail that has up to 500 movements a month associated with remand. Prisoners will be brought to the jail, they will be assessed in relation to their offence, and then they will be distributed to Muswellbrook or to St Heliers or to Grafton. I ask members to think about a prison handling 500 movements a month, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Some of the programs delivered at the Tamworth correctional facility relate to vocational education and training and the trades. Programs delivered by corrective services industries get people on the right side of the track, reduce recidivism and give inmates confidence when returning to their communities in the knowledge that they are able to contribute to society by applying the skills they acquired in welding, carpentry, painting or other trades. Some of these programs directly benefit inmates. It is a complete furphy for Opposition members to say that the teachers involved in delivering these vocational education and training programs will be sacked.

Educators in the corrective services industry will be given an opportunity to partner with Corrective Services to deliver the education programs that are being delivered now. Only two of the Opposition members who are grandstanding and chest beating have been through a jail. They should talk to Corrective Services officers who deal with prisoners every day of the week who will tell them that prisoners need vocational education and training. Our teachers do a great job but they will be assisted through programs such as this. Last Friday the Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Emergency Services was in Tamworth to talk about these new programs. [*Time expired.*]

Community Recognition Statements

ROGER CAMPBELL AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY AWARD RECIPIENT

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (17:01): Hornsby is filled with everyday heroes. We are honoured to have Berowra Heights local Roger Campbell, who was awarded the Australian Bravery Award on Valentine's Day in 2007. Mr Campbell was one of seven skiers who explored Mount Maedake in the Hakkoda Mountains of northern Japan, which is well known for being extremely treacherous, remote and unfamiliar. On the first day,

conditions rapidly deteriorated, with winds of 120 kilometres an hour and temperatures of minus 20 degrees. An avalanche savagely buried half of another group. Mr Campbell described the scene and said that he had to extricate partially buried bodies and smashed helmets, attend to people with broken noses, and make the injured comfortable. Mr Campbell is trained in building ice shelters and in cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR] and has more than 20 years experience on the Perisher slopes as a ski patroller.

Mr Campbell and his group helped 24 victims, all whilst under threat of another avalanche. As one person could not be accounted for, Mr Campbell and his group spent another 90 minutes searching for that person, who thankfully was found alive. Unfortunately, Akihiro Kondo and Tomoyuki Kosuga, two of the individuals buried in the avalanche, passed away. In 2007 the Japanese Government honoured the group comprising Mr Campbell, David Gerard Brown, the late Jonathan Keith Disher, Glenn Philip McSwiney, Mark Hounsell Spilsbury and David Ross Stewart-Thompson by awarding them with the Medal of the Red Ribbon. This medal honours individuals who risk their own lives to save others. I thank Mr Campbell and his group for all that they did to save the lives of those stranded on Mount Maedake that day, and I commend him for his tremendous bravery and courage.

FIJI DAY

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (17:02): On Sunday 9 October I attended Fiji Day, hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Australia at the Baitul Huda Mosque in Marsden Park. Fiji Day is an opportunity to pay tribute to the pioneer members of the Fijian community who have settled in Australia, and to celebrate the richness of our cultural diversity in Western Sydney, which is home to thousands of Fijian Australians. This year's Fiji Day is especially significant for the Fijian community as it represents the forty-sixth anniversary of Fijian independence. I make particular mention of the wonderful Fijian communities in my electorate, in particular, in the suburbs around Mount Druitt. I also pay tribute to His Excellency Yogesh Punja, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji; Michelle Rowland, the Federal member for Greenway; my State colleague the member for Prospect; and the Mayor of Blacktown Council, Councillor Stephen Bali, for their contributions on the day. A big thank you to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association. Bula.

PALMERS ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

Mr CHRISTOPHER GULAPTIS (Clarence) (17:03): I congratulate Palmers Island Public School which recently celebrated 150 years of schooling. Palmers Island is a small rural village, which made this event even more important. It was wonderful to join past and present students to enjoy this amazing event. Hundreds of people attended, which is testament to the important role the school played in their lives. The school is still the hub of the community, as it was when it was established. Up to six generations of families have been educated at the school which has seen many changes, including a change of site. I wish the school a long and prosperous future.

PACIFIC YOUTH FORUM

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (17:04): This month Sydney proudly hosted the Pacific Youth Forum, which is focused on advancing the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender diverse and intersex communities in the South Pacific. The forum, organised by Kaleidoscope Australia, was held at the Sydney Opera House and was addressed by former High Court Justice Michael Kirby, United States of America Consul General Valerie Fowler, and Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI persons Mr Randy Berry. The forum was an opportunity to share success stories, to learn from experiences across the Pacific and to chart the way forward towards equality. I was proud to host the afterparty here in the New South Wales Parliament, which included cultural performances from delegates. I note also that this event comes as the United Nations Human Rights Council called for the decriminalisation of homosexuality in a recent report. It is the work of activists like those I met last week that makes real change possible for human rights for LGBTI people across our State.

KIAMA RELAY FOR LIFE

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (17:05): This Saturday 22 October at the Kiama Leisure Centre I will be participating in the annual Kiama Relay for Life, an event that I have supported every year since becoming the local member in 2011. I am looking forward to another successful event. I congratulate Marie Dalton, chair of the Kiama Relay for Life Committee, which so far has raised \$26,303 for the NSW Cancer Council and has 32 teams and 181 participants registered for the event on Saturday—a very important event that raises funds for cancer research. We have a number of relays in our region, including the annual Shellharbour Relay for Life at Albion Park Showground and the Shoalhaven Relay for Life at Nowra Showground. All events are very well attended. I make the observation that my mother recently has recovered from her third bout of breast cancer. I will be walking for her, as well as for my uncle and grandfather whom we lost to cancer. I am sure many members have

had similar experiences. I commend the Relay for Life volunteers for their hard work, and I hope we raise many thousands of dollars this Saturday.

WANGI WANGI CENTENARY

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (17:06): I pay tribute to the wonderful people of Wangi Wangi on the shores of Lake Macquarie who will come together and celebrate the centenary of their town this weekend. Born as a picturesque lakeside holiday town, Wangi has a history that is almost as colourful as some of the characters who have lived there over the years. It was home to one of Australia's most celebrated artists in Sir William Dobell, whose house and gallery remain in place, cared for by a dedicated team of locals. It has also earned its place on the world sporting stage.

When you grow up in Wangi you learn to sail, and none did it better than Nathan Outteridge and Iain Jensen, who won sailing gold medals in London and silver medals in Rio de Janeiro for Australia. A town with identities such as journalist and author Scott Bevan, entertainer Francine Bell and former Leyland brother Mike Leyland calling it or having called it home, Wangi remains an easygoing, egalitarian community. Wangi's working-class roots are still reflected in the brick walls of the old Wangi power station, the biggest brick building in the country and the first power station ever built on a coalfield. It is a very proud community in a very beautiful town, and I am very proud to represent it. Happy birthday, Wangi Wangi.

TRIBUTE TO LORETTA TURNBULL

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (17:07): Today I acknowledge Loretta Turnbull of Alford's Point who has served our community at Caringbah for three decades as a child and family health nurse. Loretta started her nursing career in the United Kingdom in 1973 before moving to Australia in 1981. She began work for South Eastern Health in 1990 and has supported Sutherland shire families ever since. Loretta has provided families with essential support such as group discussions, helping terrified parents with their newborn babies and educating women about postnatal depression. The South Eastern Health Service at Caringbah Community Health Centre has been incredibly fortunate to have Loretta over the years, and she will be missed dearly by all the families and her colleagues. It can be terrifying as a new parent to have to look after a newborn baby, so to have dedicated nurses like Loretta providing advice and comfort is a blessing to all the families who have crossed paths with her over the years. I thank Loretta for her years of dedicated service to our community and extend my best wishes for the future.

THE BAULKHAM HILLS AFRICAN LADIES TROUPE DOCUMENTARY

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (17:08): I recently attended a charity screening of the documentary *The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe* to raise funds for STARTS, the Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors. The documentary tells the confronting story of four African women and their experiences with sexual abuse and assault before migrating to Australia, including being abducted by militias. They came together to make a groundbreaking theatre production that opened at the Parramatta Riverside Theatres, directed by Ros Horin. STARTS do an amazing job supporting refugees and asylum seekers who have experienced torture and trauma, and it was through contact with my good friend the inspirational Rosemary Kariuki Fyfe that the theatre project and now the documentary film came to be made. Rosemary is also the driving force behind the annual African women's dinner dance, now in its eleventh year. The stories of Yarrie, Aminata, Yordanos and Rosemary illustrate how important services like STARTS are, and I commend everyone involved in bringing it together. I encourage everyone to see this thoroughly engaging and thought-provoking film.

TWEED ENDEAVOUR CRUISES

Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (17:09): I acknowledge and congratulate Tweed Endeavour Cruises on being shortlisted for a prestigious NSW Tourism Award. Tweed Endeavour Cruises has been named as one of three finalists in the tours and transport operator category of the awards to be announced in Sydney next week. This second generation, family-owned and operated business has been operating on the Tweed River for 20 years in the great old lady the *Golden Swan* and hosts more than 50,000 mostly international guests every year. Tweed Endeavour Cruises also helps the local community and often donates lunchtime cruises to many charities and not-for-profit organisations. It is truly a proper corporate citizen within the Tweed. The tours provide guests with a brief history of the region and the vital role the Tweed River plays in the community. I thoroughly recommend Tweed Endeavour Cruises.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN MAY MCKENDRICK

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (17:10): I pay tribute to life member of Birrong Sports Football Club Jean May McKendrick, who sadly passed away on 6 October 2016 aged 90. Jean was truly the heart and

soul of Birrong Sports Football Club, with her smiling face and joyful personality ever-present at Jim Ring Reserve. Birrong is one of the biggest junior football clubs in Bankstown. That would not have been possible without the decades of service that volunteers such as Jean have provided to the club. Recently I had the opportunity to join with Birrong Sports Football Club senior players at a presentation to honour Jean's service to the club. She will be sorely missed by the many club members as well as by her husband, John, her daughter, Raelene, her sons, Martin and Bruce, and her seven grandchildren, all of whom have a continuing involvement with Birrong Sports Football Club. Her contribution to the club and the sport of football will be missed but her legacy will live on. Vale Jean May McKendrick.

ST IVES PISTOL CLUB AND PENINSULAR FIREARM ACADEMY

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (17:11): Safer, upgraded shooting facilities will soon be developed at the St Ives Pistol Club and nearby Peninsular Firearm Academy. The New South Wales Government has allocated \$1.3 million for the St Ives Pistol Club and \$3.2 million for the Peninsular Firearm Academy to provide facilities that meet important safety requirements identified by the NSW Firearms Registry for thousands of local and licensed shooters. The St Ives Pistol Club will use its grant to further upgrade existing facilities and build an additional high-quality pistol range adjacent to the existing site that the club has been using for 52 years. The Peninsular Firearm Academy will construct a 100-metre rifle range. This is a significant step forward for the academy, which has a membership that has grown from 10 to 650 in its 19-year history. Both projects aim to ensure safe and enjoyable pistol and rifle shooting into the future.

BAY CITY CHURCH, ROCKDALE

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (17:12): I recognise the fantastic work of pastors Andrew and Mary-Ann Harper and the Bay City Church in my community of Rockdale. Through Bay City Care they provide a range of services across the Rockdale community, including domestic violence crisis support, youth domestic violence programs and emergency relief, as well as their Food Care Program. I am particularly supportive of the Bay City programs in our local schools which teach young men and women to identify domestic violence from a young age. Students learn that these situations are never acceptable and that there are support services available to escape from domestic violence. In addition, the Bay City Food Care Program is now running from 10 locations across New South Wales—from Byron Bay to Yass—delivering thousands of meals and a friendly ear to people doing it tough all over our State. The Bay City Church is embedded in our local community and takes its responsibility to give back very seriously. I commend the church for that today.

GREEN POINT CHRISTIAN COLLEGE CHEESEMAKING AWARD

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:13): Green Point Christian College year 10 students have been involved in an innovative Dairy Australia program called Cows Create Careers Camembert in the Classroom, which involves the making of camembert cheese. A number of schools across the Sydney region participated in the program and it is with delight that I inform Parliament that the Green Point team won first prize. Their teacher Ms Virginia Lumby said that the students did a fantastic job in following the instructions to produce a gold medal quality cheese. The program is designed to encourage secondary school teachers and students to learn about the Australian dairy industry while introducing students to dairy manufacturing careers and pathways. During the term the students make their own camembert cheese in the classroom and complete assessments that include creating multimedia advertisements that cover the spectrum of producing and marketing the product. This will bode well for them when entering the public arena in product management. The school received \$300 prize money for first place. I congratulate the students.

LAKE MACQUARIE LANDCARE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (17:14): I congratulate Lake Macquarie Landcare for taking out top prize at the 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards and being named the best Landcare partnership in Australia. Lake Macquarie Landcare was recognised for the successful partnership between local Landcare volunteers and Lake Macquarie City Council. The local environmental group was up against eight other nominees from across the country. Lake Macquarie Landcare represents a thriving partnership between hundreds of local Landcare volunteers and Lake Macquarie City Council. The organisation has grown to become the largest Landcare network in New South Wales, with almost 300 volunteer groups involved in protecting and enhancing our lake, waterways, bushland, parks, foreshores and reserves. This award shows that partnerships between councils and Landcare groups are the way of the future and that local government is best placed to give tailored support to Landcare groups. I commend the Lake Macquarie Landcare volunteers and staff on receiving this much-deserved award.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE TO QUEENSLAND

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (17:15): I acknowledge the recent community spirit of several Wollondilly and Macarthur-based truck drivers who delivered 270 hay bales donated by local Wollondilly farmers and Sydney Water to their drought-stricken counterparts in Queensland. I also thank Sydney Water, which played a part in supplying recycled water to irrigate oak, sorghum and millet crops, among others. Recognising the precarious situation that a lot of Queensland farmers are in, the generosity of the Wollondilly and Southern Highlands community will ensure a much-needed break for the farmers doing it tough in Queensland. Their generosity highlights the sense of community in rural communities across borders, and I thank them for their concern in support of our agricultural industry. I would also like to acknowledge Joel and Ray Lidgard, Beau Moran, Kevin Henderson, Graeme O'Donnell, Heath Wills and Dave Hayter. I am also grateful to Sydney Water for its support in this. I was very excited to see off the truck drivers and to thank Sydney Water for its work.

BLUE MOUNTAINS BUSINESS AWARDS

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (17:16): The Blue Mountains Business Awards were held at the Fairmont Resort on 14 October and showcased the breadth of talent and excellence in the Blue Mountains business community across a wide range of industries. The outright winner of the Harry Hammon Blue Mountains Business of the Year Award was Mountain Heritage Hotel and Spa Retreat and its Chief Executive Officer, Eric Sward. Mountain Heritage also took out the Blue Mountains Accommodation Award. Many of the local winners on the night will go on to the State business awards and compete against businesses across New South Wales. They include Lyn and Allen Smith of Woodford Homes, Andrea Turner-Boys from Women with Altitude and Kylie McInerney from Blue Mountains Youth Hostel Association, along with the Blue Mountains Regional Business Chamber. I thank all the sponsors and congratulate all of the winners and nominees in this year's awards. I thank president of the Blue Mountains Regional Business Chamber Peita Davies, executive officer Julie Bargaenquast, and Heather Shepherd for her events management, for all their efforts in putting on yet another great night.

CHERRYBROOK COMMUNITY

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (17:17): Today I want to acknowledge the efforts of a very special community in my electorate. When I opened the newspaper and read that the Cherrybrook community rallied together to win \$10,000 for a neighbour's cancer treatment I could not be any prouder. Tracey Blundy of Cherrybrook entered a competition on the *Sunrise* show with the sole thought of winning the \$10,000 cash prize for her friend, neighbour and mother of three Tracey Trumper. Ms Trumper is a breast cancer survivor but has been diagnosed with the rare ROS1 cancer in January. ROS1 lung cancer affects non-smokers around the age of 50.

Rallying together all of her neighbours, Ms Blundy turned on the television to find out she had won the competition to help fund Ms Trumper's treatment. But the community did not stop there. John Purchase Public School held a Mother's Day breakfast and a pop-up raffle at Cherrybrook Village, which raised almost \$3,000, and through a Sick or Treat campaign the community has raised over \$50,000 to help Ms Trumper beat cancer. Ms Blundy describes how special their community is, one where people jump the fence to bring in their neighbour's washing if it is going rain. To see the Cherrybrook community come together to support and care for Ms Trumper warms my heart. Cancer is an issue close to my heart and I have spoken about it many times in Parliament. With friends like the Cherrybrook community, I am hopeful that we will find a cure for cancer that little bit sooner.

VALHALLA VILLAGE AWARD

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (17:18): The Swansea electorate has for some time boasted the largest number of home park residents in New South Wales, but now we can also lay claim to having the best home park in New South Wales. Gateway Lifestyle Valhalla Village in Chain Valley Bay was recently awarded the 2016 Best Land Lease Community in New South Wales by the Caravan Camping and Industry Association. I was delighted when Gordon Polley, the president of the residents committee, emailed me this news, and I agree with Gordon that this win belongs to all the residents of Valhalla. The many volunteers from the social club, craft and quilting groups and sporting clubs, the bus drivers and other recreation groups all work hard to make sure that Valhalla Village is a great place to live. The award was based on a number of considerations, including the presentation of the village, contribution to community and the relationship of the residents with management. I congratulate everyone at Valhalla, including John and Colleen Grace, the community managers.

ILLAWARRA SAUSAGE KING

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (17:19): I congratulate Thirroul butcher Peter Deiura on recently becoming the Illawarra's undisputed sausage king. Mr Deiura, who with his wife, Marian, owns Purebred Meats,

has taken the crown as our region's top snag man. His handmade, free-range produce took out first prize for this region at the Sausage King competition in several categories: pork, lamb, continental and gourmet. There was also a smattering of silver and bronze prizes. I also congratulate apprentice Josh McEwan, who makes many of the award-winning sausages at Purebred Meats in Thirroul. Congratulations to them and their hardworking staff on this great achievement.

TRIBUTE TO BILL FRASER

Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (17:19): It is with sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Bill Fraser, who will be known to many Paddington residents and visitors. Bill was a longtime member of the Paddington Society, committed to preserving the beauty, open spaces, liveability and architectural and historical value of Paddington. As a local historian, Bill was known for his passionate historic tours of Paddington. He often surprised people with his knowledge of little-known items of interest and hidden history that characterise the suburb. Bill will be missed by the Paddington community and I offer my condolences to his family and the community.

WANDA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (17:20): Today I acknowledge that Wanda Surf Life Saving Club is celebrating its seventieth anniversary and recently welcomed its new executive staff. Wanda was established in 1946 by a group of returned servicemen after World War II. The distinctive club colours that were adopted from the Army, Air Force and Navy are a constant reminder of the club's origin. Since this time, the Wanda club has grown to its current membership of more than 1,000 men and women, ranging from the five-year-old nippers to the original founding members. Many people have seen and helped this club grow over the past 70 years. I thank all of them for their service, as well as welcome the new executive staff for the 2016-17 season: president Mark Sargeant, deputy president Nathan Spinner, club captain Ken Smith, administration director John De Cean, finance director Anne Caterson, and JAG chairperson Tracey Green. I take this opportunity to thank the surf lifesavers for their commitment to keeping our community safe. I wish the team at Wanda all the best for the 2016-17 season.

MANDAEAN ARTS EXHIBITION

Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (17:21): Today I recognise the second annual Mandaean Arts Exhibition held on Saturday 15 October at Liverpool in what was the old fire station. The station has now been refurbished and is owned and operated by the Mandaean community. The items on display at the exhibition covered a wide range, including paintings, photographs and other items. Most particularly, there were some very impressive displays of intricate silver and gold work. That is certainly not surprising, granted the centuries-old tradition of Mandaeans being goldsmiths and silversmiths. That tradition continues today in Liverpool not just in art exhibitions but also in the jewellers shops in the central business district. The Mandaean community has had a troubled history in recent years, granted the very serious persecution to which they have been subjected in what was Iraq. They make, as do many migrant communities, a very positive contribution to multicultural Liverpool. It is always a pleasure to attend their events. I acknowledge Yassmen Yahya, who sent me the invitation to the event.

TERRIGAL FAIR BY THE SEA

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:22): I congratulate the Nebauer family and volunteers on another successful "Fair By The Sea" at Terrigal last week. Their 40 years of dedication in organising the "Terrigal Fair by the Sea" and their fundraising efforts tell an extraordinary tale. The fair began in 1976 and was organised by Frank and Hazel McGrath to raise funds for the newly built Our Lady Star of the Sea primary school in Terrigal. The fete had humble beginnings, with a few tables selling lamingtons and books under a tree in front of the church. Mrs Kathie Nebauer's young brothers attended the new school and as a young teenager she worked on her first stall. There has been a lamington cake stall every year for the past 40 years. Her father, Mike Hall, was the committee's chair for many years and when the fair outgrew its original location he relocated to the Haven Oval, where it continues to be one of the most popular events of the year on the Central Coast.

LABOR LOVES LIVE MUSIC CAMPAIGN

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (17:23): Today I recognise a group within my electorate supporting the Labor Loves Live Music campaign. It is all about understanding that when we support live music we bring people together, we give a platform to young and emerging artists, we foster positive and safe environments for people to enjoy themselves and have a good night out, and we build Sydney's reputation as one of the world's great creative cities. I recently joined Labor Loves Live Music to march with the 4,000-strong crowd through the streets of Sydney in support of our nightlife. We made the point that live music attracts more than 42 million attendances at major ticketed events, pubs, bars, clubs and cafes across Australia; that live music generates more

than \$1.2 billion in spending nationwide, much of it in Sydney; and that live music makes Sydney a fun and better place to live. I congratulate Keep Sydney Open and the musicians and community members who took part.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA AND FIONA LANZ

Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (17:23): I acknowledge the efforts of a local mother and daughter team in their bid to raise money for Variety, the Children's Charity. Sandra Lanz teamed up with her 18-year-old daughter, Fiona, to run the Sydney Santa Fun Run on Sunday 6 December last year. The pair from Picton took part in the fun run, which started at First Fleet Park and followed the harbour's foreshore. This was the second fun run that the pair took part in, with Sandra and Fiona first running the fun run in 2014. They hope to make the run an annual occasion. It is common for participants to dress up in Santa suits over the five-kilometre course to raise money for Variety. I wish the awesome mother and daughter team all the best as they continue to take part in fun runs, and I encourage the electorate of Wollondilly to continue to support them.

HONG KONG PRO-DEMOCRACY LUNCH

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (17:24): On Saturday I attended a lunch for pro-democracy campaigners Anson Chan and Martin Lee from Hong Kong who are visiting Australia. The lunch was hosted by a former member of the other place, Helen Sham-Ho, and was sponsored by Laurie Ferguson, the former member for Werriwa, and the Federal member for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman. It was important to have a bipartisan show of support for the pro-democracy campaigners from Hong Kong given the repression that has been increasing in recent years, which is particularly targeted at academics and book publishers. More than 500 people attended the lunch, and the speeches, particularly the contribution by Anson Chan, were inspirational. It was a great representation of the pro-democracy movement. I commend the organisers of that fantastic event.

DANCER JUSTIN HITCHCOCK

Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (17:25): I congratulate Justin Hitchcock, a brilliant young dancer from Illawong, who is heading to Paris for a 12-month contract with the Moulin Rouge. Justin has had an incredible start to his career, performing internationally and on various television shows. Joining the cast of the world's most famous cabaret show is undoubtedly a career highlight. Justin has spent many hours, days and years training in his craft, starting at age nine at Planetdance Menai. All his hard work and training have paid off with him being named as one of only 20 new dancers at the Moulin Rouge. His skill and flair caught the attention of the directors and choreographers who tour the world to scout for dancers, putting him ahead of more than 500 people who audition each year. He will be performing in a show called *Feerie*, which will give him a chance to dance on stage 14 times a week. What an incredible experience for any dancer and one he will remember for the rest of his life. I congratulate Justin on this outstanding achievement and I wish him all the best for this exciting new chapter in his life.

Private Members' Statements

TRIBUTE TO DEIRDRE BURROWS

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (17:26): I draw the attention of the House to issues in the New South Wales health system by highlighting the traumatic experiences of the family of Mrs Deirdre Burrows, who tragically lost her life whilst receiving treatment at the Royal North Shore Hospital at St Leonards. On 18 April this year, Mrs Burrows was taken by ambulance to the emergency department of the Royal North Shore Hospital. According to the hospital, Mrs Burrows had been experiencing weight loss, weakness and low mood. Her daughter, Suzanne, a resident of my electorate, claimed that her mother told her that she had suffered a stroke. Over five days, Mrs Burrows' health deteriorated and, sadly, on 23 April 2016 she passed away in hospital at approximately 1.40 p.m. The grief of losing a loved one, particularly one's mother, is beyond words.

The death of Deirdre is tragedy enough for the Burrows' family. However, what was to follow adds only a feeling of contempt and questions of competence of the hospital staff who were charged with looking after Mrs Burrows. Shortly after her mother's death, Suzanne, who was about to pay her final respects, was shocked when her mother's body was revealed from a bag labelled with another deceased person's name. When a mistake of such magnitude happens, we would expect that a public agency, such as the Royal North Shore Hospital, would undertake a thorough and immediate investigation to determine the cause of the mishap and, importantly, to ensure that such mistakes never happen again.

Further, I would expect that the hospital would have kept an open dialogue with the deceased's family when examining their complaints. Instead, the experience and treatment of Mrs Burrows' family only added to the indignity of the circumstances following their mother's death. The hospital failed to respond to Suzanne Burrows' complaints within the 35-day time frame set by the hospital's own protocols. When she finally received a response, more than 60 days after making her complaint, the letter from the hospital was, according to Suzanne, full of

inconsistencies. Suzanne said that the only accuracy in the hospital's response was the date of her mother's death. She claims the hospital's response to her complaint identified the wrong cause of death—weakness and low mood due to weight loss. In short, the response and the handling of the situation by staff at the Royal North Shore Hospital raises serious questions as to the care provided to Mrs Burrows, both before and after her death.

During an estimates hearing on 31 August this year it was revealed, through questioning of the Minister for Health, the Hon. Jillian Skinner, and senior NSW Health staff, that such mistakes are not uncommon. The plight of the Burrows family is one of many such instances that call into question the running of the NSW Health system. Apart from the Burrows family, it was revealed during budget estimates that the bodies of deceased babies were swapped and that the remains of one of the infants were wrongly cremated. Given the manner in which the Royal North Shore Hospital handled the Burrows family's initial complaint and given the response provided by the hospital, serious questions have been raised by the Burrows family as to whether the hospital had made a mistake in either the diagnosis of Mrs Burrows' ailments or had a part to play in her death.

I have written to the NSW Coroner requesting an investigation of the manner and cause of death because of the issues raised by the family and whether the procedures at Royal North Shore Hospital or the actions of its staff were a factor in Mrs Burrows' death. It is important that those issues are identified and addressed urgently. No other resident, or their family members, should suffer the indignity that shadowed the final days of the life of Mrs Burrows.

ST GREGORY'S COLLEGE CELEBRITY SPORTS DINNER

Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (17:30): I inform the House of the recently held 2016 St Gregory's College Celebrity Sports Dinner. The college is affectionately known as St Greg's, with the school being renowned for its sporting prowess and sometimes dubbed "a nursery for rugby league players". Former rugby league players such as Trent Barrett, Jason Taylor, Jack Gibson, Chris Lawrence and Tim Sheens, to name a few, all attended this wonderful school and all went on to be high achievers in their fields. The academic excellence of the school is also outstanding; it is a very well-rounded school that offers so much to our community.

St Greg's was established in February 1926 and was the result of a vision by Mr Thomas Donovan, who donated the land to the Marist Brothers. At the young age of 27, Brother Laurentius took on the position as the first principal until 1933. Since then, the school has grown and prospered to be held in the esteem it deserves as one of the best schools in New South Wales and one that I am extremely proud to have in my electorate. The new housing development Gregory Hills has been established on former Marist Brothers land and is quickly becoming a quality residential development under the management of Dart West.

St Greg's offers a range of curriculum including academia and sport. Life skills are not only about what is taught in the classroom but also about our experiences outside the classroom, and sport is one of those vehicles that teaches us patience, humility, character building and team work and to accept defeat or to win with pride, no matter the outcome. We all take these skills and experiences with us throughout our lives, regardless of our journey. Rugby union, cricket, soccer, tennis, swimming, athletics and basketball are among the variety of sports offered to the students. Teachers, parents and coaching staff are to be commended for their commitment to the students achieving their sporting dreams.

This year's guest speaker at the dinner was Garth Tander, who drives for the Holden Racing Team. Garth won the famous Bathurst 1000 in 2000, 2009 and 2011, but, unfortunately, he did not complete this year's race due to a crash with only 10 laps to go. He was very candid in relaying his thoughts about that on the evening. The dinner was hosted by Sarah Ryan, former Olympic swimming champion and a wonderful Camden resident, and former St Greg's boy and outstanding footballer Jimmy Smith. It was great to see how many people in our community supported the event and who support the school, with more than 700 people in attendance and more than 50 celebrity guests. Of course, no event can be held without a hardworking committee. I thank Bruce Hanrahan, Paul Wakeling, Annette O'Neil, Steve Carter, Greg Field, Jack Hughes, Mary Stepien, Zoran Dzevian, Catherine Jeffcoats and Angela Macbeth.

The annual dinner is held to raise funds to assist the students in their field of sport. The college band entertained the guests with their musical talent and did a wonderful job. Principal Damien Millar and his dedicated staff are to be commended for their continued support of all students in whatever they wish for their future. Principal Millar is an outstanding headmaster and is a credit to the profession. He has taken St Greg's to the wonderful level it is at today. I commend Mr Millar and his hardworking staff. St Greg's college is one of the premier schools in the Macarthur region. Its students come to the school to start their secondary education as boys and they leave as well-rounded men.

I am sure the Marist Brothers, who are still very much involved in the school, are very proud of what has been achieved since the school was established more than 90 years ago. I congratulate St Gregory's College and

the students on all their achievements. I am sure the college will continue to be held in high regard in all aspects of education. On a personal note, in 1984 when I first moved to Camden midway through the school year in year 7 I came from a Catholic school, St Joseph's College. I tried to get into St Gregory's College but it did not accept me. I do not think I was a good enough footballer. I still have love for the school. I am very supportive of the school and I am proud that it is in my electorate.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (17:35): According to the World Health Organization:

Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.

As a parent of two wonderful young men, this definition encapsulates the desires and aspirations of many parents such as me. We all want to see our children grow into healthy, strong and resilient people who make a contribution to their families and the community. However, at any point in time, one in three Australians will be experiencing a mental health disorder. This is the paradox of mental illness. Whilst mental illness is incredibly common and very few families or neighbourhoods are free of it, discrimination and stigma remain significant barriers for many people and have an impact on their quality of life, options and opportunities. During Mental Health Month we are reminded of the effects of mental illness in our community and the social stigma and disadvantage that so frequently accompany it. It provides a focus for community and individual action to address the stigma and to create opportunities for social inclusion and full participation by people of all abilities, including people with lived experience of mental illness.

During October every year we celebrate Mental Health Month. I acknowledge the role of WayAhead Mental Health Association NSW, which for the past 80 years has run community campaigns to raise awareness of mental health. The aim of Mental Health Month is to raise awareness of mental illness and mental health, to connect people with support services, to increase participation for people with lived experience, and to break down the stigma associated with mental illness. I acknowledge the Blue Mountains services that have led the way in my electorate: the Mountains Community Resource Network [MCRN]; Blue Mountains City Council; the hospital and community mental health teams; Katoomba, Springwood, Blackheath, Mid and Lower Mountains and Winmalee neighbourhood centres; and the Blue Mountains Women's Health and Resource Centre.

A vital part of the annual Blue Mountains mental health calendar is the Blue Fringe arts and literature awards. Blue Fringe originated from the Adrienne Brown trust. I commend the work of Jan and Geoff Brown who, through their grief, organised the Adrienne Brown trust for their daughter. They were joined by local mental health workers Patrick Moylan and Lois Denham. Later the Adrienne Brown trust was reshaped into the Blue Fringe festival. Local teacher and artist Sean Lonergan came up with the name. The original Blue Fringe committee included Evelyn Henry, Mary Waterford, Michael Farrell-Whelan, John Ellison and Maurice Brady. This Saturday I will be attending the Blue Fringe Arts Festival at Wentworth Falls TAFE. I congratulate the Blue Fringe committee for what I am sure will be another sensational exhibition. In particular, I extend my thanks to Megan Butler from the Personal Helpers and Mentors Service [PhaMS] Aftercare and Bren Sherring from the Vale Street Centre.

Sadly, far too many young people are struggling with depression, anxiety and other disorders which impact on their ability to engage fully with education and employment opportunities. In spite of the efforts of health professionals, the mental health system, teachers, counsellors, and non-government and community organisations, many young people feel isolated by their illness and unsure of how to access help. In the Blue Mountains we are fortunate to have an effective network of caring services across the spectrum, from prevention and early intervention to acute care. These are services that work together and reach out to people with lived experience and their friends and family. I pay my respect to the nurses, doctors, social workers and support staff working in our mental health units at Blue Mountains and Nepean hospitals—it is a tough job—as well as those working in the community mental health teams across the mountains.

I have heard from patients, carers and staff of the difficulties in providing comprehensive care while mental health services are understaffed and under-resourced. We must invest more resources into these services to ensure that people can get access to what they need. Other countries seem to have learnt the value of investing in community-based services. In Australia we lag behind and must do more. I note also the work of our wonderful general practitioners and counsellors working in the community, ensuring that people can access help early, not just at the time of a crisis. Our schools play an important role in promoting mental health and acting as one of the main identifiers of early onset mental illness. School counsellors are spread too thin on the ground and operate under great stress to identify and support young people at risk. I note the work of our school principals, the parents and citizen associations, and our school counsellors. In particular, I note the work of head counsellor Rose Glasscock and her team.

Mental health is more than just a health issue. It is impacted by a variety of social indicators, including socioeconomic status, housing and homelessness, domestic violence, educational attainment and access to employment. The mental health of our community is dependent on a wide range of health and social support services that work together to provide a comprehensive response and to prevent people from falling through the cracks. I urge the Government to value and strengthen the Blue Mountains service system, which is fantastic, and continue to build on this solid foundation.

TERRIGAL BOAT RAMP

TERRIGAL MARINE RESCUE

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:40): I am proud to say that Premier Mike Baird joined me recently at the opening of the Terrigal boat ramp, following a contribution of just over \$1 million from council and State Government for its makeover. The Parliament Secretary, Roads and Maritime Services Director Maritime, Angus Mitchell, and Central Coast Council administrator Ian Reynolds accompanied the Premier and me to this popular recreational facility, which has provided an access for boat and aquatic enthusiasts for years. After this \$1 million commitment from the State Government and Central Coast Council, we have a safer and more accessible entry point, which looks fantastic. It is important to note that upgrading the boat ramp enhances Terrigal Haven and its surrounds. It ensures we continue to grow as a premier tourist and recreational destination.

The Premier further announced to the public attending this event that a \$20,000 grant had been approved for Terrigal Marine Rescue to assist in the upgrade of its premises, which was a wonderful surprise on the day. We applaud the volunteers of Terrigal Marine Rescue, who work tirelessly to keep our popular waterways safe for everyone to enjoy. The Terrigal Marine Rescue volunteers had come to me for much-needed funding to help them repair and upgrade their facility following damage to their boatshed as a result of severe storms some months ago and I was only too happy to assist.

The ocean-front base of Marine Rescue Terrigal took a severe hit that Saturday night as the weekend's storms powered down the coastline and struck the Central Coast. Deputy Unit Commander Czes Lawicki said the base had borne the brunt of large swells battering the building, causing significant structural damage and flooding, which destroyed vital equipment. The fuel tender on its launching trailer was inundated with saltwater and was destroyed. Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey said Marine Rescue NSW crews remained on high alert for emergencies during the wild weather. They were on call, ready to assist the community wherever they could and continued their work with their colleagues in the emergency services as the effects of the storm were felt along the coastline.

Terrigal Sea Rescue merged into Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW in 2009. In the past few years Terrigal Marine Rescue has doubled its membership and doubled the area of its operational base at Terrigal Haven, built a new radio room, and launched a new website and radio club hub. To ensure 24/7 readiness to respond to distress calls, the team has maintained a rigorous regime of formal classroom training, together with crew capability assessments and certifications and regular training exercises that are staged continually within the Terrigal unit as well as in conjunction with other Marine Rescue NSW units and external organisations involved in maritime search and rescue, which are all cooperative. The unit operates in conjunction with the NSW Police Marine Area Command and other emergency services, including the NSW Rural Fire Service, the State Emergency Service [SES], Fire and Rescue NSW, the Ambulance Service NSW, Surf Life Saving NSW and the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association [VRA] in response to emergencies. It is a well-oiled machine that our communities depend on 365 days of the year.

The history of Terrigal Marine Rescue is interesting. In the mid-1970s, before the freeway now known as the M1 was complete, there was no specialised rescue unit on the Central Coast. At that time the officer in charge of police rescue, Ray Tyson, met with Wyong Shire Council to discuss the need for the Central Coast to have its own rescue unit. Not long after this meeting, a small group of interested volunteers trained with the Lake Macquarie State Emergency Service Rescue Squad, but members found that to operate under the restrictions of the SES at the time would have inhibited the operations of the squad. In July 1975, a meeting with Mr Max Walters, president of the Volunteer Rescue Association, resulted in the formation of the current rescue squad. On 18 July 1975 a public meeting was held, a basic constitution was agreed upon and the Central Coast Volunteer Rescue Squad was officially formed. The founding members of the squad took part in further training courses, including the necessary first aid courses for affiliation with the VRA.

A working agreement between the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association, Ku-ring-gai Flotilla and Terrigal Sea Rescue Service was signed on 23 June 1991. A further agreement was signed on 17 November 2006 with Terrigal Sea Rescue Service and others to commence the establishment of flotillas. On Sunday 29 March 2009, Terrigal Sea Rescue christened its new category 3 rescue vessel *Mary George*. The build cost of that vessel was more than \$180,000. Subsequently, the State's newest rescue service, Marine Rescue NSW, was

established in 2009, with the support of the New South Wales Government. It officially took to the water on New Year's Day in 2010 and was backed by volunteers with decades of skill and experience.

Terrigal Marine Rescue is not a government agency but a not-for-profit, community-based organisation. The fantastic organisation is a single integrated service, bringing together three former marine rescue organisations that have long served our community with distinction. Those marine rescue organisations include the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol and the marine fleet of the Volunteer Rescue Association. I am extremely proud to be the patron of the Terrigal Marine Rescue service. It is an incredible team of hardworking, dedicated volunteers, and I am delighted to speak about its history and service. It is a great honour to represent the team today.

GREATER SYDNEY PROPOSAL AND BANKSTOWN DISTRICT

Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (17:45): I have read with interest Greater Sydney Commission Chief Commissioner Lucy Turnbull's vision for Sydney, which was delivered at the *Daily Telegraph's* Bradfield Oration. The vision would incorporate three central business districts [CBD] across Greater Sydney. The existing CBD would be known as the Eastern City; Parramatta and Olympic Park would become the Central City; and the new Western City will be next to Badgerys Creek airport. The Government has a vision for Greater Sydney. Sadly, to date this has either omitted Bankstown or downplayed its significance. For instance, Bankstown was not declared as a regional centre, despite being of a similar size to Liverpool, Parramatta and Penrith. More and more government departments have been moved to Parramatta, such as the education department, the NSW Police Force and the Greater Sydney Commission, but Bankstown is losing simple government service offices such as the Trustee and Guardian in the Bankstown CBD, and the Roads and Maritime Services office at Padstow, which was not replaced with a Service NSW centre.

The Government cannot ignore the needs of a growing Bankstown community. The right planning vision must be set to ensure that we receive adequate housing, transport, health, education and recreation infrastructure as the Bankstown community population continues to grow. This is even more imperative, considering that the newly formed City of Canterbury-Bankstown is expected to reach a population of more than 500,000 within the next 20 years. As part of my submission to the Council Boundary Review, I highlighted the fact that Bankstown and Canterbury were part of two different planning districts to showcase the lack of geographical cohesion between the two communities. Sadly, this was not taken into consideration by the New South Wales Government and was simply ignored prior to the forced amalgamation of the two councils.

We are now faced with the dilemma of determining the most appropriate local planning district for a local government area [LGA] that stretches from suburbs such as Villawood and East Hills, which have a strong connection to Western Sydney and south-west Sydney, to Ashbury and Hurlstone Park where residents identify as part of the inner west. As I understand it, the overall object of the district plans are to respond to the planning needs of the communities within each respective district to align them with similar features and shared objectives with the appropriate district so that the optimal planning outcomes are achieved for communities. Given this guiding consideration, it is my strong belief that the City of Canterbury-Bankstown must remain in the West Central Planning District, as was the case for the former Bankstown City Council, or be moved into the South West Planning District.

Bankstown is providing more than the estimated 210,000 of the current 350,000 residents that make up the population of the City of Canterbury-Bankstown LGA. Of the five wards of the new LGA, Bass Hill, Revesby, Bankstown and Roselands have a strong sense of identity as part of Western Sydney. The planned light rail network also may connect Bankstown to Parramatta. All of those factors further enhance the prospect of retaining the status quo for Bankstown as part of the West Central Planning District. However, it should be noted that there are strong geographical connections between the City of Canterbury-Bankstown and the South West Planning District such as the M5 corridor, the WestConnex extension, the East Hills train line, and the planned South West metro, which showcase the ease of movement between the LGA and the south-west parts of Sydney. This will further be strengthened if the planned South West metro is extended from Bankstown to Liverpool, as suggested by this Government.

It is most important to recognise that the Canterbury-Bankstown Local Government Authority [LGA] is split between two health districts. Suburbs within the former Bankstown City Council are grouped with South West Sydney Local Health District, which extends to Fairfield, Liverpool and Campbelltown LGAs. Suburbs of the former Canterbury City Council are part of the Sydney Local Health District, which encompasses hospitals in the inner west and inner-city region. The LGAs that have been earmarked as members of the south district commission, such as Georges River Council, Rockdale City Council and Sutherland Shire Council, are members of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.

Simply put, the diverse communities within the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA do not share any similar features, objectives or a sense of identity with the LGAs that have been earmarked to be part of the southern planning district. It is clear that the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA does not share the communities of interest, geographical, transport and government connections required for it to be grouped in the southern planning district. Given these factors, I ask the planning Minister to designate the City of Canterbury-Bankstown as a member of the west central or south west planning districts. That decision would enhance planning objectives for the residents of Bankstown and the wider Canterbury-Bankstown LGA.

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (17:50): I congratulate Lucy Turnbull on her Bradfield oration. It recognises Parramatta as the new centre of greater Sydney. It is the geographic heart, with millions of people in that 30-minute catchment area. The member for Bankstown did not acknowledge this side of the House for planning a metro to Bankstown. It is a great investment in the community. If the member for Bankstown does not want the metro then Parramatta will be happy to accept it. I am proud of the Government's history of investment in infrastructure and jobs in Western Sydney, and more specifically Parramatta. I congratulate the Greater Sydney Commission on its planning. I support Lucy Turnbull's call for the New South Wales Parliament to move to Parramatta.

HEATHCOTE ELECTORATE EVENTS

Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (17:51): I am pleased to draw the attention of the House to Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, which is held on 15 October each year. On 15 October I attended Woronora Memorial Park to unveil a statue within the Remembrance Garden. The statue was a tiny baby cradled in hands on upside down earth representing loss and a family's world being turned upside down by that loss. It is a poignant reminder that in Australia six babies are born without breath every day. That statistic has not improved over the last five years. Families gathered just on sunset, adding to the emotion of the evening. Attendee ages ranged from young to elderly. It was a reminder that you never forget the loss of a child.

I spoke to an elderly couple whom I had doorknocked in 2010. They were sitting in the front row embracing one another. They lost one of their twin children over 50 years ago and it still haunts them today. In those days stillborn children were removed and the parents told to get over it. The impact of losing a child is immense, life changing and tragic. We now have services to support families that experience such a loss. Woronora Memorial Park has a special place in beautiful surroundings to honour those little ones that were born without breath. I congratulate the chief executive officer of the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, Graham Boyd, for recognising this day of remembrance. In 2008 discussions were instigated by the member for South Coast. The remembrance day received bipartisan support and was officially recognised by Parliament on 15 October 2012.

I congratulate also Scarborough Wombarra Surf Life Saving Club and the president, Bindi Adams, who contacted me about the club's all-terrain vehicle [ATV] not being serviceable and able to be used for the 2016-17 season. The community rallied and started a petition for funding. They wrote to all Ministers involved in any facet of surf lifesaving and asked them to feel down the back of their respective lounges for funding. I am pleased to announce that Scarborough Wombarra now has a new ATV for its vital lifesaving volunteer work. I congratulate Scarborough Wombarra Surf Live Saving Club.

I take the opportunity to recognise the fantastic work of Narelle Clay, Chief Executive Officer of Southern Youth and Family Services, and to recognise what those services have done for youth through their ever-expanding programs in the Illawarra and across New South Wales southern regions. I was joined at a special event by Premier Mike Baird, Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast Gareth Ward, the member for Shellharbour, Anna Watson, and the charges of Southern Youth and Family Services. We were blown away by the talent of the young adults who received awards and entertained the crowd of over 200.

The Premier spoke of his support of the service. He has taken a special interest in the young people and the service since 2010. He also recognised two young men who joined him this year on Project Uplift, which is a program where the Premier takes underprivileged young people away to meet successful mentors from all walks of life. To see these young men confident and willing to venture outside their comfort zone is a testament to Project Uplift and Southern Youth and Family Services. I congratulate all 35 recipients of an award on the night and wish them all well into the future. I congratulate Narelle and her team on a fantastic event and on their ongoing work with youth and families in the Illawarra.

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH NORTH RYDE DIAMOND JUBILEE

Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (17:56): On Saturday 15 October I joined with the parish of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, North Ryde, to celebrate its diamond jubilee. I thank the jubilee committee of Cristina Leontini, Patricia Bissett, Antonina Arcidiacono, Denise

Corbridge, Shane Clancy and Maddison Clancy. What started with a small group gathering at the home of Vincent and Josephine Smith in 1954 has grown into a thriving parish community and the founding of a fantastic primary school with almost 500 students enrolled.

For two years, Vincent and Josephine Smith opened their home at 4 Ryrie Street, North Ryde, to celebrate mass. On the suggestion of Father Reeve from Ryde and Father Coughlan from Gladesville, Cardinal Gilroy approved the foundation of a new parish at North Ryde, and Father Martin Crehan was tasked with leading this new parish community. The new Catholic church opened in 1956 and was named Spiritus Sanctus. As the first parish priest, Father Martin Crehan was instrumental in gathering support for the new parish, and together this new community built a church hall on Coxs Road in 1957.

A year later a primary school was opened using the church hall and in 1958 Spiritus Sanctus Primary School was formally established, with 104 students enrolled from kindergarten to second class and taught by the Sisters of Mercy, namely Sister Fabian and Sister Victor. Within four years, the parish had grown rapidly and Father Crehan was baptising about eight children each week. The school had also experienced phenomenal growth, with 314 students enrolled by 1960, and the community was working to construct classroom blocks. With no government funding, Father Crehan led the community in both fundraising and coordinating construction of the classrooms. The close association between the parish and school community is evident in the establishment of the Spiritus Sanctus Parents and Friends Association in September 1965. The parents and friends took responsibility for managing the school grounds, working with Father Crehan and the Sisters of Mercy.

By 1970, government funding became available for the school and it became more independent of the church. It was during this time that a young boy walked into the playground of Spiritus Sanctus to begin his school life. That young boy was me. Spiritus Sanctus Primary School was my primary school. I have only great memories of Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, as it is now known. It is said that one's social values are formed whilst one is at primary school. I have a very strong sense of justice and a drive for service. I put that down, in large part, to the nurturing that the Holy Spirit parish and the school community provided to me during those formative years. In 1971, Monsignor Gregory Weaver replaced Father Martin Crehan as parish priest, a position he would remain in until 1989 when Father Kevin O'Grady joined the parish community.

The current church was blessed and opened by Cardinal James Freeman on 14 September 1980, and in 1990 the community sought to anglicise the names of both the church and the school, with both to be known as Holy Spirit. In 2001 Cardinal Edward Clancy appointed the congregation of St Michael the Archangel as custodians of the parish and Father Janusz Bieniek became parish priest. Father Janusz left the parish in 2009 and current parish priest Father Stan Kluk was appointed as his replacement. He is assisted by Father Peter Kaupa and Father Anthony Casamento. On Pentecost Sunday in 2014 the community joined Father Stan as he blessed the new Flame Cafe and gift shop when it opened to the public. The cafe provides a place for the local community to meet over a cup of coffee, and the shop raises funds for the parish's many missionary works. The parish also runs the Ignite Youth group, which meets every Sunday evening, with occasional guest speakers invited to address the young people gathered.

The parish is associated with many other groups and services that minister to the community, including the St Vincent de Paul conference, the Legion of Mary, English and Italian prayer groups, Spanish-speaking masses, Filipino masses, catechists in public schools, communion to the housebound, nursing home masses and visits, Macquarie University Hospital monthly mass and children's Sunday morning liturgy. The parish has continued to foster a positive relationship with neighbouring Holy Spirit Primary School. I extend my thanks to the parish pastoral council, led by chair Shane Clancy, who cuts a mean figure on the dance floor. Other members of the council include Marea Cavaleri, Jason Hodges, Pat Perrin, Jorge Huehufil, Antonina Arcidiacono, Anna Macri, Nadia Caravello, Reverend Father Stan Kluk, principal of Holy Spirit Primary School Josefina Fox and president of the Holy Spirit Parents and Friends Association Tennille Southcombe.

Born in the wave of post-World War II European migration and the growing Catholic community in Ryde, Spiritus Sanctus was ideally located in the sprawling suburbs. It continues to foster a strong multicultural community under the guidance of a Polish priest. Prayers of the faithful are read in a variety of languages and the flags on display represent the broad make-up of the parish community. The success of Saturday night's celebration is testament to the strength of the community of Holy Spirit, North Ryde. Over the past 60 years the church has been an important place for spiritual worship and a community hub for the many families, such as my own, that have been involved in the parish either through schooling at Holy Spirit Primary School or through attendance at mass. I congratulate all involved in the celebrations and thank them for their efforts.

WYONG HOSPITAL

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (18:01): Last Sunday more than 2,000 people gathered at Morrie Breen Oval in Kanwal to say to the Premier and the Minister for Health: do not privatise Wyong Hospital. What

an awesome display of people power it was. These people are protesting because they know that this Government is hell-bent on selling off their hospital and eroding universal health care in New South Wales. Only a few weeks ago the Minister for Health got to her feet in question time and said:

... I am excited to announce today that the Government will be inviting established non-government hospital operators to enter into a partnership program with the New South Wales Government to design, build, operate and maintain these new facilities.

With that statement, the Minister brought the Liberals' continued attack on our universal health care into this place, joining the Liberals in Canberra who have waged war on Medicare in an attempt to create a two-tiered, Americanised healthcare system where the level of care is determined by one's bank balance. On Tuesday the Minister for Health put on a frenzied display during question time. I attribute it to the fact that she saw the display of people power on Sunday and heard what people had to say. In case she missed the very fine speeches given by community members and union representatives, I will repeat what a few of them had to say. President of the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation Dr Tony Sara said:

If you have a private sector operator running a public hospital, that company wants to make a profit.

It's very clear ... if the private sector operator is to make a profit either the care is less or the staff is less, services will be reduced and staff will earn less.

We are bitterly opposed to this process.

Secretary of the Health Services Union Gerard Hayes said that the way the Government had introduced this proposal was not good enough. "Mike Baird does not care what you think," Mr Hayes told the gathered crowd. "He did not think he needed to speak to the community and he did not think he needed to speak to our members", Mr Hayes said of the Premier. He added:

The private sector is there to make money to address their shareholders and deliver a dividend.

The public sector is there to deliver services for people in the community whether you are wealthy or whether you are not.

Pam Illingsworth from the Nurses and Midwives' Association said that her members were passionate and concerned about what was going to happen. She said:

The government have done nothing to tell us what's going on, they haven't consulted any of us, we're all flying in the dark.

They think Wyong is a small hospital, it's not small at all.

We see 65,000 patients in emergency every year, that is huge and is on par with the biggest Sydney hospitals.

We are being treated with utter disrespect from the government, half our jobs will be gone and many nurses will only be guaranteed a two-year contract. They were very fine speeches on Sunday but for the sake of balance—because I know how much the Minister loves, unfairly, to attack our friends in the union movement—I have some comments from my constituents who contacted me after the Minister announced how excited she was about privatisation, which effectively will be setting up an Americanised health system on the Central Coast. These are just some of the comments that I have received so far. Margaret from Budgewoi said, "The best part of working at Wyong Public Hospital is never having to ask patients if they can afford to pay for their care." Marge from Budgewoi asked, "Has this Liberal Government lost the plot?" Jo from Lake Munmorah said, "I am a nurse and have been employed there for nearly nine years. It's a great hospital with very dedicated and caring staff helping to care for our community. We are all very concerned about the effects of privatisation of the hospital on the community and also the staff."

Other comments I received are as follows. Amy of Halekulani said, "This is Australia, not America. The last thing that people need who are already struggling with money, like myself, is the fear that breaking an arm, having an bad accident or, God forbid, being diagnosed with cancer, will equate to a death sentence when it doesn't have to be." Chris and Sue from Gwandalan said, "It seems to us that the Liberal governments, both State and Federal, have only one policy—cut, cut, cut." Barbara and Rod from Mannering Park said, "As aged pensioners we are horrified by and completely against Mike Baird's intention to privatise Wyong hospital." Michael from Lake Munmorah said, "Seems that the government has gone rogue on just about every aspect of public interest ... This is a bad government at its best." I say to the Minister for Health, the Premier, and to all other Coalition members: be warned. The community is deadset opposed to the privatisation of their hospital and will fight this decision to the bitter end, and I will be there with them every step of the way.

WENTWORTH COMMUNITY HOUSING

Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Sport) (18:06): Wentworth Community Housing is a not-for-profit housing provider that offers affordable rental housing and other assistance to eligible people who are on low-to-moderate incomes in my community. Formed in 1996, Wentworth will celebrate its twentieth anniversary this October. The day-to-day operations are managed in Penrith by the chief executive officer, Stephen McIntyre, and supported by a senior management team and a range of professionals as well as by what I must say is an incredibly dedicated staff. I have had the pleasure of

meeting Stephen on a number of occasions since his commencement with Wentworth in 2015 and he and his team continue to do an outstanding job. Wentworth employs more than 60 people and manages almost 2,200 properties, the majority of which are located in the Penrith, Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains and Blacktown local government areas. Wentworth also manages properties in the Hills shire.

Following Wentworth's successful application for a grant through the Social Housing Community Improvement Fund, Wentworth will examine establishing Our Place Our Space in Cranebrook. It was great to meet on location of the site on Greenhalgh Street, Cranebrook, with Stephen and also with Lisa Eggers, who is overseeing the project. Lisa lives locally and has been the sustainable communities project officer at Wentworth Community Housing for the past two years. She has more than 10 years experience in the social housing, local government and community sectors and in working in the large social housing estates across Campbelltown, Blacktown and Nepean areas to deliver community strategies and projects. Lisa is passionate about social justice and a community for all, including our most vulnerable members. Since starting at Wentworth, Lisa has been involved in a number of projects, including the Magnetic Places and Our Place Our Space in partnership with Penrith City Council and the Girls with Goals Scholarship program.

Our Place Our Space will create an outdoor space for local residents that is safe for children and parents in which to meet and where local organisations can deliver their mobile services and community engagement activities. Currently, 22 Greenhalgh Street, Cranebrook, is an empty green space with a couple of young trees. The development of this new space will create an area that is simple but interesting and it will be an inviting place in which neighbours can meet. The project will engage residents in the private and social housing areas around the local neighbourhood in workshops to design improvements such as fencing, seating and soft planting. The project also will provide simple enhancements to make it easier for residents to enjoy their local area. Workshops led by artists and landscape architects will focus on functional art to design fences, metal seating and other features that can also be used for imaginative play. Local artist Henryk Topolnicki will lead the design. Examples of Henryk's work can be seen in Tench Reserve, Penrith, North St Marys, and at Bringelly Road, Kingswood.

Soft landscaping with low maintenance planting will define the internal spaces and sandstone blocks will create conversational spaces. The site features two shade trees, which support a design approach focused on the use of natural space and features. Landscape architects and the Royal Botanic Gardens Community Greening will lead design of these features. The Gathering Place project will build on the energy of the current Wentworth partnership with Penrith City Council to design temporary pop-up parks in Cranebrook to move into this more permanent project. Workshops were held in June and July this year, with project completion due in March 2017.

The project will improve the amenity and community friendliness of this area, which is close to both social housing and private housing areas. It is a great opportunity for people in the local neighbourhood to get actively involved in creating a space to enjoy. There are a lot of activities that happen in Cranebrook, and a more structured outdoor meeting space such as this one will fill a gap that exists within this community. Wentworth has a number of key strategic priorities for the future and they will continue to provide leadership and innovation in the provision of housing solutions. They are proud of their origins in the Nepean-Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains areas and remain strongly committed to building strong community connections within Western Sydney. All the people involved in Wentworth Community Housing will gather very soon to celebrate its twentieth anniversary. It is a great community housing organisation that improves the lives of people across Western Sydney.

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (18:11): I congratulate the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events and member for Penrith on his support of community housing providers in his area. The Parramatta electorate has numerous community housing providers. I single out Evolve Housing and its chief executive officer, Andrea Galloway, for their tireless work and management of thousands of social housing units and homes throughout Western Sydney. Their innovative approach to development and expansion of their housing portfolio should be noted. Their dedication to wrap-around services for clients should be commended. We know it is not only about providing a roof over people's heads but also about providing other services such as training, counselling or getting them on the right track in life. I acknowledge the wonderful award-winning work of Evolve Housing throughout Parramatta and Western Sydney. I commend them to the House.

OXLEY ELECTORATE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FUNDING

Ms MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley) (18:12): Three years ago the New South Wales Government made a bold decision to sign up to a better deal for our public schools. It has been a valuable sign up for the 42 public schools in the Oxley electorate and it has delivered incredible results. We were guided by a key principle that every child should have access to the best possible education, regardless of where they live, the income of their family or the school they attend. I draw the attention of the House to the Liberal-Nationals Government's commitment to invest in our children's future through the innovative resource allocation model, which at its core has the guiding principles of the Gonski education review.

I congratulate the Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, who is member of The Nationals team, on his steadfast attention and effort to ensure New South Wales schools continue to get the resources and funding they deserve. He is also the member for Murrumbidgee and understands many of the challenges within our regional, rural and isolated communities. This resource allocation model is as important for those schools as it is to many schools and communities throughout Western Sydney, in particular. Through the prudent and sound fiscal management of this State, the Liberal-Nationals Government has invested an extra half a billion dollars in New South Wales public schools and we have been very proud to do so. Last week in this Chamber the Minister for Education encouraged the Opposition to talk about how it may have obtained that amount of funding.

It is okay to sign up to Gonski funding and to support the resource allocation model—spending money is a good fun thing—but it is difficult to make the required savings to have the resources to spend on services. This Government has had the necessary fiscal discipline to keep public service wage increases at 2.5 per cent, which is a little above the inflation rate, and that is why it has signed up for the Gonski funding to improve the outcomes for all schools in this State, including those in my community. I am happy to report that in 2017 Oxley electorate public schools will receive an additional \$3.6 million in funding, bringing the total investment to more than \$8.9 million in the past three years.

I have spoken about the figures and now I will speak about some of the things my local schools have done with this additional funding. Before I was elected as the member for Oxley, the Kempsey community pushed really hard to bring the Clontarf Foundation program to the two local high schools. It was a struggle to achieve that goal, but I was able to negotiate with the two great school leaders, the principal of Melville High School, Jeff Ainsworth, and the principal of Kempsey High School, Mick Ella, about the program. We spoke about Gonski and the resource allocation model to get some insight into the coming budgets and to give them the confidence to sign up to Clontarf. I am pleased that the Clontarf program is being run at Melville and Kempsey, and that it is changing the lives of young Aboriginal men at those schools. It was important that the program began at the two schools at the same time because it is forging a collegiate approach by the two school communities.

Dr Geoff Lee: You should take credit for that; it is your initiative too.

Ms MELINDA PAVEY: No, it was Clontarf's initiative and involved a lot of people who came before me. I am very supportive of the program. The Minister has just announced funding of \$1.4 million for Melville, which is a \$277,000 increase from the previous year. He also announced \$1.343 million for Kempsey High School, which is an increase of \$172,547. These are some of the examples of increased funding for schools in the Oxley electorate through the resource allocation model. Recently I spent half a day at Frank Partridge VC Public School, where again wonderful leadership is changing the lives of many children. This school has also benefited from the resource allocation model funding. This funding is transforming the lives of schoolchildren, and I congratulate the Minister and the Government on implementing this model.

PAID DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE LEAVE

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (18:17): Domestic and family violence has rightly been identified as a critical issue of our time. Thanks to the fearless advocacy of women like Rosie Batty and other survivors across Australia, domestic violence has moved from behind closed doors into the public sphere. Domestic violence is in the media, campaigners are on our streets. Slowly but surely the wheels of government are turning as we work together to address this endemic and persistent blight. The next frontier—and the one that promises real and transformative change for women escaping violence—is to deliver paid domestic violence leave in our workplaces.

A woman is killed in this country every week as a result of domestic violence. She is a wife, mother, sister or daughter. She is also often a colleague, a teammate or a collaborator. Unions NSW estimates that more than 800,000 women—a staggering one in six women workers—are experiencing some form of violence at home. The pain and sense of crisis this violence causes these women affects their role at work. Absenteeism, conflict or tension with colleagues, reduced productivity and concerns about safety can result in women facing violence being more likely to resign or miss out on career opportunities. This leaves women less financially secure, which in turn makes it more difficult to escape violence and perpetuates a vicious and tragic cycle.

Paid domestic violence leave offers certainty where there would otherwise be none. Let us remember, income equals choice. It enables women and children to leave abusive relationships. It provides space and time for women to get themselves back on their feet. It allows women and children to visit doctors, to find child care, to attend court appearances or to seek apprehended violence orders. It allows women to look at apartments or homes to rent to change their phone number, to set up a post box, or simply to spend time with their kids and to explain what is going on. It means women no longer have to forfeit opportunity as they manage or recover from inexcusable violence perpetrated against them. It brings domestic violence into the most public of spheres, our

workplaces. We will no longer be able to ignore the fact that we work alongside victims of domestic violence and perpetrators of domestic violence.

It will transform the way we understand and manage human resources, knowing that our workplaces are not just where we clock on and off; they can be places of compassion and support. It forces workplaces to consider a range of different policies beyond leave to protect workers against violence. How can workplaces act to keep perpetrators from intimidating or harming women in the workplace? How can workplaces protect the privacy of women who seek paid domestic violence leave? How can we support and be available for co-workers of women who are supporting their colleagues through violence? Importantly, paid domestic violence leave works to redress a fundamental reality in our workplaces: that domestic violence is a gender issue and contributes to the gendered inequality in pay and employment opportunity in this country.

Our unions are fighting to end the national emergency of domestic and family violence. Last week union representatives and workers gathered at Parliament House to call for paid domestic violence leave. I congratulate Natalie Lang, Secretary of the Australian Services Union, on her passionate advocacy and leadership on this issue. I also congratulate and acknowledge Sharon Burrows and all the formidable women of the trade union movement on putting this firmly on the agenda. I say without reservation that I stand in this House in solidarity with them and all women who have experienced violence at the hands of someone they loved and trusted.

I add my voice to the many others calling for the Premier and Treasurer to take paid domestic and family violence leave to the Council of Australian Governments and to join with their Victorian counterparts, who announced their support for the scheme. We must add this leave entitlement to the national employment standards put in place by former Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Providing 10 days of paid leave will send a powerful signal to women in crisis that they can escape violence and regain control of their lives. It will send a powerful signal that our workplaces are spaces in which they can feel safe and protected. It sends a very powerful signal that victims of family violence are not alone. We are here for them, they will not be forgotten and they will be not be ignored.

ST MARY AND STS COSMAN AND DEMIAN CHURCH, KELLYVILLE

Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Corrections, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Veterans Affairs) (18:22): I would commend the member for Summer Hill for her speech on paid domestic violence leave, but it unfortunately has been neutralised by the behaviour of the Hon. Walt Secord in the other place, who only this afternoon told a female to go and swim in shark-infested waters. I implore the Labor Party leadership to talk about gender and to respect to all of its employees.

The first Coptic Orthodox Church has opened in my electorate of Baulkham Hills. Community organisations are a great strength of my electorate. They bring people together, host terrific events and help make Baulkham Hills a fantastic area in which to live. In light of this I was pleased to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the first Coptic Orthodox Church in the Hills district. The official opening of St Mary and Sts Cosman and Demian Church in Kellyville on 28 September marked the completion of an eight-year project. Also in attendance were councillors Michelle Byrne and Alan Haselden, as well as Hills Shire Mayor Yvonne Keane and Reverend Greg Woolnough from the neighbouring Uniting Church.

At its inception the congregation of the church comprised 10 families. Now 100 families attend the services. The church will provide a much-needed permanent home for the believers and will put an end to the constant relocation they have experienced over the past few years. The church will build a strong local community for constituents who have previously had to travel to attend church at Blacktown or Dural. The new building will be special for those of the Coptic faith and all Christians, with the church furnished from the labours of monks and nuns in Egyptian monasteries.

Kellyville is a booming area of Baulkham Hills. Its population is expected to increase by 52 per cent over the next 20 years, with many families moving into the area each week. The extensive housing and transport development is aiming to keep up with high levels of growth and demand for services. Equally important in this region are community services. The church, led by my very good friend Father Joshua, will serve the community's needs and he wants it to be open to everyone. Father Joshua has dedicated the new church building, complete with a games room for table tennis and billiards as well as a kitchenette. There is also a community hall, for which the church received \$80,000 in funding last year from the Community Building Partnership program.

There are more stages of development to come for this parish. In the planning stages is a services building to hold classes and seminars, a library, a cafe and sporting facilities. This will ensure that the church becomes a hub of activity. I reminded the parish that in the Kellyville residential area we like our peace and quiet, so any church activities after 10 o'clock will not be tolerated—unless the local member is invited! The church building will be used for mass, *Bible* studies and a youth group on Friday nights. With a large number of young people

attending services, the church will encourage integration and social inclusion through various group activities and seminars. At the commissioning of the church I was delighted to speak to His Grace the Bishop as well as Father Joshua, who has an ecumenical approach to Christianity. I was delighted that so many people of various Christian denominations were present.

While Egyptian Coptics are coping it in Egypt and surrounding nations where Muslim extremists are committed to destroying the Coptic faith, it should give the Coptics a sense of relief and encouragement to know that in Parramatta and the Hills the Coptic faith is growing. That is something we should be celebrating. As I told members of the Coptic Church, they should know that, although they are being discriminated against in their homeland, in Australia they will be forever welcome. Community groups such as our Coptic friends make Baulkham Hills a vibrant and very multicultural place. It is a delight to see the first Coptic Orthodox church in my electorate. I wish the community, Father Joshua, all parishioners and particularly my friends Lydia and Naheen, who are so involved in that fraternity, a prosperous future. I look forward to attending many events at the first Egyptian Coptic Church in the electorate of Baulkham Hills.

BUTTERFLY CAVE, WEST WALLSEND

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (18:27:1): I speak again about the Butterfly Cave, an Aboriginal sacred women's site in the electorate of Cessnock at West Wallsend. The Butterfly Cave was the first registered Aboriginal place specifically for women under the guidance of the then Minister for the Environment and member for Maitland, Ms Robin Parker. I reach across the Chamber and thank, applaud and appreciate her for that. More than five years ago a developer acquired some land and went through a development application process for approval to build about 400 residential blocks on it. In the middle of that land was an Aboriginal site—or Aboriginal place, as it was then known—that did not yet have State recognition of its significance. The Aboriginal site is known as the Butterfly Cave because butterflies breed inside the cave. They enjoy the pristine environment and the moisture that comes from the gully and down through the sandstone. It is a beautiful breeding site for butterflies.

The site was also a women's sacred site. Aboriginal women's sacred sites had many functions, one of which was to operate essentially as a hospital maternity wing for Aboriginal women. For 50,000 or 60,000 years the Aboriginal people did not build concrete, steel and sandstone buildings; they just worked in the environment provided for them by the Rainbow Serpent of the Dreaming and the earth itself. This incredibly important site was the first of its kind registered in New South Wales. The developer went through the planning process with the joint regional planning panels and was given approval to build. As I have said before in this place, and I say it again today, the developer has done nothing wrong. The developer followed the rules. I have also said in this place that fundamentally the planning rules and instruments in New South Wales, which are written by white fellas like me, fail our Aboriginal people. Indeed, they have failed them in this instance.

We now have a situation where the developer has got the approval and the sacred Aboriginal site, the Butterfly Cave, is in danger. Just above and to the west of the cave and just below and to the south-east of the cave are two particular parts of this complex development, each of which holds about 20 housing lots. The housing lots in this development are selling for about \$200,000 each. I have spoken to a few developers and they have told me that when they build a development they generally hope for a 10 per cent profit margin—at absolute best they would realise up to a 25 per cent profit margin. We are talking about 40 blocks of land with a profit margin somewhere between 10 per cent and 25 per cent, and each block is selling for \$200,000. If we were to take 25 per cent as the absolute champagne cork-popping best scenario, it would equate to a \$50,000 profit on each of those 40 blocks of land. That means we are talking about \$2 million.

The land in stages 7 and 9 of this development still has not been developed. It is still pristine bushland. It is today as it was during the time of our Aboriginal people over the past 50,000 or 60,000 years. If we were to offer the developer \$50,000 per block for 40 blocks, as the absolute champagne cork-popping best scenario, it would cost this State \$2 million to preserve this wonderful site. As a male I cannot attend this Aboriginal female site, but I take its significance to the Aboriginal people on faith, trust and goodwill. Being white and a fella, I cannot seek to understand its significance. Today in this place we have talked about the windfall of the \$16 billion from the sale of the electricity assets, which belong to all of us: white, Aboriginal and other. We have also talked about the stamp duty windfall that has come to this Government. It now comes to this where I beg on my knees to the Minister for the Environment—who is selling the Sirius building in The Rocks for close to \$100 million—to please save our Butterfly Cave. It needs to happen and only the Government can save it.

DOLPHIN MARINE MAGIC

Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour) (18:32): Tonight I speak about Dolphin Marine Magic, formerly the Pet Porpoise Pool, at Coffs Harbour. I have spoken before about this tourist facility in this House. To my knowledge the operators this facility have been in ongoing discussion with the Department of Primary

Industry for the past 25 years. The department has made the operation of Dolphin Marine Magic so hard that it has all but put it out of business. This tourist facility ranks number two in popular websites because of the great benefit it provides to young children in understanding the marine environment and, of course, in entertainment.

Over the past 12 months the operators of the facility have been in argument with the department about the amount of water that is needed and whether or not they can keep the number of seals they have, and so on. The Government veterinary officer and the Department of Industry have visited the facility and no-one has yet said that any of these animals are in a poor condition. Unfortunately, a young dolphin died in the past 12 months after it swallowed some leaf litter. The autopsy and veterinary reports were provided to the department. But that has very little to do with the keeping of seals. The conditions in which the seals are kept at Dolphin Marine Magic are better than those at Taronga Zoo. In fact, I would dare to say that Taronga Zoo does not meet the requirements that have been imposed on Dolphin Marine Magic by Matthew Crane of the Department of Primary Industries.

Meetings were held with the Minister, Scott Hansen, the director general of the Department of Primary Industries [DPI], and ministerial advisers. The operators of the facility have had experts from the marine community explain to the Minister, the director general, and Matthew Crane what should be done. The fact is that at this time last year, the DPI changed the regulations to suit its interpretation of how dolphins and seals should be kept without advising Dolphin Marine Magic. On 13 September, Dolphin Marine Magic made a submission to Matthew Crane about alterations which would cost about \$150,000 compared with the \$400,000 proposal, which it cannot afford—as it advised Matthew Crane in its correspondence. It believes the sketch that has been provided complies with the regulations and it is yet to get engineering drawings. Unfortunately, it Mr Crane took some time to respond; he always takes a month to respond. When the response did arrive, it stated:

I have been asked to encourage you to maintain your commitment to ensuring installation of the required seal housing by the end of the current licensing year and to finalise your proposal for a new pool to NSW DPI within the next fortnight.

It would appear that Dolphin Marine Magic must respond within a fortnight, but the DPI can take its own good time. The response also stated:

I have briefly reviewed the concept and my provisional thoughts are that I cannot provide in principal support as it is unlikely to meet standards in its current format.

I take issue with Mr Crane on that. I am beggared if I know what are his issues. As I said, for the past 25 years it would appear that Mr Crane has been behind every move that Dolphin Marine Magic has made in keeping these animals. Hec Goodall, the man who established the facility, set the standards for seals and dolphins. Despite that, Mr Crane or the department changed the regulations so that the facility does not meet the criteria. I say to the Minister and to this House that the facilities for animals at Dolphin Marine Magic are better than those provided at Taronga Zoo. If Mr Crane wants to apply these standards to the Dolphin Marine Magic facility, he should be even-handed and also apply them to Taronga Zoo. If he did so, he would be obliged to take the same approach and wield the same whip at the zoo. I call on the Minister to have this issue resolved as a matter of urgency.

HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (18:37): I draw the attention of the House to two high-achieving schools in my electorate and the use of social media. Social media is a wonderful thing. Applications like Facebook, Twitter and so on have undoubtedly revolutionised the world and how we interact with each other. For politicians, social media can be a powerful tool for conveying key messages and priorities. It can also be used simply to provide a timeline of our daily activities in our electorates. Therefore, it is with interest that I occasionally look at the Minister for Education's Twitter account to see what he has been up to. A close examination of his Twitter account shows an interesting mix of both policy issues and school visits, as it should.

Issues such as Gonski funding and NAPLAN feature heavily. Of course, both of them are Labor initiatives. Also on the Minister's Twitter account are photos from his visits to schools across the State. Orange High School, Georges River College, Brewarrina Central School, and Bourke Public School have all featured in the Minister's tweets. Not to be left out, mention is also made of one of the primary schools in my electorate, Curran Public School. For those who do not know, Curran Public School is in Macquarie Fields and it has a wonderful reputation for its teaching and learning programs. It was national champion for two consecutive years in the Future Problem Solving competition. Its reputation is such that I am not surprised that the Minister wants to visit it. I believe he has visited twice in recent times. It could have been more often, but I am not sure.

What I do find interesting is that just a short drive from Curran Public School, in nearby Glenfield, is another school the Minister has said plenty about—Hurlstone Agricultural High School. But unlike Curran Public School and the countless dozens of other schools the Minister has visited, this school never seems to feature in his itinerary, even when the Minister is just five minutes away. I wonder why. Is it because Hurlstone is underachieving academically? Surely not. Hurlstone always features in the top 20 or 25 schools in the Higher School Certificate results. Is it because the Minister does not know it exists? Surely not. The Minister visited and

protested loudly against any sale of Hurlstone's farm to developers when he was the shadow Minister—I have seen the photos to prove it.

Which leaves me wondering: Why will the Minister not visit Hurlstone? Why will he not pop into the school for a cuppa and catch up with the parents and students? Why will he not take the five-minute drive from Curran to see one of his flagship schools? Is he really that busy? I can, of course, only speculate why the Minister cannot or will not visit Hurlstone Agricultural High School. But I think it has something to do with embarrassment. The Minister knows that he has betrayed the Hurlstone school community at Glenfield with his plan to sell the school's farm to developers. He knows there is no excuse for his about-face on the position he took in 2009 when he outspokenly defended Hurlstone and its farm at Glenfield. He knows that he may fool some with his spin about his so-called plan, but that he cannot and will not get away with it with the local community and with the school at Glenfield. Even this education Minister is not that naive.

Surely if this Minister were so proud of his plan to sell off Hurlstone's farm and then move the school to the Hawkesbury, he would come out to my electorate to talk about it. Why will he not come to Hurlstone to trumpet his great policy? In all truthfulness, I am not surprised that the Minister is hiding from the community most affected by his decision. I am not surprised that he carefully navigates around Hurlstone every time he visits Curran. After all, the battle to save Hurlstone back in 2008-09 was only ever a political game for him. In reality, he had no regard for the school back then and he has no regard for it now. He simply used the school and my community as a tool to promote himself and to land cheap political punches on the then Labor Government. It really is shameful stuff.

I have no doubt that Minister Piccoli will pop up for a sod-turning here or there—photo opportunities are not something he is shy about doing. But what he is shy about is accountability—and add to that consistency and guts. If he had guts he would admit his duplicity on this issue, keep his word and save Hurlstone from the bulldozers and developers. But this Minister is short on decency and principles, and on keeping his word. As I stated at the outset, social media is a wonderful thing for conveying messages and priorities. Would it not be nice if this Minister for Education used his Twitter account, just once, to convey his regret and to apologise for misleading everyone about Hurlstone back in 2008-09, and then commit to reversing his decision? Now that would be a tweet or a post worth sharing—but I will not hold my breath.

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (18:42): After listening to the member for Macquarie Fields' brief contribution containing allegations and accusations—

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

Dr GEOFF LEE: Normally I would not respond, but I have to correct the record. The Minister for Education is committed to the State's children and I cannot thank him enough for his vision to build a flagship high school as well as a flagship primary school in Parramatta. Minister Piccoli is a very dedicated, hardworking Minister who is looking after the best interests of our State's schoolchildren, including ensuring additional funding through his commitment to the Gonski process.

HORNSBY RSL SUB-BRANCH

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby) (18:43): With Remembrance Day fast approaching I pay tribute to the Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch. In my opinion the sub-branch is the heart and soul of our community and represents what is best about all of us. It is an organisation that is particularly close to my heart, as it was the sub-branch my grandfather Jack Kean joined when he returned from the war. It provided our family with enormous support when my grandfather was alive and when he passed it was again there for the family. The Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch has a long and proud tradition in our local area dating back 98 years. On 16 June 1919, the Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch held its historic first meeting in the Hornsby Literary Institute. Back then the small but dedicated sub-branch had 29 foundation members, with Mr W. L. Prentice serving as its inaugural president. I was fascinated to learn that the sub-branch's first president shares a family lineage with one of Hornsby's other most famous residents, the explorer and geologist Sir Edgeworth David.

In the following years the Hornsby sub-branch continued to grow its membership base as men returning from the war felt that this association would enable them to continue the friendships forged throughout the war years. This renewed support from returning soldiers helped the young sub-branch gain support to have Australia's then Governor-General, Lord Forster, join them and open the area's first World War I memorial on 27 April 1923. The Depression years of the 1930s that followed were difficult for many, with unemployment and poverty on the rise. The sub-branch, like many local community organisations, faced challenging financial times with limited resources available to help its growing membership. Many of the sub-branch members dug deep to assist their mates during this time by paying the annual subscription fees of others to give them the support they needed during difficult times.

But it did not stop there. Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch took the remarkable step of writing to Hornsby council and offering to contribute £60 if the council helped subsidise the offer and give two weeks' employment to 12 of its sub-branch members. The council accepted and joined with the sub-branch to aid those who served their nation. In 1940, soon after the outbreak of the Second World War, the *Home Front News* became a pivotal publication for our diggers and was sent to all serving personnel from the Hornsby Shire until the end of the war. The Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch raised a total of £17,000 during the war, which helped the group to purchase two army huts in July 1946 that would later form what the locals affectionately called the local watering hole. This was a place where the sub-branch members could come together and converse over a drink—something for which the last founding board member, Harry Oliver, was fondly remembered. The hut tenancy later came under the control of Hornsby RSL Club in 1956 and it has gone from strength to strength ever since.

The management committee and its members at the RSL club have played an important role and worked closely in supporting the RSL sub-branch for more than 60 years. I thank the RSL club's president Colin Bourke and chief executive officer Mario Machado for their valued contributions towards the sub-branch and our local community. By 1969, the Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch had grown its membership base to 1,320 members, making it the largest in New South Wales. Today, the RSL sub-branch is led by my dear friend, president Terry James, who does an outstanding job in serving the sub-branch's 320 remaining veterans. Some of these veterans from the Second World War are now aged in their nineties but still manage to attend memorial events such as Remembrance Day and Anzac Day. I thank president Terry James for his countless hours of service behind the scenes to make days like these possible. Terry is a man of great character and a leader in our community who always puts others before himself.

Terry is well supported by a proactive and hardworking executive committee. I particularly acknowledge the contributions of vice presidents, John Deane and Garry Keenan—especially Garry for his constant flow of free advice and jokes, which are usually at my expense. I also acknowledge the work of honorary secretary, Steve Topp; honorary treasurer, Ivan Brisot; and committee members, Ray Davis, Doug Caple, Tony Mills, Mark Myers and Vince Greck. The RSL sub-branch is truly a team effort with many people often behind the scenes who also play a crucial role in continuing this fine institution. I acknowledge the continued contributions of sub-branch members who perhaps are not known to the wider public but who play a crucial role. These members include Barry Rees; youth club president, Kerry Vivian; welfare/pension officer, Roslyn Hutchinson; and trustees team members, Les Potter and Peter Blaxland.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the great work of former Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch president Rod White, who is now serving our nation as the National President of the RSL. In June this year I presented Rod with a New South Wales Government community service award for his 27 years of service to the Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch. Rod is a life member of the Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch and will always be a valued friend of our local community. Preparations are now firmly underway for Hornsby RSL Sub-Branch's 100th anniversary in 2019. I take this opportunity to recognise all previous sub-branch members over the years who, like my grandfather, played an important role in establishing the fantastic community organisation that we have today.

COFFS HARBOUR SLIPWAY

Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour) (18:49): Tonight I talk about Coffs Harbour slipway and the Department of Industry—Lands. Two years ago the department decided that the slipway was contaminated and that it had to be remediated. This occurred after the current lessee had indicated that he would not renew the lease—although I tend to think that was brought about by pressure from the department—. Members would not believe what we have been through: study, after study after study.

The stage has now been reached where to my knowledge on driving past, because one does not see much work going on, the remediation has been completed but we still have no slipway. Michael Beasley of Coffs Harbour Fishermen's Co-operative and John Wait, who is also the Commodore of Coffs Harbour Yacht Club, agreed to take a licence from the Department of Industry—Lands as a temporary step to help with boats in urgent need of slipping. They cannot get slipped in Coffs Harbour and fishing boats, in particular, have an eight-hour steam from Coffs Harbour to Yamba. Obviously this is an expensive process because of the cost of fuel and time that the boat is out of service.

On numerous occasions promises have been made that the work will be done and the slipway will be reopened. The harbour at Coffs Harbour is the only safe port between Newcastle and Yamba. However, I say "Yamba" advisedly because it is very hard for any vessel to navigate that bar, including small yachts and marine craft. The slipway is needed for recreational boats, the commercial fishing fleet and any boats that may be in distress or damaged at sea as a result of weather conditions. Quite often the Water Police or Marine Rescue will tow into Coffs Harbour a disabled boat that needs slipping.

The only way such a boat could be slipped if the slipway were open—and it is not at present—would be to lift it out of the water using a crane, which is what the department is proposing. The only available crane in Coffs Harbour that could lift a 65-tonne boat, slip it for the necessary work to be done and to put it back in the water would not lift a boat weighing more than 35 tonnes. I want to see the rails put back, a decent winch put in and an operator given a viable lease. I believe that lease could possibly go to the Coffs Harbour Fishing Co-operative and John Wait. That would give the recreational fishing fleet in Coffs Harbour an opportunity to have surveys done, their boats defouled, bent rudders or propellers replaced, and their boats serviced regularly.

It has been two years since we have had regular slipping of any craft on that slipway. I have a feeling that at some stage bureaucrats decided they might want to put a 300-room hotel on that site. It cannot be proved, but I think the initial contract put out for tender clearly showed that no-one could make an income or service the boats needed to be serviced on that slipway. We are now going to another tender process. However, at the end of the day what is the point in putting a tender process out there if we do not know the final design of the slipway?

I appeal to the Minister and the department to make sure the rails and the winches are put in so that we can service the boats, lend assistance to people who may be in trouble offshore from the North Coast, and provide a safe harbour and facility for the boating public. I know questions have been asked in the upper House on this matter. This is not a political issue; it is an issue of maritime safety on the North Coast and making sure that we have a service that will meet the needs of the maritime community and provide the safety that it requires.

DIWALI FESTIVAL

Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (18:54): This year the Hindu, Jain, and Sikh communities around the world will celebrate Diwali on 30 October. Diwali is a five-day festival that is celebrated by millions of people. Diwali is celebrated in Sydney, in particular in Parramatta, for five days by lighting lamps in homes, home decoration, shopping, puja, feasts and sweets. I am sure all members in this House will join me—and especially the large Sikh community in Woolgoolga—to celebrate Diwali. The night before Diwali, people clean and decorate their homes. It is important to keep the house clean and pure because Lakshmi, the goddess of fertility and prosperity, will visit the homes that are most clean first.

People put out lamps in the evening to welcome and guide the goddess Lakshmi on the path to their homes. Depending on one's tradition, there are many derivations of the mythical, divine and theological roots of Diwali, but all of them see it as a time for celebration and joy. It is a time for putting up lights as a reminder of the importance of knowledge, self-inquiry, self-improvement, and for knowing and seeking the good and righteous path. The festival of lights celebrates the triumph of knowledge over ignorance, the triumph of the inner light over spiritual darkness, and the triumph of good over evil.

One of the greatest celebrations for Diwali is held in Parramatta and it is run by the Hindu Council of Australia. I congratulate Professor Nihal Agar, the committee and volunteers for their years of service in running the biggest Diwali celebration in New South Wales, and perhaps the biggest in Australia. Approximately 25,000 to 30,000 people will come to Parramatta Park on Sunday to participate in the Diwali celebrations. It is a wonderful event in which families come together. It is a time for shopping and festivities. Of course the member for Terrigal is invited. We can never say too much about the great work of the Hindu Council of Australia. It was first formed in 1988 and its aim is to present a unified voice for the Hindu community.

The council is passionate about representing the views of Hindu-Australian communities to local, State and Federal governments. It not only holds festivals, which it does well, but also supports religious study, meetings, seminars, and education for the community. It promotes and supports volunteers in the community, empowers youth, and helps to look after the environment. On behalf of the New South Wales Government, I congratulate the Hindu Council of Australia. Finally, I thank the Premier. On Friday night the Opera House sails will be lit up to celebrate Diwali. It will be a wonderful event. It is only through Premier Baird's initiative that we have been able to light up the Opera House for the third year in a row. It is a beacon to the world that shows our understanding and appreciation of the contribution of all our communities, especially our Hindu communities, which add to the vibrancy and richness of New South Wales. I thank the Premier for his continued support. I wish everybody the best for Diwali this year.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch): I thank the Hindu community and the member for Parramatta for his warm and kind invitation.

KU-RING-GAI SCHOOLS

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (18:58): The electorate of Ku-ring-gai is fortunate to be a centre of outstanding public, Roman Catholic and independent school education in our State. It is not an exaggeration to say that it is a state education hub without peer. The evidence speaks for itself. It has two outstanding comprehensive public high schools, in the Ku-ring-gai Performing Arts and Turrumurra High

Schools. When I have visited those schools the atmosphere reminds me of the great learning opportunities I received at Newcastle High School, which was my local comprehensive coeducational public school.

Ku-ring-gai has two outstanding selective high schools in Hornsby Girls High and Normanhurst Boys High. It also has single-sex Catholic and independent high schools such as Loreto Normanhurst, Ravenswood, Abbotsleigh, Pymble Ladies College and Knox, as well as the partly coeducational Barker College and the fully coeducational St Leo's College. St Edmunds provides an outstanding high school opportunity for special needs children. The primary school options in the Ku-ring-gai electorate are equally diverse and excellent. I mention a special primary school, St Lucy's, which this week suffered a terrible tragedy to one of its families. It has been in our thoughts.

There are many public primary schools including Normanhurst, Beaumont Road, Gordon West, Pymble, Killara, Turramurra, Turramurra North, Wahroonga, Waitara, Warrawee and West Pymble. Independent and Catholic primary or prep schools include Northside Montessori, Wahroonga Adventist, Prouille, the alma mater of the member for Hornsby, Sacred Heart Pymble, Our Lady of the Rosary Waitara, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour West Pymble, Wahroonga Prep School, and the junior schools of Ravenswood, Abbotsleigh, Knox, Pymble Ladies College and Barker.

It does not matter whether they are public, Catholic, or independent schools, the ultimate goal is the same—a good education that is geared toward preparing students to meet life challenges by the time they reach year 12, whatever direction in life they may choose. I love to visit the schools in my electorate and am inspired by the values being passed on to the next generation. Last Friday I complimented Mr Malcolm McDonald, the principal of Beaumont Road Public School, for asking his students to remove their hats while the national anthem was sung. I told him I wished that spectators at major sporting events had the benefit of the values he instils in his students.

The teachers, staff, volunteers and carers that I have had the pleasure to observe in our local schools are incredibly devoted and the students are enthusiastic and community-minded. In recent weeks I visited Wahroonga Preparatory School. I was invited by teacher Rose Raward to address the student body, parents and invited guests first thing on a Monday morning. We gathered in the school's hall to inspect the year 5 and year 6 students' water care environmental program. It is part of the Kids Teaching Kids program involving more than 150 schools and thousands of students nationwide. Some of the students have travelled far and wide with their families in tow to take water samples from rivers and other waterways in order to study and test the health of the water.

Others had created true-o-dioramas of New South Wales mountain landscapes and waterways, while others had gone to ingenious lengths and created board and card games connected to the water theme. At Normanhurst Public School, principal Amber Gorrell and her year 5 students led me to a classroom which had been transformed into a television studio where the kids took turns presenting the news. I experienced a similar interactive program at Pymble Public School when principal Bruno Diodati took me to a class where students were working in groups to master storylines and graphics through their iPads.

For a second straight year I was honoured to join students in their respectful commemoration of our Anzacs. I attended services at West Pymble Public School, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and the annual Anzac ceremony and cadet parade at Knox Grammar. At West Pymble Public School I was coaxed into doing something I had avoided since childhood, joining students of all ages riding a bike around the school grounds to mark Ride to School Day. In late July I was invited by Mr McDermott's KM kindergarten class to plant a tree at Turramurra Public School. It was planted in the amazing native garden to recognise National Schools Tree Day.

As I have previously mentioned, Ku-ring-gai is blessed with sporting talent. Some of that talent was recently displayed on the international stage at the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games. Schools such as Ravenswood, Pymble Ladies College and Knox Grammar have produced stars such as Chloe Dalton, Tiffany Thomas-Kane, Cameron Clark and Brittany O'Brien. I was pleased to present certificates for State representation to potential future stars such as cricketer Shivani Mehta from Pymble Ladies College and track and field sprinter Donovan Bradshaw from Warrawee Public School. In my next private member's speech, I would like to talk about the debate occurring in this country about education funding. I will inform the House of what I believe we need to be focusing upon in that debate.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 19:03 until Tuesday
8 November at 12 noon.**