



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament  
First Session**

**Thursday, 22 June 2017**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Thursday, 22 June 2017**

**The SPEAKER (The Hon. Shelley Elizabeth Hancock)** took the chair at 10:00.

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

## *Bills*

### **CRIMES AMENDMENT (INTIMATE IMAGES) BILL 2017**

#### **Returned**

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

## *Announcements*

### **RED NOSE DAY**

**The SPEAKER:** I remind members that Friday 30 June is Red Nose Day. In support of the fight against sudden infant death syndrome, also known as SIDS, a morning tea will be held today in the Speaker's Garden between 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. Each year in Australia 3,200 families are faced with the sudden and unexpected death of a baby or child. I ask members to show their support. Help reduce this number by buying a red nose, pen, badge or other merchandise. Entry is only \$5. I encourage everybody to drop by the garden for this really good cause.

*[Notices of motions given.]*

## *Bills*

### **ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS) BILL 2017**

#### **Second Reading**

**Debate resumed from 21 June 2017.**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (10:13):** It is a privilege to speak in support of the Electronic Transactions Legislation Amendment (Government Transactions) Bill 2017. This bill is about twenty-first century government. It will make New South Wales the easiest State in which to do business and reinforce this Government's proven record of delivering improved processes and services. This Government is focused on meeting the needs of our community by embracing the digital era. Our digital strategy is an exemplary blueprint for initiating positive change through the digital transformation of government functions. This bill modernises the way in which the New South Wales Government conducts its operations. Its main purpose is the facilitation of digital transactions between government stakeholders and the community where they are not currently permitted or are unclear. This bill demonstrates that the Government aims to deliver faster, more convenient and efficient services for the public through digital channels. It will ensure that digital transactions and processes are a more widely available option across a range of government operations.

Through the New South Wales Government's digital strategy we will continue to improve the overall customer experience for people across our State. People will continue to enjoy a faster, effective and more modern interaction with government, which I think all members of this Chamber and their constituents will appreciate. Improvement to the legislation is an important initiative of this strategy. The proposed amendments in this bill deal with potential barriers to digitisation across various pieces of legislation in New South Wales. The Government's objective is for 70 per cent of government transactions to be conducted by digital channels by 2019. In order to reach this objective the design of legislation governing transactions and processes should be adapted to the digital age. This bill addresses this challenge by modernising 53 Acts and five regulations that currently contain requirements for obsolete or paper-based transactions. These amendments will make it clear that interacting with government digitally is encouraged.

This bill proposes to amend the Road Transport Act 2013 to provide for a trial of the digital driver licence prototype. This Government will honour its commitment to deliver a digital driver licence. This legislation will enable the testing of technology that will make a digital driver licence a reality. The bill will remove the legislative constraints to digital government. It will allow for driver licensing information and photos to be securely released

by Roads and Maritime Services to the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation and for Service NSW to display this information on the Service NSW app for the holder of that driver licence.

The Government often has to serve notices to the public in person or through the post. This process relies on the use of paper and is often a legislative requirement. To this point another practical benefit of the bill is that it will allow for certain documents and notices to be distributed electronically subject to the consent of the individual. This overcomes provisions in the legislation that documents must be served personally or by post. This bill will ensure that legislation enables government agencies to issue notices electronically but also recognises the requirement that certain significant documents such as those related to court proceedings be delivered by post. For this reason such practices will not be affected by this bill. The Government understands the need to provide flexibility in legislation for electronic notices to be available as an option when appropriate. Traditional paper-based means of providing notices will continue to be maintained as an option for members of the community across New South Wales.

The shadow Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation made some comments regarding certain elements of the bill which I will address this morning. We will not apologise for taking the time to get this bill right. The shadow Minister referred to amendments to postpone the commencement of part 11 of the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 and part 8 of the Strata Schemes Management Act 2016. The claim was that these have been deferred until 1 January 2018. I wish to correct the record. The shadow Minister said we should push ahead with this scheme. That would be negligent. We will not apologise for taking the time to get this legislation right. Stakeholders asked for this deferral and industry was also consulted. We will take the time to make sure we get this legislation right.

The reason for the delay is that Standards Australia is working on a new standard for inspections to determine defects. It is an independent statutory body and it is well qualified to provide the necessary standards for us to measure against. That standard was meant to be completed by March 2017 but it was thrown off track. We want to ensure that appropriate standards are in place before we push ahead with the bill. Without standards from an independent body like Standards Australia the industry would impose its own standards, which we do not think is appropriate. We will wait until Standards Australia comes back to us, which we believe will be soon, because we are determined to get the legislation right.

Unlike members of the Labor Opposition, who bring forward legislation that is half baked in their rush to get things through, we will get legislation right to protect every property owner of this State. We will rely on the independent statutory body to come up with the right standards. We are engaging with the major stakeholders, who asked us to get it right in the first place. That is why we have postponed part 11 of the Strata Schemes Management Act 2015 and clause 2 (2) of the Strata Schemes Regulation 2016. This bill demonstrates to the community that this Government is genuinely committed to digital transformation and is mindful of the needs of the people of New South Wales. The community expects and deserves improved service delivery channels, and we are clearly listening. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (10:20):** On behalf of Mr Anthony Roberts: In reply: I am pleased to speak in reply to the debate on the Electronic Transactions Legislation Amendment (Government Transactions) Bill 2017. As members have heard, the bill will support the Government's digital transformation now and into the future. The first key message about this omnibus bill is that outdated legislation should not stand in the way of delivering better, more customer-centric services. The Government has a strong commitment to improving public services, and an important way of enabling this is through the use of new forms of technology.

I would like to walk through the key areas that members raised in their contributions to the debate on this bill. First, the bill will ensure that the Government has the option of using electronic methods to serve notices and documents—for example, by email—where the recipient consents. While the service of paper-based documents will still be available, this allows another option for citizens. Secondly, the bill will enable government agencies greater choice to advertise or publish notices online as an available alternative to publishing notices in a printed newspaper. Given the widespread availability of and access to online news publications, the Government recognises the opportunity for government publication requirements to be met in electronic formats. This will increase the reach of government notices, announcements and other advertisements, ensuring that the people of New South Wales are able to conveniently receive communication from the Government.

Thirdly, another potential barrier to end-to-end digital service delivery is addressed by this bill by allowing for certain information to be provided in an approved electronic form as an alternative option to a paper-based statutory declaration. These amendments relate only to limited circumstances where information is provided to government and previously needed to be verified further through a statutory declaration. This will enable simple, everyday government forms to be verified electronically, where appropriate, by relying instead on existing offences in relation to providing false and misleading information to government officials and in



compliance with the laws of the State. These amendments ensure that legislation does not constrain opportunities for government agencies to provide simpler, more convenient forms and application processes. Fourthly, to complete the package of improvements, this bill will remove explicit references to paper-based processes such as photocopied or paper records. This will align outdated legislative provisions with modern business practices.

These legislative tidy-ups demonstrate the Government's commitment to make it clear to government agencies and individuals alike that the Government encourages digital transformation that delivers increased customer choice and better value services for the people of New South Wales, while acknowledging that traditional transactions and interactions continue to be maintained, to ensure that the Government is able to serve all members of the community. I note there are visitors in the public gallery and I point out that I visited India in about 1996 or 1997.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** How old are you?

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** I am 50 this year. I will never forget visiting the Dharavi slums in an era dominated by the SLR camera when films were processed at the local chemist. I took photos of the slums with kids streaming around me because they had never seen that type of technology. I thought about the gulf between our technology and their technology. When I returned to India two or three years ago I visited the Dharavi slums again and I was overjoyed to see that even the poorest of the poor had a mobile phone and the kids were taking photos of me. That huge change goes to show that we are heading towards a ubiquitous digital transformation. Governments around the world, including this Government, therefore need to change their archaic legislation to allow for opt-in digital services.

I guarantee that every visitor in the gallery today, given the choice between doing things quickly and conveniently by pressing a button and doing them in a time-consuming fashion by filling out 10 forms, would choose the electronic method. Instead of taking an hour to fill out the forms, they would choose to press the button, which takes a second, and have more time to go to the beach or attend a barbecue. One thing we cannot do is legislate for more hours in a day, and that is why these types of legislative reforms are critical to delivering better services for the people of our State. Visitors and members can see I am passionate about these reforms.

I draw the attention of the House to the second key outcome of this bill, which is that it will enable the Government to take an important step in the delivery of its election commitment to offer a digital driver licence in New South Wales by 2019. There is no doubt that offering a digital driver licence is complicated, but we are determined to stay on course to deliver these licences by 2019. As the member for Hornsby noted in his speech, this bill will include legislative amendments to the Road Transport Act 2013 to enable a live trial of the digital driver licence prototype. The legislative amendments will enable driver licensing information and photographs to be securely released by Roads and Maritime Services to the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, Service NSW and participants in the trial who have consented to the release of their driver licensing information. This will allow driver licensing information and photographs to be displayed on the Service NSW app on the mobile device of the licence holder concerned.

This bill will enable the use of live licensing data to fully test the product's use and functionality in real roadside situations with New South Wales police, ensuring that the product technology, customer experience and functionality of the digital driver licence is robust, user friendly and viable before it is fully rolled out to the public. I thank all members for their contributions to debate on this bill, especially the members representing the electorates of Liverpool, Terrigal, Cessnock, Manly, Swansea, Davidson, Charlestown and Hornsby. Once again, I stress the importance of this bill in ensuring that New South Wales has a strong and robust legislative framework that will support the Government's digital transformation and make New South Wales a pioneer for the digital driver licence in Australia. 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 VICTOR DOMINELLO:** On behalf of Mr Anthony Roberts: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

## **TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT (CLOSURE OF RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN ROSEWOOD AND TUMBARUMBA) BILL 2017**

### **Consideration in Detail**

**Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendment.**

*Schedule of amendment referred to in message of 21 June 2017.***No. 1      OPP No. 1 [c2017-031B]**

Page 2, lines 16–18. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead:

- (2)      The authorisation of the rail infrastructure owner under subclause (1) in relation to the disposal of the land concerned is limited to the land being dedicated under the Crown lands legislation as a rail trail for recreational use.

**Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Education) (10:29):** On behalf of Mr Andrew Constance: I move:

That the House agree to the Legislative Council amendment.

While the Government believed the Transport Administration Amendment (Closure of Railway Line Between Rosewood and Tumbarumba) Bill 2017 in its original form provided adequate safeguards and guarantees as to the future use of this land, we have listened to the concerns of all members in this place and to the broader community and are prepared to accept this amendment to ensure the passage of the bill. The Government has always supported the rights of communities across the State to innovate and to seek new ways of stimulating their local economy, particularly in rural and regional areas. The amended bill allows us to proceed with the Rosewood to Tumbarumba rail trail, which will generate significant economic growth in local communities by increasing tourism. It is a useful, innovative and adaptive re-use of public land. We have listened to the local community in relation to the use of public lands.

In the past there has been a tragic loss of railway history, with the demolition of stations and other infrastructure along country rail routes. Rail trails in the right areas, like Rosewood and Tumbarumba, are a great way to use what is left of our railway history. This is an important reminder of the industrial past and the development and growth of New South Wales. It is also a great way to breathe new life into some of the smaller country towns and villages that have experienced depopulation. While there has been strong regional growth under this Government—strong regional jobs growth and strong growth in major regional centres, with Evocities being a good example—some of the smaller centres have experienced depopulation, and we need to find innovative ways to arrest and reverse this decline.

Rail trails in the right areas, following appropriate and comprehensive community consultation, can be a great way forward. This is clear in places like Victoria and New Zealand, where rail trails have been a boon to local economies, driving local, regional and even international tourism by allowing people to experience some great places and environments. They have also offered a great opportunity for local providers and farmers to have extra, localised markets for their produce, particularly with the rise in popularity of organic foods. There can be a direct link between the tourism industry and local providers and farmers, and the opportunity to provide some new bespoke, unique, targeted tourist options. Rail trails also encourage healthy lifestyles—something that is dear to the Government's heart—particularly in regional areas, which, worryingly, have some of the highest obesity rates in the State. They provide new opportunities for people in these areas to get out and enjoy the beautiful New South Wales countryside and make use of public land.

Due to the pattern of settlement in New South Wales, we are not in a position to consider ideas such as the freedom to roam, which is common in northern Europe, or the Countryside and Rights of Way Act that has opened up great opportunities in England and Wales. But we can, in consultation with communities, look to find appropriate places and opportunities to open up unused rail lines for the purpose of rail trails. The Rosewood and Tumbarumba line is an opportunity to use this public land for a great public purpose. We are pleased to accept the amendment, even though we hold that the bill in its original form provided adequate safeguards. We are a Government that listens and responds, and we are prepared to accept this amendment to ensure the passage of the bill, which will provide great economic and social opportunities for the people of New South Wales.

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (10:34):** I thank the Minister for the Government's support of this important amendment. In the debate on the Transport Administration Amendment (Closure of Railway Line Between Rosewood and Tumbarumba) Bill 2017 a couple of weeks ago I noted that it was never the Government's intention to sell this land or to do wrong by the Albury community. However, the Minister's second reading speech and other speeches by Government members contradicted the way in which the legislation had been drafted. We were concerned that the legislation as it stood could allow the Government to sell the rail corridor. That is not the intention of rail trails in New South Wales. We are grateful that the Liberal Party and The Nationals supported our amendment in the upper House, as it ensures that the land is dedicated as Crown land and therefore cannot be sold and is retained for community use.

Labor understands that that could involve a community trust or another community organisation working to support the rail trail, which I believe may be the intention with the Rosewood to Tumbarumba rail trail, but our amendment ensures that it remains Crown land, and that is important. We appreciate the Government's support

for this amendment. The member for Albury has spent a lot of time working to ensure that this is the first rail trail in New South Wales, which lags behind Victoria and many other States in this regard. I congratulate the member for Albury and thank the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure for bringing this legislation to the House. It was important to have this dedicated as Crown land because this is seminal, historic legislation that ensures the creation of future rail trails. It was important for us to get this legislation right in the first place, and I believe that is what we have done.

I thank the Liberal Party and The Nationals and acknowledge The Greens for supporting our amendment and ensuring that we now have the first rail trail in New South Wales. I also thank Rail Trails for NSW for its wonderful support. In March 2014 a gathering led by the Hon. Mick Veitch and the Hon. Penny Sharpe from the other place launched Rail Trails for NSW. From that time we have all worked hard to ensure that New South Wales has a rail trail. I believe this seminal legislation is the right legislation because of the graciousness of the Government. I thank the Minister for Education for his words today and acknowledge the work of the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure on this legislation. He and I do not always agree, but today we do. I thank him sincerely.

The legislation creates a 22-kilometre rail trail from Tumbarumba to Rosewood, and it is right that this should be the first rail trail. Many members who represent rural and regional areas, particularly members of The Nationals, have potential rail trails in their communities that they would like to see established. Let us hope that that is allowed to happen. Legislation will be required to do that but this bill offers a template, and we are very grateful for that. I thank the Government, the member for Albury and all those who have spoken in this place. I acknowledge the work of the Hon. Mick Veitch and the Hon. Penny Sharpe, in particular. This is an important initiative for tourism in rural and regional New South Wales, and we are very pleased that we now have the first rail trail in New South Wales.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

#### *Motions*

### **GRANVILLE TRAIN DISASTER**

**Debate resumed from 25 May 2017.**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (10:39):** I thank the Premier and the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure for making an apology to the people and communities that were impacted by the Granville train disaster. The disaster killed 83 people and injured 213 others when fasteners came loose on a track, sending the Blue Mountains train careering into a weakened bridge. The apology to the people affected by the Granville train disaster was long overdue. The member for Granville and the member for Blue Mountains shared stories about the impact of the terrible event on their communities, both then and now. I thank them for representing their communities and showing, in a bipartisan way, Labor's support for this apology—albeit offered 40 years after the crash.

To be in this place is a privilege, and that was brought home to all of us on the day that the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and the transport Minister stood and offered the apology. It is my job to hold the Government to account when needed, but on this occasion I thank the transport Minister for doing what other governments—including Labor governments—did not. I appreciate the weight of responsibility that rests on whoever is transport Minister to ensure that there is always a focus on rail safety in New South Wales. The events of that day continue to remind us of what can happen when a commitment to safety is undermined. I reiterate the importance of this apology and the recognition it brings to those who lost family members and friends on 18 January 1977. I acknowledge the emergency workers who arrived that day and were confronted with Australia's worst rail disaster. I thank, in particular, the member for Granville. She told the story of Father Les Campion. He was a man of faith who offered comfort to those affected by the crash.

It is stories like his that make this apology real and meaningful. It captures the magnitude of the event and the number of people, from all walks of life, who were affected by the disaster. It is important to note that on the day the apology was offered by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition the public gallery was full of the family and friends of those who lost their lives. There were also survivors, and I acknowledge the impact that this event had on them that day, and every day since. I hope that the words spoken in the apology ease somewhat the terrible burden of loss, guilt, despair and sorrow. This apology was too long in coming. That is a failure of Labor, The Nationals, and the Liberal Party, but I thank the Premier and the transport Minister for making it right. I offer my sincerest apology to those whose lives were irrevocably changed that January day. I sincerely commend the motion to the House.

**Debate adjourned.****ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMS**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (10:43):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Commends the Alannah and Madeline Foundation for its work with its Buddy Day Program.
- (2) Notes the importance of Buddy Day for schools.
- (3) Calls on all members to join together against bullying in schools.

I am proud to speak out against, and condemn, bullying in our schools. I speak in support of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, and its work with National Buddy Day. The Minister for Education has worked to eradicate the scourge of bullying in our schools. He is also a supporter of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. This important foundation's main aim is to keep children safe from violence. To accomplish this, it aims to care for children who have experienced or witnessed serious violence; to reduce the incidence of bullying, cyberbullying and other cyber risks through prevention programs; and to advocate for the safety and wellbeing of children. The foundation was established in memory of Alannah and Madeline Mikac, aged six and three, who were tragically killed with their mother and 32 others at Port Arthur, Tasmania, on 28 April 1996.

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, with the support of the National Australia Bank, runs National Buddy Day in Australian primary schools. The day celebrates friendship and helps raise awareness of bullying. The day was celebrated on 15 June 2017. The program the foundation facilitates, Better Buddies, enables younger children to feel safe and cared for, and older children to feel valued and respected. It is designed to enhance existing buddy programs or to introduce a buddy program to primary schools for the first time. No child should feel threatened, intimidated or bullied. Unfortunately, this is currently not the case in our society. One of the most common forms of violence in the lives of children is bullying. It affects approximately one in every four students in Australia. Bullying can have a devastating effect on a child, and children who display bullying behaviours are more likely to exhibit antisocial behaviours and commit criminal acts later in life.

Bullying has occurred in my local area. The parents of a year 3 student contacted me a few years ago to advise me that their child was repeatedly bullied verbally and physically. The student was choked in the playground and, sadly and horrifyingly, urinated on. The bullying continued until the parents removed the child from the school and homeschooled him until a place was found in another school. Another set of parents came to me about their daughter being bullied and receiving death threats from other students. The school had been advised of the situation, but no real action was taken. Social media was involved, and the daughter was cyberbullied.

There has been a significant increase in cyberbullying, usually involving school-age children. Recently I chaired the Committee on Children and Young People inquiry into the sexualisation of children and young people. The inquiry found that children and young people are engaging in a practice known as "sexting". They are creating and sharing content between themselves without understanding the full scope and impact of their actions. The malicious sharing of images by bullies can lead to devastating consequences for young people. The committee recommended that the Attorney General take action to end the dissemination of sexual images without consent. Parliament has passed legislation addressing this important and significant issue, which will hopefully keep children safe and free from that potential embarrassment and bullying. These stories are not happy ones but, unfortunately, they are all too common in many of our schools. It is important that these situations are highlighted so that we know what is happening in our communities.

The New South Wales Government, through the New South Wales Department of Education, has undertaken considerable work in recent years to assist public schools to implement proactive approaches to bullying behaviour. All New South Wales public schools are required to develop anti-bullying plans that include prevention, early intervention and response strategies. The Minister for Education has also asked the Department of Education to develop an updated anti-bullying strategy to release to schools in term three of 2017. That will bring together resources and information for schools, students and parents. New resources are now in development, and consultation with mental health, anti-bullying and stakeholder groups will continue next month and beyond.

The budget also provides \$6.1 million in new funding for a range of professional development initiatives to build the capacity of teachers to prevent bullying behaviours. It also includes a significant expansion of the Youth Aware Mental Health Program, which is an evidenced-based wellbeing, mental health and suicide prevention program for young people aged between 14 and 16. Additional funds will be directed to the development of other online tools, including apps for teachers and students that enable them to access new resources whenever they need them. Schools will also be provided with further resources to develop new units of work for teachers in collaboration with the non-government school sector and academic partners.

I pay tribute to Nuwarra Public School and Wattle Grove Public School for installing colourful buddy benches to provide a space for children who are feeling lonely, upset or isolated in the playground. Many schools have buddy benches, and they are a great idea. They encourage children to be friends and to include others at play time. When children are seen sitting on a buddy bench, teachers and other pupils check to see whether they are okay, and ask if they would like to play. They allow students to feel comfortable inviting others to play or to participate in an activity with others. The seats are designed to reduce feelings of isolation and to promote empathy and friendships in the playground. What a great place to start to learn empathy. It is a unique way to ensure that children do not feel isolated, it assists in creating friendships, and it reduces bullying through a strong school community. I again thank the Alannah and Madeline Foundation for the work it does in protecting children from violence, and for the work it does through the National Buddy Day program.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (10:51):** I thank the member for Holsworthy for moving this motion, which commends the terrific work being undertaken in schools by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. It is an honour to speak the names of the beautiful little girls whose lives were lost alongside their mum more than 20 years ago. In fact, I prefer to say it like it is: Their lives were not lost; they were killed by a madman. They were tragically gunned down in a horrific act of violence when 35 people lost their lives at Port Arthur on 28 April 1996. I pay tribute to them all today. It is impressive that because of that horrifying day and the tragedy that occurred, we are today speaking the names of those two little people. It was the strength of their dad, Walter Mikac, that led to the creation of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. I honour Walter and thank him for his strength. He has endured more pain than I can imagine, and has turned his grief into positive initiatives to protect others. The aim of the foundation is simple: to protect children from violence. It is hard to think of a more worthy aim.

Today we are discussing one of the programs offered by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. The National Buddy Day program delivers positive outcomes in our schools. National Buddy Day is one day of the year when schools talk about the Better Buddies program, which pairs older students with younger students. It teaches them about kindness, caring, friendship, values, respect, valuing difference, including others, and responsibility. The Better Buddies program was launched in 2000 and is now in almost 2,000 schools across Australia. For many years—certainly in my generation—schools could be places of cruelty for those who were different or more vulnerable than others. Sadly, that is still true for some today. I recall my own schooling and cringe at the nastiness of many of the comments we made and the games we played. For many, school was a place to be survived until they escaped to the real world.

However, the schools I visit now, including my children's school, are places of great tolerance. Differences are accepted, embraced or simply ignored because they are the norm. I have been extremely impressed by the tolerance and respect shown in my local schools—public and independent schools alike. I recently had the privilege of attending the opening of Tea Gardens Public School's school parliament, complete with a prime minister, a full cabinet, an opposition leader and shadow ministers. Principal Mark Clemson was the Attorney General and the staff were the senators. That is relevant to this discussion because of the respectful debate that took place at the opening of the parliament. Students felt safe in their school environment and in sharing different points of view during the debate, and their views were acknowledged and respected. The opinions of the younger students, or honourable members of the parliament, were also respected.

I recently played tennis with students in years 5 and 6 from Anna Bay Public School. Again, they displayed an enormous amount of respect, support and encouragement. They might have had a few digs at me, but that was okay. I also recently met a student from Hunter River High School in Raymond Terrace, which is home to a struggling community. She spoke about the support offered to her transgender friend by the school. She also said she was disappointed that the Safe Schools program was no longer available in New South Wales schools. In fact, I have been so impressed by the schools I have been involved with that I now believe our children may face greater challenges once they leave school. The understanding and appreciation of sexuality, gender identity and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer issues displayed in our schools is not necessarily reflected in the broader community by older generations.

While I know that is not the case in all schools and that a great deal of work is done by school staff to ensure safe and caring environments are created, I appreciate that, sadly, for some that safe and caring environment is not always a reality. The member for Holsworthy mentioned some of the sad examples of that in her electorate. Every member would be able to relate similar examples of children who have suffered extensive harassment and bullying at school. As we all know, bullying and harassment can have tragic mental health consequences. Mental health has been discussed at length in Port Stephens at community forums. I am happy to say that the last forum we held attracted 500 people, which indicates the increasing appreciation and understanding of this issue. That appreciation and understanding must start in our schools.

The National Buddy Day program will increase awareness of mental health issues and will encourage us to show more friendship and kindness to those around us. I thank the member for Holsworthy for the opportunity to discuss the Alannah and Madeline Foundation and to thank the foundation for the work it is doing to support our kids when they are most vulnerable. In the process, we are building stronger, more respectful and more peaceful communities for the future. The foundation delivers on its commitment to protect children from violence in the form of bullying in schools. It also does something more important: It creates more tolerant and respectful communities.

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (10:57):** It is my pleasure to speak on this anti-bullying motion on National Buddy Day. National Buddy Day is a day on which we encourage primary school students across Australia to band together with a buddy. The New South Wales Government has provided \$6.1 million in record new funding in this year's budget for a range of professional development initiatives to build the capacity of teachers to prevent bullying behaviours. Bullying of any kind will never be tolerated in New South Wales public schools, no matter the reason. Every student in New South Wales deserves to feel happy and safe when going to school. The Government simply will not put up with anything else.

Since the Coalition came to government, the New South Wales Department of Education has completed extensive work to assist public schools in implementing proactive approaches to bullying. Schools across the State must develop and implement anti-bullying plans with pathways to prevention and early intervention, and they must have strategies to respond to any incident. We are the first to admit that there is always more to do. We will not be

*[Business interrupted.]*

#### *Bills*

### **APPROPRIATION BILL 2017**

### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2017**

### **STATE REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (BUDGET MEASURES) BILL 2017**

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY BILL 2017**

#### **Second Reading**

#### **Debate resumed from 20 June 2017.**

**The SPEAKER:** Members will extend the usual courtesy to the Leader of the Opposition. His budget reply speech will be heard without interruption.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (10:59):** In New South Wales today, schools are overcrowded, academic standards have fallen, TAFE has been gutted, and hospital waiting lists are soaring at emergency departments and for elective surgery. Yet record revenues flow into government coffers from the Sydney property boom. This Government's wrong priorities have led us to this point. Revenues have never been greater but the key services the people rely on are failing. Mismanagement of the delivery of infrastructure projects has resulted in cost blowouts in the billions of dollars.

In his Budget Speech, the Treasurer claimed that good Liberal budgets do not increase tax, they decrease tax. But in the six years of this Government, State taxation revenues increased by 53 per cent, from \$20 billion to \$31 billion. New South Wales is now the highest taxing State per capita in the nation. Fifty billion dollars worth of public assets have been privatised. The stable and predictable profits that these assets once returned to the State budget each and every year are gone. The State now relies on unstable and unpredictable stamp duties receipts more than ever.

For six years this Government has had one energy policy: just privatise it, just sell it. The result is that electricity is fast becoming unaffordable. Families and small businesses are facing record power bills because the Government did everything it could to drive the price up ahead of privatisation. It went to court to overturn the independent regulator's price cuts. Labor will not stand by and let family budgets be crushed and businesses be wrecked by power price hikes. The retail electricity market was deregulated in 2014. The Liberals and The Nationals promised that this would put downward pressure on prices. Instead, prices are going up and up.

From next week, households are facing an annual average annual increase of over \$300 and small businesses \$900. The respected Grattan Institute reports that excessive profits are being made in the retail electricity market. Electricity privatisation and price deregulation have not delivered what the Liberals and Nationals promised. Today, I put the electricity companies—and the Liberals and Nationals—on notice. We will

re-regulate the electricity companies to ensure that consumers are treated fairly. A Labor government will eliminate energy company superprofits to make electricity more affordable for families.

**The SPEAKER:** I remind visitors in the gallery that they should not applaud. If they continue to do so, they will be asked to leave.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY:** On 10 February this year, New South Wales ran out of power. Tomago Aluminium, a major employer in the Hunter with 1,000 staff, had its power cut off for three hours. The smelter narrowly avoided catastrophe. Last week the Australian Energy Market Operator in its Energy Supply Outlook warned of the risk of electricity supply falling short of demand, especially in extremely hot conditions. While other States are acting now, the New South Wales Government stands idle. We are staring down the barrel at the possibility of blackouts this coming summer. This Government's inaction is negligent in the extreme.

There is much more that a Labor government in 2019 and beyond can and will do, but our State cannot wait. The Australian Energy Market Operator's warning is stark and it is urgent. There is an immediate need for more energy generation that can reliably contribute towards meeting demand on the hottest summer afternoons. Battery storage is essential to ensuring the supply of energy at the times of greatest demand. I call on the Government to immediately tender for 100 megawatts of storage to be delivered and in place for this coming summer.

Other governments are acting. The Queensland Government is looking at battery storage in its 400 megawatt renewable energy tender. The Victorian Government will deliver 40 megawatts of battery storage for the coming summer. South Australia will deliver 100 megawatts of battery storage and up to 200 megawatts of temporary diesel generation. The Federal Government is spending \$2 billion on the Snowy Hydro scheme to increase generation by 50 per cent. But in New South Wales—nothing. Since the Liberals and Nationals came to office, the 1,000 megawatt Wallerawang Power Station has closed. Another, Liddell, a 2,000 megawatt station, is set to close within five years.

A Labor government will use proceeds from the transfer of the Snowy Hydro to invest in renewable generation across regional New South Wales; provide a fair minimum solar tariff so that households with rooftop solar are paid fairly for the energy they generate; legislate for the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal recommended rate to be mandatory; and massively increase solar energy generation on the roofs of government buildings. Across the New South Wales public sector, including local government, there are a multitude of opportunities to install rooftop solar on buildings, such as schools, TAFEs, hospitals, police stations, libraries, offices, courts and depots. This is an industry in itself and one with huge growth potential. The only thing missing today is the political will to make it happen.

Greater Western Sydney needs to grow half a million new additional jobs between now and 2040. The Western Sydney Airport will be the single greatest contributor to jobs growth in the region. But we have only one chance to get this right. Today I call for the creation of a joint Commonwealth-State Western Sydney Airport coordination authority. The Federal Government is taking responsibility for building the airport itself—that is the start, not the finish. The coordination of land use and surface infrastructure planning is essential to the airport region's development. Proper coordination will involve an early focus on essential connections, such as electricity, water and sewerage for the airport's surrounding employment zones. The airport requires a rail connection from day one. And it is time now for a fuel pipeline corridor to the airport to be reserved.

At the moment, the plan is to supply jet fuel by road—43 B-doubles from Clyde. This is not sustainable. Sydney Airport receives its millions of litres of fuel a day by an underground pipeline from Kurnell. The construction of a pipeline to the new Western Sydney Airport needs to be accelerated. We need efficient supply and distribution networks to ensure our State's farmers have a competitive edge and our world-class primary produce is delivered to new markets in China, India and across South-East Asia. To create jobs and attract business investment to the Western Sydney Airport region, proper planning and coordination between governments, including local government, are required now.

This Premier's first major commitment was to build a tunnel from Mosman to the northern beaches. It is the wrong priority for Sydney. The right priority is investing in transport improvements for Western Sydney. Western Sydney's population is growing from two million residents to three million in just over a decade. That is why Labor's priority is the Western Metro—a new railway line for Western Sydney. I commit Labor today to accelerating the Western Metro. We will not proceed with this Premier's pet project, a northern beaches tunnel.

**The SPEAKER:** I remind Government members not to interject or they will be removed from the Chamber.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY:** As I was saying, Labor will not proceed with this Premier's pet project, a northern beaches tunnel. Rather, we will prioritise the delivery of a new underground metro railway line between

Parramatta and the Sydney central business district [CBD], because, frankly, the needs of three million residents of Western Sydney must come before those of 300,000 northern beaches residents. The existing Western line is at full capacity now. The Western Metro will effectively double rail capacity between our two CBDs of Parramatta and Sydney city. The Liberals say they are committed to the Western Metro, but not a single dollar is allocated to it in this budget. When it comes to transport, people will have a clear choice at the next election.

**The SPEAKER:** Members will remain silent. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY:** When it comes to transport, people will have a clear choice at the next election. The Liberal's priority is a northern beaches tunnel. Labor's priority is a new metro rail for Sydney's west. Six years into the life of this Government, we have fewer young people in training—63,000 fewer students enrolled in TAFE; there have been continued sackings of teachers and support staff—another 500 this year, bringing the total to 5,700 since the Liberals and Nationals got their hands on TAFE; and there is slated to be a sale and closure of campuses, particularly in regional and rural areas, where these cuts hit hardest.

My commitment today is that a Labor government will require 15 per cent of jobs on government construction projects valued over \$500,000 to be allocated to apprentices, trainees, the long-term unemployed and Indigenous Australians. This will create thousands of new jobs for trainees and apprentices every year. Labor will rebuild one of the great institutions of our State—TAFE. We will guarantee at least 70 per cent of vocational education and training funding for TAFE. We will also set up a private providers investigations unit to target dodgy providers and restore confidence to the vocational education sector. Our aim is simple and it is achievable: to help young people gain the skills they need and create the skilled jobs for them.

This Government has exported thousands of local manufacturing jobs. It awarded the contract to build the next generation of intercity trains to South Korea—even though the trains will not fit along the Blue Mountains lines. Labor stands for Australian jobs. The Liberals and Nationals send these jobs off shore. The New South Wales Ambulance Service fleet is one of the largest in the world. The 1,500 vehicles cover about 120,000 kilometres every day. Today I give a guarantee: Under Labor, all ambulances will be built here, and all ambulances that need to be repaired, restored and rebuilt will have that work performed on our shores. That will protect and secure jobs here. This is a vote of confidence in the Hunter's skilled manufacturing workforce.

Our hospitals are under enormous pressure. Patients wait at every stage. They wait for an ambulance; they wait in emergency; they wait for a bed; and they wait for elective surgery. Patients crowd emergency departments, as many cannot get to bulk-billing general practitioners. A Labor government will establish nurse walk-in centres to relieve the pressure by providing a free alternative treatment for very minor ailments. We also need to tackle our elective surgery waiting lists. There are 75,000 patients waiting for elective surgery in New South Wales, including 15,000 elderly patients awaiting cataract removal.

Today I announce that a Labor government will deliver a one-off elective surgery acceleration plan to slash waiting lists for non-urgent elective surgery, such as cataract removal and hip and knee replacements. For our senior citizens, a cataract means that they cannot drive, cannot see their grandchildren and cannot read the newspaper. Currently, many patients can wait for almost two years for these procedures. We will conduct a one-off elective surgery blitz for thousands of patients, conducted outside the busiest winter and summer periods. New South Wales remains the only State or Territory in Australia that has not joined Our Watch, which was established to drive nationwide change in the culture, behaviours and power imbalances that lead to violence against women and their children. It is a powerful resource, and one we should be a part of. Under Labor, New South Wales will be.

It has taken three Premiers, four Treasurers and seven budgets for the Liberals and Nationals to work out that there is a soaring school-age population in our State. Six years of neglect means we now have a school overcrowding crisis. When Labor was last in government, we built and opened, on average, five new schools each year. In six years of Coalition Government, that figure has plummeted to an average of two new schools per year. When the Liberals and Nationals came to office they savagely cut the school building budget in their first State budget. Half of the new schools and expansions announced in this budget have been previously announced. We are now in a crisis—a school-age population boom, not enough schools, and, at the same time, one in five of our teachers have already reached the retirement age. One hundred thousand children receive their education in demountable classrooms.

Labor will do so much more. We will have an unprecedented school building program. We will do what those opposite will not do—give the Greater Sydney Commission the power to seize surplus government land from other departments and agencies in order to build and expand schools. Under Labor, the policy of the State will be that every new school built must include childcare or before and after school care facilities on site. Every primary school student will be taught a second language. And every child will have access to at least 15 hours of



affordable preschool education per week in the year before school. When it comes to investing in our children's education, Labor will always do so much more than the Liberals and Nationals.

Our State's capital is one of the least affordable cities in the world when it comes to the cost of housing. Sydney's median house price tops \$1.15 million. Average Sydney house prices are now over 12 times the average annual income. First home buyers make up less than 8 per cent of those taking out home loans, and just 1 per cent of rental properties are affordable for those on the minimum wage. Yet this budget does nothing to deliver any more affordable and social housing. The Liberals and Nationals will not act. Labor will. My commitment is that the next Labor government will introduce mandatory affordable housing targets that will deliver thousands of new homes every year for those on low to middle incomes.

Twenty-five per cent of dwellings constructed on government-owned land that is being redeveloped will be designated as affordable housing. Fifteen per cent of dwellings constructed on privately owned land rezoned for housing will be designated as affordable housing. UrbanGrowth's work will be refocused to ensure its top priority is to assist first home buyers. And a State Labor government will work with a Federal Labor government to reform negative gearing. Labor's plan sets aside real homes for people on middle and low incomes. Labor's plan will give first home buyers a fair chance—a fair chance they are currently denied by the Liberals and Nationals.

This Government's undemocratic and detested policy of forced council mergers is in chaos. It has been rejected by local communities and is now rejected in the courts. Premier, swallow your pride, admit defeat, abandon your forced council mergers. I make this commitment: a Labor government will allow local communities to determine their own futures. We will allow local plebiscites on de-merging forcibly merged councils. We will introduce caps on electoral donations and spending and ban developers from being elected to councils and making decisions in their own interests. These reforms are necessary to bring democracy and fairness back to local communities throughout the State.

Reckless assaults on our urban and natural environment are a defining characteristic of this Government. Just look at the needless destruction of century-old trees, planted as a tribute to the original Anzacs along the Anzac Parade, and the return to the bad old days of land clearing. Now not even our national parks are safe from the conservatives. Internal government documents reveal secret plans to construct a motorway through the Royal National Park. This is Australia's oldest national park, created in 1879. It is the second oldest national park anywhere in the world, after Yellowstone in the United States. The Americans would not support an idea as silly as this. Not even President Donald J. Trump would plough a motorway through Yellowstone.

Labor, the party that built the finest national parks system in the world here in New South Wales, will not have a bar of a toll road being carved through one of our most popular and visited national parks. It is a mecca for our citizens and tourists and a refuge for hundreds of animal and plant species, including 300 bird species alone. Today I make it clear that a Labor government coming to office in 2019 will act to nominate the Royal National Park for World Heritage listing. We will save this special, natural place, the Royal National Park, from the Liberals.

To boost regional New South Wales, Labor will support the sale of the State share of the Snowy Hydro scheme to the Federal Government, conditional on guaranteed ongoing public ownership of this Australian icon. Under Labor, every dollar of proceeds from the Snowy Hydro will be spent in regional New South Wales. The \$4 billion or \$5 billion in expected funds will be used to improve regional schools, TAFE, hospitals, roads, energy, water, and cultural and sporting infrastructure. One hundred per cent of funds will be spent on desperately needed infrastructure in regional communities. The Nationals commit 30 per cent of the Snowy Hydro proceeds to regional communities. Labor commits 100 per cent.

The Illawarra is a major economic contributor and our Jobs Action plan is a comprehensive strategy to back the region's potential. We will secure the future of the steel industry and grow the jobs and tourism industry with an upgrade to the WIN Entertainment Centre. Unlike those opposite, we will upgrade the Appin Road. Labor will end the neglect of the Central Coast. We will support the refurbishment of town centres and build the Woy Woy underpass. In our Far West, at Balranald, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Central Darling, Cobar, Walgett, Wentworth and the unincorporated area, the challenge is a significant drop in the population. From 1991 to 2015 it fell by more than 11,000 to just under 48,000 people. Business has difficulty attracting and retaining staff because of poor connectivity and infrastructure. Once again the Nationals will not act but Labor will. Today I commit a Labor government to abolishing payroll tax for all small and medium businesses in Far West New South Wales.

In May, I asked the Premier to waive payroll tax for 12 months for flood-affected businesses in the North Coast regions. There has been silence. Today Labor restates our commitment to help the people of that region get back on their feet after the devastating floods. There is a better way for New South Wales. Labor understands that people's pay packets are not growing but their bills never stop growing. We will tackle the

electricity companies' super profits and return the money to the people. Labor knows that our schools, preschools, TAFE colleges and hospitals are the very foundation of a good life for all our State citizens. Labor has positive policies and long-term plans to spread prosperity beyond Sydney's CBD to all regions of this State. Labor is focused on the future, on a fairer New South Wales, and on delivering opportunity for all.

**The SPEAKER:** The question is that these bills be now read a second time.

**Motion agreed to.**

### Third Reading

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I move:

That these bills be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

### Budget

#### BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2017-2018

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I move:

That this House take note of the Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2017-2018.

**The SPEAKER:** I set down debate on the Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2017-2018 as an order of the day for a future day.

### Motions

#### ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMS

[*Business resumed.*]

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (11:27):** As I said earlier, it is my pleasure to speak on the motion relating to National Buddy Day and Anti-Bullying. Our schools remain one of the most secure and trusted public institutions in our community. Following my earlier comments about what this Government has already undertaken, I understand that the Minister for Education has directed the Department of Education to develop an updated anti-bullying strategy. We aim to release this strategy to schools in term three of 2017. This new resource will be a complete package of information for schools, students and parents to address bullying in schools. The development of these resources is ongoing and the development process has seen consultation with mental health, anti-bullying and stakeholder groups. This will continue over the next month and beyond.

We will not stop there. We will continue to listen to stakeholders and amend the resources over time, when necessary, to ensure that we get this right. An important aspect of this new resource is that it will include a significant expansion of the Youth Aware of Mental Health program. The Youth Aware of Mental Health program is an evidence-based, wellbeing mental health and suicide prevention program for young people aged 14 to 16. We must remember that the whole purpose of this resource is supporting students who may be struggling as well as moving towards stopping bullying in our schools altogether. I am reminded of the good work of the Beyond A Joke Anti-Bullying Centre in Dee Why in my electorate whose aim is to prevent bullying by creating a domino effect of kindness. The centre aims to encourage all participants to join support groups and volunteer training programs, which in essence is what this important day is about. It has been my pleasure to speak in support of the motion of the member for Holsworthy. I commend the good work of the foundation and Buddy Day.

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (11:30):** I also support the motion of the member for Holsworthy, and I congratulate her on moving a motion that addresses the important issue of bullying not just in schools but also across society. I speak from the position of having been a primary schoolteacher and a primary school principal for 18 years. I know that the foundation of any good school is an inclusive policy that welcomes and celebrates the individuality of all students. That foundation is built on an emotional intelligence base. There are two sorts of intelligence—the intelligence quotient [IQ] and the emotional quotient [EQ]. Latest research clearly indicates that EQ is the foundation of good learning outcomes because if students do not have peace of mind, resilience and self-worth they do not become good learners.

Any policy or approach to address bullying must have a strong emotional intelligence program. A good emotional intelligence program is built around helping students to understand their different emotions. Young people not only learn about the world as they grow older but also learn about themselves. They learn that in some ways they are the same as other people and in some ways they are different. They also learn that how they deal with issues is different from how others deal with them. A good school-based emotional intelligence program

encourages students to speak about and explore how they deal with normal emotions such as frustration, anger and jealousy.

I have had discussions with Dr John Irvine, and after those discussions I put Dr Irvine in contact with ClubsNSW, which has supported establishing in all Central Coast schools a program called WorryWoos which is designed to develop the emotional intelligence of students from kindergarten to year 12. The member for Terrigal is nodding in agreement because he attended the launch of the program. Unfortunately, I was in Tamworth at the time celebrating the opening of girls' academies with the member for Tamworth, who made a good speech at Tamworth High School. WorryWoos is about making sure that we support our students not just academically but also emotionally. WorryWoos is one example of these programs. When I was a school principal, I was a big supporter of Project ACHIEVE, which encompasses the You Can Do It! program.

This program encourages students to excel across a range of social and academic areas. We know that social and academic areas are interlinked because if a student's social areas are going well a student achieves well academically. I am also a big supporter of a program called The Leader in Me, which is based on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey. Every school has its own program, such as the Buddy Program and Buddy Bears. Each school chooses the program that is best for its students. I note that programs should address not just the bullies but also those who stand on the sidelines. They must be inclusive of all the different aspects of bullying.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (11:34):** At the outset of my contribution to the debate on the motion on Buddy Day and anti-bullying moved by the member for Holsworthy I acknowledge the outstanding work of that fantastic local member, who is obviously a caring and sensitive member of Parliament. Bullying of any kind is not acceptable in public schools in New South Wales. There are many reasons for bullying, such as someone being overweight or the colour of someone's skin or someone's ethnic background, but there is no excuse for this sort of behaviour. As mentioned in a previous contribution to this debate, the Central Coast has taken a fantastic step forward in tackling bullying. I was pleased to be at the Mingara Recreation Club with Dr John Irvine for the launch of the WorryWoos program.

Dr John Irvine is world renowned for his work with young children and helping them to deal with issues that arise from bullying. I give full credit to Mingara and ClubsNSW for assisting with the rollout of funding for the WorryWoos program into public schools on the Central Coast. I am delighted that the Central Coast is leading the way on this program. The launch of the program was well attended by principals from every school among the more than 300 people at the function. Mingara generously sponsored the function at which I was privileged to speak. I was a victim of bullying at high school and I believe that very few of us were not a victim of bullying at some time in our lives. I am pleased that the WorryWoos program will assist children who are the victims of bullying.

Students and parents should be able to expect that schools are a place where they can feel safe. Schools remain one of the most secure and trusted public institutions in our communities, and that is no more evident than in the fantastic schools across the Central Coast. The New South Wales Department of Education has undertaken considerable work in recent years to assist public schools to take a proactive approach to bullying behaviour. All New South Wales schools are required to develop anti-bullying plans and include prevention, early intervention and response strategies. I highlight that the WorryWoos program is run in conjunction with the Council of Parents and Citizens Associations on the Central Coast and I acknowledge the great work of Sharryn Brownlee and her team. This has been a collaborative effort across the Central Coast that has included school principals, ClubsNSW, Mingara and the Council of Parents and Citizens Associations. Our parents and citizens associations have played a great role in this program, as have school principals and Dr John Irvine.

A number of private schools are taking part in the program because, unfortunately, private schools are not immune from bullying behaviours. Many private schools were quick to pick up the baton of WorryWoos. I believe WorryWoos is a great starter program. Schools must choose the program that is appropriate to them because not every program fits perfectly into every school. I hope that Dr John Irvine's great work is rolled out into schools in other parts of New South Wales following the trial of the program on the Central Coast. I acknowledge that there is a lot more to do in supporting our schools in responding to bullying behaviours and I again acknowledge the member for Holsworthy for bringing this important motion before the House.

**Mr DARYL MAGUIRE (Wagga Wagga) (11:38:3):** Every member of this House should acknowledge and support this important motion on Buddy Day and anti-bullying moved by the member for Holsworthy. We all know that bullying is unacceptable in the workplace and, more importantly, in our schools. Students and parents expect schools to be a place where students can feel safe. Schools should remain one of the most trusted public institutions in our communities. I am delighted that our Government has seen fit to increase funding to address bullying in our schools. There is much more to be done, but our Liberal-Nationals Government has provided

\$6.1 million in new funding for a range of professional development initiatives to help build the capacity of our much-respected teachers to prevent bullying behaviours.

There is also funding to significantly expand the Youth Aware Mental Health Program. These investments should be and will be welcomed by the school community, parents and students as well as every member of this House. Since we came to government, the New South Wales Department of Education has done a lot of work to assist public schools to implement strategies to prevent bullying. I understand the Minister directed the department to develop an updated anti-bullying strategy with the aim of releasing a strategy in term three of 2017. The Minister for Education understands how important it is to provide a safe environment for our students and to reassure parents that the Government is taking seriously the issue of bullying and is funding those policies to the tune of \$6.1 million in new funding.

Leading academics will oversee the work of the Department of Education: Professor Ian Hickie, AM, from the University of Sydney, Professor Donna Cross from the University of Western Australia, and Professor Rosemary Johnston from the University of Technology Sydney. These eminent people will assist and oversee the Department of Education to ensure that we are proactive in providing a safe and happy place for children at school. An education is the greatest gift we can give a child. Learning does not cease when a person leaves school. We learn all our lives—and if we do not learn something new every day we should aim to do so. It is important to provide an environment in which students in the early years are happy to go to school, feel involved and want to learn. Stamping out bullying through this initiative is welcomed by all.

**Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (11:42):** By leave: I acknowledge in the Speaker's gallery Jessica Gnata from the Port Kembla community who is my guest in Parliament today. I was given the great honour by Premier Berejiklian to serve as the Parliamentary Secretary for Education. The Minister for Education, Rob Stokes, who is not only a colleague but also a close friend, asked me to work on a couple of areas, one of which is the school bullying reforms that this Government is seeking to introduce. As the member for Wagga Wagga indicated, \$6.1 million will be made available in this budget to address anti-bullying and school bullying reforms and measures. I thank my friend the member for Holsworthy for moving this motion today, and I am grateful for the spirit of bipartisanship in the discussion of school bullying.

I was bullied at school. Many members of this House would have endured school bullying for different reasons. In schools children are bullied for all sorts of reasons. In my case, I was bullied because I was different; I looked different and I had a disability. Many children at schools across New South Wales are bullied for a variety of reasons. They are bullied because they come from an ethnically diverse background or the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex [LGBTI] community. They are bullied because they are Aboriginal or have a disability. All of this bullying is unacceptable because it makes children feel less worthy or less able than others. Bullying means that children in those environments do not necessarily excel as they should—indeed, it affects their mental health and wellbeing. In tragic instances across the State there have been horrifying examples of what happens as a result of school bullying, including the tragedy of students taking their own lives. I am aware of such incidents in my electorate.

School bullying no longer stops at the school gate. It can come up on children's phones and follow them anywhere they go, right into their homes, which makes it even harder to deal with. All of this is unacceptable. Bullying for any reason in our schools is unacceptable. Schools are our safest places in many respects. We must ensure that teachers and schools have the right resources to deal with school bullying—not just in the aftermath but also by being proactive. We need to ensure that we address the behaviour of bullies—the people who are actively engaging in this behaviour—to try to make sure that they do not take those sorts of behaviours into the workplace and into later life. That is why I am proud to be involved with this program, which will ensure that teachers and parents are armed with the resources they require to address school bullying.

I have asked the department to ensure that when this resource is made publicly available it will be available to all. In the past there have been resources on websites that sometimes are not accessible to all. I want everyone to know how they can address school bullying, regardless of its origins and, indeed, its outcome. Everyone can do something about school bullying; I know that all members in this Chamber will want to address it. The intention of this resource is to have one guiding objective: that every student should be given every opportunity to excel and that every school should be free of school bullying. Members have spoken quite eloquently about school bullying action plans and about what our teachers are doing to address school bullying.

This overriding resource will deal with all the different reasons for school bullying. It will provide lesson plans on how teachers can use resources to address issues. Indeed, we are engaging some of the leading academics in these areas. Some of them have already been mentioned, including Professor Ian Hickie from the University of Sydney, Professor Donna Cross from the University of Western Australia and Rosemary Johnston from the University of Technology Sydney. They will provide advice, but I have also been given the job of engaging stakeholders. I make the offer to anyone who wishes to speak with me about these resources that anyone from any

part of the education sphere, or indeed the community, can have a say. I will continue to consult with those groups until the release of this resource. When I became the Parliamentary Secretary for Education I wanted to do a number of things. One of them was to ensure that children who walk the same path that I did have an easier path. If the one thing I can do is to give kids who walked my path an easier journey it will be a job well done.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (11:47):** By leave: I was thrilled to hear that this motion would be moved in the House and I acknowledge the outstanding work of the member for Holsworthy in moving the motion. I heard her passionate speech as well as the speeches of the member for Terrigal and my good friend the member for Kiama. Bullying of any kind—whether on the school playground or through social media—is unacceptable in New South Wales schools, be they public, private or independent. People are bullied because they are overweight or part of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex community. People are bullied because of the colour of their skin, their background or religious beliefs, or for any other reason. But bullying is not acceptable. Students and parents should expect schools to be a safe place. They are the most secure and trusted public institutions in our State and our community.

Over the years considerable work has been done by the New South Wales Department of Education to assist schools across the State to take a proactive approach to bullying behaviour. All New South Wales public schools are required to develop anti-bullying plans that include prevention, early intervention and response strategies. I note the great work of some of the schools in my electorate that put together an anti-bullying program. However, there is more to do to support schools responding to bullying. The introduction of social media—Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube—has changed the nature of bullying in recent years. The Department of Education is adapting to that and has developed an updated anti-bullying strategy that will be released to schools in term three of this year.

The strategy will bring together resources and information for schools, students, parents and school counsellors. New resources are in development in consultation with mental health and anti-bullying stakeholders across the State. That will continue over the next month and beyond. It is important for the Department of Education to look continuously at updating its anti-bullying policy because of social media. Today it is Facebook, Twitter and WeChat but tomorrow it may be something else. This year's budget provides more than \$6 million in new funding for a range of professional development initiatives. I thank the member for Holsworthy for moving this motion.

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (11:51):** By leave: I congratulate the member for Holsworthy on moving this motion. She is the chair of the Committee on Children and Young People, which recently conducted an inquiry into the sexualisation of children and young people. The committee heard a significant number of horrifying stories about the ways in which children are exposed to bullying behaviours through sexting and other technological means. Recently we were discussing the incidence of youth suicide in the community and the strategies that ought to be adopted to reduce youth suicide. It is no secret that I am opposed to the Safe Schools anti-bullying program.

One of the reasons I opposed it was that it diminished the significance of bullying. People should not be bullied because of their sexuality but bullying is motivated by many other factors. The Safe Schools program had the potential to diminish the focus on other bullying behaviours so it was an inappropriate anti-bullying program. In fact, the author of the program admitted it was not designed to be an anti-bullying program. The second reason I opposed that program was that it pitted parent against parent. Anti-bullying programs should be developed in consultation with parents, the community and students to ensure that they are taken on board by the whole school community. I am not unhappy that the Safe Schools program is gone but I am delighted that a new program is being developed by experts including Professor Ian Hickie, Donna Cross, who was on the Safe School review committee, and Rosemary Johnson, as it will give parents confidence in the program.

As the parent of a number of children bullying is a constant concern. Every day one of my children comes home and complains about being bullied at school. One aspect that we ought to address is bullying by silence. On many occasions children are excluded because they are no longer friends with someone else, and bullying behaviour is exhibited through silence. The programs that we ought to be delivering should ensure that all aspects of bullying are covered. We must ensure that our children are happy at school. I commend the member for Holsworthy for moving this motion today.

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (11:56):** By leave: I support the motion moved by the member for Holsworthy to support the Alannah and Madeline Foundation Buddy Day. Buddy Day celebrates friendship and positive relationships in primary schools and works to reduce bullying. This bipartisan motion is supported by all members in this House. As members of Parliament and as parents and members of our communities we all have a responsibility to ensure that bullying in any form is stamped out wherever possible.

The member for Holsworthy recently became a mother. As the father of four kids aged eight, 14, 14 and 16, my greatest fear is that my children will become the victims of bullying. The most important message to convey to my two boys and two girls is for them to be leaders and not to take part in any bullying behaviour. It is too simplistic to say that kids will be kids. We all have a responsibility to ensure that our children's behaviour does not impact negatively on other children. As a parent it breaks my heart to know that bullying, which is not age related, occurs in both public and private schools. We must do everything we can to stop this behaviour as bullying can impact on and change people's lives.

Bullying cannot and will not be accepted. A herd or pack mentality causes people to single out someone different. It might be the good athlete, the pretty girl, the tall poppy, or the child who is different. Our message today to our kids and to the community is that we should encourage leaders and leadership. We should encourage primary school kids to stand up for others and to say, "Hang on. This is not acceptable behaviour." I commend the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. Today's debate is about public awareness. I stand with each and every member of this place in saying that bullying is not acceptable.

**Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (11:59):** By leave: I support this important motion moved by the member for Holsworthy. It is great that the New South Wales Parliament has taken a bipartisan approach to stopping bullying; there should be zero acceptance and zero tolerance of bullying of any kind. No-one should be bullied if they are overweight or lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or based on the colour of skin or their background. Someone could be bullied because they have a different lunch, their clothing is different, or their parents cannot afford to send them on excursions. The reason does not matter; it is totally unacceptable.

Students and parents should be confident that schools are safe and that they are one of the most secure and trusted public institutions in our community. I am the father of an 18-year-old, a 15-year-old and an 11-year-old. My wife and I talk frequently with them about what they did at school—what they learnt, who they played with, and so on. Initially they would respond, "Nothing", or, "No, I didn't do anything." If we ask questions and get involved in our children's day-to-day school activities, it becomes easier over time for them to talk about what has happened. They will talk more openly about someone being pushed over or someone being mean. If we can create open and honest communication, our children will be more likely to reveal what is going on in their lives, which is critical to ensuring a healthy relationship.

All New South Wales public schools are required to develop anti-bullying plans that include prevention, early intervention and response strategies. I acknowledge that more must be done to support schools in responding to bullying behaviour. The Minister for Education asked the Department of Education to develop an updated anti-bullying strategy for release to schools in term three this year. That will bring together resources and information for schools, students and parents. Teachers also have a role to play in keeping their eyes and ears open to what is happening in the classroom, in the playground, at mealtimes, on excursions, and on athletics days. They must ultimately consider whether intervention is warranted. If that means calling a parent to relay concerns about the treatment someone is dealing out or receiving, so be it. It is a partnership between parents and schools.

When I speak at presentation days for year 6 classes, I address the parents, the carers and the grandparents about the need to get involved in their children's day-to-day school activities. We must communicate and keep our conversations with them free flowing. If we do that, ultimately our children will feel more comfortable talking about what is happening in their day. If that occurs, we might be able to head off a problem or stop problems occurring. To that end, the State budget provides \$6.1 million in new funding for a range of professional development initiatives to build teachers' capacity to prevent bullying behaviours. The new resources will be easily accessible to everyone, regardless of whether they are a student, a teacher or a parent. This strategy also includes a significant expansion of the Youth Aware of Mental Health program, which is an evidence-based wellbeing, mental health and suicide prevention program for young people aged 14 to 16. [*Extension of time*]

That statement is important. I spoke earlier about opening up the lines of communication between parents and children. However, we must also deal with social media. My wife and I have decided that our children will not have computers in their bedrooms. We want to be able to supervise their homework and research. In addition, they can have their mobile phones in their bedrooms only as alarms. They know that if they use their phones in their bedrooms they will lose them. Because their phones are so important to them, they play by the rules. We must also ensure that our children know the role that social media plays in bullying. One line on a Facebook page can trigger an explosion of bullying. In addition, social media cannot convey tone. If communication is face to face, we can judge the tone and determine whether a comment is simply a joke. That cannot and does not happen on social media. I support the motion of the member for Holsworthy, which raises an important issue that should be and is being addressed.

**Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (12:06):** By leave: I could not let this opportunity pass without making a contribution on this significant issue. I commend the member for Holsworthy on moving this motion. I also commend the Alannah

and Madeline Foundation for its work and its commitment to supporting National Buddy Day. Many of us have experienced some form of bullying at some point in our lives. I was the victim of bullying for four years at high school. My high school was small and I was one of only five girls in years 7 to 10. Regrettably, the other four girls were bullying me, and I had nowhere to go.

Every day I experienced a mental battle to get dressed, to pack my bags, and to face what I knew would be an awful day. The positive aspect of that experience was that I became incredibly resilient. It was a couple of decades ago, and I knew that when I got home I would be safe. However, today, with the introduction of so much technology-based learning and social media, the potential for and evidence of bullying continuing at home is alarming. That is why I am proud of the Minister for Education for treating this matter so seriously and with vigour to ensure that at the beginning of term three this year the department will have a comprehensive anti-bullying program in place. I am proud that a number of leading academics are working with the Department of Education in formulating this strategy. I had the pleasure of meeting Professor Ian Hickey from the University of Sydney a few weeks ago, and we had a very engaging conversation. I thank him, Professor Donna Cross from the University of Western Australia and Professor Rosemary Johnston from University of Technology Sydney for their expertise and passion as partners with the Department of Education in this strategy.

I am very pleased that the strategy will include a significant expansion of the Youth Aware of Mental Health program, an evidence-based wellbeing, mental health and suicide prevention program for young people aged 14 to 16 years. In the six months since I was appointed the Minister for Mental Health I have come to discover that, for a significant number of people who will experience a mental health issue, their illness becomes apparent around the age of 14 years. It is alarming that many hundreds of thousands of people in the prime of their life in terms of education, building friendships and having fun will begin to experience and demonstrate symptoms of a mental illness. I commend the Minister for Education and his team not only for recognising that mental health is a serious issue for this age bracket but also for expanding the influence of and the teaching in relation to the Youth Aware of Mental Health program. The New South Wales Government is absolutely determined to do everything it can to tackle bullying in schools, but it can do only so much. [*Extension of time*]

The Government needs to partner not only with other programs and providers such as the Alannah and Madeline Foundation but also with parents, guardians and grandparents. The Government recognises that it is the responsibility of parents to continue education and training in life skills in the home environment. The member for Tamworth spoke of how he has very strict guidelines about his children's use of technology in the home. That is positive parenting and it will help his children. He is raising his children in an environment where the balance is right between the use of technology and the development of skills in human relationships. As parents of a pre-teen child—I cannot believe I have just said that word; she is almost 10 years of age; it goes so fast—approximately three years ago we had to start implementing boundaries in the use of technology for our daughter. Those boundaries will continue to need to be strengthened and clarified, particularly as her school uses technology in its educational platform. In year 4 her classmates use an online closed website functionality to communicate with each other as part of their education.

We have to accept the reality that technology is integrated within students' learning, and respond appropriately. That is why it is so important for parents to set and monitor boundaries so that, if kids cross the boundaries, there are consequences. That is simply good and responsible parenting. I commend every parent who is doing the right thing, and I encourage every parent who may be struggling to ask for help. The Government needs people to parent their children to the best of their ability. We are all in this together. Let us work together so that our children are raised in healthy environments not only in school but also at home that are free from bullying. Our children should get up every morning and, unlike me, get ready for school without experiencing fear and trepidation. They should wake up happy, looking forward to the adventure of learning and the exciting journey that lies ahead of them that day. I thank the member for Holsworthy for moving this motion.

**Mr MARK TAYLOR (Seven Hills) (12:14):** By leave: It is a privilege to talk on this important topic brought before the House by the motion of the member for Holsworthy. It is a topic that is relevant to my community. As the member for Mulgoa, and Minister for Mental Health, said, this issue affects many people with children, particularly those with young teenage children or children in the early years of high school. I have a daughter in the initial years of high school so I, like others, am affected by social media and how to juggle its use. It is difficult to balance the competing issues of the opportunities and potential benefits that technology offers with the fact that it also opens the door to constant communication between young people, which unfortunately sometimes causes difficulties.

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable in New South Wales schools. Parents and students should be able to expect that schools are safe places. Schools should remain the most secure and trusted public institution in our community. I have been involved with a number of great public schools in my electorate in recent weeks prior to returning for the current session of Parliament. I mention in particular Toongabbie Public School and the great

work being done by the parents and citizens [P and C] association at that school. The parents form an extremely collective and cohesive group, who have their children's interests at heart. One imagines that that extends across their education, health and sporting commitments. As a group, they certainly do not want bullying in their school. I feel fortunate to be able to assist the Toongabbie P and C, and I am happy to help parents in any way I can.

I recently also had the pleasure of attending Toongabbie West Public School—another great public school in my electorate—to give the P and C a grant for a project to improve an area called "Tassie's retreat". The area caters for a number of children who suffer health challenges and provides a quiet and restful place where they can have a more pleasant school experience and improve their education outcomes. That is another example of the great work being done by P and Cs in my area as they promote the excellent education and welfare of their children. The New South Wales Department of Education has undertaken considerable work in recent years to assist public schools to implement proactive approaches to bullying behaviour. New South Wales public schools are required to develop anti-bullying plans that include prevention, early intervention and response strategies. Of course there is more to do, but we are heading in the right direction. To this end, the New South Wales budget provides \$6.1 million in new funding for a range of professional development initiatives to build the capacity of teachers to prevent bullying behaviours. [*Extension of time*]

New resources will be easily accessible to everybody, regardless of whether they are a student, a teacher or a parent. The Government is doing excellent work. I commend the motion of the member for Holsworthy to the House.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Geoff Provest):** I extend a very warm welcome to the Hon. Mano Ganesan, the Sri Lankan Minister of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages. We welcome you to the Chamber.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (12:19):** In reply: I start by thanking the members who have contributed to the debate—members representing the electorates of Port Stephens, Manly, Wyong, Terrigal, Wagga Wagga, Kiama, Oatley, Epping, Camden, Tamworth, Mulgoa and Seven Hills. That was far more members than originally anticipated would make a contribution, which shows that bullying affects each and every school in our electorates. Those members represent many different areas across the State, which is proof that bullying does not discriminate geographically. Local members need to be cognisant of bullying and do all they can to eradicate it from our schools. That is what the Government's budget allocation seeks to address, and the anti-bullying program will start in term three this year.

One of the newspapers in my electorate, the *Liverpool City Champion*, reported the findings of a recent study ReachOut.com Australia. It found that unfortunately only half of the people who had been bullied sought help. That is a lot of people who must be going without any assistance, guidance and support when they need it most. I put on record the signs that parents should look out for that may indicate their child is being bullied. The signs include not wanting to go to school or finding excuses to stay at home; talking about hating school; not wanting to talk about school at all; frequently complaining of headaches, stomach aches or other ailments; bruises, scratches and torn clothing; missing or damaged possessions; being tense, fearful or unhappy after school; becoming more aggressive towards siblings; talking about not having any friends; having trouble sleeping or having bad dreams; deterioration in school work and grades; and hiding mobile phones or appearing upset after reading messages.

In his contribution to the debate, the member for Tamworth picked up on mobile phone use and how important it is to make sure that computers and phones are in the line of sight of a parent or caregiver. The member for Mulgoa also spoke about her personal experience of being bullied at school. She was able to switch off when she got home and leave that bullying at the school gate. Unfortunately, with modern technology and cyberbullying, bullying does not stop. Children are harassed and bullied into the wee hours of the morning. It must be a horrible experience. In some ways members of Parliament have similar experiences, with social media notifications going off at silly hours of the morning—people making bad comments or good. It never stops, and there is no chance to switch off.

So bullying happens to everyone, but as adults we have worked out ways to deal with it whereas young people have not developed the skills to cope. It must be horrible to have to summon the courage and strength to get up and go to school—to get dressed, put on your shoes and walk through the school gates—when you are being bullied. I am glad that we are doing all we can, and I am glad that members have come together to show that bullying is not acceptable. Once again, I thank the Alannah and Madeline Foundation for initiating Buddy Day, so that all schools can come together to show bullies that it is not right and not fair to bully people. We want students to be responsible, good and upstanding citizens of our State and our country long into the future. I thank the Alannah and Madeline Foundation for the work it is doing. I wish all students a happy day.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Geoff Provest):** The question is that the motion be agreed to.



**Motion agreed to.**

**REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT**

**Debate resumed from 1 June 2017.**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:23):** By leave: I start by acknowledging the great contribution from the member for Cootamundra, who brought this motion to the Chamber. It is a timely issue as the Government announced fantastic news in the State budget that was released earlier this week. As this debate has been resumed from an earlier date, I remind everybody of the terms of motion. It states:

That this House:

- (1) Condemns the Opposition for opposing more than \$8 billion worth of infrastructure investment in regional New South Wales since 2015.
- (2) Acknowledges the Government for taking the necessary reforms that have delivered the largest investment program in regional New South Wales in history.
- (3) Considers anything the Opposition does is no more than a political stunt.

We saw an example of a political stunt from the Opposition earlier today. It is fair to say that the Government's infrastructure record is absolutely second to none. I am very proud to be part of a Government that is investing the benefits of consistent economic management back into our local communities. Over the past six years the Government has made important and necessary reforms, and the dividends are now flowing right across the State with an unprecedented spread of infrastructure. I refer to my electorate of Terrigal on the Central Coast, which is benefiting in an amazing and very visible way. Across the Central Coast we are seeing great examples, including the wonderful upgrade to health infrastructure, with another \$87.2 million announced in this budget to continue the enormous redevelopment of Gosford Hospital. It is a \$348 million project.

I congratulate Mr Temporary Speaker Provest on the great news that Tweed hospital will be redeveloped. I know that the member for Tweed has been fighting for that project since his election to this place. It is just another example of how the State Government is continuing to deliver record infrastructure spending in areas such as health and education. I have been watching the visible progress on the Gosford Hospital project. I can tell the House that the helipad is now well and truly in place on the roof of the eleventh floor of that magnificent building. One cannot drive through Gosford without seeing the monument to this Government's investment that is the redevelopment of Gosford Hospital. It is the largest and tallest building in Gosford. Earlier I acknowledged the success of the member for Tweed with the hospital development in his electorate—a record investment. It is brilliant.

**Ms Tania Mihailuk:** Ten years away.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** I note the interjection from the member for Bankstown that the development is 10 years away; we know that under those opposite it would never have happened at all. The member for Bankstown will have seen the wonderful development at Gosford when she was there for the recent by-election. As I said, the helipad is now on the roof and the development is going incredibly well—on time and on budget. I must credit Central Coast Local Area Health for the great work it is doing in delivering that massive project—the biggest health infrastructure project on the Central Coast ever.

**Mr Kevin Anderson:** Ever!

**Mr ADAM CROUCH:** The member for Tamworth is right: It is the biggest spend on health infrastructure that has ever occurred on the Central Coast. That is something that I, as a member of this Government, am incredibly proud of. [*Extension of time*]

In addition to funding for the Central Coast hospital development at Gosford, there is another \$31 million in this year's budget for the Central Coast. It includes funding for the widening of the M1 Pacific Highway—which locals call the F3—between Gosford and Somersby. That has been funded jointly with our Federal colleagues. It will make a great difference to commuters in my electorate of Terrigal. I know because for 13 years I was one of those who made the commute to Sydney. There are also millions of dollars more in the budget for local road projects—regionally focused projects—across the Central Coast. Newspaper headlines have proclaimed that the New South Wales budget is the envy of the world. Those headlines are correct. Big infrastructure investment is what local communities like those in my electorate of Terrigal need to rebuild New South Wales after the 16 years of deplorable Labor neglect, which was no more obvious than on the Central Coast. Roads and other projects were continually promised but never, ever delivered. The people of the Central Coast were over it.

I bring to the attention of the House some of the ridiculous comments that I have heard from those opposite with respect to the budget. The member for Wyong and the member for Gosford strolled into this Chamber and said that we were rewriting history. The only ones around here who distort the truth are those

opposite. They are all words and no action. They come into this place and moan, groan, whinge and whine, but for 16 years on the Central Coast their words have been lacking in substance. In stark contrast, this Government has a very clear plan. The plan we are implementing is to rebuild New South Wales—after 16 years of utter neglect, which is nowhere more obvious than on the Central Coast.

I refer to the Central Coast Highway, a project that Labor promised would be delivered by 2030. It was never going to happen under Labor. Under this Government, it is being completed, on time and under budget. That is yet another Labor promise that it never delivered on. On top of that, Labor has opposed every single policy we have put in place to help fund these projects. The member for Bankstown seems to think this is funny. The people on the Central Coast do not think it is funny that her Government failed to deliver for us for 16 years. While the member for Bankstown laughs, the people of the Central Coast take these matters seriously. What response do we get again from those opposite? They respond with misleading and deceptive scare campaigns.

Labor has opposed this asset transaction, which has seen New South Wales embark on a \$73 billion infrastructure program that benefits every local community across the State. Most importantly, this infrastructure program includes regions like the Central Coast and my electorate of Terrigal. This Government has made the right decision, and what a great result it has been for our State. That is evident when we look around the Central Coast. We see road project after road project and school upgrade after school upgrade being delivered. Those opposite, rather than going out and hugging power poles, should come to my electorate and see the upgrade to one of the schools, which was desperately needed but never happened under 16 years of their Government. I commend the motion.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (12:32):** By leave: It gives me great pleasure to support this motion. I note that paragraph (1) of the motion condemns the Opposition for opposing more than \$8 billion worth of infrastructure investment in regional New South Wales since 2015. That states nothing more than the history of the Labor Party in New South Wales—turning its back on regional New South Wales. There is no greater advocate for regional New South Wales, particularly the North Coast, than The Nationals. A tremendous amount of infrastructure is being delivered on the North Coast between the Hunter and the Queensland border.

In the Tweed, the Government allocated \$532 million to a new hospital and we are about to open a new police station. To enable people to get to the Tweed, the Pacific Highway is being upgraded at 100 miles an hour. Billions of dollars are being spent in that region. Some people say, "Why are we spending all that money on the Pacific Highway?" Putting aside freight, it is also for tourists and connectivity between the two capital cities as well as the towns along the North Coast. I remind people that before we started on this upgrade there were more deaths on the Pacific Highway than on all Australian roads put together. It was a killing field. So many of us who represent electorates on the North Coast have seen many deaths on that highway.

In my electorate of Myall Lakes, the Government has completed the Bulahdelah Bypass, which cost several hundred millions of dollars. Further up the coast at the Manning Base Hospital stage one of a three-stage redevelopment is being constructed at a cost of \$20 million, and we are now looking for \$120 million to plan and commit to stages two and three of the hospital. At the same time as upgrading the highways, we are also upgrading our waterways and jetties. There is a new jetty at Bulahdelah, and at Forster the harbour is being dredged and new rock walls and jetties are being installed. The recently announced budget includes new classrooms for Old Bar Public School, which is absolutely fantastic. There is also a new courthouse and upgrades to the airport in Taree, a new public school at Bonny Hills, an upgrade to Port Macquarie Hospital, and a new bridge at Stingray Creek. Further, there is a new hospital in Kempsey and a phenomenal multibillion-dollar bypass, which will save lives.

Farther north, the budget announced a new hospital for Macksville, funding for a new hospital in Coffs Harbour, and planning for the technical engineering process of tunnelling through mountains and building a bypass around Coffs Harbour. Even farther north, there will be new hospitals at Lismore and Tweed Heads, a new medical centre at Byron Bay and a new school at Ballina. This Government is delivering. We are not just talking, as Labor did for 16 shameful years. We are actually delivering. We have made promises to the electorate, but look at our track record. We already have delivered hospitals and roads and we will continue to deliver for regional New South Wales.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** The original question is that the motion as moved by the member for Cootamundra be agreed to, to which the member for Wyong moved an amendment. The question is that the words proposed to be left out stand.

**Amendment negatived.**

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** The question is that the motion as moved by the member for Cootamundra be agreed to.

**Motion agreed to.**

**PREMIER AND WOLLONDILLY ELECTORATE**

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (12:37):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Congratulates Gladys Berejiklian on becoming Premier of New South Wales.
- (2) Notes that as Treasurer she was a great friend to Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands.
- (3) Looks forward to the Premier visiting Wollondilly.
- (4) Thanks the Premier for listening to the community about future projects.

I do not have to speak to paragraph (3) because the Premier has already visited Wollondilly twice in recent weeks. When Ms Gladys Berejiklian was Treasurer, we in Wollondilly had so much money. We had hundreds of millions of dollars for sewerage connections, school upgrades—you name it. When the Premier, then Treasurer, came to Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands, we were amazed by the much-needed pools of money and projects that she delivered. In this year's budget, Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands again have received pools of money, particularly for health and education. In my time as the member for Wollondilly, the Government has delivered billions of dollars of infrastructure and services, but this budget rivals all of the previous budgets put together. It is fantastic news.

Health is a big issue in my electorate. Two hospitals service my electorate, and the Government has committed \$50 million to one of them, Bowral hospital. Today I met with the Public Health Community Group—I believe they are in the shadow health Minister's office as we speak—to talk about further increases in funding to Bowral hospital. The allocation of \$50 million will result in world-class healthcare facilities being provided to this growing region. I also want to talk about Campbelltown Hospital, which used to be in my electorate but following the redistribution is just outside my electorate. It is one of the major hospitals used by members of the communities I represent.

When this Government came to power, our time in office followed 16 years of neglect by Labor. When those opposite were in government, the best they could do was to spruce up the hospital with a bit of paint. When we went to the 2011 election, as the candidate I promised \$40 million for the hospital. Did this Government deliver \$40 million? No, we delivered \$134 million in the 18 months during which the project was delivered. The project resulted in extra beds, cardiac catheter laboratories, pathology laboratories, you name it, as well as an upgraded emergency department.

At the last election, as the Assistant Minister for Health I was fortunate to promise to the Macarthur and Wollondilly communities \$300 million for upgraded services at the Campbelltown Hospital to address issues such as mental health services, which had been neglected by those opposite during their term in government, as well as paediatric services for one of the fastest growing regions in New South Wales, if not the country. Just a week ago I was joined by the Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Mental Health and the member for Camden, Chris Patterson, to announce that we had changed our minds about delivering \$300 million and instead we are delivering \$632 million. Now the health wish list of the district is not a pick-and-choose list; rather, we will deliver the whole lot. This is fantastic news for the district.

In one respect, I am a little disappointed in the Premier. My youngest son, Menzies, who is seven years old, accompanied me one day to see what dad does at work. The Premier told my son that he is cute. I thought, "That is nice. It is great that the Premier acknowledges my son." My son thought that perhaps the Premier wanted to be his girlfriend, which made me think that the Premier might become a member of my family. However, the Premier also told Menzies that he could have my job because he would get more votes than I would. Although that is true, I thought I had the Premier's support for the next election—perhaps not. That night, Menzies told his mum about all the wonderful things the Premier had said to him. He then said, "When can I go to dad's office and take over?" I might have a bit of work to do on the family front, but the allocation of \$632 million will go a long way to meeting the healthcare needs of our region—not just for today but also into the future.

I now turn to some of the other significant announcements for Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands in the budget, although I will run out of time before I can mention all of them. One of the key commitments is \$101 million for a major upgrade of Picton High School, which will completely rebuild the school. We have also announced that planning will start for a new high school in Wilton. At the moment, the Wollondilly shire has only one public high school, despite our burgeoning population. This Government will provide additional education facilities for this population growth. At Campbelltown Hospital, \$9 million has been allocated to build car parking facilities. The Government is spending almost \$85 million in the towns of Bargo and Buxton to finalise sewage treatment programs. We are spending \$26.8 million on major catchment upgrades under the major waterworks program at the Warragamba Dam. We are also spending \$1.5 million on pavement upgrades around the Cordeaux Dam entrance.

About 70 per cent of the people who live in my electorate travel beyond the boundaries of the shires I represent, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly, to go to work or to places of education. They are forced to commute on congested roads and congested highways. Although the congestion has improved over time, this year's budget will deliver \$7.2 billion for the next stage of WestConnex, including the vital M4-M5 Link. That means commuters will get to work and back in a shorter time, giving them more time to spend with their families and friends. As I have run out of time, I will save the rest of the good news from this year's budget for my reply.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (12:44):** I thank the hardworking member for Wollondilly for bringing this motion to the House. He is passionate about his local area. I constantly see and hear of the wins that this active member is providing for his electorate and the broader Southern Highlands region. It is no secret that the Premier is a friend to Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands. She is also a friend to south-west Sydney, an area that I constantly speak with her about, as well as to the rest of New South Wales. The Premier cares very much about our State and its progress. Importantly, she is determined to see that everyone in New South Wales gets their fair share of the budget. This Premier understands that New South Wales is the best State in the country, even if we did not win the second State of Origin game last night.

**Mr Kevin Anderson:** Some did.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS:** The member for Tamworth should not support Queensland. The Premier has helped to foster a period of growth in this State that has aided in the creation of many new jobs. The Premier, in her previous position as Treasurer, met with the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and me at the hotel Country Comfort Hunts Liverpool, Casula. I also was part of a grants writing workshop that was held recently at the Country Comfort Hunts hotel. The owner, Harry Hunt, was a gracious host. The workshop was designed to assist community groups in writing grants and to understand that the paperwork involved in applying for a grant is not as daunting as it seems to be. We want to encourage community groups to give writing grants a go, and our advice was well received by the community.

During the Premier's meeting with the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, she spoke about how well Western Sydney, and specifically south-west Sydney, has been performing economically. To give some insight into this growth, in the 12 months to November 2016 employment in south-west Sydney rose by 23,600, a 15.5 per cent rise, due to the construction of local infrastructure and particularly the Jobs Action Plan. This is a monumental achievement for our region—one that the Premier should be congratulated on. I also note that this Premier listens to the community about the projects that our regions need.

When the Premier was the Minister for Transport, she constantly had me in her ear requesting upgrades to local transport infrastructure, specifically additional commuter parking spaces at Holsworthy, Liverpool and Sutherland train stations. Sutherland was then in my electorate. I am happy to say that she understood the importance of these localised transport infrastructure upgrades and committed to providing additional spaces at Holsworthy, Liverpool and Sutherland. Not only did she commit to providing these spaces, she ensured that they were provided. Through her planning, an additional 100 spaces were delivered at Liverpool, 388 spaces at Sutherland and 462 spaces at Holsworthy.

Originally 200 spaces were proposed for Holsworthy, but she saw that that number would not be sufficient. There is not much infrastructure around the station at Holsworthy, which makes it impossible to park in a side street, and it is a long drive to the next station. Therefore, it was important to provide the maximum number of parking spaces possible. This project, which is a fantastic achievement for our community, was delivered and planned by the Premier, after listening to the needs and wants of my community. I give the Premier credit for this achievement. When she was the Minister for Transport, I said to her that 200 spaces would not be sufficient, and she worked hard with the department and the Treasury to ensure that 462 spaces were delivered.

Additionally, it was the Premier in her former capacity as the Minister for Transport who laid the groundwork for providing and delivering the South West Rail Link. She listened to my community and knew that it was important for a growing region such as south-west Sydney to have this vital local infrastructure, particularly whilst the region was under construction and before all the houses were built. Not only did the Premier deliver this but she ensured that the rail link was open to customers more than a year ahead of schedule and \$300 million under budget—both of which are unheard of for a government project.

In conjunction with the introduction of the rail link, the Premier ensured the provision of four connecting bus routes, which provided a total of 897 weekly services to Leppington station and Edmondson Park station, and 1,250 commuter car parking spaces across both stations. There is room for more spaces, and we will fight for more car parking for the reason that the area is growing and this station is so well used by our community. We will build more commuter car spaces while making sure that the bus services remove any stress in the meantime. Without this Premier's hard work and dedication, those stations would not be up and running. They allow the residents of my region to get to work on time and in comfort.

Leppington station was the first station to have installed an Opal top-up machine. The member for Wollondilly was there on the day it opened, together with the Premier, the member for Camden and me. It was a great day to be able to top up our Opal cards at the station because there are no shops nearby. Commuters who found themselves without money on their Opal card are now able to use the top-up machine at Leppington station. Opal top-up machines have been rolled out across the State, which is great for commuters. One of the Premier's main drivers for these machines at stations was to make train travel easy for people. It is not well known, but the Premier will go to an electorate to attend a lunch or for a catch-up and then have a one-on-one with the local member about the community and their needs.

**Mr Jai Rowell:** She's down to earth.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS:** She is down to earth. She will sit in a coffee shop and chat with the local member and community members. I was grateful to receive one of her visits. We went to the new coffee shop, The Shop Hammondville, in Hammondville. Again, I thank the member for Wollondilly for moving this motion. *[Time expired.]*

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (12:51):** I thank the member for Wollondilly for moving this motion. I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to debate on an important issue that was raised in the budget and to speak on services in Campbelltown, which is directly north of the Wollondilly electorate. Many of the services in Campbelltown, such as the hospital and the motor registry, were provided by the great City of Campbelltown. Much has been said in this Chamber about the budget and the hospital announcement. The Premier, the Treasurer, the relevant Ministers and Government members said that the Government would provide \$632 million to upgrade Campbelltown Hospital. I understand that projects are staged, but that is not what was said. They did not say, "We're only putting in \$5 million." At no time did the Premier or the Treasurer say that. That is why the people of Campbelltown and the region of Macarthur are so outraged. At no time did anyone mention \$5 million; they said \$632 million. There is only \$5 million in the budget for planning, as well as \$5 million for extra car parking, which I acknowledge because it is desperately needed.

The Premier also said, in relation to building new schools and school repairs, that no community would be left out. Just under \$10 million of maintenance is required for schools in Campbelltown. Rosemeadow Public School is at capacity. That in itself is a reason for providing the investment required. The Premier said that no community would miss out, but there is not one dollar for school maintenance in Campbelltown, which has a \$10 million maintenance backlog. Government members are shown on television programs visiting the great city of Campbelltown. I welcome the member for Wollondilly, who came to Campbelltown for a photo opportunity. I do not blame him for coming; it is a beautiful place to have a photo taken. But what they say is far from the truth. This is the kind of stuff one would see in the corridors of the Kremlin. Bob Askin would be proud of them. Donald Trump is sitting in his presidential suite taking notes and thinking, "Oh, that was a good idea. That was a good stunt. I'll use that."

Communities are tired of misrepresentations of this nature. I ask the Minister for Health to note the concerns I have raised. He becomes infuriated, as he should be, but I make no apologies for standing up for health services and education funding in Campbelltown. At no time did the Government say, "There will be \$632 million. It is going to be done in 2024 and we are just putting \$5 million in this budget for it." That was never said. The Government said that there would be \$632 million in the budget to rebuild and upgrade Campbelltown Hospital. I was pleased with the announcement of that fantastic initiative, but it was untrue and inconsistent with fact. It is a misleading misrepresentation to people who desperately need extra services: our children, cancer sufferers and elderly people. Elective surgery waiting times have skyrocketed, and today it was reported that 44 per cent of people attending Campbelltown Hospital wait longer than four hours. That is why we need this hospital funding and that is why the community deserves the truth.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (12:56):** I thank the member for Wollondilly for moving this motion today, which congratulates the Premier as well as the great work of the Treasurer not just in the electorate of Wollondilly but in my electorate, and the great work of the Government across the State from the beach to the bush, from regional to rural areas, from metropolitan Sydney to my electorate of Oatley. We are standing on the edge of a brand-new frontier when it comes to infrastructure development, boldly going where no government, Liberal or Labor, has ever gone before. It is an exciting new frontier, led by a government that has created a strong economy and is providing a world-class healthcare system across the State from the regions to metropolitan areas. Some examples are upgrades at Tweed and Campbelltown hospitals and a redevelopment of St George Hospital.

The member for Campbelltown has left the Chamber. I did not hear all of his speech but I am sure he said "thank you" on behalf of his community. Maybe he said, "Thank you, Gladys"; maybe he said, "Thank you, Gladys and Dominic"; or maybe he said, "Thank you Gladys, Dominic, and the Liberal-Nationals Government for delivering a brand-new hospital for Campbelltown"—a hospital for which the people in his electorate waited for 16 years under Labor. Labor did not do it; we are doing it. We are building and rebuilding our hospitals across

Sydney and across the State. I note the shadow Minister for Education is in the Chamber listening to my words of wisdom and those of other Government members. The Government is investing in education, with \$15.7 billion for the future of our kids, 1,000 more teachers, and \$4.2 billion for school infrastructure over four years.

The Government is delivering a total rebuild of Penshurst Public School, major upgrades to Penshurst West Public School, upgrades to schools in the Kogarah and Rockdale electorates, and a major development of Hurstville Public School to cater for the hundreds of thousands of kids in the school. Hurstville Public School is one of the largest schools in the State. But it does not end there. The Government is upgrading schools right across Sydney, including in Labor electorates. [*Extension of time*]

Last year the Government announced extensive upgrades at Auburn North Public School. The Government understands that education is important, regardless of whether someone lives in Sydney or in New South Wales. The Government is getting on with the job. After six years of upgrades to St George Hospital the Government announced in the budget its plan for the next stage of the hospital. The Government is also delivering on commuter car parks and station upgrades—something that I am excited about.

**Mr Jihad Dib:** Point of order: The member, who should be concluding his remarks, is now referring to new issues.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** Order! I remind the member for Oatley to keep his concluding remarks brief.

**Mr MARK COURE:** No-one can say that this is not a good news budget. The Government is getting on with the job of rebuilding infrastructure in health, education, roads and transport. Beverly Hills is getting a commuter car park, which is something residents and local business owners have wanted and for which they have campaigned for a long time. This Government is delivering. I thank the member for Wollondilly for moving this motion. The Government's budget is a good news budget.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** Order! I remind members of Standing Order 79, which states that members should not interject and that the member with the call will be heard in silence. There was too much audible conversation in the Chamber during the contribution of the member for Oatley.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:03):** I congratulate the member for Wollondilly on moving this motion. Premier Gladys Berejiklian is a friend not only of people in the Wollondilly electorate but also of people in every New South Wales electorate. The contribution of the member for Campbelltown was taken straight out of the Labor Party's handbook. The member for Cabramatta, Mr Nick Lulich, told me all about the Labor Party's handbook, which was written by Graham Richardson and which says, "Do whatever it takes and say whatever it takes to win. Do not worry about the truth."

The Government is investing \$600 million in Campbelltown Hospital, with \$5 million allocated in this year's budget. Some Labor Party members do not realise, because they did not deliver any infrastructure in their 16 shameful years in government, that before something can be built there must be a plan. If I bought a block of land and wanted to build a house, I would have to get a plan and ensure that the plan was approved before I could start building. There is \$5 million in this year's budget for the Campbelltown Hospital plan, which is fantastic.

Before the last election we promised \$20 million for stage one of the Manning Base Hospital redevelopment. In our first budget we allocated \$1.5 million. I was condemned and Labor Party members said, "You cannot plan anything with \$1.5 million; it will cost \$5 million or \$10 million. Do not believe him. He is a liar." We did the plan for \$1.5 million and now the first stage of the redevelopment has commenced. The people of Campbelltown and the Macarthur district are confident that when this Government says it will build the hospital it will do so.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. There will be new hospitals in Tamworth, Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, Lismore, Tweed, Campbelltown, Macksville and Nambucca. Port Macquarie is getting a new mental health unit and there have been redevelopments at Parkes, Forbes, and Ballina. The Government is delivering in health right across regional New South Wales, and it is doing the same in education. In this budget there is an allocation for new classrooms for Old Bar Public School. There is \$1.5 million in the budget for the Taree police station—a multimillion dollar upgrade, the full amount of which will be known when the planning is finished. There is \$10 million for Martin Bridge and funding to complete the first stage of Manning Base Hospital. I am urging the Minister to commit \$120 million for stages two and three. There is \$1.5 million for the upgrade of Old Bar Road and \$1.5 million for planning for the Lakes Way. There is also money for public housing. No matter which way we look at it, this Government is delivering for Campbelltown, the Macarthur district, Wollondilly, Myall Lakes and every other electorate in regional New South Wales.

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (13:07):** In reply: I thank the member for Myall Lakes, the member for Oatley, the member for Holsworthy, and the member for Campbelltown for being so passionate about their electorates. The member for Campbelltown made some points about Campbelltown Hospital which I wish to address. The Campbelltown electorate formed part of the Wollondilly electorate before the boundary redistribution and I was a member of Campbelltown Council for 8½ years. The member for Campbelltown is extremely passionate about his community and he is a decent bloke but he and other Labor Party members made some incorrect statements about the \$632 million Campbelltown Hospital upgrade. They said that only \$5 million was allocated in this year's budget for the Campbelltown Hospital upgrade, but the reason for that is that \$632 million cannot be spent in a week. Planning needs to be completed and development applications need to be approved.

This year's money is for planning, and in subsequent years there will be money for construction. The Government's commitment of \$632 million is very clear. When Labor was last in office it did a similar thing. We did not criticise it because that is how a hospital is delivered. When a house is built the owner does not go to the bank and take the money straight to the builder. First there is a development application, then the slab is poured, and then the builder might be given a progress payment. Campbelltown Hospital is no different. The hospital will be a state-of-the-art facility. I call on those opposite to be careful about playing politics with health and people who are sick and vulnerable. The \$632 million for Campbelltown Hospital is good news. I thank the Premier and Deputy Premier John Barilaro for all their hard work for my region.

I will provide the House with the details of some of the projects that have attracted funding in this year's State budget. The Government allocated \$2.718 million for local roads; \$7.787 million for maintenance and improvement of State roads; and \$485.2 million to continue to build the Northern Road. It is a major road that is utilised by Wollondilly motorists, particularly those travelling from Warragamba and Silverdale. The budget also provides \$26.9 million to widen Narellan Road to six lanes from Camden Valley Way to Denham Court. I thank the member for Camden for his advocacy about that improvement. In addition, \$17.5 million has been allocated for the Campbelltown Road upgrade from Camden Valley Way to Denham Court, and \$4 million for 2,500 defibrillator machines, which can be accessed by local sporting clubs. That is great news for every electorate in this State, not only the Liberal-Nationals electorates.

The budget also provides \$51 million to support policing for the Policing for Tomorrow technology fund, which will see the rollout of body-worn video cameras, hand-held narcotic analysers, mobile tablet computers, and fingerprint scanners; \$10 million to deliver increased oral health services; \$10 million in capital works funding to create up to 700 new preschool places; and \$35 million to manage pest animals and weed populations, which is a big issue in my electorate. In addition, \$2.9 million has been allocated for the South West Community Transport Program, and \$6.24 million has been allocated for corridor identification and reservation for the South West Rail Link Extension North. That funding is being provided for both Labor and Liberal-Nationals electorates. That is fantastic news. The budget also allocates \$1.6 billion to deliver cuts to taxes for families, farmers and small businesses. Stamp duty exemptions will be abolished for first home buyers for houses costing up to \$650,000 and discounts will be provided for houses costing up to \$800,000. The Government has also abolished insurance duty for small businesses on commercial vehicle insurance, including aircraft, professional indemnity insurance, and product and public liability insurance. That is great news. [*Extension of time*]

The budget contains an allocation of \$2.8 billion for the Sydney Metro Northwest and the Sydney Metro City and Southwest, which will have the capacity to move 40,000 people around the city each hour, thus freeing up capacity in peak times. That means a great deal for the residents of Wollondilly, Camden, Campbelltown and Macquarie Fields because even though the increased capacity is being provided in the city, it will free up our lines and we will be able to move more people. Increased funding will be provided to a further 60,000 National Disability Insurance Scheme participants by 2017-18; \$20 million will be provided over four years for homelessness initiatives; and \$25 million has been provided to help people escape violence. Further, \$1 billion will be provided over four years for energy rebates. That is a big issue in my electorate. An additional \$5 million will contribute to the \$29 million upgrade and replacement of general duties and specialist police vehicles.

I could go on and on. The budget also provides \$217 million over four years to ensure that all New South Wales children have access to 600 hours of preschool before they start primary school, and \$10 million to continue to foster cutting-edge research and clinical innovation. I will skip some items on this list because we could be here for a very long time. However, funding has been provided to Wingecarribee Council for roads and for a bridge assessment. In addition, \$14.9 million has been allocated for the Southern Highlands police station, and \$100 million has been provided for palliative care services. Given the ageing population in my electorate, that is very welcome. All students in years 11 and 12 in Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands will receive meningococcal W vaccinations as part of a \$4.5 million statewide program.

In addition, my electorate is eligible for regional and rural area funding under the Regional Growth Economic Activation Plan, which supports rail, road and energy infrastructure as well as sport and cultural centres and which is aimed at enriching the lives of regional residents. Wollondilly will be the first region addressed under that plan because, although ours is a country area, we are closest to the city. The list goes on and on. The budget also provides support to droughtproof our farmers. That is amazing. My electorate has been blessed with job creation programs. I will leave the other 30 or 40 measures I can report on to my speech on the State budget. I thank Premier Gladys Berejiklian for her support for Wollondilly and the Southern Highlands. She is the best Premier that my electorate has had. I commend the motion to the House.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** The question is that the motion be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....45  
Noes .....35  
Majority..... 10

**AYES**

Anderson, Mr K	Aplin, Mr G	Ayres, Mr S
Barilaro, Mr J	Berejiklian, Ms G	Bromhead, Mr S (teller)
Conolly, Mr K	Constance, Mr A	Coure, Mr M
Davies, Ms T	Dominello, Mr V	Elliott, Mr D
Evans, Mr L	Fraser, Mr A	George, Mr T
Gibbons, Ms M	Goward, Ms P	Grant, Mr T
Griffin, Mr J	Hazzard, Mr B	Henskens, Mr A
Hodgkinson, Ms K	Humphries, Mr K	Kean, Mr M
Lee, Dr G	Maguire, Mr D	Marshall, Mr A
Notley-Smith, Mr B	O'Dea, Mr J	Patterson, Mr C (teller)
Pavey, Mrs M	Petinos, Ms E	Provest, Mr G
Roberts, Mr A	Rowell, Mr J	Speakman, Mr M
Stokes, Mr R	Taylor, Mr M	Toole, Mr P
Tudehope, Mr D	Upton, Ms G	Ward, Mr G
Williams, Mr R	Williams, Mrs L	Wilson, Ms F

**NOES**

Aitchison, Ms J	Atalla, Mr E	Barr, Mr C
Car, Ms P	Catley, Ms Y	Chanthivong, Mr A
Cotsis, Ms S	Crakanthorp, Mr T	Daley, Mr M
Dib, Mr J	Doyle, Ms T	Finn, Ms J
Harris, Mr D	Harrison, Ms J	Haylen, Ms J
Hoening, Mr R	Hornery, Ms S	Kamper, Mr S
Lalich, Mr N (teller)	Leong, Ms J	Lynch, Mr P
McDermott, Dr H	McKay, Ms J	Mehan, Mr D
Mihailuk, Ms T	Minns, Mr C	Parker, Mr J
Robertson, Mr J	Scully, Mr P	Smith, Ms T F
Tesch, Ms L	Warren, Mr G	Washington, Ms K
Watson, Ms A (teller)	Zangari, Mr G	

**PAIRS**

Gulaptis, Mr C	Foley, Mr L
Sidoti, Mr J	Park, Mr R

**Motion agreed to.**



*Announcements***LAURIE DALEY**

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** I advise members that Laurie Daley, the coach of the New South Wales rugby league team, is in the Jubilee Room attending a Friends of Rugby League function. Members may wish to join him.

*Business of the House***POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS**

**Ms JENNY LEONG:** I postpone General Business Notice of Motion (General Notice) No. 1648 [Minister for Women].

*Motions***ROTARY CLUB OF HURSTVILLE**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (13:22):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Congratulates the Rotary Club of Hurstville on holding the twenty-second annual Antique and Collectables Fair, which raises money for local and worthwhile causes, from 10 to 12 February 2017.
- (2) Congratulates members of the Rotary Club of Hurstville, in particular Dorothy Dixon, who have been involved in organising the event for over 22 years.
- (3) Notes that this year money raised would go to the St George Hospital Children's Project.
- (4) Congratulates the Rotary Club of Hurstville for its dedication to the community.

The Rotary Club of Hurstville does a great job. I declare an interest, although not a pecuniary interest. My wife, who is probably watching Parliament today on the television, is a member of the Rotary Club of Hurstville and has been for many years. The club has a changeover dinner on Monday at which Jan Gartrell, a very good friend of mine, will be installed as the incoming president for 2017-18. I place on record the great job that Rotary does in my local community. We often talk of the wonderful Lions and Rotary clubs and their success stories in our respective communities.

Both Rotary and Lions are volunteer organisations. They are always the first with their boots on the ground when it comes to disaster relief and helping the community. Through their barbecues, doorknocking appeals and shopping centre tin appeals, they are always the first to raise much-needed funding, whether it is for flood or fire victims or for the local hospital. Over the years the Rotary Club of Hurstville has raised much-needed funding for St George Hospital. It is doing so at the moment with a program that I am supporting to upgrade the children's playground in the children's wing of St George Hospital. As it is a major project it will take a couple of years for the Rotary Club of Hurstville, with the help of the State Government, to raise the funds. The community is getting behind this project. I am glad that this motion is before the House today.

In May, Fire Station Open Day was held not only in my electorate but also in electorates across the State. Lions and Rotary were both involved. At Mortdale Fire Station, the Rotary Club of Hurstville cooked up a storm at a community barbecue, which was attended by hundreds of people. I attended as the local member and I took my three-year-old son, James, who wanted to see the fire station and to climb into the fire trucks. He absolutely loved it. It was a great open day and it was another example of the great work done by the Rotary Club.

The annual Antique and Collectables Fair is held on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday in February, and every year thousands of people attend and thoroughly enjoy it. The Rotary Club of Hurstville does a great job in raising much-needed funding for many worthwhile community charities and community groups, including breast cancer awareness, St George Hospital, and flood and fire appeals. The community gets behind the club, as evidenced by the thousands of people who turn up to the antiques fair. Those people are not only from the St George area; people come from all over Sydney to attend the antique fair and to be stallholders at the fair.

I declare that I am a telephone collector. I love telephones. For many years I have purchased many wonderful and whacky-looking telephones. Some of them are 10 or 20 years old. I have some that are 60 years old, 70 years old and even 100 years old. It is wonderful that the antique fair has continued for so long—for 22 wonderful years. The fair raises much-needed funding. It is just one of many things that Rotary does in my community, such as raising money for St George Hospital, holding community barbecues and raising money for overseas appeals. Over the years, Rotary has helped single mothers in East Timor through appeals. It is wonderful that Rotary gets behind community events and raises much-needed funding for the community. As I have already mentioned, like Lions, Rotary is always first on the ground when it comes to helping people. It assists not only

local charities and organisations but also interstate and overseas charities and groups. Rotary clubs work in every electorate in this State. It was a great honour for me to move this motion today. I invite all members to talk about the Rotary clubs in their electorates and to support the motion.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (13:29):** I thank the member for Oatley for bringing this motion to the House. It is lovely to recognise community groups for the hard work and long hours they put into volunteering to make our communities better places. Rotary clubs are certainly important. They provide an international network of business, professional and community leaders who strive to make the world a better place through practical efforts. Rotary members give much of their time and money to make the world a better place—locally and internationally.

I note that the member's motion congratulated Dorothy Dixon, who has organised the Annual Antiques and Collectables Fair for the past 22 years. That is a monumental effort by a dedicated and passionate member. She must be a real treasure to that organisation and devote many days, nights and weekends to making that fair a success. Anyone who comes from that region knows how successful that antiques and collectables fair is. It draws many people from the local community to attend and participate. I agree with the member for Oatley that she should be congratulated on these years of service, as should everyone who helps to make that event possible.

My electorate is serviced by some wonderful and passionate Rotarians. The local Rotary clubs are Liverpool West, Liverpool and Liverpool Greenway. I am thrilled to be able to acknowledge them in this Chamber. I thank the following people for the work they do on the boards of those local Rotary clubs: Rinna Ly, Alvan Freeman, John Pillay, Ted Mlynarz, Gary Halliday, Allan Hall, Joe Cauchi, Bob Groat, Jim Leahy, Geoff Gibbs, Robert Menolotto, Bernard Packer, Shaun Jackson, John Williams, Peter Bach, Margaret Bach, David Pace, Noel Love, Lee Miller, Nick Romeo and Maria Lupica. I must mention one of Liverpool's hardest working volunteers, Mrs June Young, OAM. She recently brought many groups to see the New South Wales Parliament. I believe they had a great day.

I thank Peter Tuziak for showing them around; he gave them a great tour of the Legislative Assembly. I have committed to joining him on his quest to having the mace placed in the Speaker's Square so that all our tour groups can appreciate its beauty, because it is special to this House. All of the abovementioned Rotary members should be congratulated on their hard work and dedication to making our world a better place and for helping to run their clubs. I will pay tribute to some of the programs and projects that these clubs organise. Rotary Liverpool West provides funding to a team of local surgeons who travel to Cambodia each year, performing operations to restore sight, free of charge, for the poorer people of Cambodia.

It must be amazing to be able to bring back people's sight. I am sure that that encourages the Rotarians in their fundraising efforts and the time that they put in. Additionally, the club provides funding to a team led by local surgeons, dentists and other health professionals that travels to Vietnam and surrounding countries each year to perform operations to restore sight and to provide dental treatments and other medical services free of charge for the poor. For both initiatives, members of the club travel with the team at their own expense to provide logistical support.

Rotary Liverpool has supported and funded the repair and maintenance of a preschool in Vanuatu. They also support GROW, which is a community-based organisation that has helped thousands of Australians recover from mental illness. That is a lovely thing to do. I also know that Rotary Liverpool Greenway are working towards organising a brain injury therapy garden at Liverpool Hospital and continue to support the Bali Eye Clinic and local Chipping Norton charity Miracle Babies. Members would have heard me mention Miracle Babies in this Chamber previously. That organisation provides guidance as well as practical support for families with premature babies. It is based in Chipping Norton but acts Australia-wide.

Many of us would have hospitals in our electorates that are serviced by Miracle Babies. I particularly like that Miracle Babies explains to families and friends how to support parents who have had a premature baby but are not able to take them home because the babies need extra time in hospital. The organisation also helps the families of those babies that do not get to go home at all. They help those parents grieve and advise friends and families on how to find the right words to make that time a little easier. I must mention my colleague the member for Heathcote. I know through his Facebook page, and through talking to him, that he gives a lot of his time to his local Rotary club. He regularly devotes very cold Sunday mornings to looking after the barbecue at one of his local fairs to support his electorate. He is also a Paul Harris Fellow.

**Mr Lee Evans:** A sapphire Paul Harris Fellow.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS:** He is a sapphire Paul Harris Fellow; there are not many of those.

**Mrs Leslie Williams:** I am another.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS:** I acknowledge the member for Port Macquarie. I am surrounded by Paul Harris Fellows. What an honour it is for both of them. I note that Mr Temporary Speaker Aplin is a Paul Harris Fellow as well. In this Chamber we are surrounded by special, talented, hardworking people, especially the member for Heathcote, who is a sapphire Paul Harris Fellow. Once again I thank the member for Oatley for bringing this motion to the House and recognising the contribution of our hardworking volunteers to our social fabric.

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (13:36):** It gives me much pleasure to join the member for Oatley to praise the fantastic work of his Rotary Club of Hurstville and to commend it for its great work through fundraising events like the Annual Antiques and Collectibles Fair. I know that many members on both sides of this House would understand the important role that Rotary clubs play in our communities, and my electorate of Port Macquarie is no different. As the previous speaker mentioned, I am a proud Rotarian and have been for almost a decade. I note that I am in good company when it comes to being a Paul Harris Fellow. I congratulate the member for Heathcote on his sapphire Paul Harris Fellowship. That achievement is quite incredible. Like all members, I am always busy representing the people of my electorate in this place, but I try to find time to support my local Rotary Club of Laurieton because it does amazing work.

The member for Oatley mentioned that he will be attending a changeover dinner on Monday. In fact, I will also be attending my local Rotary club's changeover dinner. I am privileged to have been asked to perform the Rotary grace and loyal toast. I will also have the opportunity on that evening to induct two new members into our Rotary club—Heather and Nigel Cavanagh. Heather is one of the key players in Charles Sturt University, which is relatively new to Port Macquarie. We are excited that she has chosen to be a member of the Rotary Club of Laurieton. Last year our Rotary club turned 50, and we were able to join together and talk about what had happened in those 50 years since March 1967. Everybody across the community agreed that the club had conducted some amazing initiatives to support the local community and—like all Rotary clubs—to support international initiatives such as the project to end polio.

Over the past 50 years our club has implemented some very significant projects. Since 1967 our club has hosted a Christmas dinner for seniors and people with a disability. We donated a surf rescue boat to the Camden Haven Surf Life Saving Club and in 1986 we oversaw the construction of the \$400,000 Kew Information Centre. We should all take note of Rotary's international motto of "Service Above Self" because it highlights what Rotarians are all about: working together to provide service to others in our local communities, across the State and internationally. I congratulate all members who had the opportunity to speak and particularly the member for Oatley on bringing this important motion to the attention of the House.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:40):** I thank the member for Oatley for bringing this motion to the House. We should take any opportunity to recognise Rotary clubs and all other service organisations in New South Wales. Without those voluntary organisations our communities would not be as rich and dynamic. We recognise that no government has the money to pay for the number of volunteer hours that these and other service organisations give to New South Wales. I will talk about two or three Rotary clubs today, but I have not forgotten those other clubs that I do not mention. The President of the Forster Rotary Club—which is sometimes known as the Great Lakes Rotary Club—had a dream of an opera concert by the lake. He started a program two years ago to achieve his dream and bring some of the best talent in Australia to Forster.

It was an outstanding success. As a result the Government assisted Rotary this year with a grant of \$23,000 to help it stage its second annual Opera by the Lake performance. Opera by the Lake brings people from Sydney, Newcastle, Port Macquarie and other regional centres to Forster. They sit beside the magnificent Wallis Lake and listen to the very best opera singers and musicians from Sydney and other places. This Government believes people from regional areas should have the same cultural opportunities as those in metropolitan areas. This program is absolutely phenomenal and through it Rotary helps to raise money for other charities and organisations by running stalls and other things. We have also obtained a grant of \$10,000 for the Forster Rotary Club to install barbecues and enhance the facilities at the Lone Pine Memorial Park. I will meet with them there next week.

The Taree Rotary Club runs the Manning Music Program, which helps the Australian Children's Music Foundation and engages disengaged children in school through music. That program has been running for five years. Yesterday in a speech that had nothing to do with Forster Rotary Club I spoke about Tanya Brown. They have approached her to see whether she would come on board to run the Rotary Schools Spectacular and she agreed. It was a huge amount of work. She was recognised as a Paul Harris Fellow, the highest award in Rotary, for her work. The Taree Rotary Club also runs a book fair at the Taree Markets and the Taree Lions Club markets. Taree Rotary and Taree Lions Club are working together to get a permanent stage on the banks of the mighty Manning River in Taree. They plan to have the stage partially on the bank and partially in the water so that it can

cope with the huge floods that they have. It will be a permanent site for concerts and entertainment on the banks of the mighty Manning River. I congratulate the Rotary clubs and I thank them for what they do.

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:44):** I thank the member for Oatley for moving this motion that gives us an opportunity to talk about our wonderful Rotary clubs. I am humbled to be a member of the Rotary Club of Macarthur Sunrise as well as the Campbelltown Rotary Club. We need only look around Campbelltown at some of the wonderful events they organise to realise that Rotarians support community events, organisations and people in their time of need. Rotary's pursuit of eradicating polio around the world defines it. These are people who give their time to important issues that affect others. Many Rotarians are not personally affected by polio but they understand that others are, including people on the other side of the globe. At Bunnings in Campbelltown they flip sausages all day to raise money for people around the world. I think that is truly admirable.

Two local events in particular come to mind. I recently attended the Campbelltown Rotary Youth Excellence Awards for Students along with more than 400 staff, teachers, proud parents and many amazing students at West Leagues Club. It was fantastic to be there to acknowledge their wonderful achievements. Campbelltown Rotary Club organised the event to ensure that the students were rightfully acknowledged. The Rotary clubs of Macarthur have organised the Rotary Police Office of the Year Awards, at which our detectives, general duties officers and policing staff are recognised. When I say the Rotary clubs of Macarthur, I mean not only the Rotary Club of Macarthur Sunrise but also the clubs of Narellan, Camden, Campbelltown, Ingleburn and Wollondilly North. They collaborate well to organise these wonderful events.

These groups are fantastic; let us be fair dinkum about it. They bring value to our communities that would not be the same without their contributions in fundraising as well as their unheralded work in comforting people during their time of need. They come together every week to discuss how they can help others. I do not think there are too many more wonderful human attributes than doing something for someone else and giving of your own time. Rotarians across the State continue to do that. I enjoy supporting all our volunteer organisations, particularly Rotary. I was delighted to be able to support them last year in obtaining a Community Building Partnership grant to get a new mobile barbecue so they can get around town, flip sausages and raise money to help other people. "Service Above Self" defines Rotarians and embodies their nature. They serve others selflessly for the enhancement of our society not only in Campbelltown but also around the State. I commend the member for Oatley for bringing this motion to the House.

**Mr LEE EVANS (Heathcote) (13:48):** I thank the member for Oatley for bringing the Rotary Club of Oatley and all Rotary clubs to the attention of the House. As mentioned, six weeks ago I was recognised for the second time as a Paul Harris Fellow. Rotary is a fantastic organisation and I am proud to be a member of Caringbah Rotary Club. Our changeover is on Monday. I congratulate the outgoing president, Kerry Dineen, and the incoming president, Richard Mason. Through our involvement in the Rotary Oceania Medical Aid for Children program we have sponsored a child from the Solomon Islands who has a heart defect and arranged home care for him before he went to hospital for an operation. He spent six weeks in hospital after his operation during which time members of the Rotary Club looked after his mother and transported her backwards and forwards to see him every day.

Our rotary club runs Caringbah Community Markets, which raises approximately \$160,000 per annum that flows straight back into the community. We are also involved with Ronald McDonald House. One night a month we cook and serve dinner to the occupants so they can enjoy a hot meal without having to prepare it after visiting a loved one in hospital. Another one of our projects is Bowelscan. Richard Merriweather, who was the founding member of the Bowelscan project through Rotary, passed away approximately four weeks ago. His drive to promote the importance of bowel scanning, which is something most people do not like to talk about, was amazing. It is very important to have the checks performed. It is ironic his brother passed away from bowel cancer.

We are also involved in the Cook Community Classic fundraising event in Scott Morrison's electorate of Cook, and we hold a fundraising dinner on the night. We are involved in the eradication of malaria through Rotarians Against Malaria, which gives mosquito nets to people who cannot afford them. The drop in malaria rates once nets are supplied is amazing. Obviously we also organise the Rotary police awards. In addition, we work to eradicate polio in approximately two countries where it is still active. With the help of Rotary, it will be eradicated in our lifetime. I will also speak about Engadine Rotary, my local club. It arranges the Sydney to Wollongong ride to support Father Chris Riley and raises about \$200,000 from that event. These are not small things for a band of volunteers to organise. For \$200,000 to be raised from a member's idea to host a ride from Sydney to Wollongong is fantastic. I again congratulate the member for Oatley on bringing this motion to the House and I thank him for doing so.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:52):** By leave: It gives me great pleasure to speak about my local Rotary club and I also commend the member for Oatley for bringing this excellent motion to the House. As the member for Terrigal, I am extremely privileged to have a number of Rotary clubs in my electorate, all of which

make a massive contribution to our community. Only recently I attended the annual United Nations conference run by our Rotary clubs on the Central Coast, where local school students were able to take part in a mock United Nations debate that carries on for a full day. That would not be possible without the contributions of the excellent Rotary clubs in my electorate.

I have to single out the Terrigal Rotary Club as I was privileged to be made an honorary member of that club. It does an outstanding job across my electorate, from raising money for student exchanges to funding polio vaccines. In addition, we have the Erina Rotary Club, which runs a fantastic fundraising event each Christmas. I have to say that last year was the first time that my wife, Jill, and I purchased a live Christmas tree from the Erina Rotary Club. It was an outstanding way to raise money for the local community. We had always had a plastic tree and last year our house smelt like Christmas for the first time. I give full credit to the ladies in the team at the Erina Rotary Club, who do a wonderful job every year. I acknowledge the passion of the Rotary clubs in my electorate in supporting local community groups, organisations, schools and their students through wonderful fundraising opportunities. They are so passionate and so driven to ensure that they are able to support our community. They also recognise leaders in our community. Most recently one of our Rotary clubs acknowledged the Central Coast Cancer Centre and the great job it does in caring for patients across the Central Coast.

There is no field in which Rotary clubs on the Central Coast do not play a role. Once again, I congratulate them on their tireless efforts. I try to attend as many of the Terrigal Rotary Club functions as I can, bearing in mind the constraints of Parliament. Their enthusiasm, drive and passion to protect the community and do their best is a credit to them. Once again I thank the member for Oatley for bringing this motion to the House. He too acknowledges the great work of the Rotary clubs in his electorate, as do I, the member for Myall Lakes and others who have made contributions to this debate. I once again congratulate all Rotary clubs in the electorate of Terrigal. I thank them for their contribution, passion and continued work for all the people of Terrigal.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (13:57):** In reply: I thank members representing the electorates of Heathcote, Terrigal, Holsworthy, Port Macquarie, Myall Lakes and Campbelltown. I acknowledge the support from all members for not just the Rotary Club of Hurstville but also all Rotary clubs across their electorates. The Rotary Club of Hurstville was formed in 1939. Over the years it has done some marvellous work through the Rotary Art Show, the St George Great Train Festival, Life Education, Meals on Wheels and Carols by Candlelight. It has provided amenities buildings across my local community and assisted the Home Nursing Service, Scouts NSW and our local emergency services. Through its more recent Kids at Play project the club is aiming to rebuild the children's ward at St George Hospital. Rotary members do an amazing job. As I mentioned, Rotary is the very first organisation to put boots on the ground to raise much-needed money for charity appeals. The Rotary Club of Hurstville is celebrating 70 years since it was formed. Its members have done a marvellous job since then and will continue to do a marvellous job. I commend the motion to the House.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin):** The question is that the motion be agreed to.

**Motion agreed to.**

#### **CAMPBELLTOWN TRAIN CARRIAGES AIR-CONDITIONING**

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:58):** I move:

That this House:

- (1) Condemns the Government for its inaction on, and the increased allocation of, non-air-conditioned trains for Campbelltown commuters.
- (2) Notes that in the past few weeks Campbelltown has experienced extreme heatwave conditions and reports that the temperature inside train carriages at Campbelltown has exceeded 50 degrees.
- (3) Rejects the Minister for Transport's explanation that non-air-conditioned trains are only used as a backup as it is completely inconsistent with the experiences of Campbelltown rail commuters.
- (4) Calls on the Government to take action to immediately deliver on its election commitment to remove all non-air-conditioned trains from the Sydney Trains network.

I have brought this matter to the House because over the summer earlier this year there were very serious issues on our trains. People were getting sick because of the heat. Upon investigation, we found that there was a supposed reallocation of non air-conditioned trains onto the East Hills line from the North Shore, the Hills district and other areas. All members would acknowledge that we must be fair and equitable. Decisions of that nature clearly show this Government is not being fair and equitable. We do not want anything special; we just want the same as everyone else has in other areas around Sydney. Putting non air-conditioned carriages on our line is not the right thing to do. When people are getting sick, action needs to be taken.

**Debate adjourned.**

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

*Announcements*

**RED NOSE DAY**

**The SPEAKER:** I thank all members who contributed today to Red Nose Day for their support of this really good cause. We have raised approximately \$400 so far and we are still collecting.

*Visitors*

**VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I welcome many visitors to the gallery this afternoon for our last question time for five weeks. I extend a very warm welcome to a delegation of political leaders from The Philippines, hosted by the Australian Political Exchange. It was lovely to meet them earlier as they are my guests and guests of the President. I also welcome a delegation from the South Nowra Probus Club, guests of the Speaker, and member for South Coast, and the member for Kiama. I also acknowledge in the gallery Tanya Rhodes Taylor, guest of the Minister for Education, and member for Pittwater. I acknowledge Mr Andrew Cripps, MP, member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland for Hinchinbrook, guest of the Deputy Speaker, and member for Lismore.

I welcome to the Chamber Mrs Michelle Hartounian and Mr Raz Hartounian, guests of the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Infrastructure, and member for Oatley. I also welcome Memphis Bourne-Blue, who is from France and is currently interning at the Parliament, guest of the member for Newcastle. I welcome Irene Hatzipetros to the Chamber today, guest of the member for Shellharbour. I also welcome a delegation of judges from the Henan High Court in China. We welcome you to the Chamber. We also welcome former member Wendy Machin to the gallery.

*Announcements*

**PETER TUZIAK, TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

**The SPEAKER:** I am sure everyone in this Chamber knows Mr Peter Tuziak, who did not tell me last week that he has reached the milestone of 20 years in this place. Peter started as a schoolteacher and after leaving teaching he had a spell as a journalist with Fairfax Media Limited—and we forgive him for that. On 2 June 1997 Peter joined the staff of the Legislative Assembly with Chamber and Support Services. More significantly than being a Chamber attendant, Peter was the inaugural appointee to the then newly created specialised position delivering educational talks to school groups in the Chamber. It is here that he has truly established his credentials, and I am sure that all members would agree with that. Peter has made valuable contributions to the evolution of educational material and the role-plays for students in the Chamber. All members who have seen Peter in his element with school groups will attest to his commitment to the role. On behalf of the House, I extend my hearty congratulations to Peter on reaching this magnificent milestone.

**KABUL TERRORIST ATTACK**

**The SPEAKER (14:22):** As we end the first half of the sittings for 2017, let us reflect with compassion on the tragedies, suffering and attacks that have been inflicted upon people across the world. At an attack on 31 May in Kabul, Afghanistan, when it was reported that a truck bomb exploded at a crowded intersection near the diplomatic precinct, 150 people were killed and 413 injured. This is the deadliest attack to have taken place in the Afghani capital. Although we may not acknowledge all incidences of terror or tragedy that take place in the world, I am sure I speak on behalf of all members when I say that we keep in our thoughts and prayers the victims, those affected, their families and friends.

*Question Time*

**GAS PRICES**

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:23):** My question is directed to the Premier. Given significant increases in retail gas prices by the big energy companies and the ongoing crisis in the East Coast gas market, will the Premier still bring into effect on 1 July her law deregulating retail gas prices?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:23):** I welcome this question, because today the Leader of the Opposition gave us his version of what he would do if he were Premier of New South Wales. One of his key commitments was that he would reverse the deregulation of the electricity market, because he said that that would lead to a change in prices. Unfortunately, as in most things, the Leader of the Opposition has not done his homework. I will take great pleasure in explaining why he has not done his homework. The

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal [IPART], which did a report on electricity regulation, released a review in November 2016 on how the deregulated market was working.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** This is what IPART said:

Our analysis shows there are substantial discounts off standing offer prices available to customers who shop around for a better deal.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** IPART also said:

... in the two years since prices were deregulated in NSW we have seen substantial innovation and continued price discounting delivering benefits to customers.

Here is the clincher: IPART also found that by switching to the lowest market offers a typical household can save between \$284 and \$445 per year compared with a standard retail offer.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** This morning the Leader of the Labor Party advocated a policy to push up electricity prices, and now he wants to do the same to gas prices.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** That is the only budget reply speech I have heard from a lazy Labor leader who puts forward a policy after IPART put out a review that he clearly has not even read. Here IPART is telling us that people will be saving hundreds of dollars because of the deregulated market, and what is Labor doing? Pushing prices up.

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

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question was about gas and whether the Premier will proclaim the legislation on 1 July. It was not about electricity; it was about gas.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier's answer could not be more relevant. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The question was about regulation or deregulation, and members on the other side of the House are clueless. They would rather have households pay hundreds of dollars extra for their bills. What this lazy Leader of the Opposition has demonstrated is—

**Ms Anna Watson:** Is that all you've got?

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** No, there's much more. Wait till my next answer; I have much better stuff than this.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Shellharbour to order for the second time. I call the member for Bankstown to order for the first time. I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. Soon all members who have been called to order will be placed on three calls to order. I call the member for Keira to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The experts tell us that households can save hundreds of dollars every year through this policy, but Labor is doing the opposite. Labor members do not do their homework. They do not know how to run a budget, they do not know how to reduce the cost of living and they are led by a lazy leader who does not even do his homework.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We on this side of the House will continue to keep an eye on the cost of living, as I highlighted yesterday. When in government, those opposite chose not to bring in a gas rebate; we have brought in a gas rebate to help households. They chose to provide only \$145 in relief. They have no clue on how to run a budget. They have no clue on how to relieve cost-of-living pressures. Today the Labor leader put out a policy to push prices up.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members who continue to interject will be removed from the Chamber. All members who have been called to order are deemed to be on three calls to order. Those members who have not been listening may not know that they are on three calls to order.

### STATE BUDGET

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (14:29):** My question is addressed to the Premier. How does the budget deliver for the people of New South Wales and maintain the State's position as the nation's number one economy?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:29):** This week the budget has had an outstanding reception from the community. This Government not only continues to deliver infrastructure and services but also maintains the strong economic management that this State deserves.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech was the only one I have heard that does not mention a single dollar, or explain how Labor would maintain surpluses, raise money for infrastructure or provide services. Labor has no idea. Luke Foley declared that the next election would be fought on public transport. I say to him, "Bring it on." He said that he will build the Sydney Metro West project, but, unfortunately, we have heard that before.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We heard it in 1998, 2001 and 2010. I challenge Labor to identify a single public transport project that it has announced and not cancelled. There is not a single project that Labor has announced plans for but has not cancelled.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Shellharbour that she is on three calls to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The Metro West was first announced in 2008, then in 2010—

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. I accept the challenge. How about the Windsor Road upgrade, M7, Epping Road, Epping Tunnel—

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I commend all of our Ministers who are building across the length and breadth of the State. Labor believes that in order to build a project, something else has to be cancelled.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I place the member for Rockdale on three calls to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Members opposite should be ashamed of themselves. The Government has 40 major projects, and all the Leader of the Opposition could do was make a promise on a project Labor has cancelled three times. However, in order to do that Labor is cancelling other projects.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I give this commitment to the people of New South Wales: This Government can build many projects at the same time, and will continue to do so. Whether it is the Metro West, the F6, the Beaches Link or finishing all projects, this Government will do the lot. This Government has demonstrated it can.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition had a Melania Trump moment when he announced his policy on traineeships. He declared that under a government led by him 15 per cent of jobs on New South Wales Government construction projects would go to apprentices and trainees. But it was the exact wording that John Robertson used in 2014. Not only did he plagiarise Mr Robertson, but the Government already has a policy of 20 per cent. The Government's policy applies to apprentices, trainees, Indigenous Australians and the long-term unemployed, and is already underway in two projects, Lismore Base Hospital and the Sydney Metro City and Southwest. [*Extension of time*]

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will not canvass my rulings. The level of interjection is unacceptable. All members who interject will be removed from the Chamber, even if they have not been called to order. Opposition members' behaviour is inappropriate. Government members are making too much noise. I warn the member for Keira that he is on three calls to order.



**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Not only does the lazy Leader of the Opposition plagiarise his predecessor's words but he does not even meet our 20 per cent commitment. The Government announced this last year. We have already had two pilot programs on the Lismore Base Hospital and the Sydney Metro City and south-west projects. So Labor promised a 15 per cent target in a re-announced policy today and we have already exceeded it. I am proud that it was a Liberal Coalition leader, Tom Lewis, who established the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. Since 2011 the Government has created nine new national parks and reserves. I note the Opposition's very good announcement to commit to nominate the Royal National Park for World Heritage listing. The problem is the Government did that in 2013.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. I invite the Premier to table the listing document.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** It is on the public record. A press release written by the then environment Minister in September 2013 says, "The New South Wales Government prioritises the World Heritage listing of the Royal National Park". You are only four years late—lazy, lazy, lazy.

**Mr Luke Foley:** You know the Government is in trouble when it has to invoke Robyn Parker. Bring back Robyn Parker. I can only get one Robyn Parker in my life.

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The Leader of the Opposition is embarrassed that everything he has proposed this morning is either wrong or plagiarised, or the Government is already doing it. There is more; I will now get to the solar panels. I am sure members opposite remember them. The Leader of the Opposition said that we should have solar panels on all government buildings. The Government began the tender process to do just that two weeks ago. The tender is for the installation of rooftop solar panels and services across a variety of public buildings and infrastructure in New South Wales. It is on the tender website.

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 49, which states, "The Speaker will maintain order in the House." Government members are clearly out of control.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I uphold the point of order. Members will come to order. Members who continue to interject will be removed from the Chamber without warning.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I wish I had more time.

#### STATE BUDGET AND HEALTH

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (14:41):** I direct my question to the Premier.

**Mr Dominic Perrottet:** Really?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer will come to order.

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON:** It is question time. Given that Tweed Hospital received only \$2.5 million for its planned upgrade, which will not be completed until 2025, does the Premier support the idea put forward by the member for Tweed to set up so-called pop-up operating theatres in the car park?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for a Maroubra will cease shouting.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:42):** That was a very tough question in budget week. I know it is hard for members opposite to understand how to deliver a project. There is not one member opposite who has delivered a project on time and on budget.

[Interruption]

Do members opposite want an answer?

**The SPEAKER:** No, they clearly do not because they continue to interject.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The Government has allocated \$632 million for work on Campbelltown Hospital, \$500 million for the Tweed Hospital, \$500 million for the Nepean Hospital, \$700 million for the Prince of Wales Hospital, and hundreds of millions of dollars for many other hospitals. The budget delivers \$7.7 billion over the next four years for hospitals. Even if we allocated the full cost of a hospital in one year, it could not be built in that year.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Why not?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Members opposite ask why not because they are clueless.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Maitland will cease interjecting.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The Leader of the Opposition's speech in reply to the budget did not offer a single new policy that stacked up for the people of New South Wales.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Port Stephens will come to order. The member for Bankstown is on her final warning.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Whether it is health, education, infrastructure, roads or transport, members opposite have no idea. That prompts me to refer again to environmental policy, which is as important as health and education policy.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the Clerk to stop the clock.

**Mr Michael Daley:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 129, relevance. The question was about whether the Premier supported the member for Tweed's idea—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I heard the question. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. There is no point of order. The question was about the budget papers, so the Premier is being relevant.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** This is a good opportunity to congratulate the member for Tweed because he has been 100 per cent for the Tweed since his first day in this place. I also congratulate him on the new hospital in his electorate. I have visited his beautiful community a number of times, and I can appreciate why the hospital is so important. The Leader of the Opposition's attempt to make a speech in reply to the budget today demonstrates that, when it comes to infrastructure, members opposite are completely clueless. They are also clueless when it comes to services and environmental policy. They say a great deal about the environment, but they cannot deliver any policies. The people in the gallery would agree that I have covered a few of the issues that have been raised. However, I did not have time to deal with the Solar Bonus Scheme. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned solar panels. The Government has commenced the tender process to install solar panels on government buildings. The Leader of the Opposition also spoke about a solar feed-in tariff. How can we forget the Labor Party's Solar Bonus Scheme?

**Mr Jihad Dib:** Point of order: The question was about a hospital in the Tweed, not solar bonuses.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier is contextualising her answer. The member for Lakemba should know that word because he was an English teacher—of sorts. There is no point of order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I am trying to provide examples of why members opposite cannot be trusted to build or to deliver anything. That is consistent with the question.

**Ms Kate Washington:** You are in government.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The member who asked the question said, "You are in government." Does that mean you do not have any policies in opposition? Is that what you are saying? Your leader clearly demonstrated that this morning.

**Ms Jodie Harrison:** Point of order: The Premier should direct her comments through the Chair.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier will direct her comments through the Chair.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Members opposite are a bit touchy today. The Leader of the Opposition talked about a feed-in tariff. Who could forget the Solar Bonus Scheme? It was supposed to cost \$362 million, but an Auditor-General's review found that by October 2010 it was projected to cost \$3.98 billion. That is more than 10 times the original estimate. That is how well members opposite can deliver. No matter what members opposite touch, it ends in disaster. Today we saw a lazy leader make a lazy budget reply speech, full of repetition and holes. Not one thing he said this morning stacks up.

### JOBS GROWTH

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (14:47):** I address my question to the Treasurer. What is the Government doing to provide jobs and to assist workers across New South Wales, and are there any alternatives?

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 128, which provides that a question cannot ask for an opinion. The question from the member for Oatley clearly did so.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I will not rule the question out of order based on Standing Order 128. The question stands.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:48):** What a great local member; the member for Oatley is a strong advocate for his electorate. The

Government's budget delivers a major redevelopment at Penshurst Public School, an upgrade to Penshurst West Public School, a commuter car park at Beverly Hills station, an upgrade of King Georges Road—and the list goes on and on. I love budget reply days; they are almost as good as budget day. In fact, in some ways they are better. We are talking about jobs; that was the question. This Government is a job-creating machine. No-one else has handed down more jobs in a budget than we did this week.

Since 2011 more than 370,000 jobs have been created across the State—nearly 40 per cent of the jobs in the country are right here in New South Wales—and, since the last election, 180,000 jobs. Regional New South Wales is firing, with 40 per cent of New South Wales jobs created in regional New South Wales over the past two years. Our unemployment rate is the envy of the nation—the lowest in the country for the past two years—at 4.8 per cent. We have created jobs because we work with business, we reduce taxes and we cut red tape. I was reading an article the other day—another speech by the Leader of the Opposition. I enjoy reading his speeches. I read them all. He says:

Half the jobs our kids will be doing in 20 years' time haven't even been invented yet.

Fifty per cent? That is a futuristic fantasy world. It is not *The Jetsons*. It is "The Foleys" over there: "Meet Luke Foley and his mate Michael." They talk it up. When it comes to jobs and workers, Labor talks a big game. But as soon as the workers get them into Parliament, they leave them at the door. We should set up basins on the Opposition side of the House so when members come in to make their inaugural speeches they can wash their hands of the workers whom they pretend to represent. We saw it with the member for Kogarah in his inaugural speech. He got into this place with the support of the unions and, at the first opportunity, he disowned them.

**Mr Greg Warren:** Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 129. This is totally irrelevant.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer remains relevant to the question. I will hear further from the Treasurer.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** It is not just the workers those opposite use for their own political purposes; look how they treat their own members. When I was elected in 2011 I will never forget how hard the member for Blacktown worked as Leader of the Opposition. It was a smaller Opposition then, as we know, but he took the fight up to the Government every single day. I remember being in Castle Hill one Sunday morning and there was the Leader of the Opposition, campaigning in Liberal heartland. That man worked his guts out for his party. Day in, day out, he took up the ball, and then what happened? After the bells rang on the last day of the last sitting, the Labor Party stabbed him in the back. And there he sits, a broken man.

**Mr John Robertson:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Government members will come to order. I warn the member for Kiama that I will not tolerate such behaviour. Ministers will come to order. I want to hear this point of order.

**Mr John Robertson:** I was being pretty tolerant up to that point, but then it became a personal reflection about how I am a broken man. I am far from a broken man. I ask the Treasurer to withdraw the comment about my being broken.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I invite the Treasurer to withdraw that remark.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I withdraw, but I notice that nobody else got up. Just like that, Labor exploits them and then discards them. But I can tell the member for Blacktown that revenge is on the way. *[Extension of time]*

I have been informed that there was a dinner in this place the other day—a last supper, if you will. There was the Leader of the Opposition sitting at the table with his members, his followers—six to the left, six to the right.

**Ms Kate Washington:** Point of order: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. I fail to see how this is remotely relevant to the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The question was about jobs. The Treasurer remains relevant to the question.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** And there they sat. "You're doing a great job, Luke. You're doing well. It was a great budget, but don't worry. You're doing well. You have our confidence." And the leader stood up and he said, "You say that, but before the division bells ring three times, one of you will have betrayed me." And they looked at each other and said, "Not I, Luke. Not I, surely not." But then someone rose from the table and placed a fatal kiss on the Leader of the Opposition's cheek.

**Ms Gladys Berejiklian:** Who was it?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Who was it? Was it the member for Maroubra, the deputy leader? No. He is a loyal man. Was it the member for Rockdale?

**Ms Kate Washington:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have ruled on relevance. The Treasurer remains relevant to the question, which was wideranging. There is no point of order.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Was it the member for Kogarah? No. It was Jodas of Strathfield—Jodas Iscariot.

**Mr David Harris:** Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 49. Madam Speaker, you call Opposition members to order but you let this rubbish go on and then complain about the way we behave. This is disgraceful. It is absolutely disgraceful that you rule in that way.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Wyong will resume his seat.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** We know there is only one party in this place that can deliver jobs for the people of New South Wales, and that is the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have asked members on both sides of the House to come to order. If the member for Wyong continues to argue with me he will be removed from the Chamber for three sitting days.

#### WOY WOY UNDERPASS

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (14:55):** My question is directed to the Treasurer. Given that the Treasurer reckons this budget is the envy of the Western world and New South Wales is now the highest-taxing State per capita in the nation, why can he not find a few dollars to build the Woy Woy underpass?

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:56):** This is the party—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Gosford will cease interjecting.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** —that introduced 10 new taxes and increased taxes 21 times, and those opposite want to talk about tax. The budget reply speech was very interesting. Last year we had driverless cars, second languages, more Airbnb regulations and, my favourite—which did not come up this year; it must have been ditched—the member for Liverpool's public sector investigation unit.

**Ms Liesl Tesch:** Point of order—

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

**Ms Liesl Tesch:** It is under Standing Order 129, relevance.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer was making some introductory remarks. I remind him of the subject of the question.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** It was about tax—\$1.6 billion of tax cuts in our budget. Those opposite said they had doubled down. Unfortunately, there were not many ideas in that speech. While we are recycling assets, they are recycling ideas.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I will tell you what is new, and that is the member for Keira's video on Facebook—it is gold.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 129. The question was about the Woy Woy underpass and whether the Government has any funding in the budget for it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer remains relevant to the question. The first part of it was about the budget. The member for Fairfield will resume his seat.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Woy Woy has never had a better friend than the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government. But that video from the member for Keira—in the member for Keira and the member for Cessnock we have our own Hamish and Andy right here; they are wasting their talents—

**Ms Liesl Tesch:** Point of order: I refer to Standing Order 129.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have ruled on relevance. There is no point of order.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I say to the member for Cessnock and the member for Keira: You guys should leave. Your political prospects here are going south. You should probably team up—

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: It is under Standing Order 129. There is no way that the Treasurer's remarks are relevant to the question. He has not even mentioned the Woy Woy underpass. We all enjoy his comedic performance, but let us hear about the Woy Woy underpass.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** Woy Woy and tax were mentioned. The prospects of Opposition members are going south. They should probably team up with the member for Port Stephens—potty-mouth—and create their own little skit. We will call it "South Park".

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: I ask that the Treasurer withdraw that comment. It was completely unacceptable.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer will refer to members by their correct title.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** There is a \$4.2 billion housing affordability package.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** What did we hear from the Leader of the Opposition today? Were there any tax cuts? Were there any stamp duty cuts? No. There was no stamp duty relief for first home buyers under Labor. There were no new hospitals.

**Mr Luke Foley:** Point of order: I am abolishing payroll tax in western New South Wales. When there was a Country Party, that is the sort of thing it used to come up with.

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

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** The Opposition could not do that; it would not have any money because it never runs anything well. I do not know what the Opposition's policy on WestConnex is any more. I am completely confused. I thought the Leader of the Opposition had changed his mind. The member for Summer Hill said that Labor is still against it; the policy has not changed.

**Ms Liesl Tesch:** Point of order: My point of order is with respect to Standing Order 129, relevance.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer is being generally relevant.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** How was I not relevant? I spoke about Woy Woy. I spoke about taxes. The Leader of the Opposition took a point of order with respect to tax. There has been no more relevant answer in this place all day.

#### STATE BUDGET AND ROADS

**Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (15:01):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight.

**Mr Luke Foley:** I will give you a railway line, mate.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition will come to order. I place the Leader of the Opposition on three calls to order.

**Mr Luke Foley:** Ask your leader what she has against public transport.

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will come to order.

**Dr GEOFF LEE:** What is the Government doing to build roads across New South Wales, and are there any alternative proposals?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order. Members who continue to interject will be removed from the Chamber.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (15:02):** I know that the member for Parramatta is very grateful for the \$23 million that has been allocated to his electorate in this budget. On top of that, there is a billion-dollar bonanza for Western Sydney roads. Some \$1 billion has been allocated to Western Sydney to fix pinch points, to duplicate many roads and to ease congestion. That is in addition to the \$3.2 billion taxpayer contribution for WestConnex. So this year there will be \$4.2 billion in taxpayer funds to fix the road system—\$21 million for planning the M12; \$2 million for planning the Outer Sydney Orbital; and \$648 million of combined State and Federal money for Western Sydney airport roads. They are important projects.

Today as I was listening to the budget reply speech by the Leader of the Opposition I started to reminisce about great Labor leaders. For some reason Paul Keating came into my head. It was not because the Leader of the Opposition reminded me of Paul Keating—very much the opposite.

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

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** The Leader of the Opposition showed that he is a man of no vision, few ideas and no plans for the future. I have to agree with the Paul Keating description: Luke Foley is "all tip and no iceberg". In this budget alone, \$4.8 billion will go to regional roads. There will be a \$208 million investment in major road upgrades in regional New South Wales, including the new bridge at Grafton over the Clarence River as well as continuing construction works to improve congestion and safety on local roads. There is also \$137 million for a project that I know is very dear to the hearts of the Speaker and the member for Kiama.

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

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** That funding is for the Princes Highway. It will allow for completion of the Berry bypass and for the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade to commence. The Government's budget has been very well received.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Gosford to order for the second time. The member for Shellharbour is on her final warning.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** I note that the former President of the NRMA, Wendy Machin, is in the gallery today. The new chairman of the NRMA, Kyle Loades, has said, "The NSW Budget tackled the very issues the NRMA identified as critical in its budget submission—address congestion in Sydney, invest in the safety and economic improvements of regional roads and funding to support New South Wales tourism." There was also great feedback from the Livestock, Bulk and Rural Carriers Association, which said that the budget continued to deliver record funding, allowing continuation of improvements to the productivity and efficiency of the New South Wales freight network. But all we get from the Leader of the Opposition is criticism. The Government was very pleased to allocate \$103 million for the Beaches Link and Western Harbour Tunnel—something that the Leader of the Opposition wants to cancel because he hates people in that area because of their postcode, even though it is a postcode area from which he came.

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

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** We have also allocated \$15 million for geotechnical work surrounding the F6.

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

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** Let me be crystal clear with respect to the F6.

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

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** No decision has been made with respect to the F6. There is no set route, nor has there been any decision on property acquisitions.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I place the member for Strathfield on three calls to order.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** Those opposite have said a lot about the F6 in recent weeks, but I remind them that in 2005 the Opposition released plans for the F6—it was on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald*—and a map that showed the F6 going through the Royal National Park. Last week Labor trotted out its old poster boy, Bob Carr, on Wendy Harmer's show on ABC radio. As usual, Bob Carr was a twisted web of contradictions. He did not confess on that radio program that he drove roads through six national parks across the State.

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

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** He weaves a twisted web of lies and deceit.

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

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** I agree with what the Premier said this week: Those on the other side of the Chamber are not worthy to be the Opposition. [*Extension of time*]

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind members that several of them are on their final warnings.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** As a very wise and courageous man was reported as saying this week, "The current Liberal-Nationals State Government is now getting on with building major rail and road infrastructure across Sydney, and fully exploiting the fact that the three post-Carr Premiers were simply asleep at the infrastructure wheel. The baton passed. It will not be easily returned." I agree with Carl Scully and thank him for daring to tell the truth.

#### **BUILDING STANDARDS**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (15:08):** My question is directed to the Premier.

**Ms Gladys Berejiklian:** Lovely! Thank you.

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY:** I acknowledge the interjection. The Premier is most welcome; I hope she enjoys the question. What is the Government's response to the statement by Professor Ian Bailey, SC, of the Society of Construction Law Australia, who said that the Government's piecemeal approach to building standards failures was "incomplete and ill-considered" and that the Government should have found a way out of the mess 12 months ago?

**Ms Gladys Berejiklian:** I don't understand the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Will the member clarify the question—in particular, "building standards failures"?

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** The question is on building standards.

**The SPEAKER:** The question presumes that the Premier knows the quotation.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (15:09):** I do not really understand the question. Does anyone in the House understand the question?

**Government members:** No.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I do not understand the context of the question. New South Wales is going through an unprecedented construction boom. I thank, in particular, all those who are supporting us to do that. For every project we are building, the private sector is coming in off the back of it and building private infrastructure. I also thank all the workers because we are the party of the worker. I thank the tens of thousands of people who are working on government projects and non-government projects. I thank all the workers, and in particular the tradies; we need more of them. That is why our 20 per cent target of apprenticeships on every project is critical.

The members opposite should ask their leader about his 15 per cent target. His policy is two or three years old and the target is less than ours. I am proud to say that New South Wales is the infrastructure capital of Australia. The Government is spending \$73 billion in the next four years, and the many cranes in the sky are matched by the tunnel-boring machines in the ground. There is no better symbol of that than the \$2.8 billion contract that the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and I signed today to deliver the second harbour rail crossing, which will include a metro all the way to Bankstown.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: The question arises from a story by Lisa Visentin today in the *Sydney Morning Herald* relating to fire safety systems, which I thought might be relevant after what just happened in London.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The question was poorly worded. The member for Maroubra will resume his seat. It is not the member's role to restate the question.

**Mr Michael Daley:** I am not; I am asking for a response.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier has addressed the lack of clarity in the question.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and I were very pleased today to sign that \$2.8 billion contract. We were pleased for a number of reasons. Back in 2012 we said that we would deliver the second harbour rail crossing, which will go all the way to Bankstown from the metro area. Most critically, it will provide additional capacity on the Western line. We are a government that gets on with the job and delivers. When we talk about construction and construction standards, this Government is leading the way.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have already ruled on relevance.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I have finished my answer.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** I bet you have.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I suggest that the member for Swansea check the wording of her questions in the future.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** One hundred and forty-one.

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

### TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (15:13):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. How is the Government delivering transport projects for communities across the State, and are there any related matters?

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (15:13):** I thank the good member for North Shore for her question. As the Premier just alluded to, this morning the Premier and I signed a \$2.81 billion tunnelling contract for the metro. It was great that the member for the North Shore could attend because she has been advocating very hard for her local constituents, particularly at McMahons Point where we will barge the tunnel spoil and not have trucks on the road. Congratulations to her. This is without doubt one of the great transformational projects in the State's history. The metro train will run from Cudgegong Road in the north-west through to Bankstown in the south-west. Every suburb along this route will win a prize.

There is no doubt that with the advent of the metro the city will be changed forever. It was pleasing to see CPB John Holland win this contract. I remind the House that CPB John Holland built the tunnel for the first stage of the metro and did so 10 months ahead of schedule. I am very pleased that we have signed the contract on this project. Of course, those opposite think the project is uneconomical, but we are very pleased to deliver it. We have been able to mitigate construction disruption at McMahons Point and we will be barging spoil from Barangaroo as well, which means that trucks will not be travelling through busy city streets. This is a government that plans and delivers, as opposed to those opposite who announce and cancel. Some people thought I was exaggerating when I called the Leader of the Opposition a commie, but was that not a great budget reply speech for a communist?

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

**Mr Paul Lynch:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing order 75. "Commie" is not a correct title by which to address the Leader of the Opposition any more than is calling the member for Bega a blood-soaked fascist thug.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! That point of order does not relate to any standing order and the member's comments also rule out his point of order.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** I am sorry for Lenin from Liverpool, but the budget reply speech was just ridiculous. We heard about a whole raft of projects. We heard, "We are going to nationalise electricity", and this gem, "We are going to manufacture ambulances." They are going to manufacture ambulances in a State where there is no car manufacturing. Then we heard, "We will stick Chinese solar panels on every government building." It was a great budget reply speech for Beijing. Mao would be proud.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the member for Shellharbour to remove herself from the Chamber for a period of two hours.

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Shellharbour left the Chamber at 15:18.]*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the member for Keira to remove himself from the Chamber for a period of three hours.

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Keira left the Chamber at 15:18.]*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I direct the member for The Entrance to remove himself from the Chamber for a period of two hours.

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for The Entrance left the Chamber at 15:18.]*

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** What I found particularly amusing was the statement by the Leader of the Opposition this morning that he is going to build the Sydney Metro West. Guess what? I am going to save the Leader of the Opposition some printing costs because I have come across a document for the metro that was released by last Labor Government in June 2009. Labor announced it and then axed it. And the worst thing about that project when Labor was in office is that it was given \$100 million from the Commonwealth and it gave the money back. *[Extension of time]*



**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Kogarah will cease shouting. Opposition members will cease interjecting. They have driven the public out of the gallery.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** Those opposite will never build the Sydney Metro West. When we announced it back in December, we said we would go to the industry. Guess what? We are going to the industry about the project next week. It is particularly interesting that the Leader of the Opposition also said that in order to build it he has to cancel the northern beaches link and the Western Harbour Tunnel. Good governments can build a number of mega projects at the same time, as this Government is doing. I would have thought there would be different levels of public equity for these projects. Again, the Leader of the Opposition has failed on both counts. I note also that the Leader of the Opposition in his budget reply speech this morning indicated that he would reverse a number of promises but he failed to announce the reversal of the franchising of the inner west bus services.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Gosford that if she continues to interject she will be removed from the Chamber.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** He did not stick up for the bus drivers of the inner west by reversing that franchise. Also missing from his speech was the Parramatta light rail.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Government members will remain silent.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE:** The Leader of the Opposition wants a debate on public transport before the next election, and he is going to get one. We are going to take our budget to the streets and we will fight hard against those opposite. In closing, I want to say that I do not wish those opposite a happy winter recess because those guys have been on a break all year.

#### FEMALE INCARCERATION RATES

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (15:21):** My question is directed to the Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs. With the number of women in prison growing fast and most women prisoners having been the victim of abuse and imprisoned for less serious offences, what will the Minister do to reform prison procedures and programs to reduce trauma for female prisoners, increase rehabilitation and reduce the risk of reoffending?

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs) (15:21):** I think the member for Canterbury is making some sort of mating call. I am sorry to disappoint her but I am not that kind of guy; I am happily married. I thank the member for Sydney for his question. He has consistently shown a keen interest in the Corrections space and his genuine concern is admirable.

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

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** There has been a substantial increase in the number of female inmates in New South Wales prisons over the past two years. In January 2015 there were 746 female inmates and there were 1,011 females in January 2017, representing an increase of 36 per cent. This has been driven by an increase in the number of female inmates on remand and also an increase in the length of time in prison. Female inmates are more likely to have dependent children, to have suffered trauma in their lives, including sexual abuse, and to experience substance abuse and mental health issues.

The New South Wales Government is investing \$237 million to reduce reoffending by all inmates. We want to get more inmates in programs, to strengthen staff training and to target persistent offenders. We understand that less crime means fewer victims and a safer community. The majority of female offenders are serving short sentences of less than six months or are held on remand. To address this we are creating rehabilitation units to specifically target female offenders in the Wellington, Mid North Coast and South Coast correctional centres. Participation in the high-intensity units will be mandatory, and inmates will complete the course in four months, ensuring they are ready for release and making a better contribution to the community.

An additional 345 psychologists, community corrections officers and other skilled staff will also be employed by Corrective Services to deliver the programs. The New South Wales Government is also investing \$3.8 billion in a prison infrastructure program to help cater to the needs of the rising inmate population, including a dedicated women's facility in Lidcombe to be opened later this year. It will be called the Mary Wade Correctional Centre, after an 11-year-old second fleet convict who became a respected, successful member of the community. Mary Wade was an early and enduring example to all women who want to turn their lives around.

Corrective Services delivers rehabilitation programs for women in relation to anger, domestic violence, alcohol and other drugs, mental health issues and sex offending. These include the Out of the Dark program for

women who suffered domestic and family abuse, and the Mothers and Children Program to improve the mother and child relationship and reduce the trauma of a mother's incarceration for children. The Intensive Drug And Alcohol Treatment Program is a residential program for inmates who have a drug and/or alcohol problem linked to their offending behaviour. Health care and counselling are also available for women suffering drug dependence, those with mental health issues and those who have been victimised prior to coming into custody. In addition, a new suite of programs to reduce reoffending has been implemented, with the EQUIPS Foundation's Addiction and Aggression programs now available to women inmates. The Corrective Services Industries also gets women prisoners job ready by giving them valuable employment experience and the ability to gain qualifications.

In 2015-16, 508 women in custody attended programs, an increase from 428 in the previous financial year. The highest attendance was for the EQUIPS addiction program, followed by the Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program. Two crucial initiatives have been developed to assist correctional officers to manage female inmates who have been victims of crime and have experience of trauma in their histories. Trauma-informed practice training for frontline staff has been designed to provide staff with the skills to assist offenders who have a history of exposure to sexual and physical violence. Corrective Services and Victims Services are jointly facilitating a train-the-trainer day for the trauma-informed practice training at the Brush Farm Corrective Services Academy so that it can be rolled out to frontline staff across all sites.

At the end of an inmate's sentence, the Bolwara Transitional Centre at Emu Plains and the Parramatta Transitional Centre provide support for women approaching release from custody. Bolwara provides female inmates who have entrenched issues with alcohol and other drugs and who are in custody for serious offences with a structured environment in which to address their offending behaviour. Corrective Services NSW staff work with external agencies to refer Bolwara residents to appropriate treatment programs, external work release, voluntary work and education. Finally, Miruma is a residential facility at Cessnock that provides a diversionary program for women with coexisting mental health disorders and long-term alcohol and other drugs issues. There is no easy answer when it comes to reoffending, and that is certainly the case with female inmates. The New South Wales Government has committed to reducing adult reoffending by 5 per cent and the Premier has made it a personal priority to reduce domestic violence.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! If members find this subject matter amusing they can leave the Chamber.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** If we get rehabilitation right, we can make a real and lasting difference to the people of New South Wales.

#### REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

**Mr KEVIN HUMPHRIES (Barwon) (15:26):** My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business. Will the Deputy Premier inform the House what the New South Wales Government is doing to improve regional New South Wales? What are some alternatives?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (15:27):** I thank the member for Barwon for his great question. He looks after an electorate that is the size of Germany, so that means he is a hardworking local member. This has been evident for a long time and a couple of days ago he started working towards his electorate getting its fair share of the \$1.3 billion Regional Growth Fund. Having listened to the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech, it was clear that leprechaun Luke Foley is alive and well and that somewhere over the rainbow there is a magic pot of gold that leprechaun Luke is waiting for and—

**Mr Paul Lynch:** Point of order—

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** —typical of Labor—

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

[Interruption]

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Somebody get the Deputy Premier to resume his seat.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** You said "somebody". I am somebody.

**The SPEAKER:** That is what you think.

**Mr Paul Lynch:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 75. "Leprechaun" is not the correct title by which to address the Leader of the Opposition.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the Deputy Premier of Standing Order 75.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Dear leader, comrade—

**Mr Paul Lynch:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 75. The Deputy Premier is no comrade of either me or the Leader of the Opposition. He uses an entirely inappropriate term.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I do apologise to the member for the Kremlin.

**Mr Paul Lynch:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 75. "Member for the Kremlin" is not a proper title and the Deputy Premier is clearly in breach of the standing orders. The Deputy Premier should comply with the standing orders.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I uphold the point of order.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Those opposite are excited about the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech—which the Premier shredded; she carved it up. What is dangerous is Labor's announcement—unfunded, typical of Labor—that it will put it on the taxpayers' credit card. I loved it when the Leader of the Opposition talked about the Far West. He must have screamed at his staffers as they were typing his speech, "Give me a couple of names from the Far West." They screamed back, "Penrith, Liverpool?" "No, further west", he said. They said, "Penrith, Camden?" Fed up, he googled "towns in the Far West" and found a couple of names himself.

The Leader of the Opposition announced abolishing payroll tax for businesses in the Far West but failed to mention that, along with the previous Federal Labor Government—comrade-in-arms when it introduced the Murray-Darling Basin Plan that ripped the heart out of towns in the Murray-Darling—Labor managed to destroy jobs, businesses and families. He was the shadow Minister for the Environment and shadow Minister for Water when he and Julia Gillard designed the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, which devastated communities across the Far West, yet he wants to talk about payroll tax relief. Under Labor, there were agriculture job losses of up to 35 per cent in Collarenebri and employment in Warren fell to 11 per cent. The last time the Labor Party visited Bourke was in a 20-minute flyover in 2008 when it bought the , paying 50 per cent more than the property was worth just to take its water. It ripped 100 jobs out of the Bourke community and the State ended up with nothing more than paddocks full of goats, pigs and dogs.

Today the Leader of the Opposition again showed his contempt for good, hardworking country people when he used words like "reckless assaults" and the "bad old days of land clearing". It clearly shows the colours of the Leader of the Opposition and a Labor Party that is focused on Sydney rather than on recognising the contribution of hardworking country people to the State economy. This morning the Leader of the Opposition again spoke about the transaction of the Snowy Hydro. He is banking the money and spending it even before an offer has been put on the table by the Federal Government. As is typical, he announced today that he will invest in renewable energy generation across all of regional New South Wales. Again, he is showing contempt for regional people by telling them what is best for them. More importantly, it does not make sense.

In a recent press release, he said that the proceeds of Snowy Hydro will go to education, jobs, roads and transport, water security, culture and sport. He did not mention renewables. What has he done? Typical of Labor, he has spent the money twice. Let us talk about that transaction. The Leader of the Opposition attacks the National Party by saying that we are taking only 30 per cent of the asset transactions. But we are taking 30 per cent of all asset transactions and the budget on Tuesday delivered \$9.1 billion for regional New South Wales. He is talking about 100 per cent of Snowy Hydro. I will give him credit if he gets that \$3.5 billion or \$4 billion, but he will cut \$5 billion out of regional New South Wales. It is 100 per cent of one transaction—a transaction that has not actually happened. [*Extension of time*]

**Ms Trish Doyle:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 59, tedious repetition.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. All members are tedious at some stage.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** My question to the Leader of the Opposition is: What projects in regional New South Wales will he cut? Will he cut the special needs school in Queanbeyan that was announced in the budget? This school, which has been championed by Peter Bray for a number of years, will ensure that kids in Queanbeyan who have special needs have the right education and the right start in life. The Leader of the Opposition has a lot to answer for. The Premier mentioned our policy regarding our skills legacy fund, attaching apprenticeship and traineeship outcomes and increasing the number of women and Aboriginal businesses being able to procure from government investment. Our investment is \$73 billion over four years versus Labor's 2015 investment in infrastructure program of \$10 billion. We heard this morning that Labor is cancelling projects, so it will not increase the numbers by even one apprentice. What we heard this morning from the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite is contempt for country people and for regional New South Wales.

*Committees***COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE****Inquiry**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS:** As Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Committee on Transport and Infrastructure has resolved to conduct an inquiry into commuter car parking in New South Wales, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE****Inquiry**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS:** As Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Legislative Assembly Committee on Children and Young People has resolved to conduct an inquiry into the prevention of youth suicide, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING****Inquiry**

**Mr JAI ROWELL:** As Chair: In accordance with Standing Order 299 (1), I inform the House that the Committee on Environment and Planning has received a referral from the Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State to conduct an inquiry into land release and housing supply in New South Wales, the full details of which are available on the committee's home page.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE VALUER GENERAL****Chair and Deputy Chair**

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** In accordance with Standing Order 282 (2), I inform the House that on 21 June 2017 Geoffrey Keith Provost was elected chair and Kevin John Humphries was elected deputy chair of the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General.

*Business of the House***SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS**

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended at this sitting to interrupt the routine of business at any time for the consideration of Government business and provide for the conduct of any divisions.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Petitions***PETITIONS RECEIVED**

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

**Pet Shops**

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

**Pig-dog Hunting Ban**

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

**Slaughterhouse Monitoring**

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

**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**.

**South Coast Rail Services**

Petition requesting an hourly service from Kiama to Bomaderry station connecting with trains to Sydney, received from **Mr Gareth Ward**.

### **Social Housing**

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

### **Inner City Social Housing**

Petition opposing the sale of public housing in Millers Point, Dawes Point and The Rocks, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

### **Plastic Bags Ban**

Petition calling on the Government to introduce legislation to ban single-use lightweight plastic bags at retail points of sale in New South Wales to reduce waste and environmental degradation, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

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

### **Sydney Harbour Bridge Aboriginal Flag**

Petition requesting that the Aboriginal flag fly permanently on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge alongside the Australian and New South Wales flags, received from **Mr Alex Greenwich**.

### *Disallowance*

## **SERVICE NSW (ONE-STOP ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES) AMENDMENT (APPROVED PERSONS) REGULATION 2017**

**Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (15:39):** I move:

That this House disallows the Service NSW (One-stop Access to Government Services) Amendment (Approved Persons) Regulation 2017, made under the Service NSW (One-stop Access to Government Services) Act 2013, which was published on the New South Wales legislation website on 19 May 2017 and tabled in this House on 23 May 2017.

This motion is quite simple: The New South Wales Labor Opposition is seeking to protect the community from the rabid privatisation agenda of this Government. "Sell, privatise, outsource and send offshore" is the standard mantra of this Government. There is nothing that is not on the market. People might be wondering why we are creating such a fuss over the privatisation of Service NSW. There are two parts to that question. First, the Government should protect and not sell the private information of the people of New South Wales. Secondly, delivering government services in New South Wales is the responsibility of the New South Wales Government and the jobs that deliver those services should be provided by and in New South Wales.

On May 19 the Government quietly snuck through a new regulation to allow for new private providers to be appointed to do the work of Service NSW. Service NSW is a new government provider created by this Liberal-Nationals Government. Service NSW was a mashing together of 40 agencies, including but not limited to the old Roads and Traffic Authority—now Roads and Maritime Services—the Office of Births, Deaths and Marriages and Fair Trading offices. The Government told the people of New South Wales that this new Service NSW would be wonderful and would bring many services together in a single place. If only its intentions were so honourable. In reality, the Government took the opportunity to significantly cut back on staff and it scaled back on the investment of government dollars in each region. Put simply, offices were closed and staff were sacked. This was felt most harshly in regional New South Wales, where quite often the supply of government services, jobs and money are the lifeblood of the community.

Putting aside job and funding cuts, what have these various government agencies done historically? They hold our personal information from the cradle to the grave. They know when we are born, when we die, when we obtain or lose a driver licence, when we open a business, when we make a complaint, whether we wear glasses, whether we have a disability, whether we are epileptic, whether we suffer from depression or whether we are living with a range of other illnesses or diseases that might affect our driver licence. They know what cars we drive, how much they are worth, where and when we bought them, whether we are married or divorced, whether we have a firearm or security licence and whether we are fishing enthusiasts. These government agencies know more about us than our husbands and wives. Prior to this regulation we could take some comfort from the fact that the Government held our personal and private information tightly and securely. For most people in New South Wales, including the constituents of Government members, this privacy is incredibly important.

The regulation that we are seeking to oppose—I invite all members to oppose it—will end the security of our private information. That is why I have moved this disallowance motion. I encourage all members to vote with Labor and to disallow this regulation. I suspect that Government members will not go back into their communities at the end of this week and say to their constituents, "We just sold off the rights to your personal information." Will they tell their constituents about this at all? Will they declare their hand? I suspect that no Government members have told their constituents about this sell-off of private information. I suspect that they have not said anything to their constituents. It is the same old story: They do one thing in Macquarie Street and they do something completely different in their communities. At times I am embarrassed for Government members. They are so ashamed of their policies, activities and actions that they will not tell their communities about them at all.

This begs the question: If the Government is selling our private details, to whom is it selling that information? In the regulation the Government has named and identified seven new companies that will be in the bidding. It is a *Who's Who* of international private corporates that deliver government services. They are the disease of modern neoliberal economics and their reputations should make us pause and take stock. Concentrix Services Pty Limited incorrectly withdrew tax credits in the United Kingdom and is now having its government contract pulled from hundreds of centres. The Government is responsible for re-engaging employees because of that company's misconduct.

Peakbound Holdings Pty Limited specialises in contact centres for the financial services sector. It is one of a number of companies known to use aggressive call centre techniques, including calling members of the public a number of times a day and at night, and sending text messages—something that current government services will not do. The Probe Group specialises in outsourcing business services, including debt collection. It is part of the aggressive \$2.9 billion Centrelink repayment debacle, which involves many individuals who are having collection action taken against them—something that we have all seen, heard and read about in the news. It uses the same aggressive call centre techniques, such as calling members of the public many times a day and at night and sending text messages, which others might think of as harassment.

Salmat Marketing Solutions was referred to by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a "junk mail company". Last year it was responsible for the early leak of Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank results. It assists Australian companies offshore and reduces wage costs. The infamous Serco Citizen Services is not unknown in Australian political discourse; it is a British outsourcing company. The chief financial officer wrote a guide to outsourcing, which states:

Looking after your employees is the most difficult emotional hurdle to overcome. However, ensuring that employees are looked after will have implications to the cost for the outsourcer as they will often have to employ those staff on the same terms.

It is almost as though he thinks that is a bad thing. He further states:

There is a possibility that the employee's length of tenure with their current employer may have to be recognised. But, if you plan ahead these issues can be avoided.

Would we want our State Government to do business with a company such as this? Essentially, the statement made by the chief financial officer bells the cat. It reveals the ideology and philosophy of Serco Citizen Services, which is now listed by this regulation as a potential Service NSW provider. Research into another listed company—Stellar Asia Pacific—found that in the 2014-15 financial year it reported an income in this country of \$122 million but paid only \$2 million in tax, which is less than 2 per cent. This week's budget suggests that we all need to do our bit to contribute to the finances of the State. Yet this company, which the Government is going out of its way to engage, is not doing its bit for the State or paying its fair share.

Telco Services Australia is next on the list. It provides outsource services, including inbound and outbound call centre support. In 2011 the Fair Work Ombudsman commenced litigation in the Federal Court against that company for incorrectly classifying 10,000 sales staff as independent contractors instead of employees, costing workers entitlements such as annual leave and a proper rate of pay. That is another company with which this Government is seeking to do business. The features of these companies are as predictable as night follows day. Why would we want to do business with them? The Government sold off much of our personal financial information when it sold off Land and Property Information. It is now set to sell off our private and personal details. If we do not disallow this legislation our health records might be the only information that remains private.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (15:49):** The people of New South Wales rightly expect to access New South Wales government services quickly, conveniently and simply. They also expect services to be delivered in ways and at times that suit their busy lives. We know people have busy lives and how frustrating it must be for them if they have to wait in long queues at a single, siloed shopfront, are put on hold while trying to get information, or if they cannot find government information

on the internet. This Government has a strong commitment to put the citizen at the heart of customer service delivery. We want residents and businesses to have the benefit of service improvements and technology that is commonplace in many other countries and cities.

That is why in July 2013 this Government launched Service NSW. This agency has literally reshaped government to focus on the needs of citizens, not on the needs of government itself. Service NSW is delivering on the Government's commitment to make it easier for citizens to do business with government no matter where they live. When Service NSW was established, there was a fragmented and frustrating system that had hundreds of generally single-service shopfronts, 100-plus call centres, hundreds of unique websites with at least 50 alone providing transactional capability, and thousands of government telephone numbers. Now there is one place for customers to go to conduct all their transactions.

Apart from the step-change in customer service—evidenced by the high customer satisfaction scores and a highly engaged team of customer service staff—Service NSW simplified access to government services; improved the customer experience; empowered customers to self-select their service channel experience; and provided integrated and greater education of a variety of channels and the one-stop service, which means citizens have greater awareness and greater opportunity to self-select a service channel. The agency has also digitised more transactions and services; increased the digital take-up of transaction services by citizens; realised asset value through the sale of government properties; and enhanced analytical and customer insight, thus reducing costs and increasing efficiencies.

Service NSW has adopted cloud-based technology by spearheading the Government's information and communications technology strategy as a model for enabling technology for service delivery, improving compliance and data security yet adhering to principles of open government. This enables service channels for smaller-scale agencies that are taking advantage of the Service NSW channel footprint to provide greater reach of services. It also enables Service NSW to scale up; for example, by providing overflow services to other agencies such as the Rural Fire Service, the Office of Local Government, and most recently the State Emergency Service—sometimes with only hours of notice. Other services such as the Greyhound line and the Loose Asbestos line are also provided.

The Government has consolidated shopfronts, but at the same time it has expanded services. It has reduced duplicated shopfronts, but expanded services through Service NSW. Those facilities are providing greater coverage than some agencies had before—for example, the Office of Fair Trading—but through the one-stop shop experience with extended trading hours and access to so many more transactions than siloed shopfronts. It allows customers to go to one location for many of their needs.

I am confident that Service NSW is continuing to fulfil the promise given by this Government to improve customer services, and to respond to customers' growing appetite for digital transactions while delivering a multi-channel experience to the citizens of New South Wales. A key customer service platform is the Service NSW Contact Centre, which complements the one-stop shop and digital networks. The contact centre offers a single contact point for customers, providing services from more than 50 government agencies through one number—13 77 88. The two contact centres are based in Parramatta and Newcastle, and are key employment hubs in Sydney's west and the Central Coast. Collectively they employ more than 400 staff, with 270 being employed on a permanent full-time basis.

Each year the dedicated team at the contact centre serves more than five million customers, offering end-to-end transactions such as tolling and registration renewal, technical advice, as well as general advice. When the contact centre was established in July 2013, it was set up under a blended model of service where the majority of calls were answered by Service NSW staff and afterhours, and after-hours calls and overflow were handled by an outsourced provider. As mentioned, this blended model arrangement has been in place since 2013—contrary to claims, it is not new. It has allowed Service NSW to scale up and down to suit customer and client demand. The model has enabled Service NSW to offer a wider range of services through its contact centre without compromising customer service. It has also helped the Government to meet its commitment to customers to ensure that services and transactions are available when customers require them most—such as during times of disaster.

Earlier this year, as parts of the State were experiencing their hottest days on record, with temperatures approaching 45 degrees, Service NSW was able to quickly deploy its contact centre to offer support for the NSW Rural Fire Service. The solution deployed meant that when customers called the Bush Fire Information Line their call could have been answered by a team member from Service NSW. Calls were then triaged and escalated to the Rural Fire Service on an as-needs basis. The assistance that the Service NSW Contact Centre provided on that day allowed emergency services to focus on their core business of supporting communities in fire-affected areas. Service NSW responded to 710 calls over a 9½ hour period, achieved a service level of 96 per cent and had a maximum wait time average of just over three minutes. Through its blended model, Service NSW was able to

quickly offer emergency services support and assistance without compromising the core services it offers to customers on a daily basis.

Since 2013 Service NSW has retained the services of a sole provider, Datacom, because no other arrangement existed. The recent changes have been introduced to allow Service NSW to bring on other business partners to provide customer services on its behalf. The recent change was required as part of a tender process to create a panel of outsourcers to get maximum value for taxpayers while continuing to ensure a greater quality of service. As part of the tender process, Service NSW leveraged the existing panel of suppliers to the Australian Taxation Office [ATO], drawing upon the best-practice capability in the market. The ATO has maintained outsourced contact centre arrangements since 2006, and in 2012 established the Outsource Labour for Service Delivery Panel as a whole-of-government initiative.

The ATO sought to enhance the contact centre arrangement to include a multi-supplier outsource model, including higher utilisation of the suppliers from the panel, driving economies of scale for the whole of government, and delivering value for money with significant efficiencies and savings. The ATO panel is a robust and tested solution. As Service NSW scales up and increases the range of services it delivers for New South Wales citizens, it must have a delivery model that is efficient, scalable and responsive to change. I listened attentively to the contribution of the member for Cessnock. It is unfair, misleading and mischievous to suggest that this is an attempt to privatise or to do something crazy.

This Parliament passed a regulation in 2013 that for all intents and purposes says, "For the purposes of section 12 of the Act, Datacom Connect is prescribed as an approved person." No disallowance motion was moved and it was passed for good reason. On 29 May 2015 this place passed another regulation. It also stated, "For the purposes of section 12 of the Act, Datacom Connect is prescribed as an approved person." Again, no disallowance motion was moved, and again for good reason—it made sense. The Government has recently published another regulation, which simply states, "For the purposes of section 12 of the Act, the following are prescribed as approved persons." Datacom is mentioned. The Government has simply provided for the establishment of a panel of providers to ensure more competition. It has relied heavily on what the Australian Taxation Office has done with its service delivery model. In fact, as I said, this model has been in place at the Federal level since 2006, when the colleagues of members opposite were in government.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** That was Kevin 07.

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** But it continued while members opposite were in government. The Opposition is being mischievous by trying to create something out of nothing. Labor members were either asleep in 2013 and 2015 or they are simply being mischievous in 2017. I do not know what the answer is—maybe it is a combination of both—but it is completely misleading to suggest that this regulation does anything other than provide better service delivery for the people of our State.

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (15:59):** I thank the member for Cessnock and shadow Minister for moving this disallowance motion. It seems that almost every day we come into this place we are faced with the next instalment of an ideologically driven privatisation agenda. The scope and detail of what is and is not being privatised can be debated all day, but at the core of this provision is the ideological motivation of a Government that believes the private sector can do it better. What we cannot forget is that these are government assets, no matter where, across the board. What that means is that they are owned by the people. I do not believe the Government has a mandate from the electorate to sell public assets. I accept that those opposite would argue something quite different, but I do not agree. The overwhelming feedback I get is that the Government's privatisation agenda does not have strong support in the electorate.

**Mr Alister Henskens:** People voted us in on the lease of poles and wires. What are you talking about?

**Mr GREG WARREN:** I am not just talking about poles and wires; I am talking about this Government's agenda.

**Mr Alister Henskens:** You are ridiculous.

**Mr GREG WARREN:** I note the interjection of the member for Ku-ring-gai.

**Mr Alister Henskens:** If they were against privatisation they would not have voted us in.

**Mr GREG WARREN:** I note the interjection of the member for Ku-ring-gai and I will come back to that shortly. Ultimately, this could mean the potential total sale of Service NSW. The facts are inescapable. Since coming to office those opposite have flogged off everything they can get their hands on—\$50 billion worth of asset sales since the Coalition came to power. That is an enormous amount of money. There appear to be no limits to what they will try to sell off. When the Government moved to privatise the land titles office, Opposition members agreed with just about every industry expert and raised concerns about the privatisation of such a vital



government asset. The shadow Minister, and member for Cessnock, visited my electorate of Campbelltown where we met with surveyors. He met with many legal professionals who outlined every reason not to take that action.

Most notable among the concerns about privatisation was the issue of data security and the idea that a private company being run to make a profit would be solely responsible for holding the extremely important and sensitive land titles information for every landowner in the State. How did the Coalition Government respond to those concerns when they were raised by the Opposition, the legal profession, industry experts and surveyors? It did not reconsider its decision. In fact, it did the exact opposite. It charged full steam ahead in its ruthless regime of privatising anything and everything. Next in its sights was people's private data being held by Service NSW.

Too ashamed to expose this latest privatisation to debate or scrutiny, the Government slipped it into a delegated regulation in the hope that nobody would notice. Its sneaky tricks did not work one bit. The member for Cessnock and the Opposition are right across this. Opposition members noticed, as have the people of New South Wales and they are not happy—and nor should they be. The sensitive and private data held by Service NSW should be kept in government hands, not left at the mercy of private operators hell-bent on making a profit in any way possible.

This goes right to the heart of the values of government and what must remain under its control. We need to get back to the basics and get some perspective on this. Governments need to be about people. There are not many things people are as sensitive about as their private information. My colleagues would know that better than anyone. We lead very public lives and we have elements of our lives that we would like to keep private. That goes with the job. We all accept that but there is no better example as to why we need to make sure that people's private information and data are kept in government control. The topic of today's debate clearly indicates that the Government does not believe that is a worthy consideration.

Here we are again with yet another ill-considered privatisation that is part of the Government's privatisation agenda. The Government is determined ultimately to sell off most of our public assets. Opposition members will not have a bar of it. I urge Government members to think long and hard about whether people in the electorates they represent would want their private data in the hands of private companies. If that happens the Government will lose its management of that data. Members need to explain to their communities why they are happy to see residents' and businesses' private information removed from government control. In my opinion, at best this displays a lack of regard and at worst it is contempt.

The member for Cessnock raised some valid and deeply concerning points about some of the service providers that will have people's private data. That adds further validity to the claim that the Government needs to come clean and drop this agenda. I never like to see things go offshore. I am pragmatic and realistic. I understand the commercial need to do so varies depending on the industry. But when it comes to people's private data and personal information that needs to stay in Australia—and, more specifically, in New South Wales—under government control. At the heart of this issue is the Government's ideology. Make no bones about it: I believe the communities in this great State will judge the Government based on its lack of community consultation and the fact that it does not reflect community wishes. Earlier the member for Ku-ring-gai mentioned the sale of poles and wires. Opposition members opposed that.

**Mr Alister Henskens:** Lease.

**Mr GREG WARREN:** The 99-year lease—yes, that is it. It is a sell-off.

**Mr Alister Henskens:** In law it is different to a sale.

**Mr GREG WARREN:** We have debated that issue. We have been through all that so I will not give the member for Ku-ring-gai any more oxygen. I expected more from the member for Ku-ring-gai. This asset was delivering between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion every year to be used for additional nurses, doctors, police and other things. Government members have an ideological motivation that is foreign to me. I do not accept the way in which they continue their pursuit of selling off public assets with no regard for local families, constituents and residents—all those who have expressed concern about the sale of public assets.

Community concerns are inescapable. Economists, the legal profession, surveyors and many others have expressed concern about the sale of public assets. The member for Ku-ring-gai can ignore those concerns, but I say to him, "Ignore them at your peril." Ultimately they will decide whether he will remain as a member of Parliament. I commend the member for Cessnock for moving this disallowance motion and urge Government members to reconsider their position. Be transparent, be honest and take into consideration local families and the value of people's personal data.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (16:09):** I was particularly disappointed with the contributions today from the members for Cessnock and for Campbelltown. Although those members do not like

us recycling assets, they like to recycle the Opposition's fear campaigns. What we have heard today seems to be a recycling of the Land and Property Information [LPI] fear campaign. The only problem with the Opposition's recycling of all the false information on the LPI concession is that the Victorian Government announced a couple of weeks ago that it was going to do exactly the same. I recently read in the *Australian Financial Review* that the South Australian Government is also going to privatise its LPI. So two Labor governments—the governments of Victoria and South Australia—are following the strong, sensible, prudent management of this Government. That completely debunks all the false and fake arguments of the Labor Opposition with regard to the LPI privatisation in New South Wales and this misconceived motion before the House this afternoon.

In the contributions by the member for Cessnock and the member for Campbelltown we saw clearly the politics of fear and defamation. First, I will speak about the fear and misinformation. There is no privatisation agenda. If members opposite read anything that goes through this House they would know that Datacom Connect Pty Ltd was made an approved person under the Service NSW (One-Stop Access to Government Services) Regulation on 26 June 2013. So on 22 June 2017 adding a few different companies to Datacom Connect in the regulation is hardly some new privatisation agenda. It is all about fear, misinformation and defamation. The member for Cessnock should use parliamentary privilege more responsibly than he used it today. In this House he defamed a number of major corporations, including Salmat, which is a Sydney-based, Australian Stock Exchange listed company that employs 4,000 people in Australasia. That company also services little-known companies in Australia, like Woolworths!

**Mr Clayton Barr:** What did I say that was incorrect?

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cessnock will have an opportunity to reply to the debate.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** Woolworths is another Australian Stock Exchange listed company. It services Target Australia and Telstra as well as the Australian Government—all small entities. The member for Cessnock might know Target as "Tar-zhay" in Cessnock. He has probably heard of it.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** You are a classist prick.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cessnock will come to order. Such language is unparliamentary.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS:** There is no privatisation agenda. The Minister has correctly informed the House of the Government's desire to upscale the efficiencies that have been achieved previously in order to respond to change. One of the greatest achievements of the New South Wales Government—this paragon of good government—is called Service NSW. It is disappointing to hear yet more fear and defamation from this Opposition. There has been a false fear campaign and defamation of good companies that employ Australians—probably people from the electorates of the member for Cessnock and the member for Campbelltown. The members would jeopardise those jobs by the irresponsible defamation under parliamentary privilege that we heard this afternoon. If those clowns are ever allowed to govern New South Wales, for goodness sake, we will be in the worst circumstances possible.

The regulation that is sought to be repealed by this motion will facilitate some of the great technological innovation that is happening in Service NSW. It is allowing people to get services online through digital platforms and on their phones through phone apps. Service NSW will more provide services such as car registration, licence renewal and so on efficiently and conveniently for the people of New South Wales. If Opposition members do not believe the Minister why do they not take into account independent parties? In a recent report Intermedium, an independent body, said that New South Wales is the only Government that is digital ready in Australia. I encourage the House to reject the motion and to keep supporting the good work of Service NSW.

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (16:16):** I support the disallowance motion and I will place on record why I am concerned about the Service NSW (One-Stop Access to Government Services) Amendment (Approved Persons) Regulation 2017. The regulation indicates a clear intention on the Government's part to transfer Services NSW operations to private, for-profit companies. The Government has not made clear the extent of this transfer but, given the regulation allows seven new companies access to Service NSW information, the changes are not likely to be small. Service NSW provides essential government services, including registration of births, deaths, marriages, vehicles and businesses, and numerous licence services. There is no reason to privatise those operations.

Private companies will not necessarily provide a better service but their involvement poses serious risks to people's personal and private information that is held by Services NSW. The community would be rightly concerned about the prospect of private, for-profit companies managing their personal data. Private companies are not covered by the same freedom of information laws and are not subject to the same oversight. I note the

concerns expressed by Opposition members about the seven companies listed in the regulation and some of their practices. My constituents have expressed strong opposition to the privatisation of the land title registry, which risks increased fraud and costs, and I believe privatising Service NSW is in the same vein. The Government's sell-off of assets and services is going too far. Some services are best provided by governments, particularly when they deal with private and personal information, and when profit-driven approaches could compromise service delivery. I support the disallowance motion.

**Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (16:18):** In reply: I will be brief because I know that other matters are pressing. I thank the Minister for Finance, Services and Property for participating in the debate today. I acknowledge that a bunch of things he said were absolutely and entirely correct. Yes, of course, Datacom was, in 2015, brought onto the list as an approved person. The reason there was no concern about Datacom at the time was that it specifically—and almost singularly—offered call centre services. There was a decision about using a certain business model that offered call centre practices. We have moved this disallowance motion with respect to the extended list—the extra seven businesses that I spoke about—because many of them, although not all of them, offer broadscale government services.

For example, Serco was offering detention centre services to the Federal Government, jail services and a whole range of other services. It offers broadscale government services. Section 12 is about allowing an approved person to have access to the information. Another reason we have moved this disallowance motion today is that the regulation is not about building a website in the background; you do not need to be an approved person to do that. The member for Ku-ring-gai does not understand that, but it is the truth. These companies need be listed by regulation as an approved person because they will have access to people's personal information. That means there is no limit to the work the seven agencies can do once they are on the list as an approved person. The member for Campbelltown made the same point about broadscale privatisation.

**Mr Alister Henskens:** What about your bank's information? They have a lot of private information. What about your insurance company? Do you think they might actually be bound by privacy legislation?

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Ku-ring-gai will come to order.

**Mr CLAYTON BARR:** For the information of the member for Ku-ring-gai, the Government Whip has asked me to keep my comments brief so that we can vote on the motion. If the member continues to interject, I will speak for the whole shebang. Go and talk to your Whip, buddy.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cessnock is entitled to be heard in silence.

**Mr CLAYTON BARR:** I will make one more comment about the member for Ku-ring-gai and the classist remark he made during his contribution that may not translate in *Hansard*. The member mentioned Target and then referred to it again as "Tar-zhay". The community must understand that the member for Ku-ring-gai was suggesting that somehow poor people or people from working-class backgrounds use a French pronunciation of the word. That shows the member for Ku-ring-gai to be a classist twit, and if he ever tries that with me again I will take him outside and beat him to a pulp.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the member for Cessnock to withdraw that remark.

**Mr CLAYTON BARR:** I withdraw.

**Mr Alister Henskens:** What a class act you are, old son.

**Mr CLAYTON BARR:** Do you want it to be now?

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order.

**Mr CLAYTON BARR:** The Minister pointed out in his contribution that the need for external providers is an industrial relations issue and we must outsource service provision to ensure flexibility and the ability to ramp up or wind down those services. The reality is that it is simply about negotiating with staff—they can be based in New South Wales or nationally—to offer services in the way that we need them to be provided. It is not necessary to outsource or privatise services or to send them offshore. The services can be delivered onshore in New South Wales.

The Minister said that because of industrial relations issues the Government wants to try to send services offshore so that it does not have to compromise and cope with the workplace relations laws of New South Wales. That is a little concerning. There is a range of reasons this disallowance motion is before the House today. The companies that are listed in the regulation are significantly different from Datacom, which was previously the only company on the list as an approved person. We must accept and understand that. The Opposition's concern and fear is that the Government has a broader agenda to privatise and outsource all Service NSW services.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Before I put the question, I remind members that the Chamber is not the place for inflammatory statements and actions such as occurred during this debate. The member for Cessnock may raise his eyebrows, but threatening to beat up someone outside this place is not something one would expect from any member of Parliament. The question is that the motion be agreed to.

**The House divided.**

[*In division*]

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Keira is not entitled to be in the Chamber as he was suspended from the service of the House. I instruct the tellers not to count the member's vote in the division. I remind the member for Keira that he is suspended from the House until 6.18 p.m. I also remind him not to wander around the Parliament building before then.

Ayes .....36

Noes .....47

Majority.....11

**AYES**

Aitchison, Ms J  
Car, Ms P  
Cotsis, Ms S  
Dib, Mr J  
Foley, Mr L  
Harrison, Ms J  
Hornery, Ms S  
Leong, Ms J  
McKay, Ms J  
Parker, Mr J  
Scully, Mr P  
Warren, Mr G

Atalla, Mr E  
Catley, Ms Y (teller)  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Doyle, Ms T  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Haylen, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mihailuk, Ms T  
Piper, Mr G  
Smith, Ms T F  
Washington, Ms K

Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Daley, Mr M  
Finn, Ms J  
Harris, Mr D  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Lalich, Mr N (teller)  
McDermott, Dr H  
Minns, Mr C  
Robertson, Mr J  
Tesch, Ms L  
Zangari, Mr G

**NOES**

Anderson, Mr K  
Barilaro, Mr J  
Conolly, Mr K  
Crouch, Mr A  
Elliott, Mr D  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Griffin, Mr J  
Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Petinos, Ms E  
Rowell, Mr J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Mrs L

Aplin, Mr G  
Berejiklian, Ms G  
Constance, Mr A  
Davies, Ms T  
Evans, Mr L  
Goward, Ms P  
Hancock, Mrs S  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Notley-Smith, Mr B  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Piccoli, Mr A  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

Ayes, Mr S  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Coure, Mr M  
Dominello, Mr V  
George, Mr T  
Grant, Mr T  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Maguire, Mr D  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Perrottet, Mr D  
Roberts, Mr A  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mr R

**Motion negatived.**

*Petitions*

**M4 TOLL**

**Discussion**

**Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (16:33):** This Government likes to say that it is a government with a heart, but I assure the House that the people of Western Sydney are not feeling the love. On the verge of the toll on the M4 being introduced in August this year, we reminded of the ethos of this Liberal-Nationals Government:

If you can afford it the least, you pay the most. Families across our region will be slugged with a toll of more than \$2,000 a year to drive on a road that has already been paid for. Let it be known that, when residents of Western Sydney needed their Minister—when people from our region were about to be condemned to a toll for 43 years—their Minister betrayed them in this place today. The Minister for Western Sydney, the member for Penrith, has abandoned his community—and I do not need to remind this place that the people of Western Sydney have very long memories.

The contempt is stark. The member for Penrith and the member for Mulgoa—members who represent electorates on the M4 corridor—are the Premier's yes men and women, and nothing more. They are happy to sell out their communities so they can keep climbing the Cabinet ladder. But what should we expect? This is life under the Liberals and The Nationals—it is always the people who can least afford it who are hit the hardest. But we really have to ask: Why? The Government boasts about record surpluses and rivers of gold flowing into its coffers. With all that money, why are Western Sydney commuters condemned to this toll? What was the point of all that privatisation if the Government is just going to tax, tax, tax?

We all know there is a certain feeling when you talk to people on the streets of New South Wales. They believe the cost of living in this city is getting out of control. As wages stagnate and the cost of living goes up and up and up, so will this toll. The Treasurer stood in this Chamber on Tuesday and claimed that the Government understands that families are struggling with the cost of living. Today the Premier told us the Government was keeping an eye on the cost of living, but the Treasurer said, "We want to give working families more of a helping hand". Perhaps some members believe that, but I do not know how a \$2,000 tax per year on the people of Western Sydney qualifies as a helping hand. I say to the Treasurer, the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and other members of the Government: If you want to give Western Sydney families a helping hand then stop this toll. To add insult to injury, the very best thing they could come up with is a grace period. How long is this grace period? It is a four-week reprieve.

**Ms Kate Washington:** That will help!

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** Order! The member for Port Stephens will come to order. The member for Londonderry does not require any assistance.

**Ms PRUE CAR:** We are meant to be grateful for a four-week reprieve followed by 43 years of hell. That is otherwise known as a kick in the guts. As my colleagues on this side of the Chamber know, the 10,000 signatures on this petition are a microcosm of what is going on in Western Sydney. We speak to people every single day—the tradies, the small business owners, the plumbers, the electricians, the carpenters, the truckies, the mums and dads getting to work and then home to their children, and the mums and dads who want to take their kids from Penrith to see the harbour bridge. They are the real people who will pay this Government's 43-year monster tax on Western Sydney. This is nothing less than a great, big tax on Western Sydney motorists. The people of Western Sydney will not forget the betrayal of the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government as they go through the E-toll every day and then pay \$2,000 a year to the Government for a road they have already paid for.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** Before I call the Minister, I extend a very warm welcome to the guests and supporters in the public gallery today, who are here to view the debate. They are guests of the Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport, and member for Penrith.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (16:38):** I am happy to contribute to the discussion of this petition about WestConnex and upgrades to the M4. I might start with the family from Penrith to whom the member for Londonderry referred who want to take their kids to see the harbour bridge. Currently, that Penrith family, if they wanted to take the fastest route to the harbour bridge, would have to travel on the M7, the M2, through the Lane Cove Tunnel and then over the harbour bridge—or through the harbour tunnel if they did not want to see the harbour bridge—and that one-way trip would cost the family from Penrith \$22. That is the tolling proposition that Labor has given the people of Penrith, and that is the tolling proposition Labor is not removing by denying that family the opportunity to have a completed M4. Carl Scully said in his book, released this week, that he should have built the M4. He tried to buy back votes in 2000—

**Ms Prue Car:** You're the Minister, not Carl Scully.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** You are damn right that I am the Minister. The people of Penrith have been calling for this M4 project for years. This Government is delivering the infrastructure that the people of Western Sydney want and need. The people of Penrith and the people of Western Sydney need a completed M4, not an M4 that finishes at Concord—and that is exactly what this Government is delivering. We will be able to get people from Lapstone to Parramatta without a toll. There will be no change to the function of the M4. Drivers will be able to access the area from Church Street all the way to the western side of the city at the Sydney Harbour Bridge

without passing a set of traffic lights. This is a plan for a road that needs to be completed; a road that every single government since the 1970s knew needed to be completed. Labor failed to do it; we are doing it. It is important to note that often what is not said tells the truth of what people are really thinking. It could not be more ironic that this petition is being debated on the same day as the budget reply speech, because the budget-in-reply speech is the alternative option to how the Government allocates the funds in this State.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** Order! The member for Londonderry will cease interjecting.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** We heard 3,094 words from the Leader of the Opposition today, and not once did the member for Auburn, the Leader of the Opposition and the person who purports to be the alternative Premier of New South Wales, talk about WestConnex. Not once did he mention the M4. Not once did he propose what a Foley Government would do if elected. I call out the Opposition as frauds. In this Chamber, I talk to my community honestly. I tell them there will be a toll on this road, and I can tell them right now that it will cost them \$1.22, plus 45¢ per kilometre. When the first section of this road opens, the maximum charge they will pay is \$4.56.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** Order! I remind the member for Strathfield that she is on three calls to order.

**Mr STUART AYRES:** In today's dollars, on a completed WestConnex taking people to exactly the same place as Labor's \$22 toll would take them, the people of Penrith and other residents of Western Sydney will be charged \$8.60. That is the truth: the \$22 option from Labor or the \$8.60 option from us. That is comparing apples with apples, today's dollars versus today's dollars. The Leader of the Opposition, in his budget reply speech, talks about what Labor would do in government, and Opposition members speaking on this petition tell people that they do not support the toll on the M4. Why not tell us what they would do with the M4 toll if elected to government? The truth is that Labor has absolutely no plan to remove that toll if it is elected. It has no funding capability to do it, and it does not know how this road works.

Labor can go all the way to the election like that, but the people of Western Sydney know about Labor. They have been through this before. In 1995 Labor won an election saying that it would take the toll off the M4, but it did not do it for seven years. When the Labor Government knew the best thing to do was to roll the toll into completing the M4, it did not do it. It denied the people of Western Sydney the roads and the access to jobs that they needed. Now Labor is walking away from the people of Western Sydney again but, even worse, Labor will charge them that toll and will lie to them every single day until the election.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** I welcome to the gallery members of the No WestConnex Public Transport group, guests of the member for Newtown.

**Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (16:43):** I speak in support of all the signatories to the petition against the M4 toll. This petition has received more than 13,000 signatures from across the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney region. The reason is obvious. This new toll, brought back from the dead by the zombies opposite, will hit low- and middle-income families hard. It will hit workers hard when they have to find more than \$2,000 per annum for their transport costs. It will hit families and pensioners hard when they are suddenly asked to find an extra \$8 to head into Sydney to visit their friends or family. It will hit small businesses and tradies hard when they suddenly have to find multiples of the \$4.50 it costs to travel each way on the M4. But it will hit this Government hard too, make no mistake. Every time an E-tag goes beep, it will hit this Government. It will hit the member for Penrith too.

Members might sometimes forget not only that the member for Penrith shares an electorate boundary with the Blue Mountains but also that his electorate includes a couple of Blue Mountains villages, Lapstone and Glenbrook. He is not known in the Blue Mountains as the member for Penrith or the Minister for WestConnex. In the Blue Mountains we know what his real job title is: the Minister for Toll Roads. These tolls will be an albatross around the neck of the member for Penrith. Every time an E-tag goes beep and he sticks his hands in the pockets of the very people he was elected to represent in this place, his constituents will remember the betrayal and the bastardry of this Government. The beep of their E-tags will be ringing in their ears when they line up at the polling booths in Penrith and the Blue Mountains.

This Government will rue the day it broke Barry O'Farrell's promise to keep the M4 toll free. The new toll on the M4 is an attack on the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney when we can least afford it. The Government is running our public transport services into the ground while levying a new tax on an old road that will grow by 4 per cent per annum, whether or not inflation matches that. The justification the Government offers for this disgraceful new tax is that it is to pay for the newly widened section. That is rubbish. The cost of the widening is \$500 million. At \$4.50 each way, the tolls will raise \$200 million every year—but the tolls will not

get canned after 2½ years. The tolls will be in place for another 43 years. It is a complete disgrace, and the member for Penrith is finished; he is through. He will be held to account by his electorate for this betrayal, and he will be thrown out of office in 2019. Bye, bye.

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (16:47):** Words are cheap, and leadership takes strength, commitment, decency and honesty with communities. If one wants to be taken seriously, one has to be consistent. On this side of the House, we have been consistent about WestConnex from day one. I ask that Labor members check with their leader, the member for Auburn, who supports all three stages of WestConnex. By not ruling out tolls today, he confirmed that tolls will stay and the three stages of WestConnex will continue.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** Order! I direct the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms to remove the member for Londonderry from the Chamber under Standing Order 249.

*[The member for Londonderry left the Chamber at 16:48 accompanied by the Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms.]*

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY:** There was a bit of decency and honesty in the Leader of the Opposition's speech today, unlike the comments of Opposition speakers on the petition. These are simply vitriolic lies, which is why the Labor Party in this State is in so much trouble. The Government is being decent and honest with the people of Western Sydney by giving them an option. They can pay a toll, take a toll-free route or enjoy the benefits of the public transport plan that we have for Sydney, which is more than half the infrastructure spend in this city. We have a plan that takes people out of their cars, but if they want to stay in their cars they can go on the toll roads or take the alternative toll-free route. We are unlocking the potential of this city and giving the people of Sydney the opportunity to have the lifestyle they deserve. They do not have to live according to the infrastructure plan Labor left this city. People can move on from that. We have a plan for the future.

This petition and the Opposition members' words are disheartening for the people of Western Sydney. The Opposition members should have taken this opportunity to outline a plan, because bleating, whingeing, whining and offering no solution gives the people of Western Sydney no hope. The Government has a plan for the future. The Opposition members should get behind their leader and support what he says. On 7 June he said he committed to all three stages of WestConnex; he did not rule out the tolls. He is adopting our plan for infrastructure. It is the right approach for Western Sydney. This petition and the Opposition members' words today have been nothing but fake and insincere.

**Ms Julia Finn:** I seek leave to contribute to the debate.

**Leave not granted.**

*[Interruption from gallery]*

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** Order! Pursuant to Standing Order 260, I direct that the person who is interrupting the orderly conduct of business be removed from the gallery.

#### *Committees*

### **LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

#### **Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 39/56**

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** The question is that the House take note of the report.

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (16:51):** I speak about the Legislation Review Committee's thirty-ninth digest for the Fifty-sixth Parliament. The committee reviewed two regulations in the sitting week commencing 30 May 2017: the Criminal Records Amendment (Historical Homosexual Offences) Regulation 2017; and the Road Transport Legislation Amendment (Penalties for Over-length Bus Offences) Regulation 2017. The committee identified issues in relation to those two regulations. I will now outline some of the observations of the committee.

The Criminal Records Amendment (Historical Homosexual Offences) Regulation 2017 amends the Criminal Records Regulation 2014 to prescribe various former obscene or indecent exposure offences as an "eligible homosexual offence" in order for a person who has been convicted of such an offence, in certain circumstances, to apply to the Secretary of the Department of Justice for the conviction to be extinguished. One of the issues identified by the committee is that the regulation operates retrospectively. Clause 9A of the regulation allows the Secretary of the Department of Justice to retrospectively extinguish a conviction for an eligible homosexual offence.

The committee generally prefers that legislative provisions are not drafted to have retrospective effect so that they align with the rule of law and allow a person to know what the law is at any given time. In this case,

however, the clause does not retrospectively create offences but extinguishes convictions for historical offences to remove a basis for discrimination. In the circumstances, the clause is reasonable and the committee makes no further comment.

The committee also noted that schedule 3 to the regulation was not sufficiently clear as to the further conditions of the definition of an "eligible homosexual offence". Clause 9A (2) is particularly unclear as to whether "a person" identified as the offender in clause 9A (2) (a) is the same "a person" referred to in clause 9A (2) (b). Clause 9A (2) (b) is also unclear as to the conditions that further prescribe the definition of an "eligible homosexual offence" in relation to sexual activity that was witnessed. The committee prefers that regulations provide clarity to the persons to which the clauses apply. The committee draws this lack of clarity to the attention of the Parliament.

The Road Transport Legislation Amendment (Penalties for Over-length Bus Offences) Regulation 2017 amends several different regulations relating to roads and transportation to implement penalties for over-length bus offences. One of the issues that the committee identified was that the regulation increases a number of penalties in relation to the driving of an over-length bus, including increases to fees and demerit points, particularly on the Galston Gorge road. This may be onerous to businesses operating buses in the region. However, given the policy aims of the regulation, the committee makes no further comment.

As Chair of the Legislation Review Committee, I am also proud of the committee's recent resolution to commence a new inquiry. This inquiry was brought on following discussion within the committee about the role and functions of the committee itself. The committee considered it timely to review the operation of the Legislation Review Act 1987. The committee resolved to undertake a public inquiry into the operation of the Legislation Review Act to consider, amongst other things, the review of bills with respect to personal rights and liberties, administrative law principles and parliamentary propriety. Not only is this an exciting undertaking but also it is an historical event, as this review marks the first inquiry to be undertaken by the Legislation Review Committee in 11 years. I look forward to working with my fellow members of the committee on this important review of the operation of the Legislation Review Act.

I thank the secretary of the Legislation Review Committee, Ms Emma Matthews, who is leaving our Parliament to start a new opportunity in the committee's team of the House of Representatives. Emma has been a part of the committee's team at the New South Wales Parliament for the past seven years and has been invaluable to the committee's task of preparing the digest each week. We wish Emma all the best for her new role in Canberra. I thank the committee staff and members for their assistance, and I commend the digest to the House.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (16:57):** I make a short contribution to the Legislation Review Digest No. 39/56. I congratulate the Chair and the committee on their hard work. It is the hardest-working committee in the Parliament.

**Mr Jonathan O'Dea:** It is these days.

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD:** It is these days. I also pass on my regards and best wishes to Emma Matthews, who is leaving to go to the House of Representatives in Canberra.

**Report noted.**

*Matter of Public Importance*

#### **EID AL-FITR**

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (16:58):** In the absence of Mr Jihad Dib, I seek leave to be treated as the member for Lakemba who submitted the matter of public importance.

**Leave granted.**

Assalamualaikum. We celebrate the end of today's fast, honouring the holy month of Ramadan, which Muslims across the world have observed for more than 1,000 years. I wish our Muslim Australian community Ramadan mubarak. People from different ethnic groups, cultures and religions come together to celebrate our inclusive community and to sit together and break fast with their friends from the Muslim community. I and my colleagues the Premier, the Minister for Multiculturalism, the Leader of the Opposition and other members have attended many Iftar dinners during the holy month of Ramadan. It was great to see so many people from different faiths, backgrounds and cultures gathering together. The Premier's Iftar Dinner has been held in Parliament House for a number of years.

The Affinity Intercultural Foundation has also hosted its Iftar dinner in Parliament House for the past 10 years. It was an honour and a privilege to join the Minister for Multiculturalism in co-hosting the event this year. It is the third time I have hosted the dinner. About 400 people attended, which probably means it is one of



the largest events held in this building. The dinner involved people from all faiths and from across our society. New Commissioner for Police Mick Fuller gave a wonderful speech. It was fantastic to hear the reflections of many people from our wonderful community during the evening. I acknowledge the Affinity Intercultural Association and Ahmet Polat, the executive director, for what the association has done for many years.

I admire Ramadan because it is about more than exercising discipline, being pious and reflecting; it is also about self-improvement. It is an annual reminder that we can all do better in both our spiritual and social relationships. We must keep learning and we can do that in many different ways, but particularly by engaging with the community and contributing. That is what many of our Muslim friends have done over the past month: They have given, contributed, reflected and been charitable. I am from a Greek Orthodox family, and I have taken my children to a number of Iftar dinners. I want them to understand what their friends are doing, what fasting involves, and what it means to be a Muslim Australian.

Many non-Muslim Australians have attended their first Iftar function this year, and as a result they have a better understanding of our Muslim-Australian community. Those functions form part of that learning experience by bringing people together so that we can discuss different ideas and experiences. I am a better person having co-hosted Iftar events and having listened to people talk about their experiences. Ramadan also reminds us of things that we might take for granted. Many of our friends from the Muslim community say that fasting gives them an insight into the lives of people who go hungry and thirsty and who do not have the security and comforts of our fortunate lives. I thank our Muslim-Australian communities for the contributions they make to our way of life, and I wish them Ramadan mubarak.

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (17:03):** I thank the member for Canterbury for stepping in for the member for Lakemba, who I know wanted to raise this matter of public importance today but was unfortunately unable to do so. It was good of her to ensure that the motion was moved. The holy month of Ramadan is an incredibly important time for my community, as it is for the member for Liverpool, who attends many Iftar dinners. He probably does not have to cook for a month. I am also grateful that I can avoid it and for the fabulous food that I enjoy at the many Iftar dinners that I share with Muslim members of our community. It is wonderful that non-Muslims are so welcome to join the celebrations as those who follow the faith break their fast together. By involving ourselves in the celebrations, we get a better understanding of what Ramadan is about and what fasting means to members of the Muslim community. It is a special time of year.

I was pleased this year to attend several dinners, but I note in particular the Islamic Charity Projects Association dinner, which is held on the border of my electorate and the electorate of Liverpool at the Al Amanah College assembly hall at Nagle Street, Liverpool. As I said on the night, I see more politicians, consuls general and people holding high office in one place at Iftar dinners than I do almost anywhere else. It is wonderful that so many people travel to Liverpool to break the fast together. It demonstrates the respect in which the Islamic Charity Projects Association is held. It was great to see the association highlight the work it has undertaken during the year, and that members were acknowledged and rewarded for the study they have undertaken.

Like the member for Canterbury, I acknowledge the Affinity Intercultural Foundation Friendship and Dialogue Ramadan Iftar dinner, which is held at Amity College. I am lucky that I have an Amity College in my electorate at Prestons. New Commissioner of Police Mick Fuller was the guest speaker on the night. He gave a brilliant and refreshing speech. He spoke about the outreach that the NSW Police Force will be undertaking and the need for positive and not only negative stories to be told in our communities. He expressed a desire for the media to cover stories about things that go right rather than only those that go wrong. We were all very grateful to have the opportunity to hear him speak. It was the third dinner I had shared with him that week at various events. It was wonderful to see how well he is getting on with the community and how he is trying to gain a broad understanding of the issues by not staying in his office and dealing only with his officers.

The Premier's Iftar Dinner was again held in Parliament House. It is great that support for the event has continued. The Ramadan Eid Bazaar will be held again in Liverpool at the Whitlam Leisure Centre on 24 June. It is again being organised by Sashi Lal, who organises so many events. There will be stalls, colour, music and wonderful food. The Liverpool Eid Festival, which will be held from 7 to 9 July, has been a great success. The festival will be even larger when more people find out about it. Australian Islamic House, at Edmonds Park, always holds a wonderful Iftar dinner, and I thank the management committee for hosting the event. Ramadan is a holy month during which we can all learn and in which we can all take part. Ramadan mubarak.

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (17:08):** Assalamualaikum. This Sunday is Eid Al-Fitr, the culmination of the holy month of Ramadan, which is a month of sacrifice and reflection for the world's Muslims. Ramadan is much more than a fast; it also involves contemplation by the fortunate, self-improvement and prayer. For someone like me who represents a large Muslim community, it has meant that I have been invited to many Iftar dinners, which has been an absolute delight. I have joined families, congregations at mosques, community organisations and schools to break the fast. I thank those who have invited me, including the Islamic Charity Projects

Association, the Lebanese Muslim Association, the Grand Mufti of Australia, Affinity, the Turkish community, the Bosnian consulate, Future Movement, Parramatta Mission, Parramatta Mosque, the El Dannieh Association, the Beruit Charitable Association, the Australia Malayalee Islamic Association, the Osman family, Granville Public School and, coming this Saturday, Auburn Gallipoli Mosque.

I also hosted an Iftar dinner with the Leader of the Opposition, Luke Foley. We were delighted to host 220 of our closest friends last week in Granville. It was an absolute success and a wonderful evening. We were joined by the Catholic Bishop of Parramatta, Bishop Vincent Long, and the Mufti of Lebanon's representative in Australia, Sheik Malek Zeidan, as well as many other religious leaders, both Christian and Muslim. It was an absolute delight. I am looking forward to celebrating Eid at Granville Boys High School in a few weeks' time. Approximately 2,000 people are usually at that wonderful, joyous celebration of Eid. I have also joined the community at prayers at Nabi Akram and Rahma Mosque in Guildford as well as prayer groups in Granville and Guildford to wish them well for their fasts.

It was around this time last year that Sonia Kruger made some rather ill-advised comments about Islam. It was during Eid. I joined a bunch of Muslim mums who are good friends of mine from my area at Granville Town Hall. That is where Sonia made a name for herself as Tina Sparkle in the film *Strictly Ballroom*. We invited her to come and meet with us and share ma'amoul, the traditional dessert during Eid, to conquer her fears of Islam and realise that those mums are just like her, struggling to bring up kids in Australia and wanting to make sure they are safe and happy here. Eid is a very special time for us and for the Muslim community, so to all of them I say: Eid mubarak.

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (17:11):** In reply: I acknowledge the contributions that have been made by the member for Holsworthy and my colleague the member for Granville. Many members have hosted local Iftar dinners. One thing I did not mention earlier was that a number of high schools and community groups have worked in partnership to organise their inaugural Iftar dinners. Iftar dinners are a good way of bringing together local community leaders. Belmore Boys High School under the leadership of its principal, Ms Hala Ramadan, organised the second annual Iftar dinner. It was bigger than last year and hundreds of people attended.

It was really good to see our local community, businesspeople, community leaders, ethnic leaders, the Belmore small business community, the local leagues club and the football club there. It was great to see engagement between the young men from Belmore Boys High School and our local community leaders. This is in the spirit of Ramadan. It is again bringing people together. I acknowledge my colleague the member for Lakemba for introducing this matter of public importance. I also acknowledge the other speakers and colleagues who have not only spoken but also attended. This weekend I also acknowledge Eid. Again, I wish our Australian Muslim community Ramadan mubarak.

#### *Community Recognition Statements*

#### **AUSTRALIAN POLICE MEDAL RECIPIENT SUPERINTENDENT PETER THURTELL**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (17:14):** Manning Great Lakes Local Area Commander Superintendent Peter Thurtell received an early birthday present when he was awarded an Australian Police Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Superintendent Thurtell was one of eight New South Wales police officers recognised. His career stretches back to 1985 when he joined the police as a trainee at the New South Wales academy in Goulburn. Originally from Orange, Superintendent Thurtell followed his older brother, Brett, into the force. In 1985 Redfern was his first posting. Superintendent Thurtell moved to plain clothes in 1988 and worked in the State Investigative Group, drug enforcement and the fraud squad.

The turn of the century saw him promoted to detective inspector and crime manager at Chifley Local Area Command at Bathurst. He was promoted to his current rank in 2005 and posted to his current command in 2012. In his time as Mid North Coast commander, Superintendent Thurtell instigated participation in the domestic violence program known as the Community Partnerships Against Domestic and Family Violence program. This is a partnership between the community and the NSW Police Force which facilitated numerous victims of domestic violence to access support. He also played a pivotal role in the March 2012 arrest of Malcolm Naden, then Australia's most wanted fugitive. He was one of two forward commanders for Strike Force Durkin.

#### **ST JOSEPH TRADES SKILLS CENTRE**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (17:15):** I recognise the blessing and opening of the St Joseph Trades Skills Centre at Good Samaritan Catholic College in Hoxton Park Road, Hinchinbrook, on 8 June this year. The blessing and opening was officiated by Most Reverend Terry Brady, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney. The official party included Brother Pat Hurley, parish priest at Good Shepherd Parish, Hoxton Park; Dr Dan White, executive director, Sydney Catholic Schools; Jane Donovan, principal of Good Samaritan Catholic College; Mr Andrew Sip, head of trade training, St Joseph Trades Skills Centre; and Christine Temareti and Jamie Arcuri, Good

Samaritan Catholic College captains. The other elected representatives present included the member for Fowler, Chris Hayes; Liverpool mayor, Wendy Waller; and a representative of Anne Stanley, the member for Werriwa. It was a pleasure to be invited to this event. The centre will undoubtedly be a significant addition to Catholic educational facilities in the Liverpool region. I look forward to its future success.

### HOUSING CONNECTION

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (17:16):** In 1981 a group of parents concerned about future accommodation for their sons and daughters with disabilities formed an action group that grew into the community organisation known as the Housing Connection. I recognise its work in northern Sydney in supporting adults with an intellectual disability to live meaningful, inclusive lives in their communities. Led by chief executive officer Nicola Hayhoe, the Housing Connection team focuses on the needs and aspirations of individuals at the centre of what it does and endeavours to help them participate fully in the community. I was privileged recently to visit two of the homes it supports, at Chatswood and Roseville, which is in my electorate. I wish the Housing Connection the best in continuing its wonderful work in the future.

### DA VINCI DECATHLON

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (17:17):** Recently two teams from Wollongong Public School competed in the State competition of the da Vinci Decathlon with fantastic success. The da Vinci Decathlon comprises 10 academic tasks in mathematics, creative producers, code breaking, general knowledge, science, engineering, English, cartography, ideation, and art and poetry. The year 6 team of Andrew Yan, Oscar Finley, Jessica Lim, David Xu, Claire Wren, Alice Van, Craig Wang and Freya Hanes came fourth in the State, while the year 5 team of Teerth Khana, Maeve Bradbury, Richard Zheng, Harold Fisher, Ava Roberts, James Babian, Emma Huang and Clara Martin took first place—the first public school team ever to do so. Congratulations to the students, their proud parents and their teacher, Jackie Stephenson. It is a great accomplishment for a wonderful group of students at a great public school. I also recognise the Illawarra Grammar and Illawarra Christian schools that sponsored Wollongong Public School's attendance at the State competition.

### ALBURY ELECTORATE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

**Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (17:18):** Five remarkable residents of the Albury electorate were awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list this month. Joe Wooding, a former local cricket player, umpire, manager and author was recognised for his major contribution to cricket. Orthodontist John Brabant was honoured for his establishment of Carevan in Albury-Wodonga to feed the needy. Carevans are now established in Wangaratta, Griffith, Blacktown and Armidale, and will soon be in Tamworth. In conjunction with Carevan, John runs the Sun Smiles oral health program.

Doctor Scott Giltrap received the honour primarily for his contribution to reproductive medicine—he opened the first regional in vitro fertilisation [IVF] clinic in Australia—and for co-founding and chairing the Border Medical Recruitment Taskforce. Retired newspaper journalist and author Howard Jones was recognised for his service to the print media and historical societies. Howard is the author of 30 local historical books. Roger Cooper, the indefatigable curator of the Holbrook Submarine Museum, has been honoured for his service to the community and to maritime history. Congratulations to all the recipients.

### TRIBUTE TO GREG HIRST

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (17:19):** On 6 June our community lost one of its great community advocates, Greg Hirst. Through his work with the Street Level Christian Community in the Granville electorate, Greg supported many, especially those on the fringes of society. He was instrumental in raising awareness about homelessness in the Parramatta area and directly supported those affected through the Bikers Australia Blanket Run. Greg was a member of the Brotherhood Christian Motorcycle Club, which he co-founded in 1979, and was also an advocate for the motorcycle community over many years, including chairing the Motorcycle Council of NSW. He had strong views about a range of issues affecting motorcyclists and was well respected across the political spectrum, as was reflected by the presence of many politicians at his enormous and moving funeral service on Monday. Greg was also a popular and enthusiastic member of the Granville Central branch of the Australian Labor Party, and I appreciate the support he gave me when I was elected in 2015. I express my condolences to Greg's wife, Colleen, and their family. Greg's passing was premature and unexpected; however, he gave so much to so many in his 61 years that his legacy is immense.

### SOUTH COAST ELECTORATE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

**Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (17:20):** I congratulate the five South Coast residents who were honoured at this year's Queen's Birthday awards. John Downton was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community and for visual arts as a maritime artist. John is the Nowra Fleet Air Arm

Museum's official artist. Rod Austin was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of his more than 50 years of service to the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club. Rod has filled various positions with the club over the years, including president since 1999. Chief Petty Officer Phillip Hirschausen was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal for his distinguished service as an aviation technician. Detective Chief Inspector Kevin McNeil was awarded the Australian Police Medal for his 35 years of exemplary service. I also recognise Keven Marshall, an invaluable Marine Rescue NSW volunteer of 19 years, who was awarded the Emergency Services Medal for his outstanding contribution to keeping us safe on the water. Once again I thank and send huge congratulations to John Downton, Rod Austin, Phillip Hirschausen, Kevin McNeil and Keven Marshall on their service to the South Coast community.

#### **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECIPIENT LES SMITH**

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (17:21):** I recognise Mr Les Smith who received the Medal of the Order of Australia as a part of the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours list for his service to netball and the East Lake Macquarie community. In 1979 Mr Smith and his brother, Kevin, who received a Medal of the Order of Australia just last year, became the first two badged male netball umpires in New South Wales. Les first became involved in netball in 1962, when his mum established the Lakeside Netball Association in response to the growing popularity of the sport and because people in East Lake Macquarie had to travel to Newcastle to play. Since then, netball has become one of the most popular sports in our area. Even today, in his seventies, Les is passionate about netball, coaching and badging umpires across the State. As well as having a passion for netball, Les is also passionate about his community as a member of the Lake Macquarie Residents Coastal Action Group and a life member of the Belmont and District Residents Action Group. Well done, Les.

#### **POWERLIFTING CHAMPION ERIC DUMAS**

**Mr ADAM MARSHALL (Northern Tablelands—Minister for Tourism and Major Events, and Assistant Minister for Skills) (17:22):** I recognise Moree dentist Eric Dumas and congratulate him on his recent medal haul at the World Classic Powerlifting Championships in Minsk, Belarus. He competed in the Master 293 kilogram division. He got a gold in the squat section of the three-lift competition with a 250 kilogram lift and secured a bronze medal in the dead lift, lifting a personal best of 267.5 kilograms. He was also placed sixth in the bench press section with a lift of 140 kilograms. I congratulate Eric, who is a wonderful dentist. He can now add to his curriculum vitae that he is a world champion gold medallist. Congratulations, Eric.

#### **AUSTRALIAN FILIPINO ASSOCIATION CENTRAL COAST**

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:23):** Congratulations and thank you so much to the Australian Filipino Association of the Central Coast for celebrating the twenty-eighth year of the Charity Queen Coronation Night in Gosford last Saturday. Gosford Leagues Club lit up with members of the Filipino and Indonesian communities from across the Central Coast, as well as a number of visitors and sponsors from Sydney and Newcastle. There was glamour and glitter, kids and entertainment, heartfelt joy and applause throughout the evening. Every year the Australian Filipino Association of the Central Coast nominates a local charity as a recipient of what President June Young calls "unconditional love" for our community.

Five superstar charity queens raised \$8,000 for Woy Woy's Mary Mac's, a local charity that provides a hot meal and other services to more than 80 homeless people every day of the week. Saturday night saw the crowning of Michelle O'Beirne, prize-winning charity queen, amongst loads of fun and wonderful cultural performances. The final highlight of the evening was when performers of all ages united to sing *We are Australian*. Thank you and congratulations to everyone involved. What a fabulous community we have in Gosford.

#### **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECIPIENT DR CARALEE MCLEISH**

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET (Hawkesbury—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) (17:24):** I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Caralee McLiesh, Deputy Secretary, Fiscal and Economic Group at NSW Treasury, on her ongoing and outstanding work for the New South Wales Government. Dr McLiesh was honoured with the Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to social impact investment policy and reform in New South Wales in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours. Under her leadership the Government has launched Australia's first social impact investments, a new and innovative way of tackling complex social problems.

Dr McLiesh, who has worked at NSW Treasury in a number of senior leadership roles since 2008, was also at the centre of the delivery of this year's budget. She has made outstanding contributions to social services financing in the New South Wales Government over the past decade. She led the Treasury input in the New South Wales negotiating team for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, as well as the NSW Treasury negotiations on health financing and national health reform in 2008, 2012 and 2015. Dr McLiesh also successfully led the development of a new Treasury funding model for NSW Health in 2009, which remains in place today, and made

significant contributions to financing out-of-home-care, police and housing reforms over the past eight years. These are just some of Dr McLiesh's many achievements at Treasury during her distinguished career.

#### **SUMMER HILL ELECTORATE STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS**

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (17:25):** We know that all across our State volunteers form the backbone of our communities. Foremost among them are the brave men and women of the State Emergency Service [SES] who put themselves in harm's way to protect our safety and property following storms, floods and natural disasters. I am extremely proud that Michael Carney, local controller of the Marrickville SES, has been awarded the New South Wales SES Commissioner's Medal for Service. This is one of the most prestigious awards offered by the SES and acknowledges Michael's outstanding leadership, mentoring and support of members within Marrickville unit and Sydney Southern Region.

Michael successfully saw the transfer of the unit to new headquarters in Sydenham and continues to inspire young volunteers through his dedication, patience and sense of calm. I also take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers in the Marrickville and Ashfield-Leichhardt units for their tireless and courageous service to the community. I know that Michael's victory is a victory for each and every one of them; they are immensely proud of all that Michael has achieved. I congratulate and thank all of them.

#### **TERRIGAL ELECTORATE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECIPIENTS**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:26):** I congratulate a number of residents from the electorate of Terrigal on their recent receipt of the Medal of the Order of Australia as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Among the recipients were Ian Robilliard, a professional basketball player who is well-known for his contribution to training sports men and women. Affectionately known by people along the coast as Moose, Ian has been active locally in setting up the Central Coast Academy of Sport, and now coaches the Central Coast Crusaders basketball teams. What a worthy recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia.

Another recipient is Dr Brian Shaw. Dr Shaw has a long and distinguished history of medical service to our local community. He was the inaugural medical director of the Central Coast Palliative Care Service, and has also been president of Palliative Care New South Wales. Given his work in palliative care, I also mention the fantastic investment the Government is making in palliative care—a \$100 million investment was announced as part of the budget. This will help support medical professionals and staff just like Dr Shaw to do their jobs for the betterment of local communities.

#### **SLOVENIAN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION**

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (17:27):** Last weekend I was honoured to attend Slovenian National Day Celebrations and the Slovenian Community Awards at the Triglav Mounties Club at St Johns Park, together with Mr Anthony Tomazin, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia. Slovenia's National Day, also known as Statehood Day, commemorates Slovenia's declaration of independence from the former Yugoslavia on 25 June 1991—a day it shares with Croatia. The award recipients included: Marija and Mirko Ritlop, Lifetime Achievements award; Tone and Ana Konda, Outstanding Senior Citizens; Danica Sajn and Danica Grzelj, both for Outstanding Achievements in Education; Walter Suber, Outstanding Achievement in Promoting Slovenian Culture; Marija Rudolf, Outstanding Volunteer in the Slovenian Community; and Hilda Sirec, Outstanding Achiever of Slovenian Background in the Australian Community. I congratulate all the award winners and thank Mr Peter Krobe, president of the Triglav Sub-Committee; Branko Fabjancic, president of the Awards Sub-Committee; and all my friends in the Slovenian-Australian community.

#### **BATTLE OF THE BRIDGE**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (17:29):** Today I support the upcoming inaugural Battle of the Bridge, and issue a challenge to the member for North Shore. Celebrating grassroots rugby, this fantastic day is being organised by the Seaforth Raiders and will be held on 16 July at Bantry Oval. The Seaforth Raiders will take on Mosman Junior Rugby for the Spit Bridge Shield. Importantly, the winning club will be judged not only on the results of the games but also on "the spirit of rugby points". Both clubs will field teams of players who are keen to have a go and not necessarily be representative or gala players. This will ensure all kids get a chance to participate in this special occasion. Seaforth Raiders is a proud club that supports its local community. I congratulate the parents and management of the club for putting on this event. It will foster great community spirit. I wish the member for North Shore all the best, but I have no doubt that the Spit Bridge Shield will remain on the Manly side of the bridge in its inaugural year.

#### **TEA GARDENS PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (17:29):** Recently I was excited to welcome students from Tea Gardens Public School to Parliament House. The following week roles were reversed when I attended

the official opening of the school's twenty-eighth Parliament. I congratulate all the students and staff on their commitment to democracy in our public education system, and I acknowledge Prime Minister Charli Alchin; Deputy Prime Minister Stephen Dungay; Leader of the Opposition Jacob Avery; Minister for Sport Lilly-Ann White and shadow Minister Mia McDonald; Minister for Transport Stephen Dungay and shadow Minister Lachlan Riley; Minister for Education Sophie Frazer and shadow Minister Daisy Wilton; Minister for Building and Health Kiera Bentley-Baker and shadow Minister Gethyn Bryant; Minister for Pupil Welfare Sonny Braddick and shadow Minister Lenita White; Minister for Special Events Alanah Hinitt and shadow Minister Kaitlyn Smith; Minister for Environment Braiven Megallon and shadow Minister Braiden Dvorik; Speaker Caitlin Condie; Deputy Speaker Breanna Foran; Hansard staff Simone Miller, Ciara Ridley and Shaylee Gibbs; Serjeant-at-arms Makai Dvorik, Jermaine Wolfram and Tye Carter; and Usher of the Black Rod Oscar Wyvill. I thank the Governor-General Mr Mark Clemson, parliamentary advisers and the Senate for their ongoing leadership.

#### **KU-RING-GAI AREA COMMAND POLICE AWARDS**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (17:30):** Today I recognise some of the recipients of the Ku-ring-gai Local Area Command awards. Leading Senior Constable Brett Phillips and Senior Constable Paul Cleary were awarded the National Police Service Medal and the New South Wales Police Medal Second Clasp. The National Police Service Medal is an extremely prestigious honour awarded in recognition of 15 years of ethical and diligent service. Clasps are awarded for every additional five years of ethical and diligent service afterwards. Chief Inspector Frank Gilroy was awarded the National Medal Second Clasp and New South Wales Police Medal Fifth Clasp. Former Chief Inspector Jon Gross was awarded the New South Wales Police Medal Fourth Clasp and the Certificate of Service.

Ms Shirley Kelynack was presented with the Volunteer in Policing Award for her incredible service to the local command and for helping to make the Ku-ring-gai area a safer place. Lastly, I recognise Superintendent Jenny Scholz for her outstanding work as the Commander of the Ku-ring-gai Local Area Command. Jenny puts in a lot of hard work and dedication and under her leadership the local area command has continued to flourish and maintain a wonderful public presence. I commend all the award recipients and again thank all the attendees for their service to the community. I am proud to have the Ku-ring-gai Local Area Command in my electorate and I thank them for the remarkable job that they do in keeping our area safe.

#### **KOREAN SOCIETY OF SYDNEY**

**Ms JODI McKAY (Strathfield) (17:32):** I bring to the attention of the House the tremendous work of the Korean Society of Sydney and in particular its outgoing president and executive. The Korean Society of Sydney was established in 1968 and provides a support network for the thousands of Australian-Koreans and community groups in Sydney and in New South Wales. Over the past year the society has been led by President Harry Paik. I acknowledge his dedication and relentless commitment to the Korean-Australian community. As Harry steps down from the position, it is appropriate that this House also thanks him for his leadership. Harry is a friend to many in this Parliament and will be missed by members on both sides of the House. I also congratulate Vice-President Jack Bahng and Vice-President Philip Shin, and committee members Hong Jo Ko, Danny Kim, Sue Young Kim, Kyung Ok Park, Kwiang Youn Park, Sung Duk Park, Dong Yun Son, Jin Wook Soon, Charles Song, Youn Kyung Lee, Dong Myung You, Tae Kyong Jung, John Hur, In Yun Son and Song Hee Hwang.

#### **CHELTENHAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM**

**Mr DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Epping) (17:33):** I acknowledge the achievements of the Cheltenham Girls High School under 15s netball team. Cheltenham Girls High School is an outstanding school in my electorate of Epping. Last month, the under 15s netball team participated in the Combined High Schools Netball Knockout Competition. The girls competed against 15 of the best school netball teams in New South Wales and emerged not only victorious but also undefeated. This remarkable achievement reflects the wealth of talent we have in Epping. Of course, this result is largely the result of enthusiastic support from parents and the community. But most importantly these achievements are impossible if children are not given the opportunity to participate and to give everything a fair go. To this end, I thank the Treasurer for introducing the Active Kids Rebate. This great initiative will improve sports and recreation accessibility for all children and ensure that every child can have a go. I congratulate Cheltenham Girls High School on this special achievement and wish the girls all the best in their future endeavours.

#### **MAITLAND HOSPITAL MIDWIFERY GROUP**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (17:34):** Recently my office was contacted by Kristy Davies who had recently given birth at Maitland Hospital. Kristy was helped throughout her pregnancy and through the birth of her child by the Maitland Hospital Midwifery Group. Kristy gave me some extremely positive feedback about the midwifery group and praised it for its efforts in the antenatal classes. As a result of the expertise of

Denise, Carol, Janeille and Donna, Kristy was able to be discharged four hours after giving birth to return to the comfort of her own home. Kristy's positive experience is a wonderful testament of the passion and expertise of the midwifery group. The Maitland Hospital Midwifery Group has a Facebook group with more than 400 members. The group is full of testimonials and praise for its hard work. The midwifery team has been described as outstanding, brilliant and fantastic. Midwives are an essential part of our health system and I thank the Maitland Hospital Midwifery Group for its constant support of all the mums, bubs and dads in Maitland.

#### **TRIBUTE TO EBONY ROWELL**

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (17:35):** Today I mention someone of whom I am extremely proud—my little sister, Ebony Rowell. She is one of the most compassionate people I know, particularly in the area of animal welfare, and she goes out of her way to help vulnerable furry friends. Just last week she rescued a stray dog and found out who the owners were in order to return it. They were very grateful. She helps anyone that she can and who needs it. Brothers and sisters can fight like cats and dogs, but in my case I am very lucky to have the best little sister that a brother can have. She has done so much in her life and I take this opportunity to say, "I love you, sis."

#### **CAMPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (17:35):** I had the honour of welcoming Mr Sang Soo Yoon, Consul-General of the Republic of Korea, to Canterbury. Consul-General Yoon and I visited Campsie Public School. Campsie Public School is one of only four bilingual schools in New South Wales, established under the Keneally Government and former education Minister Verity Firth. Campsie Public School is supported by the National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program NSW. I thank Principal Joanna French for her excellent leadership and thank the educators, parents and students for making Campsie Public School an amazing school. Consul-General Yoon and I were impressed by the students language skills, as many of my young constituents speak three or four languages. Languages are an integral and highly valued component of the educational program at Campsie Public School and the language program is highly regarded by the Department of Education and across the country. All students have the opportunity to learn a language other than English and some who show talent or interest study more than one language.

#### **FORMER MAYOR OF LIVERPOOL NED MANNOUN**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (17:36):** I acknowledge the clearing of the former Mayor of Liverpool Ned Mannoun by the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC]. I recognise that ICAC has a job to do and nobody is criticising its role, but this investigation was brought about by a baseless and senseless attack by the Hon. Robert Borsak, a member of the other place. It is not right to use either of these Chambers to attack somebody in what I believe was an attempt to deliberately pervert the course of democracy. I acknowledge Mr Mannoun's family and the suffering that they went through and I wish them all the best for their future and in recovering Ned's reputation. His love for Liverpool has not diminished and I wish him all the best for the future.

#### **CALVARY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY**

**Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah) (17:37):** In 2016 the Calvary Kogarah Auxiliary celebrated its golden jubilee of 50 years of service to the hospital and the Kogarah community. This thriving and dedicated group of volunteers fundraise throughout the year on behalf of the hospital in order to purchase equipment and other items for the care and comfort of patients at Calvary Hospital. These wonderful members work hard to ensure the hospital can provide the best service and care possible and that patients are as comfortable as they can be during their stay. The volunteers can be seen running The Little Shop at the hospital as well as taking the hospital trolley around to patients to purchase things. The auxiliary members are committed, enthusiastic and supportive in their care of the hospital even after 50 years of service.

#### **WHEELCHAIR SPORTS NSW**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (17:38):** Recently the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, Melinda Pavey, and I announced a \$100,000 grant to Wheelchair Sports NSW for 20 new wheelchairs and a new van. Wheelchair Sports NSW has been running a travelling roadshow across the State for the past 16 years, visiting schools and community groups and highlighting the dangers of engaging in risky behaviour on our roads. The \$100,000 grant will enable the organisation to purchase a new van for transport as well as 20 new wheelchairs to replace the current ones, which are in a state of disrepair. This will allow Wheelchair Sports NSW to continue its vital work in raising awareness for the dangers of risky behaviour like driving. During the past year the Wheelchair Sports Roadshow has visited 250 schools and community groups and more than 38,000 participants. This includes many other local groups particularly in my electorate. I support Wheelchair Sports NSW.

### **SAN REMO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong) (17:39):** On Wednesday 17 May I attended a celebration for the thirtieth anniversary of the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre, now known as The Epicentre. For the past 30 years the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre has been providing community services to the surrounding suburbs. In particular, I mention the centre's work with our youth. San Remo and surrounding areas have among the highest youth unemployment in the State. This means that programs that target at-risk youth are essential. The centre has hosted community forums regarding drug use and aims to educate the community on best-practice responses to the scourge of ice. I congratulate the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre on its 30 years and wish it all the best for the next 30 years and beyond.

### **MYALL LAKES ELECTORATE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (17:40):** I inform the House that a Forster fire captain's commitment to leading emergency responses and educating residents about fire safety has been recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. A humble Paul Langley said that he was surprised and at the same time privileged to receive such a prestigious award. Paul, who has served with Fire and Rescue NSW for 23 years, including more than 13 years as captain at Forster Fire Station, has been awarded the celebrated Australian Fire Service Medal. Paul joined Fire and Rescue NSW Leura in 1981, resigning in 1989 after relocating to Forster. Since rejoining in 1993, he has achieved more than two decades of continuous service to the Forster-Tuncurry community.

He was promoted to deputy captain in 1996 and then captain in 2002, and has provided dedicated service in this leadership role for 15 years. He has maintained high standards of training, developing the skills of his firefighters, as demonstrated in their achievements in the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation road crash rescue extrication competition. He has dedicated many hours to the support and education of community safety and is highly regarded by other emergency services as a leader in the field. Paul's demonstrated commitment, dedication, leadership and professionalism have cemented Fire and Rescue NSW as an integral part of the Forster-Tuncurry community.

### **PARLIAMENT ON KING**

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (17:41):** In Refugee Week I would like to thank this Parliament to acknowledge Parliament on King, a unique social enterprise that nurtures and supports refugees and asylum seekers in our community. This year's Refugee Week poster has a great photo of Ravi Prasad, who started Parliament on King with his partner, Della, and Hani Abdile, a refugee from South Somalia. Since Ravi and Della started Parliament on King in 2013 in the front rooms of their Newtown terrace, close to 300 people have been trained there in barista skills, food preparation, food hygiene and food service. It is a cafe, bookshop, event space, hospitality training centre, catering business, and welcome space for refugees and asylum seekers. All the food is cooked by chefs who are asylum seekers or refugees and started out as trainees at Parliament on King. They regularly hold community dinners. Parliament on King has been strongly supported from the beginning by the Asylum Seekers Centre, which is also in the Newtown electorate.

### **SCHOOL FUNDING**

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (17:41):** I acknowledge all those in my community who contribute towards non-government schools. These education providers save taxpayers enormous sums and relieve pressure on government schools. I recognise many local constituents who are concerned at proposed changes to Federal Government school funding. School funding should be fair to each education sector and to all schools within each sector. Many believe there should be a more solid base level of funding for all Catholic systemic schools, with appropriate loadings added for need, rather than arguably unfair discrimination using questionable socio-economic status calculations. The concept of consistent needs-based funding risks disguising unfair penalties to school communities offering faith-based educational choice, particularly in higher socio-economic neighbourhoods. Some otherwise identical schools nominally receive many times the government funding allocation of others. The New South Wales Government has rejected the so-called "Gonski 2.0" funding model, primarily due to funding shortfalls and, like many in my electorate, I have personal concerns.

### **TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR STEPHEN DEANE, AM**

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (17:42):** I bring to the attention of the House Professor Stephen Deane who was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for his significant contribution to the world of medicine. Professor Deane, of Fennell Bay, has been a significant and driving force behind improvements to the ways in which hospitals deal with trauma patients, both at home and abroad. Drawing on his experience in the field of trauma surgery as both a clinician and an academic, Professor Deane first developed new protocols for trauma teams at Westmead Hospital in the 1980s.



These protocols vastly improved the way the hospital received and cared for seriously injured people. In 1993 he partnered four international trauma surgeons to develop a new surgical trauma care course that now operates in 30 countries. Professor Deane has been at the forefront of teaching and developing these protocols ever since, and has taught in Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Hong Kong, China and India. I take this opportunity to congratulate him on his Order of Australia Medal and acknowledge his significant body of work, which has delivered great benefits to people in his own community and to those around the world. Well done, Professor Stephen Deane, AM.

#### **TRIBUTE TO AVA DEL TUFO**

**Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (17:43):** Today I congratulate an inspiring and amazing young woman from the South Coast, Ava Del Tufo. I have spoken about Ava a number of times in this Chamber, including earlier this year when she was awarded the Shoalhaven Young Citizen of the Year Award for services to her local community. Ava is the Ulladulla High School captain, a member of the Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club and also a member of the Milton Ulladulla Lions Club. Ava travelled to Hobart in May this year to represent her local Lions club at the Lions Australia 2017 National Convention in the public speaking competition. I am delighted to inform the House that Ava performed admirably and went on to win first prize, and was awarded the Lions Youth of the Year Public Speaking Award along with \$3,000 in prize money. The next stage for Ava will be competing in the Lions International youth event in New Zealand as a finalist. Congratulations, Ava. Good luck and well done on all you have achieved at such a young age.

#### **RETIREMENT OF ANNE SULLIVAN**

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (17:44):** I acknowledge Anne Sullivan, the retiring president of the Ourimbah/Narara Valley branch of the Australian Labor Party [ALP]. Anne is the mother of two fine daughters, Catherine Wall, who is my senior electoral officer, and Elizabeth. She is also the devoted and loving spouse of Don Craig. Anne Sullivan has been a member of the Australian Labor Party since she was 16 years old. She worked as Barry Egan's secretary at the Shop Assistants' Union. After that she worked at the Australian Trade Union Training Authority. She also worked on the staff of Grant McBride, the former Labor member for The Entrance. She has volunteered and offered advice to staff in the offices of many members on the Central Coast. She has volunteered on my staff and she is a respected member of the ALP. I am honoured to know her as a dear friend and comrade.

#### **BECKERLEG FAMILY VOLUNTEER WORK**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (17:45):** Today I recognise the Beckerleg family from Hornsby and their outstanding volunteer work with the Raw Impact Organisation in Cambodia. Jonathon and Inez Beckerleg and their sons, Josh and Jack, have spent a month volunteering in Ta Skor with this organisation that supports underprivileged communities in rural areas by providing them with education, employment and housing. In this area specifically the communities are still dealing with the ramifications of genocide from the late 1900s, coupled with the effects of poverty.

In Ta Skor the Beckerleg family built houses and then moved to the Ko Ki village, where they helped to work on sustainable gardens. Jonathon and his son Josh enjoyed the experience so much that they chose to stay on for another two weeks on top of their month there. I thank Jonathon, Inez, Josh and Jack for their incredible work overseas. To dedicate so much time to helping underprivileged communities overseas is truly remarkable, and I am certain that they have made a real difference to the lives of the people in those villages.

#### *Private Members' Statements*

#### **HOLROYD HIGH SCHOOL**

**Ms JULIA FINN (Granville) (17:46):** Today I pay tribute to the amazing work being done at Holroyd High School and raise concerns about what changes to Gonski funding arrangements may mean for this wonderful school, where needs-based funding is making a remarkable difference. Yesterday the Federal Government secured the support of the Senate for its changes to school funding arrangements. This was the result of some compromises, so the final outcome for a school like Holroyd High School is not yet known. But the first proposal would have seen funding cut by \$2.2 million per year, compared with the previous arrangements entered into by the Gillard Government and the New South Wales Government—a significantly larger cut than projected for any other school in my electorate.

This is Refugee Week, and when we think about the people and organisations who are supporting refugees to settle successfully in Australia, Holroyd High School is close to the top of the list. I have done research work in a refugee camp and have seen first-hand how distressing it is for refugees to endure trauma and hardship for years on end while awaiting resettlement. In my observations, this is far worse for young refugees who have

lost or been separated from their families. When refugees arrive in Australia, they need to be welcomed and supported. Unfortunately, a welcome is not always forthcoming—in fact, it is sometimes the opposite—but a place like Holroyd High School is always a place of welcome.

Holroyd High hosts an intensive English centre and many students from refugee backgrounds from around the world, who have endured disrupted schooling and often do not speak any English when they start school. The school's principal, Dorothy Hoddinott, is a renowned educator and advocate for her students. She was awarded Officer of the Order of Australia and is a winner of the Australian Human Rights award for her efforts supporting refugee students over decades. She identifies and creates opportunities for them. She also has a deep sense of empathy and understands how increasingly and unnecessarily difficult our immigration processes can be, and how disruptive this can be for her students.

The school also has a support unit, with two classes for autism and one multi-categorical. There are also a number of students with disabilities integrated into both the high school and the Intensive English Centre. The Public Education Foundation supports many Holroyd High School students through different scholarships, recognising the disadvantage they face and their future potential. Nineteen Holroyd students were awarded scholarships at the foundation's recent awards night, with Rabie Khalil—last year's captain—receiving a Royal Bank of Canada tertiary scholarship for refugee students; seven students receiving Friends of Zainab tertiary scholarships; 10 students receiving Friends of Zainab secondary scholarships; and Boshra Bandi Amirabad receiving a Harding Miller Education Foundation scholarship for high-potential girls. One of the Friends of Zainab secondary scholarship recipients, Baraa Omar, spoke at the presentation of her life in Australia after fleeing war in Syria less than four years ago. She said:

I started learning English at the Intensive English Centre at Holroyd and then moved to high school directly to year 8 continuing my learning progress in Holroyd High. I love school and I love learning. I missed a year of schooling before I started in the Intensive English Centre, which makes you appreciate learning opportunities even more!

She went on to say:

Without this scholarship, my dream to go university would be shattered, because when I came to Australia I thought I wouldn't be able to go university due to expense. Due to help, I can go university and be an architect.

That is the type of opportunity a school like Holroyd High creates. Over the past four years more than 60 per cent of its Higher School Certificate [HSC] students have gone on to university and another 17 per cent have gone into vocational education. Rabie Khalil, whom I mentioned before, is another Holroyd success story. I met Rabie at the school and I have come to know him and his family. They are refugees seeking asylum in Australia, and their story is very touching. Their experiences could have meant a lifetime of struggle, but going to a school like Holroyd High has opened up opportunities for him and, I believe, opportunities for any workplace or community that he is part of in the future.

The additional needs-based funding that Holroyd has received in recent years has been put to good use and is making a difference in the lives of students. Some of Holroyd's initiatives include the breakfast club, which feeds more than 100 students from the school, with other donations from parents and businesses; HSC tutorials in the holidays; homework help three afternoons each week, which 40 to 60 students attend; after-school programs; and financial assistance to attend HSC tutorials provided by universities. Together, those programs support the school's objectives to improve student performance by increasing the proportion of higher HSC band levels, maintaining an above-State average percentage of students progressing to higher education, and improving external test and examination results. The school has also used the additional funding to hire transition teachers and a male and a female teacher who work with students at risk of leaving school to keep them engaged, as well as additional literacy and numeracy coordinators.

The principal and school leadership also go out of their way to foster external partnerships that create opportunities for students and, more importantly, an awareness of opportunities. All students from years 7 to 12 receive mentoring support from universities, the Australian Business and Community Network, High Resolves or other external partnerships, and all students in the Intensive English Centre are engaged in sporting and cultural programs. The school's students face far greater obstacles than most, yet they succeed. When some people look at Australia's declining comparative education standards, they wonder what are we doing wrong and whether we are throwing good money after bad. But I look at a school like Holroyd High School and see what we are getting right. I know that needs-based funding delivers results and changes lives. [*Time expired.*]

#### ALBURY ELECTORATE MUSICAL THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

**Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (17:51):** It was Shakespeare who set the scene for the most traditional portrayal of wicked witches in Western theatre with that troublesome, bubbling trio dipping into Macbeth's cauldron. That is *Macbeth* the esteemed play, not the upwardly mobile Scottish general with political aspirations. Could any production be more wicked than this? Albury and the border region continues to amaze with its

confident and relentless pursuit of music theatre excellence. I have been observing this phenomenon develop for several years now, as our local amateur theatre companies become increasingly professional and ambitious in the shows they take on.

In addition to our principal theatre company, HotHouse Theatre, there are now three organisations focusing on music theatre at a high level: Albury Wodonga Theatre Company, Livid Productions and BYTE Sized Productions. Success builds upon success, and I understand that a large number of people now turn up for auditions as each production strives to surpass the ones that have come before. Most recently, in May something wicked this way came, and I attended the hit musical *Wicked* at the 800-plus seat Albury Entertainment Centre. The season ran for six performances, and every seat in the venue was taken. It truly was a remarkable sellout show, bringing so many people from the region into Albury. The Albury Wodonga Theatre Company was quick to act when *Wicked* was made available for community theatre. It is a lavish, highly technical show, and it takes an epic effort to bring it to life on stage.

Much of the success is due to having terrific leads for the main characters, such as Elphaba, the Green Witch, a role shared by Amy Murray and Catherine Cunningham, with local singing teacher Venetia Heath as the popular, sparkling Glinda. More than 100 people were involved in the production in one way or another. Meanwhile, a hot band/orchestra fired up those famous tunes from the pit. It was a brilliant show. I challenge any other theatre company in Australia to put on a better production of *Wicked*—a new standard has been set. Particular thanks and appreciation go to the producers, Kerrie Stanton, Annette Challis and Peter Challis; directors Joseph Thomsen and Glenn Mancer; musical director Brett Spokes; choreographer Susan Vaccaro; vocal coach Jessie Swan and all the cast and crew who worked so hard on this unforgettable show. I also thank the staff of the Albury Entertainment Centre for their help with such a massive production.

The Albury Wodonga Theatre Company came to life in 1967 as Albury Music Theatre. This year represents 50 years of putting on fabulous shows that have enriched the lives of so many in the region. From the very first show, *The King and I*, to *Wicked*, this company has kept in touch with the changing tastes of its audiences, developing rather than sticking with a traditional, safe program. All genres have been represented in the 125 theatre productions across a number of stages in the region. As the company says when reflecting on this half-century body of work, "Very little has changed from the original aim of fostering, cultivating and stimulating an appreciation of all aspects of theatre in and around Albury and Wodonga."

In recognition of the significant impact Albury Wodonga Theatre Company has on the cultural life of our border community, I was pleased to help with a Community Building Partnership grant of \$60,000 to assist with the construction of toilets, including for the disabled, at the company's premises. These premises have become a real home base for the company—a place where members rehearse and hold workshops and small productions. This New South Wales Government grant will help to create a more friendly and amenable venue for all.

It is a particularly rich year for music theatre in Albury, with more than the one significant anniversary to contemplate and celebrate. The Albury Gang Show—a production from the local scouts and guides—presented its newest show, *The Internet is Down*, on 16 and 17 June. While the scouts and guides first hit the stage with an all-singing, all-dancing show back in 1965, it was with the assistance of seasoned "gangsters" coming up from Melbourne. In 1967 we had our first truly locally produced, directed and acted Gang Show. That was the second musical half-century anniversary celebrated this year on the border, and what a great show it was. *Beauty and the Beast*, the next musical from BYTE Sized Productions, opens on 30 June. This is one especially for the children to enjoy.

The Albury Wodonga Theatre Company returns to the Albury Entertainment Centre in September with a production showcasing the songs of Jim Steinman, called *Rock and Roll Dreams*. Steinman is the composer who gave the world more Meatloaf than it could handle. Livid Productions celebrates its 10-year anniversary this year, taking to the stage with *Les Misérables* on 13 October and continuing till 21 October. As Confucius said, "To see and listen to the wicked is already the beginning of wickedness." That may be venerable and wise, but I found seeing and listening to *Wicked* in Albury exhilarating and fun. It cast a spell of positive energy across the border, if not quite over the rainbow. Our whole community benefits enormously from the great productions of our local theatre companies, and for this we thank them, lyrically.

#### STATE BUDGET AND MYALL LAKES ELECTORATE

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (17:56):** I speak today about the fantastic budget delivered earlier this week, particularly the announcement of another \$9.8 million to continue the stage one redevelopment of the Manning Base Hospital. Stage one of the hospital is under construction and now there is funding to continue it. At the 2015 election Labor said the redevelopment was a lie and would never happen—but it is up and running. The car park, with an extra level, is already underway. It is double the size of the existing

High Street car park, which will be demolished, allowing space for a new oncology and a new renal unit to be built in High Street. We certainly need those new units and it will be a pleasure for patients and their families to attend them. There is already an oncologist at the new oncology unit, and recruitment of another oncologist is underway.

The redevelopment of the hospital is just reward for its hardworking and dedicated staff—the doctors, nurses and ancillary staff. Notwithstanding the fact that much of the hospital is old and outdated and needs replacing, it is meeting or exceeding State average standards and exceeding its key performance indicators. That goes to show the dedication of the staff. There are more than 30,000 presentations to the emergency unit, some of them life-threatening cases, and the hospital is able to deal with them. When I talk about the redevelopment of the hospital, I am referring to stage one. The community knows that it is a three-stage process, as per the clinical services plan and development plan completed at the end of 2013. I call on the Government to fund stages two and three, which will cost \$120 million. I look forward to seeing funding for planning those stages in the next budget.

There are a few things we need in the health space in the Myall Lakes electorate. Some 21,500 people live in Forster Tuncurry alone. It is now bigger than Taree and serves the outlying areas of Green Point, Pacific Palms, Smiths Lake and Seal Rocks, which has a population totalling about 40,000 people. It would be great to have a multipurpose medical centre in Forster to cater for public patients. The community paid for the Cape Hawke Community Hospital. The licence, which was owned by Pulse Health, was recently purchased by Healthe Care. We have six public renal dialysis chairs, a number of chemotherapy beds, and some rehabilitation beds. Patients from Forster Tuncurry and the Great Lakes area go to the Manning Base Hospital to have their operations and when they are stable they can be transferred to public beds in the Cape Hawke hospital to recover. It would be great to have a multipurpose medical centre to complement the existing facilities.

Myall Lakes also needs radiotherapy services. The area has a very high incidence of cancer. When an oncologist was employed in 2012 or 2013 it was thought that oncology services were unnecessary; there would be a six-month trial and that would be it. The facility is now so busy it is looking to employ a second oncologist. It offers chemotherapy but not radiotherapy. It is a low socio-economic area and people cannot afford to travel to Newcastle or Port Macquarie for treatment. There is a private cardiac catheterisation laboratory for private patients, but we should allow public patients to go to the private hospital in Taree for cardiac treatment. That will save lives and save the Government money.

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (18:01):** I acknowledge the great work of the member for Myall Lakes. This year's budget allocates \$23 billion to Health, which is an additional \$1 billion from last year. That will be spent not just in Sydney, but right across New South Wales. There is additional investment in health infrastructure. The Government is building new hospitals across Sydney and in regional and rural New South Wales—in places like Tweed, Campbelltown and many other wonderful locations. I thank the member for Myall Lakes, who is a great champion of and advocate for his local community. Every electorate needs a local champion. I acknowledge the great achievements he has accomplished over the past six years.

#### WESTCONNEX

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (18:02):** I take this opportunity to express my grave concerns about WestConnex and its impact on my electorate of Heffron—as I have done repeatedly since the project was announced. It is having a substantial impact on the site of the proposed St Peters interchange, as the Government continues to dig holes in polluted land. The Environment Protection Authority is unable to stop the terrible stench that is emanating from leachate and spreading across the Tempe, St Peters and Sydenham communities. But my real concern about this roadway is the way in which the project was implemented. In 2012 the Government announced this grand, bold project at a cost of \$10 billion, which has now increased to \$17 billion. But the project has its genesis in the 2004 proposal to link the M4 to Port Botany, which was then known as the Marrickville truck tunnel.

Unfortunately, the proposal to deal with freight going to the port and airport was overtaken by the Infrastructure NSW WestConnex project, which does not go within eight kilometres of Port Botany. The Government's WestConnex project was assessed by Infrastructure Australia but was given such a low rating that it was not eligible for Commonwealth funding. The Abbott Government rectified that following its election when it sacked the Infrastructure Australia board and appointed a new board that elevated the WestConnex project and entitled it to funding from the Commonwealth. As a result, this project was announced at a cost of \$17 billion. This \$17 billion roadway that was slated to link Sydney Airport and Port Botany does not go within eight kilometres of the port. The reason is that truck tunnels do not pay for themselves so the Government decided, through the WestConnex project, to put cars on the roadway and pay for it with tolls. But cars do not travel straight to the port or the airport; they go everywhere.

As a result, the project, whose purpose was to move freight to and from the largest port in this State, does not meet its objective. That is why Infrastructure Australia and the Commonwealth refused to fund it initially. It is backward public planning. Let us consider the repercussions. When a government builds a road like WestConnex and seeks to pay for it with tolls rather than having an infrastructure strategy, it simply moves the traffic to the next crisis point. The next crisis point is Euston Road in Alexandria, where 60,000 vehicles will converge. In response to that potential crisis, the Government now wants to build a six-lane road from Alexandria to Moore Park. Some 60,000 vehicles will be diverted from Euston Road to South Dowling Street and Anzac Parade and onto Alison Road in Randwick to create the next crisis. Meanwhile, the road goes nowhere near the port or the airport.

An examination of the Government's latest tinkering in relation to what it calls the Sydney Gateway that will lead to Sydney airport—which it says will ultimately be funded from WestConnex—reveals that what was allegedly going to cost \$100 million will now cost \$800 million, if it is ever done or planned. So when those in my electorate complain that money should be invested in public transport and not in toll roads, they are correct. The reason the Government is building toll roads and not public transport is that toll roads do not ultimately cost the Government anything. If the Government were to discharge its responsibility to move people by public transport it would have to pay for it. The trouble is that the road planning of this Government simply moves the crisis from one place to another.

### ST GEORGES BASIN DEVELOPMENT

**Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (18:09):** St Georges Basin is a beautiful village in my electorate of South Coast. Like many other smaller villages and towns, it is quiet, pristine and relaxing and comprises low-key residential areas. It is much like so many other villages and towns on the South Coast. Our communities have fought hard on many fronts and on many occasions to retain the character of their towns and villages—I have joined them—and to prevent overdevelopment of their area. They do not want the kind of development that has occurred further to our north in places like Shellharbour or even further north on the Central Coast and the North Coast. They do not want the amenity of their neighbourhoods spoiled nor their lifestyle affected.

The South Coast is a favoured destination for tourists. Hence, for decades we have seen many developers bring forward in some cases inappropriate developments that are completely out of character with our towns and villages. The battle has indeed been ongoing to prevent the destruction of everything we love about our area. Yet, the South Coast continues to grow and to develop, with new subdivisions proceeding in areas around Nowra and Ulladulla. There have been rare objections from the community due to the recognition that we need to grow and build our communities. We are a sensible, balanced community, and we know by instinct what feels wrong, what looks wrong and what is wrong.

I refer tonight to a development proposal in St Georges Basin for 15 four-storey residential flat buildings 13 metres high, one four-storey mixed use residential and commercial building 13 metres high, and one two-storey mixed-use residential and commercial building seven metres high. The residential buildings will contain a mix of two- and three-bedroom apartments to give a proposed total of 88 two-bedroom and 292 three-bedroom apartments, giving a total of 380 apartments in a quiet residential street. In Wollongong or Sydney, or further to the north, this application would no doubt be welcomed because it represents more than \$1 million of development in the area. It would in no way be out of character with existing and surrounding development in other regions. However, in St Georges Basin, a small village, this application has been resoundingly rejected by the community at well-attended public meetings because it is simply out of character in this quiet residential area. In my view, it should also be rejected by the Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel, which will be the consenting authority.

Residents have been invited to make submissions to Shoalhaven City Council, and I encourage them to do so. Complacency may result in the approval of this project because after an error of judgment by a previous council, the height limit in this area was raised to 13 metres as part of the Local Environment Plan [LEP] review in 2012. While the community is concerned about the LEP issues in relation to height, they recognise and have been informed by council that the development complies with the current mapped building heights that were adopted by Shoalhaven City councillors, contrary to staff recommendations. To their credit, the council staff have submitted a proposal to change the mapped building heights and have been asked by the Department of Planning and Environment for further information to justify this alteration to the recently reviewed Shoalhaven LEP.

However, the matter is now before the Land and Environment Court for conciliation. It may then be referred to the Joint Regional Planning Panel [JRPP] for determination. This process is independent of the State Government and the Minister for Planning. It does have two Shoalhaven City Council representatives, who should convey the community's serious concerns during its deliberations. In addition, I will be submitting an objection to the proposal to the JRPP, and I encourage all residents to do the same. My objection will be based on loss of

amenity, traffic, overshadowing, inadequate parking on site, and lack of infrastructure in the area to cope with an additional 1,000 residents to this small village.

My experience and support of my local communities in the past at Currarong, where a most inappropriate development was proposed, at the small village of Tomerong, where a huge tip was proposed, and at Milton, where the Shoalhaven City Council wanted to close the local library, have indicated to me that if the community unites and fights for what it believes in, it can win. In this case, I think it can. The St Georges Basin development proposal is completely out of character and would impact on the amenity and character of the village. It must be rejected out of hand.

#### *Bills*

### **APPROPRIATION BILL 2017**

### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2017**

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY BILL 2017**

#### **Returned**

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

### **STATE REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (BUDGET MEASURES) BILL 2017**

#### **Returned**

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the abovementioned bill with an amendment. Pursuant to an earlier resolution, I order that the Legislative Council amendment be considered forthwith.

#### **Consideration in Detail**

#### **Consideration of the Legislative Council's amendment.**

*Schedule of amendment referred to in the Legislative Council's message of 22 June 2017*

No. 1      **GOVT No. 1 [c2017-057D]**

Page 22, Schedule 5.2, lines 37-43. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead:

(b)            for any other person employed by Landcom—the period of 2 years after the transfer.

**Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET:** I move:

That the House agree to the Legislative Council amendment.

**Amendment agreed to.**

#### *Private Members' Statements*

### **ORBEGOSO FAMILY AND LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (18:14):** I draw the attention of the House to the extraordinary tale of Liverpool Council and the Orbegoso family. A complaint was made to council by a neighbour and 14 years later the council has issued a notice demanding that the Orbegosos remove structures, including a pergola, a pizza oven and a barbeque from their backyard. That is despite the fact that at various times council officers have told them this would not be required. It is a residential property in a suburban location in an area covered by Liverpool City Council. The various structures were added by the Orbegosos, who thought they had done nothing wrong and were only doing what plenty of other people had done without approval. Personally, I find their additions completely unremarkable.

In about 2003 a complaint was made about the structures to council. The Orbegosos believe the complaining neighbour was the friend of a council officer. I understand that complaints are not currently being made by anyone, including a neighbour. Having been contacted by council 13 to 14 years ago, they proceeded to do what they were told to do by council. They prepared and obtained reports and documents. They spent thousands of dollars to do so. They supplied all the documents specified on the list council officers provided to them and they gave them to the council. Out of the blue, years later—in about 2005—the family was served with a final demolition order by the council. They thought the council was satisfied with what they had done.

The day before the time frame in the demolition order was due to expire, the Orbegoso family was contacted by a council officer, who told the family that the matter was now with him and that they should not

demolish anything and he would sort it out. Nothing then happened. Some very considerable time later, two men from the council turned up at the house. They told the Orbegosos that the structure would have to be demolished because they had not responded to council and had not supplied the relevant documents. The Orbegosos pointed out that they had most definitely responded and had certainly supplied all the requested documents. The council officers were appropriately shocked at this, never having seen the documents before even though they had been given to the council. They took copies of them. The officers left to investigate and to consider the issues.

Nothing happened, and after some time the Orbegosos contacted the council to see what was going on. All the council could tell them was that the people concerned had left council in about 2006. Nothing then happened for almost a decade. In February this year, a youngish council officer appeared without warning at the premises. He said that he had been given a significant number of matters that had not been previously finalised and that theirs was one of them. A comparatively minor issue sat unattended gathering dust for 10 years in the council's files. It also goes some way to establishing objectively whether or not the structures are seriously defective. The council officer had no copy or even a record of the reports that the council had now several times been given by the Orbegosos. He said that he had to return to the council to talk to his boss and he would see what happened.

With no further warning or discussion, the council issued a proposed demolition order dated 30 March 2017. Despite the grammatical errors in the document, its meaning was clear. The reason for issuing the demolition order was that prior permission was not obtained from the council. At this stage, the Orbegosos had entered the world of Kafka. I made written representations to the council making some obvious points. I received a substantive response from the council dated 1 May. That letter was interesting. It claimed the major issue was the fire and health risk. That is absolutely not what was in the proposed order. If it were a health and safety issue, why did council sit on it for a decade? The letter incorrectly described the works, and it was clear that the council's records were hopelessly inadequate. It was claimed that the work was possibly carried out in 2005. I have seen letters from the council well before that dealing with this issue. The letter also conceded that a number of council officers dealing with the issue had left its employ. The penultimate paragraph from the letter reads:

Representation has been received by council from a consultant acting on behalf of the owners. Negotiation is currently taking place with the consultant to determine a process of removing the unauthorised work and replacing it with complying structures subject to approval. The Orbegosos advise me that that is simply untrue; there have been no negotiations with the council and they have not retained a consultant. The Orbegosos then received a demolition order dated 15 May—merely two weeks after the council incorrectly told me it was negotiating with the resident. The order is badly worded and seems to require all concrete on the property to be removed, including the driveway and material that was previously uncontroversial. The basis of the order is once again failure to obtain approval and does not mention health and safety issues. Moreover, the covering letter to the Orbegosos refers to only some of the representations made to council on their behalf and not to others, which may suggest the decision-making process has miscarried.

I urge the council to consult properly with the Orbegosos. My experience is that they are entirely reasonable people hoping to sit down and organise a sensible arrangement. I understand they have contacted the council to request, at this late stage, a meeting. I understand one of the council officers has agreed to that, although it has had to be adjourned. I simply urge the council to be reasonable. Trying to demolish something 14 years after the complaint has been raised seems to me fundamentally unreasonable.

#### **DEATH OF ELIZA WANNAN AND WILLIAM DALTON-BROWN**

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (18:19):** By leave: I have been pursuing for quite some time in this House events surrounding the tragic circumstances of the killing of Eliza Wannan and William Dalton-Brown on 27 January 2010. The circumstances of their death have been subject to considerable media attention as well as investigation by ABC *Four Corners*. I have always been concerned that the question of involuntary manslaughter had not been considered by prosecution authorities as it seemed to me that consideration needed to be given by the Attorney General or others as to whether to indict Rhys Colefax for manslaughter. Earlier this year I had a discussion with the current Attorney General, who sought advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions. This week I was confidentially shown that advice.

Arising from the material that I have seen, I am satisfied now that the Director of Public Prosecutions has considered the sufficiency of the evidence as to whether or not a charge of manslaughter should be proffered against Rhys Colefax. The Director of Public Prosecutions has come to the view that there is no reasonable prospect of a conviction and has determined that a bill not be filed. My view has always been to ensure that manslaughter was considered. It was never a matter for me to substitute my view of the evidence for that of prosecution authorities. I accept that that has now been done. I thank sincerely the Attorney General for his

courtesy and I extend to the families of Eliza Wannan and William Dalton-Brown my profound sympathies at the loss of their children.

#### **REGIONAL ARCHITECTS PTY LTD AND JOBS NSW**

**Mr ANDREW FRASER (Coffs Harbour) (18:21):** Tonight I speak on an issue relating to Jobs NSW and a constituent on the North Coast who wishes to start a new business which involves research and development as well as construction. The Deputy Premier and the Minister for Planning visited my electorate, had a look at this project and spoke to the people involved. The business involves a new type of construction of, what I term, pods, which would mean cheaper and faster accommodation that could be used for various purposes—from tourist accommodation through to permanent low-cost accommodation. They also wish to start a subdivision immediately south of Coffs Harbour, and the offsets would include a koala hospital and ecotourism development along the borders of Emu Creek. The Deputy Premier and the Minister for Planning were very excited about their plans.

As a result of that visit, my constituents, known as Regional Architects Pty Ltd, were asked to submit a proposal to Jobs NSW. With the assistance of their advisers—lawyers, accountants and bankers—they put forward the proposal which, in the initial stages, would employ at least six people. As I understand, those six people are already employed in research and development. It is expected that 18 to 20 people will be employed in the not-too-distant future. Within 12 to 18 months, they expect to have 92 people employed in this business. It is an exciting venture. It ticks all the boxes in relation to futuristic development and cheap housing and involves projects that this Government is very interested in, and has been from day one. When Regional Architects prepared its proposal and submitted it to Jobs NSW, they were readily offered funding for this project in the millions of dollars. Sadly, the loan rates they were offered by Jobs NSW were in excess of 9 per cent.

**Mr Geoff Provest:** No. Really?

**Mr ANDREW FRASER:** Really. Their bank has offered them funding at a rate of 5.75 per cent. The offer put by Jobs NSW also required them to borrow the money immediately and to start paying not only interest but capital repayments—before any production by the factory. I have raised the issue with the Premier. If the Government is serious about Jobs NSW assisting local businesses and providing jobs in New South Wales—and I know the intent is there—we have to provide interest rates that are at least competitive with, if not equal to the rates offered by banks. It is in the interests of our Government, our communities and the people of New South Wales to ensure that these new businesses, and any other business that ticks the boxes, are offered funding that is commensurate with bank interest rates.

I suggest to the Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Trade and Industry, and the Deputy Premier that if they offer interest rates in excess of 9 per cent they are going to pick up the duds. They will pick up the people who cannot afford to repay. A number of years ago I was involved in the finance industry. Back in those days, the people who took the 21 per cent and 22 per cent interest rates no longer exist. Why? Because they could not afford to repay them. I urge my Government to re-examine this scheme. It is a great scheme and the intention is fantastic. The Government must ensure that the interest rates are competitive with the open market so that businesses such as Regional Architects Pty Ltd can get underway, start their innovative programs and employ people within my electorate and in other electorates throughout New South Wales.

#### **WARNERVALE SCHOOL**

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (18:27):** I speak this evening about the mystery of the newly announced Warnervale school or "a school in Warnervale". On Monday morning I became very excited. I was driving to the gym—as I do very early, at 6.30 a.m.—on Monday morning. Mr Scot MacDonald came onto the local ABC radio and made the announcement of a new school in the Warnervale area. I was very excited about that, as was the online announcer, Scott Levi. Scott immediately thought it was the long lobbied for Warnervale high school. For the benefit of the honourable member in the other place, Mr Scot MacDonald, he never actually said "high school" in his statement, but unfortunately when the ABC announcer went on to congratulate all the community members who had lobbied for seven years to get the high school, Mr Scot MacDonald agreed with him that the community had done a wonderful job and that sort of thing. So word travelled very quickly and the community thought the long lobbied for high school had been delivered.

As the morning progressed, after a bit of toing and froing and, to his credit, a phone call from Mr Scot MacDonald, we then found out that it was in fact a primary school for 1,000 children that was being delivered. I am an educator and I will certainly not knock back new infrastructure in a growth area. The newest primary school in the area, Warnervale Public School, has already outgrown its permanent buildings and is getting demountables, so it is certainly an area that is growing. But this evening I am asking the Government and the Department of Education to start consulting with the community as to what their plans are for that area because for seven years the community has felt there is a need for the provision of more secondary education.



The Wadalba Community Public School caters for kindergarten to year 12 students, with approximately 1,200 students, 250 to 280 of whom are in the primary school section. In the past, a suggestion was made that one possible model of delivery of schools in that area would be to take the primary school students out of Wadalba so that it would cater for year 7 to year 12 as a middle school and a senior school, or as one combined entity. If we are talking about a new primary school, it makes sense to take the overflow from the new areas into Wadalba and move the primary section of Wadalba into this new school. However, the community has not been consulted and the community does not know the potential plans.

The Government's announcement of the school on Monday has caused more confusion. When the budget came out on Tuesday, I looked for its delivery in the budget papers but it was not mentioned, not even as a line item with its delivery in the years ahead. Members of the community then contacted me. They said that they had lobbied for a high school but were getting a primary school and that it was not mentioned in the budget. I spoke to the Minister for Education—Rob Stokes is a good Minister and I get on well with him; he is very helpful—and asked him to ask the department to consult with the community about what it is delivering so that the community can have some surety.

The children who were in kindergarten when we started lobbying seven years ago are now in high school and will have left school by the time a school is delivered. We ask that the community be consulted in relation to this project. It is great to make an announcement but consultation will deliver a lot of well-meaning people to get behind the cause. We are pleased that we are getting a school, although it was not in the budget. If the plan is to make Wadalba a secondary school and have a larger primary school with 1,000 children, the community should be told. In that way, we can all work together to get a great outcome for a very fast-growing area, which has had about 4,000 new house blocks approved.

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (18:32):** I am sure the Government has heard the very polite and respectful way in which the member for Wyong has addressed his claims. I note that he complimented the Minister for Education, who deserves compliments because he is consultative and has overseen a record education capital expenditure in this budget of some \$4.2 billion over the next four years. Obviously, a new school in the Warnervale area is very welcome for primary school students. We have heard of the needs. There are needs across New South Wales for additional educational resources because they were under-invested for many years, including during the 16 years of the former Labor Government. It is curious that the member for Wyong said he lobbied for the past seven years. I know he was not a member of Parliament for four of those years. Things could have been done when Labor was in power, so let us keep the argument balanced. I am sure the comments of the member for Wyong will be looked at by the education authorities.

#### TRIBUTE TO AMELIA BAKER

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (18:33):** I want to recognise a Hill Top local treasure and champion, Amelia Baker. Along with her mother, Jan, Amelia has had a lifelong association with dogs, in particular the Rhodesian ridgeback breed. Recently, Amelia took part in the Sydney Royal Easter Show, achieving very creditable results. Four of her ridgebacks were entered, with three of them achieving top three positions. To be specific, one of her dogs finished second in the female puppy, six to 12 months section; another came third in the junior female, 9 to 18 months section; and she was awarded third in intermediate female, 18 months to three years section. Amelia also enjoyed a Best of Breed Award at the Canberra Royal Show in 2016, and Baby in Show for the Hound Club of Victoria in the same year. As anyone would know, these terrific achievements are only the most obvious and recent evidence of a life of commitment to and love of these animals.

Amelia's passion for dogs also shows itself with the work she does on the Media and Government Legislation Committee of Dogs NSW. She has played a central role in the creation of a petition, which it is hoped will receive more than 10,000 signatures of support for the creation of a State dog park for New South Wales. She is also helping the French Bulldog Club of New South Wales in its campaign for a special air chamber, which will help with the testing of brachycephalic dogs, or short-nosed breeds like pugs and French bulldogs, to improve their airways and help with the breathing problems that these dogs are known to suffer.

**Mr Geoff Provost:** Well done!

**Mr JAI ROWELL:** We have wonderful people in my electorate. It is hoped that the campaign will lead to breeders producing healthier dogs. There will be significant fundraising for the French Bulldog Club of New South Wales, which needs to reach a target of \$40,000. I am confident that, with someone of the calibre of Amelia helping with the cause, the target will be reached sooner rather than later. The Media and Government Legislation Committee of Dogs NSW is also in the process of establishing a charitable trust, which will exist to allow people to donate toward new tests and health improvements with dogs. It is hoped the New South Wales Governor will accept an invitation to become patron. The trust will assist causes such as the efforts to secure the

testing technology that I have just mentioned for French bulldogs. It is very clear how busy and hardworking this 24-year-old Wollondilly local is.

It is commendable that much of what Amelia does and works hard for flies almost completely under the radar. Her appearance at show events and other public gatherings is equalled by the tireless effort she puts in behind the scenes to share her joy and enthusiasm with the community. When Amelia was in her teens, she spent a large amount of time bed bound as a result of a chronic illness. Her condition saw her laid up for considerable periods of time. Her dogs were a great comfort to her during those very trying times. These days, Amelia takes her dogs along to nursing homes for the comfort and companionship that these animals can provide to those residents. She says there is always a lengthy queue of people waiting to pat the dogs and the joy in the residents' eyes when they interact with the dogs makes it all worthwhile. The positive effects of these sorts of visits is very well known and has been documented around the world.

Amelia says she has never forgotten the comfort her dogs were to her during those difficult teenage years and that is why she is so passionate about them. It is also why she wants to help improve the lives of all dogs. There is a generally accepted belief that you can tell the measure of a person in a number of ways, and one of those is how they treat animals, particularly those in need. I think it would be fair to say that the compassion, care and commitment of Amelia Baker positions her very well for the recognition we are affording her here today. I am proud to highlight her work and individual qualities and commend her for everything she has achieved so far in her chosen field. I look forward to the achievements which certainly lie ahead in her life, and hope there are ways I am able to support her.

I have known Amelia since she was a child and I now consider her and her family as friends. Recently Amelia lost her dad, Peter, who passed away. The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps in the Legislative Council and I attended his funeral. Dr Phelps also recognised the work that Amelia and her mum, Jan, have done for dogs across the State. We showed our support for that family, who are going through very difficult times. I spoke to Amelia after the funeral and she continues to help our local community in so many different ways. Today I honour Amelia and I will talk about her father in this Chamber on another occasion.

#### STATE BUDGET AND TWEED ELECTORATE

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (18:38):** Let me begin by saying that Mr Temporary Speaker, the member for Albury, looks very regal in the chair. I congratulate him on his promotion. I want to praise the Liberal-Nationals Government on its recent budget. In the electorate of Tweed, \$534 million has been allocated for the largest upgrade of Tweed Hospital and probably the largest infrastructure spend any government has contributed to the Tweed. The Tweed is one of the fastest growing regional areas in this State. It has a potential population growth from its current 90,000 people to 120,000 in the next 15 years. On top of that we are adjacent to the fifth largest city in Australia, which is commonly called the Gold Coast. Every day around 50,000 to 60,000 people cross the border. Thirty per cent of the people in my electorate work in Queensland and 15 per cent of the children go to school in Queensland and the numbers are about the same in return.

The staff at Tweed Hospital have been doing an excellent job. It is one of the few top 10 hospitals in the State that are currently seeing 89 per cent of patients within the suggested triage times. This is astronomically important and a great credit to the hardworking clinicians, doctors, nurses, ward staff and everyone else involved with Tweed Hospital. It was announced recently that we will have an extra greenfield site, and I commend the Treasurer, the Premier, the Health Minister and Deputy Premier John Barilaro for coming to the Tweed a week and a half ago and announcing a new hospital. Currently the hospital has around 200 beds and it is anticipated the new hospital, which will be built over the next four or five years, will have in the vicinity of 400 beds, an integrated cancer service, extra operating theatres, vascular surgeons and so on. Many of those services are outsourced at the moment.

This announcement has been a great relief after a very contested campaign. I give credit to our local medical council. We have Mike Lindley-Jones, Rob Davies and many other great clinicians such as Dr Abbey. I also give credit to Dr Ian McPhee. Unfortunately, he is suffering from cancer at the moment but hopefully he will see the completion of the hospital. Ian has been a great supporter for many years. A year ago there was a budget announcement of \$48 million in funding. Some of that money has been expended and as the Minister for Health indicated, the rest of it will be used for pop-up theatres and to ensure that the existing facility can cope with the current demand. It is currently running at around 90 per cent capacity.

What concerns me is that even in this Chamber today we saw some cheap political tricks being played, asking about the hospital and mentioning a figure of only \$2.5 million. What concerns me is that currently I have a Labor Federal member, Justin Elliot, a local Labor councillor, Reece Byrnes, and people in this Chamber, particularly on the other side, denigrating the work of the hardworking men and women and saying that these projects will never happen. They say it is smoke and mirrors, but it is not. This is the side of Parliament that

delivers. Do members opposite know why it delivers? It is because we roll up our sleeves, get to work and make sure that the money is in the bank. This will not be one of those Labor promises that is cancelled later on. This project will happen. I think it is deplorable that some people, particularly from the Labor Party, are using this as a cheap political trick and trying to create fear and misinformation in the local community.

This is one of the biggest announcements we have ever made. I applaud the way the Government has handled this and I am disgusted at the way Labor people, particularly in the Tweed, are trying to denigrate it. They should apologise to the doctors and nurses. They should not just say it is never going to happen. And what about the sick? This is not the way of politics. I believe that we all come into this Chamber for the good of the people, all the people. It does not matter how they vote or anything else. It is about providing services for the good of the people. Once again, I am 100 per cent committed to Tweed Hospital.

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (18:43):** I congratulate the member for Tweed on his private member's statement and particularly celebrate the huge announcement this week about the new hospital to be built in the Tweed electorate. As is typical of the member for Tweed, he selflessly gave credit to members of the medical fraternity and others in the community who have lobbied for this achievement, but this would not have been secured without his strong lobbying efforts. Indeed, if there had been Labor representation at those other levels of government as well as at this level that announcement would not have been made. The member for Tweed has worked assiduously on behalf of his community to secure that budgetary promise. I congratulate him for that and for his statement.

### CAMPBELLTOWN HOSPITAL

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (18:44):** I congratulate the member for Tweed on his excellent advocacy in getting a significant amount of money for his local hospital. The member for Tweed and I think we might call ourselves the Billion Brothers because his hospital and the hospital that the member for Camden and I have been fighting for at Campbelltown represent a total investment of more than \$1 billion. The Government is making a \$632 million investment in Campbelltown Hospital, which services the electorates of Wollondilly and Camden—that was my former electorate before the boundaries were changed. I am disgusted by the comments of those opposite about a hospital that has given so much to our community in difficult times. Indeed, the vulnerable, the sick and the young are scared by the comments of those opposite that the hospital will not be getting any money.

This Government will be providing \$632 million for the hospital, in addition to the \$134 million already provided for its first upgrade. This \$632 million in funding will enable more paediatric, mental health and emergency services to be provided, as well as additional beds. Earlier this week I heard Labor is upset not only because we are starting the planning for it but also because it will take a number of years to build. One cannot spend \$632 million in a day or a week. It will be done in stages—the first stage of the Campbelltown Hospital took about 18 months or less. I invite those opposite to join people like me, the member for Tweed and others to be part of the positive journey. We are happy to include them in saying, "This is a good thing for all of our communities." It does not matter whether one is a member of the Labor Party or The Greens, or even Callithumpian, we are here for every member of our community.

I would have thought Labor would be pleased; this hospital is in the electorate of the member for Campbelltown. The member for Campbelltown is passionate about his community and is a decent fellow. I suspect someone further up the chain gave him some words to say—I know he does not genuinely believe them. I repeat, I invite those opposite to join me and the member for Camden in saying how wonderful this is. Those opposite do not have to take my word for how wonderful this investment will be. They only have to look at the headline on the front page of this week's *Wollondilly Advertiser*: "Wollondilly cleans up in state budget". I do not want to take the article out of context, so I will read it:

Picton High School was not the only winner in this year's state budget.

Wollondilly MP Jai Rowell said the budget, released on Tuesday, June 20, was "overwhelmingly positive" for the shire.

"We are spending record amounts on health and education," he said.

"My area has benefited massively with Campbelltown Hospital being one of the largest spends in the entire commitment to new and upgraded hospitals.

"We've also announced Picton High School as one of the government's major investments in an overall plan to deliver more than 120 new education capital works projects.

"Picton High School will have \$101 million invested and the budgeting for planning for Wilton New Town will also commence."

We are talking about two high schools, and I reckon that will cost another \$100 million or thereabouts. The article goes on:

Mr Rowell said he was proud of what he was able to achieve for the region in this budget.

"Often in politics if a local member can secure \$1 billion in funding for their region then we call that a success," he said.

"I have achieved that during the past 5 years.

"In this budget with the funding allocation for Picton High School, Wilton New Town school and Campbelltown Hospital—I have achieved that billion dollar mark in one budget."

In fact, with all the other projects that I have not mentioned, and there are about 40 of them, I have probably achieved billions of dollars when taking into account associated infrastructure such as WestConnex, the M4-M5 Link and many other roads such as the Northern Road, which has been allocated about \$485.2 million. The article goes on:

Mr Rowell said he was pleased that Bargo and Buxton's sewage treatment programs would be completed.

The budget allocated \$1 million for the programs as part of a \$49 million commitment to Bargo and \$35.8 million at Buxton.

Warragamba Dam will receive \$26.8 million for major catchment upgrades under the major water works program and Warragamba Dam upgrade.

I have spoken about WestConnex but the good news in the article goes on with Wollondilly Council to receive \$2.718 million for grants for local roads and I have not mentioned the grants for Wingecarribee Shire roads. The budget also allocates funds for the purchase of 2,500 defibrillator machines that all our communities will benefit from. I also welcome the \$100 per student voucher the Government will pay families every year. The Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer are champions for this State, as are all members on this side of the House. I invite the Opposition to join us in welcoming the good news in this State budget.

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (18:49):** I congratulate the member for Wollondilly on delivering some great projects for his electorate in this year's budget. I note the member particularly highlighted the \$632 million investment in the Campbelltown Hospital upgrade. I recognise the efforts of the member for Camden and the member for Wollondilly in securing that fantastic outcome in partnership with the community. I also found it surprising that the member for Campbelltown appeared to be willing away the hospital rather than embracing the announcement about this funding for its upgrade. Perhaps over time, as the member for Campbelltown sees the continued delivery of new and upgraded infrastructure under this Government, he, like the rest of his community, will welcome this fantastic resource for his communities.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:50 until  
Tuesday 1 August at 12:00.**