



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Assembly**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament  
First Session**

**Tuesday, 21 November 2017**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Tuesday, 21 November 2017**

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

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

## *Committees*

### **STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

#### **Report: Changes to the Sessional Orders (Private Members' Statements and Community Recognition Statements)**

**The SPEAKER:** I table the report of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee entitled "Changes to the Sessional Orders (Private Members' Statements and Community Recognition Statements)", report No. 6/56, dated November 2017. I order that the report be printed.

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State) (12:02):** By leave: I move:

That the proposed changes to the Sessional Orders recommended in report No. 6/56 of the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee as follows be agreed to:

#### **ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT MOTION AND NEXT MEETING**

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 46 shall read as follows:

- 46.** Unless otherwise ordered, the House shall be adjourned without motion moved at the conclusion of Private Members' Statements.

#### **ROUTINE OF BUSINESS**

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 97 shall read as follows:

- 97.** The House shall conduct its business in the following routine:

##### Tuesdays

1. At 12.00 noon the Speaker takes the Chair
2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)
3. Private Members' Statements up to 1.15 p.m.
4. Community Recognition Statements for up to 30 minutes, then the Speaker leaves the Chair
5. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair
6. Ministerial Statements
7. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118)
8. Giving of Notices of Motions to be Accorded Priority
9. Question Time
10. Ministerial Statements
11. Papers
12. Committees—Tabling of reports and announcements
13. Petitions
14. Placing or Disposal of Business
15. Motion Accorded Priority
16. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any
17. Government Business
18. Private Members' Statements, after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.

##### Wednesdays

1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair
2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)

3. Government Business up to 1.15 p.m.
4. Community Recognition Statements for up to 30 minutes, then the Speaker leaves the Chair
5. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair
6. Ministerial Statements
7. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, and General Business Notices of Motions to be the subject of a motion to re-order later in the sitting)
8. Giving of Notices of Motions to be Accorded Priority
9. Question Time
10. Ministerial Statements
11. Papers
12. Committees—Tabling of reports and announcements
13. Petitions
14. Placing or Disposal of Business
15. Re-ordering of General Business Orders of the Day (for Bills) and General Business (Notices of Motions)
16. Motion Accorded Priority
17. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any
18. Government Business
19. Matter of Public Importance
20. Private Members' Statements, after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.

#### Thursdays

1. At 10.00 a.m. the Speaker takes the Chair
2. Giving of General Business Notices of Motions (General Notices)
3. Government Business for up to 30 minutes
4. General Business Notices of Motions for Bills for up to 20 minutes
5. General Business Orders of the Day for Bills for up to 60 minutes
6. General Business Notices of Motions or Orders of the Day (not being Bills) up to 1.30 p.m., then the Speaker leaves the Chair
7. At 2.15 p.m. the Speaker resumes the Chair
8. Ministerial Statements
9. Giving of Notices of Motions (Government Business, Bills, Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118)
10. Question Time
11. Ministerial Statements
12. Papers
13. Committees—Tabling of reports and announcements
14. Petitions
15. Placing or Disposal of Business
16. Business with Precedence under Standing Order 118, if any
17. Committee Reports—Take-note debates for a period of up to 30 minutes
18. Matter of Public Importance
19. Community Recognition Statements
20. At 4.30 p.m., Business of the House—Petitions
21. Community Recognition Statements (if not completed)
22. Private Members' Statements, after which the House shall adjourn without motion until the next sitting day.

#### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 108 shall read as follows:

- 108.** The procedure for Private Members' Statements is as follows:

- (1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker shall ask if there are any Private Members' Statements.
- (2) Up to 75 Private Members' Statements may be made over any one sitting week, within the time allocated in the Routine of Business, for up to 5 minutes each and replies by Ministers shall be limited to 1 minute each.
- (3) Private Members' Statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.
- (4) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Private Members' Statements.

#### COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENTS

That, during the current session, unless otherwise ordered, standing order 108A shall read as follows:

**108A.** The procedure for Community Recognition Statements is as follows:

- (1) In accordance with the Routine of Business, the Speaker will ask if there are any Community Recognition Statements.
- (2) Members may make Community Recognition Statements for up to 1 minute each, for a total of 30 minutes.
- (3) Members may not give consecutive Community Recognition Statements.
- (4) Community Recognition Statements may be taken between items of business with the leave of the House for a specified period or a specified number of members or until certain business is to be conducted as notified by the Minister in charge of the House at that time.
- (5) Community Recognition Statements must not contain:
  - (a) Matters of policy;
  - (b) Requests for the Government or the House, or another body to take some form of action or not; or
  - (c) Criticisms or negative reflections on any person, including Members, Office Holders, the Government, the Opposition or a third party.
- (6) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during Community Recognition Statements.

The Government supports the changes to the sessional orders to increase opportunities for members to give private members' statements and community recognition statements which the Standing Orders and Procedure Committee has recommended in its sixth report of this the Fifty-Sixth Parliament. As detailed in its report, the committee has recommended that the current allotment of up to 47 private members' statements per sitting week be increased to up to 75 per sitting week. The committee has also recommended that the current 20 and 30 minute periods provided for the giving of community recognition statements on Wednesdays and Thursdays respectively be increased to 30 minutes each sitting day. This will give members an additional 40 minutes each sitting week in which to give community recognition statements. These proposed changes reflect the popularity of private members' statements and community recognition statements amongst members and their effectiveness as a means by which members can address important issues to their electorates and recognise people and groups in their communities.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

#### *Business of the House*

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended:

- (1) To permit the taking of up to 75 Private Members' Statements this sitting week.
- (2) At this sitting to:
  - (a) Interrupt the business before the House at 1.15 p.m. for the taking of Community Recognition Statements for a period of up to 30 minutes, after which the Speaker shall leave the Chair.
  - (b) Provide for the following routine of business after the motion accorded priority:
    - (i) Inaugural speech by the member for Blacktown;
    - (ii) Government Business;
    - (iii) Community Recognition Statements—for a period of up to 30 minutes
    - (iv) Private Members' Statements; and

- (v) The House to adjourn without motion moved.
- (3) On Wednesday 22 November 2017:
  - (a) To permit the taking of Community Recognition Statements for a period of up to 30 minutes from 1.15 p.m.
  - (b) To provide for the following routine of business after the motion accorded priority:
    - (i) Committee Reports—Take note debates for a period of up to 30 minutes;
    - (ii) Government Business;
    - (iii) Matter of Public Importance; and
    - (iv) Private Members' Statements, after which the House shall adjourn without motion moved.
- (4) On Thursday 23 November 2017 to:
  - (a) Provide for the following routine of business after the Placing and Disposal of Business:
    - (i) The moving and consideration of the motion "That the House take note of Christmas felicitations";
    - (ii) At 4.30 p.m., Business of the House—Petitions;
    - (iii) Further consideration of the motion "That the House take note of Christmas felicitations" (if not concluded);
    - (iv) Private Members' Statements; and
    - (v) The House to adjourn without motion moved.
  - (b) Provide for the following speaking time limits on Christmas felicitations:
    - (i) Premier—10 minutes;
    - (ii) Leader of the Opposition—10 minutes;
    - (iii) Deputy Premier—10 minutes;
    - (iv) Deputy Leader of the Opposition—10 minutes;
    - (v) Leader of the House —10 minutes;
    - (vi) Member for Camden—5 minutes;
    - (vii) Member for Cabramatta—5 minutes;
    - (viii) Member for Holsworthy—5 minutes;
    - (ix) Member for Shellharbour—5 minutes;
    - (x) Member for Myall Lakes—5 minutes;
    - (xi) Up to 5 other Government members—5 minutes each;
    - (xii) Up to 5 other Opposition members—5 minutes each; and
    - (xiii) Up to 3 crossbench members—5 minutes each.
  - (c) Provide that from the commencement of Christmas felicitations, until the rising of the House, no divisions be conducted or quorums be called.

### **Motion agreed to.**

*[Notices of motions given.]*

### *Visitors*

### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I welcome to the gallery 25 English as a second language students and their teachers from Lidcombe TAFE, guests of the member for Auburn. I also welcome members of the African equatorial community, guests of the member for Prospect.

### *Private Members' Statements*

### **BOARDING HOUSES**

**Mr JOHN SIDOTI (Drummoyne) (12:18):** The issue of boarding houses is critical not only in my electorate but also across New South Wales and in particular in metropolitan New South Wales. On a number of occasions I have brought the issue of the proliferation of boarding houses being erected across the inner west to the attention of the House. This week I met with a constituent, who I will call Mark, to discuss a mega-boarding house proposal for 154 Wellbank Street, North Strathfield.

The proposed mega boarding house is a three-storey studio apartment complex crammed on a small residential block. A mega boarding house by the same architect using the same basic designs as that at Wellbank Street was completed recently at No. 11 Stuart Street, Concord West. The complex was marketed by the real estate agent as luxury apartments which are renting for as much as \$400 per week. Initially the development was knocked back twice by the council but the developer then appealed to the Land and Environment Court. An arbitration takes place before appeals end up in court. Often negotiations take place, minor concessions are made and the application is approved.

I have brought this matter to the attention of the Minister for Planning on a number of occasions. To his credit, his office has been proactive and cooperative. I understand that the State environmental planning policy [SEPP] is under review. A lot of the stakeholders have expressed concerns that boarding house proposals under the SEPP are unduly impacting on our local areas. Some of the key issues relate to the compatibility of the design of the proposed boarding houses with the character of the local area. Car parking standards is a major concern. Often a 30-room boarding house will have only five car spaces. The newly completed mega boarding house in Stuart Street, Concord West, is situated across the road from a school, so 25 of its car parks will end up in front of a school where there are always issues with traffic and parking.

Another key issue that was raised is that the rents are not affordable. Although the SEPP was introduced in 2008 and modified in 2009 with the best intentions, it is not meeting today's requirements. The department has been reviewing the affordable housing SEPP and has considered the issues raised by a number of councils across Sydney. I am led to believe expressions of intended effect will be released for public consultation. Councils and members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes and recommend additional changes. I remind the Minister and his staff that we cannot wait for these changes any longer. While the changes are being proposed, the boarding houses are changing the face of communities in the Drummoyne electorate.

An aspect of the SEPP that quite often infuriates people is that the developments are commercial operations. For instance, a 20-room boarding house at \$400 per room will make \$8,000 per week. They then receive favourable treatment and are land tax free. They are commercial buildings operating in residential areas that receive taxation bonuses and additional floor space. In a residential A area, a one-storey Federation house takes up only 50 per cent of land while next door a boarding house will have double the floor space ratio. I commend the Minister for the work he is doing. Every minute spent working on the issue will help alleviate the problem that is changing the landscape of my electorate.

### WESTERN SYDNEY TRAIN SERVICES

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (12:23):** I speak about the biggest overhaul of train services in New South Wales in four years. The Auburn electorate service affects three railway lines. The Western Line and the Inner West Line run through Auburn and Lidcombe. The Bankstown Line services Regents Park and Berala as well as Sefton and Birrong, which are just outside my electorate. The rail commuters who live in Berala, Regents Park, Lidcombe, Auburn and Granville South will lose out from the Government's timetable changes that take effect next week. They lose in four ways. First, trains on the Western Line will be slower. Secondly, the Inner West Line express trains no longer stop at stations in the electorate of Auburn. Thirdly, the Western Line will no longer connect to North Sydney and Chatswood. Fourthly, Berala and Regents Park stations will see no significant improvements on the 2013 Berejiklian timetable changes that dramatically reduced services for them.

The Western Line trains that stop at the Auburn based train stations will be slower from next week. Take the T1 line trains that follow the route Auburn to Lidcombe to Strathfield to Burwood to Redfern to the city. The train from Auburn to Central on the T1 Western Line currently takes 25 minutes. From next week it will take 36 minutes, which is 11 minutes longer. The trip on the T1 Western Line from Lidcombe to Central takes 22 minutes this week; next week it will take 33 minutes—again, 11 minutes longer. That is a whopping 50 per cent increase in the journey time.

Many TAFE students who study at Lidcombe join us in the gallery today. Many of them rely on trains. The time taken for the train trip between Lidcombe and the city will increase by 50 per cent next week. Auburn and Lidcombe residents no longer have access to any express services on the Inner West Line. Instead, the trains will stop at many of the stations throughout the inner west. The service will no longer go to Chatswood and North Sydney. The Western Line currently travels through the Sydney CBD and over the Sydney Harbour Bridge to Chatswood. While express services will continue to run to Chatswood, people who get on at Auburn and Lidcombe will have their journeys end at Wynyard. That change means that the residents of the suburbs around Auburn will no longer have easy access to the jobs at North Sydney and Chatswood.

Channel 7 News reported last week that the train trip from Berala to the city in the 1930s was 22 minutes. That information is on a poster on the wall in the Berala pub. In 2013 the then transport Minister, who is now the Premier of New South Wales, stopped the Inner West Line running through Berala and Regents Park. Commuters

were left with a choice: either change at Lidcombe or stay on a slower but direct service via the Bankstown Line. In 2012 the direct service between Berala and Central via the Inner West Line took as little as 36 minutes. The 2013 changes created a route that takes 49 minutes via the Bankstown Line. The new timetable taking effect next week makes no substantial improvements for all those commuters who suffered so grievously in 2013.

Western Sydney rail commuters are worse off as a result of the decisions made by this Government. There were initially hurt by decisions made by Premier Berejiklian when she was the transport Minister of the State. From next Monday, Western Sydney commuters in suburbs such as Granville South, Auburn, Lidcombe, Berala and Regents Park will suffer much slower journey times and decreased access to jobs-rich urban centres as a result of the changes being introduced by this Government.

**Mr ANDREW CONSTANCE (Bega—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure) (12:28):** I take issue with what has just been said in the House by the Leader of the Opposition, who is seeking deliberately to mislead the people of Western Sydney. He knows full well that the patronage on the network has increased by 11 per cent in 12 months. He also knows full well that this timetable change will see a massive increase in services across weekends, at night and during peak services, when we are now able to run a train every three minutes from Parramatta into the city.

He wants to deny an uplift in services, such as those for the people of Penrith, who will see a 22 per cent increase in services and less time spent on stations because of the improved frequency of the trains. I can hear the member for Newtown interjecting. We will come to her later. The point I make is that there are 1,500 weekly services and there is a 92 per cent increase in services from Leppington, with 71 per cent now receiving a minimum 15-minute service frequency across most of the day. There will be a 40 per cent increase in the number of weekly services from Parramatta and a 22 per cent uplift at Penrith. I will fight the member for Auburn every step of the way in Western Sydney, because he just wants to lie to those people.

#### **NEW SOUTH WALES SENIOR MEN'S OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (12:30):** In Albury we have witnessed the birth of a new, exciting and significant golf event: the New South Wales Senior Men's Open Golf Championship. Held at the picturesque Thurgoona Country Club Resort, this 54-hole event, running from 2 to 4 November this year, is Australia's most lucrative senior golfing tournament. This inaugural tournament forms part of the prestigious PGA Legends Tour. However, it is unique in that it encourages spectator interaction. The player list reads like a Who's Who of Australian golfing superstars, including British Open champion Ian Baker-Finch, two-time United States PGA winner Craig Parry and 2015 Australian Masters champion Peter Senior, along with Michael Harwood, Roger Davis, Peter O'Malley and Terry Price. At least four players are past Australian Open champions, plus former Australian PGA champions and at least a dozen other multiple winners on the Australasian PGA Tour. All joined in the contest on the Peter Thomson and Mike Wolveridge designed course at Thurgoona, playing for a share of the \$100,000 prize purse.

I attended both as the member for Albury and to represent the Minister for Sport, who could not be there. He sent his greetings and is in the chair today. It is a great championship course set in a beautiful part of Australia, where accommodation is inexpensive and cuisine and tourist attractions are first class. To promote the event a local bus covered in dramatic and colourful graphics moved around the region and, during the competition, acted as a players' shuttle and spectator transport. Albury is precisely the right place to launch a sporting initiative. The infrastructure is impressive. Peter Senior was quoted as saying, "The course is great, fairways are really good, greens are good, surface is beautiful." Ian Baker-Finch chipped in over the state of the greens, saying, "They're 9½ out of 10, not quite a 10 out of 10 because you've got to go Royal Melbourne or Kingston Heath." He added, "They're right up there with the best in the world." Craig Parry said, "The course is fantastic. The work the greens staff have put in since I arrived on Monday is phenomenal. They are probably the best greens we've puttied on all year."

The New South Wales Government contributed to the tournament by supplying \$50,000 in grant funding from the Sport Development Grant Program. As I said at the tournament, "It is the Government's hope that the New South Wales Senior Men's Open Golf Championship will increase in stature over time as it provides opportunities for senior golfers to progress to other national and possibly international events. It has showcased and highlighted the achievements of our senior golfers and will inspire other seniors to increase their participation in sport and recreation." The senior New South Wales open championship is more than just a successful sporting event; it is a signpost to the future of a society with an ageing population. Let us tick off the list of achievements: a first-time event gains national attention and the cream of Australia's senior golfers attend—yet the tournament is held not in a capital city but in a regional centre. This keeps expenses low.

Key government messages are presented: healthy ageing, boosting sports participation, regional tourism, respecting and honouring our seniors not just for their past years but for their future achievements. Approximately

90 enthusiastic volunteer marshals and helpers, in their bright green uniforms, helped save costs while engaging club members in a memorable event. Other real winners are the local businesses of Albury. More than 100 golfers with their partners and entourages moved into Albury for the better part of a week, generating significant income. According to Golf NSW, spectator numbers exceeded 5,000, bringing an estimated \$365,000 in tourism dollars to local businesses including accommodation providers, restaurants, retail stores, pubs, clubs and general shopping venues. It was a marvellous week for Albury and I am proud to say all involved did a fantastic job in delivering a world-class event.

I thank the New South Wales Government and, in particular, the Minister for Sport for financially supporting this new venture in tourism, sport, health and ageing. It only required a modest level of funding for this first year and, I am pleased to say, we have the opportunity to lock it in for a further two years in Albury. I will be taking this to the Minister for discussion. Finally, I am also extremely pleased that Golf NSW chose the Albury-Wodonga area and the Thurgoona Country Club Resort as the venue for this event for three years. Congratulations to the board and management of the Liverpool Catholic Club on its major and ongoing involvement in this venture. I thank Golf NSW for inviting me to the tournament and, along with the PGA, for adding this amazing event to the playing schedule. Thanks and appreciation also go to the Thurgoona Golf Club Committee Captain, Michael Lane, and Golf Committee President, Neil Smith, along with Golf NSW Directors Meralyn Fage and Les Wallace.

I also congratulate everyone who took part, in particular, Grant Kenny, who received a cheque for \$18,000 and an invitation into the NSW Open Golf Championship. He described the win as a "welcome and timely boost for his career" after 20 years as a touring professional. We look forward eagerly to the 2018 NSW Senior Men's Open Golf Championship at Thurgoona.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (12:34):** I acknowledge that the member for Albury is an incredibly passionate advocate for his community. Something he understands better than most people is how important tourism is to regional economies. The member for Albury also has been an incredibly strong and passionate advocate of the combination of sport and tourism. We have seen an example of that with the Professional Golfers Association [PGA] NSW Senior Men's Open Golf Championship being held at the Thurgoona Country Club this year. As the member for Albury said, the championship attracted some of the biggest names in Australian golf. We know that big names draw the crowds.

There is no reason why regional locations such as Albury cannot hold fantastic sport tournaments such as the NSW Senior Men's Open Golf Championship. The entire tournament generated more than \$365,000 for the local economy. The fantastic winner was Grant Kenny, who went on to participate in the NSW Open Golf Championship. In my view, this marks a resurgence of golf in New South Wales. The Australian Open is coming up and we have just had the New South Wales Open. I have no doubt it will be only a matter of time before the member for Albury and the member for Drummoyne tee off in the Senior Open Championship.

#### **PROSPECT ELECTORATE SUDANESE COMMUNITY**

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Anna Watson):** Before I call the member for Prospect, I acknowledge in the public gallery today the presence of the African equatorial community of Western Sydney and South Sudan. I welcome you to the New South Wales Parliament. You seem very happy to be here. I know that the member for Prospect and his dedicated staff have welcomed you. I am sure they will provide for you a very good day. Enjoy your time at the New South Wales Parliament.

**Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (12:36):** Today I warmly welcome to the Parliament of New South Wales members of the African equatorial community and other marginalised South Sudanese, Sudanese and African communities living in Western Sydney, especially those living in the electorate of Prospect. For the first time in the Parliament of New South Wales I say to you all, "Salam ali coom"—You are most warmly welcome here, my friends. This is your House and it will always be open to you. At the outset of my speech, for the information of the House and members present, I will discuss briefly the struggle in Sudan that led to communities coming to Australia as refugees. When Sudan gained its independence from colonial powers in 1956, it was on the understanding that the southern Christian majority would be able to participate fully in the political system. When the Arab Khartoum Government reneged on its promises, a mutiny began that led to two prolonged periods of conflict—from 1955 to 1972 and from 1983 to 2005.

Approximately 2.5 million southern Sudanese perished—mostly civilians, women and children—as a result of civil war and almost four million people were displaced. Towns and villages were destroyed, crops were burned and livestock were killed or stolen. Many people died of starvation and disease. Existing tribal disputes became increasingly worse. Families were separated and thousands of children, fleeing without adults to care for them, were recruited as soldiers. Sadly, the recruitment of child soldiers by warring parties continues. At

the end of 2016, UNICEF estimated that more than 17,000 child soldiers had been used in the country's civil war since it began. South Sudan, which claimed independence from Sudan on 9 July 2011 after decades of civil war, is still one of the world's poorest countries. There continues to be intercommunal violence. Currently almost two million South Sudanese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since the current conflict began. Another 1.96 million South Sudanese are internally displaced as at August 2017. We have been very lucky that the Australian Government has been active in the resettlement of the South Sudanese people in Australia. In 2007 the Sudanese community was one of the fastest-growing groups of settlers in Australia.

Due to humanitarian programs, the number of new immigrants born in South Sudan has increased by approximately 34 per cent each year. Currently, around 24,000 South Sudanese people live in Australia. Most South Sudanese people arrived here between 2001 and 2006. They prefer to settle in Western Sydney, especially the Blacktown and Prospect regions, which is fantastic. The South Sudanese community in Western Sydney is highly diverse because of the ongoing civil war, with some born outside of South Sudan. They come from Khartoum, Egypt, Kenya and Uganda as part of refugee camps and other places seeking asylum. The main issues affecting the community in Western Sydney include unemployment, lack of education and educational challenges, recognition of foreign qualifications, acceptance into the community, perceptions of racism and the development of small businesses. I raise those issues for the first time today, but I know that with the community's help they will be raised many times in the Parliament. Many South Sudanese have experienced significant difficulties adjusting to their new lives in Australia. For some, reality has not always met their expectations and there have been disappointments as they try to find work and enter the education system.

Acceptance is key, but we must also guide the people who have come from Sudan over the past decade so that they can become an integral part of Australian society. These hardworking Christian people have become a wonderful part of multicultural Western Sydney. The South Sudanese have a strong oral tradition: problems are solved through public discussion and agreements are made verbally, witnessed by others. Family is also very important. These are all reasons why we must embrace this community. I look forward to working with this community as the member for Prospect in the future.

**Mr STUART AYRES (Penrith—Minister for Western Sydney, Minister for WestConnex, and Minister for Sport) (12:41):** For all of those gathered in the public gallery today, I have these simple words:

*For those who've come across the seas  
We've boundless plains to share.*

Those words from our national anthem were written for people just like you. You have made a choice to come to this country to make a better life for yourselves and your families, and we welcome you. We also thank you for your contribution to your local communities. My colleague from the other side of the Chamber and I are both proud representatives of Western Sydney. We understand that people who have come from other countries make up so much of the character of the communities that we represent. All Australians recognise that being an Australian comes with a responsibility to make a contribution to our communities in order to strengthen our society. Have a great day.

## **OXLEY ELECTORATE TOURISM**

### **DYING WITH DIGNITY**

**Mrs MELINDA PAVEY (Oxley—Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight) (12:42):** I speak on a number of issues related to my wonderful electorate of Oxley. I acknowledge and thank the Minister for Tourism and member for Northern Tablelands, Adam Marshall, for his visit to my electorate yesterday in the beautiful community of Dorrigo. The Minister for Tourism and I met with the board of the Dorrigo Steam Railway and Museum, led by Keith Jones. We were joined by the mayor of Bellingen shire, Dominic King, and the council's general manager. I acknowledge the presence also of Federal member Luke Hartsuyker. At that meeting, we set a way forward to develop the Dorrigo railway museum and ultimately establish an historic steam train passenger service. We committed to further assist the Dorrigo Steam Railway and Museum in providing coach access to encourage tourist coaches to visit the exhibition. We have committed to helping Keith Jones and his team from the Dorrigo Steam Railway and Museum in their application for a grant from the Regional Cultural Fund—which has been established from the proceeds of the sale of the poles and wires. This grant, if successful, is the first step in assisting Dorrigo Steam Railway and Museum come alive to the public.

On Friday I had the pleasure of opening the iconic Milo exhibition at the Slim Dusty Centre at Kempsey. The memorabilia, trinkets and advertising on display show the long association between Milo and the Nestlé factory at Smithtown with the Macleay Valley. The factory at Smithtown, employing 170 people, is the home of Milo. Milo was conceived and created as a nutritious supplement for hungry children in the early 1900s and through the war years. The inventor of the product tried and failed to get it to melt in cold milk. His grandchildren said, "But, Poppy, it is delicious and crunchy," and I agree. There is nothing better than a cold glass of milk with

some crunchy Milo on the top. Milo is Australia's most successful food export. I am proud of Milo. I grew up on it; I love it. I could drink it every day if I did not have to worry about my calorie intake. In ancient Greece Milo was a famous Olympic athlete, wrestler and military leader. It is said that Milo saved the life of Pythagoras. When a pillar collapsed in a banquet hall, Milo supported the roof until Pythagoras could get away. Milo continues to support and sustain the Kempsey community, and I encourage everyone to have a glass of Milo a day.

I acknowledge those community members who responded to my petition and email relating to the dying with dignity debate in the upper House. I was pleased with the response: 209 people signed the petition, 90 per cent of whom voted yes to the dying with dignity legislation; and 193 people replied to my email, with 152 saying yes and 41 saying no to the legislation. As I said in my covering note to the community, I voted against the original Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill when I was a member of the upper House because I believe that palliative care is an important part of the process of dying. It is still my view that we need to have more conversations about palliative care, and the responses I received in support of the legislation reinforced that view. The manner of death of some people is unacceptable in a Western society.

I acknowledge the responses I received from doctors for and against the legislation. I say to members of the medical fraternity and the Australian Medical Association [AMA], particularly those who practise in Sydney, that regional New South Wales is short of medical practitioners. I ask urban-based doctors to make a commitment to serving all communities. I am passionate about this issue because some communities in my electorate do not have an appropriate level of medical services. I received letters about the shortage of medical services in communities in regional New South Wales. However, I acknowledge the amazing medical practitioners and allied staff who are on the ground. I call on the AMA and the colleges representing the medical profession to redress this shortage.

I received responses from people suffering from motor neurone disease. Their plight made my heart bleed and made me question my position on this legislation. I said publicly that I leaned towards supporting the bill because I genuinely believe that we need to have more conversations about palliative care. I congratulate members of the upper House on the way they dealt with the issue during the sophisticated and collegiate debate on the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017. We are the better for having such debates, and I congratulate all who were involved. I once again call on the medical fraternity to better serve country communities.

#### ASYLUM SEEKERS

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (12:47):** On behalf of my community in the electorate of Newtown I speak on an issue that extends well beyond the boundaries of Newtown. When I was elected as the member for Newtown, I made a commitment to the people who live in my electorate that I would raise issues that were of concern to locals, even if those issues did not fall within our geographic boundaries. It is now four years since the Australian Government started sending asylum seekers who try to reach Australia by boat to detention camps in Papua New Guinea and Nauru. I express my concern and despair about the fact that a Liberal Minister in this place has just recited the line from our national anthem:

*For those who've come across the seas  
We've boundless plains to share*

As we know, approximately 600 asylum seekers have been transferred to Manus Island and Nauru, where Australia set up Pacific Island offshore detention centres under former Coalition Prime Minister John Howard's Pacific Solution. If there were one issue about which I would want the Labor Party to steal The Greens' votes, it would be for Labor to take a humane approach to refugees and asylum seekers. Currently, The Greens are the only political party to take such an approach; we are the only voice.

It was Federal Labor that opened these detention centres in 2012, and it is Australia that is engaging in the inhumane treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. This treatment contravenes our obligations under the United Nations refugee convention, to which Australia was one of the first signatories, in 1954. Now there are people subjected to inhumane conditions and living in a closed centre without food, water or sanitation. Constituents who contacted me indicated that all voices need to be heard in condemning the massive human rights abuses currently happening as a result of the Australian Government's policy on asylum seekers. Some said that it is Australia's responsibility to bring them to our shores, as the majority of these people have been found to be genuine refugees, and urged me to do what I could to ensure the safe and humane treatment of these people. Another wrote:

It's important to me that we take responsibility for our actions—we've already allowed these people to live in a living hell for the past four years.

They continued, "We cannot wash our hands clean of [the responsibility we have to] other human beings." Another wrote:

And despite the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding, Turnbull and Shorten are sticking to their lines, and Dutton is shouting his into every talkback radio microphone he can find.

It is clear that there are tensions between the local Papua New Guinea population and the people who have been sent there as a result of Labor and Liberal Federal Government policies regarding the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees. But one member of my electorate who has a family connection to Papua New Guinea reminds us that it is not the people of Papua New Guinea who are inflicting this trauma on the asylum seekers and that we should not blame the people of PNG for the human rights violations that are happening at the hands of the Australian Government. I send our solidarity from this Parliament not just to the people being held in the most inhumane of conditions but also to the locals of Papua New Guinea. Those in Manus are being subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment, and the Federal Government sent them to Papua New Guinea with no recognition of the human rights needs of the PNG community there.

It is wonderful to see protesters taking direct action, from scaling the Opera House sails to unfurl banners to occupying press conferences and the offices of members of Parliament. I commend the young Labor activists who passed a motion calling on Labor Left members of Parliament to respond to and reflect human rights concerns. I encourage everybody to keep raising their voices against the inhumane treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. The Greens are committed to seeing all refugees brought to Australia, because that is the only solution.

### PORT MACQUARIE STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (12:52):** I am pleased to recognise the Port Macquarie State Emergency Services [SES] team—a dedicated and committed group of men and women who excelled at the recent National Disaster Rescue Challenge held in Tasmania last weekend. The Port Macquarie SES fielded a team with more than 50 years of experience: team leader Michael Ward, deputy team leader Scott Witchard, deputy unit controller and medic Michael Brumby, Mark Anderson, Sereena Ward and Alfred Portenschlage. I caught up with the team as members disembarked at Port Macquarie Airport on Monday afternoon and soon learned why they were beaming: They had been crowned best in the country!

The prestigious event had SES squads competing in general rescue, road crash rescue and flood rescue. Competitors were faced with eight realistic rescue scenarios designed to test skills in navigation, casualty handling, steep slope recovery, vehicle recovery, sandbagging, protecting and preserving a scene, and storm damage. The challenge was based over two days with a focus on "back to basics" skills, equipment and rescue techniques with teams from all over Australia travelling to Tasmania to compete on the picturesque shores of the Derwent River.

The team felt honoured to have won State selection at Bathurst a month earlier. It rose to the challenge presented in each scenario and put its regular unit training to the test in sometimes tense, time-critical and physically demanding activities. The highlight of the weekend competition was being able to utilise skills used in everyday rescues. Deputy unit controller and medic Michael Brumby told the *Port Macquarie News* that the best part of the competition, aside from the friendly rivalry between teams, was using the broad range of skills from the team's regular training and applying them in the challenges presented. The team worked hard all weekend to secure victory and successfully completed each scenario before the expiration of the allotted time.

The team was put to the test with challenging scenarios, including a vehicle recovery requiring them to manually winch a deeply bogged vehicle and boat trailer from a beach onto a four-wheel drive track. This was followed by a race to complete a sandbag wall to contain a "toxic" spill from reaching a nest of penguin eggs. The competition gave the team ideas for the implementation of similar training scenarios at the Port Macquarie unit to further develop the skills and expertise of local volunteers. Michael Ward was also recognised as the most outstanding team leader of the competition. NSW State Emergency Services Mid North Coast Region Controller Anthony Day acknowledged Michael's calm and quiet attitude, which was also praised by the judges. Michael's analytical management style allowed him to keep full control of the situation, whilst ensuring his team was confident in its direction. Michael and the team should be incredibly proud of their achievements. On behalf of all constituents in the electorate of Port Macquarie electorate, I congratulate them on their efforts. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and skilled volunteers in our community who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to save lives in emergency situations.

### INNER WEST PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill) (12:55):** When it comes to public transport policy this Government has shown nothing but contempt for the people of the inner west. In the past month we have learned that the Government will be ripping out 35 more bus stops across the inner west. This will affect commuters on the 412, 422, 423, 426 and 428 routes. We have also learned the Government has again delayed accessibility upgrades at Lewisham and Petersham railway stations. And, if that was not bad enough, it is also selling off the Inner West

bus region 6 services, ignoring the tens of thousands of local commuters and residents who have signed petitions protesting against the sale. It is beyond doubt that this Government is putting the interests of big business ahead of the people of the inner west in transport planning. Local commuters rely on their local bus stops. The Government claims that removing stops will improve on-time running—the reason given by the transport Minister for selling off the entire region 6 bus network—but it refuses to acknowledge that this will make it harder for people to catch the bus, especially seniors, parents with prams and people with disability.

The stops slated for removal are close to medical facilities, schools and nursing homes. Inner west residents have reacted with outrage and disappointment. They are concerned that the trip to the doctor or to the shops will be more difficult. To make matters worse, this decision will discourage people from using buses and force even more people into cars, which will add to the congestion that already delays the buses. Removing bus stops will only add to the problem it is trying to solve. So why is the Government doing this? It is time for the Government to come clean—removing these bus stops is nothing more than fattening the pig for sale. It is about reducing risk and increasing profitability for the potential private operators of region 6 bus services. It is no accident that at the same time local bus stops are being removed, the Government is preparing to announce a successful tender. The removal of our local bus stops is part of the Government's ploy to fatten the wallets of big business and private operators; local commuters in the inner west will be worse off.

Documents obtained under freedom of information laws reveal that the Government has left Lewisham and Petersham railway stations without vital access upgrades in lieu of stations in Liberal-held electorates. The Transport Access Program scores stations against a range of criteria to assess the greatest need, including patronage, connectivity to other lines and proximity to schools and other services. In its matrix Petersham station scored 62.29 and Lewisham station 56.48. These are well above stations, including Como station, in the electorate of the member for Oatley, and Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Infrastructure, which scored 26.59.

This is a blatant slap in the face to the hundreds of inner-west residents who have signed petitions calling for upgrades at their local train stations. Despite being one of the largest stations in the inner west, parents at Petersham are still forced to navigate the stairs with prams. Lewisham commuters regularly face the farcical situation of their station being closed due to flooding. Shamefully, these stations are inaccessible to people with disability. One Lewisham resident with limited mobility explained that he had to catch a wheelchair accessible taxi to Summer Hill station—one suburb across the line—often waiting for up to an hour for that taxi just so that he can catch the train.

Clearly, stations across the State require urgent upgrades to meet the needs of people with disability. All members in this place want to see each and every station upgraded to ensure accessibility for every one of our residents, but the community is right to want assurances that the process used to assess the rollout of these important projects is fair and balanced. They deserve to know that the needs of people with disability in their electorates are not being put second to the political interests of some Liberal politicians. The world's best transport networks are affordable, dependable and accessible. We must make sure that we do not sacrifice any one of these qualities for the other. I call on this Government to put politics and private interests aside and to deliver a transport network that meets the needs of local residents. I ask the Government to retain our local bus stops in the inner west and to immediately advance the upgrades of Lewisham and Petersham train stations. That is where the focus should be placed.

## INNER WEST PUBLIC TRANSPORT

### NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL

**Mr BRAD HAZZARD (Wakehurst—Minister for Health, and Minister for Medical Research)**  
**(13:00):** I note the comments of the member for Summer Hill, and I will comment on those matters generally. I note that yesterday she stood in front of the Summer Hill ambulance station. If she wants the benefit of understanding why services will be transferred in due course to Haberfield superstation she is more than welcome to talk to me rather than stand in this place and say things that do not make a lot of sense, or have her photograph in the paper. She should not have her photograph in the paper with Walt Secord; it is not good for her reputation.

Residents on the northern beaches are loving what they are seeing with the Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest, which is a public-private partnership with Healthscope. The benefit of taxpayers' money is being compounded because of the benefit that Healthscope has brought to it. I thank the builders who are doing an incredible job. They are well in advance of the scheduled time for opening the hospital. I acknowledge Deborah Latta, who is working on the site pretty well all of the time on behalf of Healthscope and is doing an excellent job, partnering with the builders, the local community and the Government to ensure that people on the northern beaches have an amazing new hospital facility that, hopefully, will serve the northern beaches for many years.

I understand that many parts of the hospital are now complete. Two or three weeks ago I visited the site and as I walked in I saw that many parts of the internal fit-out had been completed. The recovery areas were looking fantastic. There are about 40 beds in recovery. Inspections are already taking place to get the hospital ready for commissioning. The birthing suites are looking fantastic, with three incredible ceramic, large birthing baths for expectant mums to use. All the theatres are complete. The only aspect to be finalised is the equipment, which will be attached to the ceiling. Surgeons will no longer have to worry about surgical apparatus being moved around on the floor, potentially getting in the way of surgical procedures. The brand-new ceiling equipment will be far more suitable and will ensure that surgeons can work without hindrance.

The day surgery centre is well and truly complete. All the sterilising equipment is being installed. The two mental health wards are incredible. The equipment, facilities and finishings inside are wonderful. I note that the Minister for Mental Health is in the Chamber. People with mental health issues will be pleased to know that the new Northern Beaches Hospital will have wonderful mental healthcare facilities. It looks really fantastic inside. Areas with beautiful woodwork have been set aside, in addition to all of the usual medical facilities. The emergency department is looking fantastic. The air-conditioning is active in most parts of the hospital already. The communications room, where the information technology [IT] platforms will operate from, is already in the fit-out stage and 80 per cent of the lighting right across the hospital is already active. It is an incredible sight to see. I had a wonderful meeting with some of the women from the northern beaches who were concerned about maternity services in the area. I see that following that meeting they had a meeting with Deborah Latta at Healthscope and they have posted on their social media accounts. One reads:

This morning Natasha Donnelly, Kelly Ponsford and I met with Deborah Latta from Healthscope and Frank Bazic from Northern Sydney Local Health District. I'll say more about it later but just to say now that it was a positive meeting. We learned more about how maternity services will be structured there.

Another post reads:

We will be in touch again soon with more details. We have collected our notes and thoughts. The door is now open for us to meet with them again in February as part of their maternity services group. So we look forward to becoming more involved than we are to positively influence the services available for pregnant women of the northern beaches.

Everybody from Healthscope down is trying to work with the community. For those women who are going to give our community on the northern beaches new babies, we are trying to ensure, as a government and on behalf of Healthscope, that we provide the best hospital services for the whole of our community.

### **BROOKE'S CAR RALLY**

**Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (13:05):** I congratulate Glenmore Park resident Brooke Jones on the success of her annual fundraising event, Brooke's Car Rally. Now in its fifth year, the success of Brooke's Car Rally continues to grow. This year's rally raised more than \$14,000 for the Nepean Cancer Care Centre. The car rally was held on 12 November, starting from the Penrith City Council car park and finishing at the secret destination, the Penrith PACEWAY. When Brooke Jones was just two years old her mother, Amanda, was diagnosed with stage 2 Hodgkin lymphoma. Amanda Jones successfully completed her treatment under Dr John Taper at the Nepean Cancer Care Centre.

This direct experience of the impact of cancer upon a family caused Brooke to declare, at the age of just seven, that she "had to do something" to help the patients of the centre and their families. Originally, Brooke had plans to hold a raffle to raise money, but later decided a family fun day would benefit the centre more. With a goal in mind of raising \$300, seven-year-old Brooke created Brooke's Car Rally. The family fun day consisted of a large-scale scavenger hunt on wheels taking place throughout the Penrith central business district. Participants followed clues directing them to various locations until they finally reached the secret finishing spot, where families met to enjoy lunch and fun activities. The first car rally raised more than \$7,200—completely exceeding Brooke's original goal of \$300. Due to the success of this event, Brooke declared she would hold Brooke's Car Rally annually.

Throughout the family fun day's five years of fundraising, Brooke's Car Rally has had significant growth in support from local businesses and the community. In 2013, 37 cars registered to participate in the event. The following year that number almost doubled, with just over 70 cars participating. Many of the local businesses supporting the car rally play an active role in the event, using their businesses as meeting points and clue locations, as well as donating prizes to be raffled off at the conclusion of the rally. The major prize of the raffle this year was a four-night Gold Coast getaway donated by Dreamtime Resorts in Queensland, \$200 Flight Centre vouchers and 12-month Village Roadshow Theme Park passes, just to name a few. The generosity of these businesses is to be highlighted and commended.

I extend special thanks to key sponsors including: Penrith Mazda Centre, Jax Tyres Penrith, Gilbert and Roach, Hi-Spec Auto Electrical and Installation, F45 Functional Training, Penrith Mini Bus Services, Outback

Steakhouse Penrith, Michelangelo's Italian Restaurant, Hertz Car Rental, JAG Filing Solutions, IGA Penrith, Barry's Fish Market, Dreamtime Resorts, the Garton Group, Lions Clubs International, Flight Centre, Illawarra Special Vehicles and Commercials, Kwik Kopy, Village Roadshow Theme Parks, Supercheap Auto Penrith, Penrith City Council, Excite Signs, Penrith Paceway, Featherdale Wildlife Park, Basically Crystals, Australian Reptile Park, the *Western Weekender*, Nepean Belle, Piranha, Thunder Jet Boating, Taronga Western Plains Zoo, KSR Auto Body, Penrith Whitewater Stadium, ATS Awnings and Additions, Rhino-Rack, Spur Steak Ranches, Pioneer Tavern, Just Power Electrical Contractors, ANZ Penrith, and Lapstone Hotel.

Over the past five years Brooke's car rallies have raised a total of \$55,010 for the Nepean Cancer Care Centre and the epilepsy research unit at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. With the funds raised the Nepean Cancer Care Centre was able to purchase a new electrocardiogram machine. These facilities have benefited greatly from Brooke's fundraising efforts and they have been able to invest in improvements to patient care. Brooke is truly an inspirational young woman, helping those who need support and care. Her giving and determined nature is a testament to her character. I commend her drive and passion for fundraising for such a worthy cause.

Her generous spirit has been celebrated throughout the community with Brooke receiving the Literacy Planet's 2017 National Community Legend Award, as well as being highly commended for the 2017 Fred Hollows Foundation Humanity Award. Brooke has well and truly earned the title of "fundraising queen" giving back to those who assisted her mother and family during her mother's treatment. I wish Brooke all the best as she continues to prepare for next year's rally and I am certain it will be a huge success. Not long ago I visited Brooke's school to meet her in person and present her with a certificate of recognition. She is such a quietly spoken, almost unassuming primary school girl, yet her passion, determination and fearless drive to help those in need is truly remarkable. I am proud to be the member for Mulgoa with such wonderful young people living and growing up in beautiful Western Sydney.

#### **MYRTLE COTTAGE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (13:11):** Friendships and social interaction play an important role in our overall wellbeing. The sound of laughter, conversation and social interaction can make a long, boring day go so much quicker. As they say, time flies when you are having fun. But as we age it can be increasingly difficult to maintain those friendships and enjoy social outings, particularly when mobility becomes an issue and there is little or no support or access to transport. That is where centres such as Myrtle Cottage in Ingleburn are important. For 40 years Myrtle Cottage has been supporting frail aged people, young people with disabilities and people with dementia, and their carers. Myrtle Cottage provides a range of recreational activities and social programs and has established important links with a network of complementary services across the Macarthur region.

The facility and its services are very impressive and recently attracted international attention. In July a group of 28 recreation and leisure students from the University of Texas in the United States visited Myrtle Cottage through a partnership program with Western Sydney University. The visit showcased Myrtle Cottage's exceptional programs. So impressed were the students from the University of Texas that Myrtle Cottage will now feature in an upcoming textbook. A community group in Ingleburn is being used internationally as an academic example on how better to serve those in challenging circumstances based on the ingredients of kindness, generosity and commitment to public service. Closer to home, Myrtle Cottage has developed a program with Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre supporting people with dementia. The popular art-based program provides an opportunity for people with dementia to share their feelings and thoughts on artworks in the gallery in small group settings. Myrtle Cottage has a wonderful team of 16 staff led by Elizabeth Dalcasse.

Of course, the backbone of the cottage's fabulous work is the 104 volunteers who give selflessly of their time to help others. The cottage is also supported by many generous corporates, including Ingleburn RSL Club, which provides meals. The cottage has 250 clients and 60 fully modified vehicles providing a door-to-door service for all members and enabling clients to access the programs on offer at their convenience. The centre also provides a community link line, a telephone conferencing program that has been designed to reach those who are socially isolated or who would like to socialise from their own homes with people. As the name suggests, the program is run over the phone and involves general discussion, guest speakers and games. It is another example of Myrtle Cottage's excellent programs to break down the barriers that frail aged people and those with a disability often find in connecting with others in the community.

I recently visited the cottage and saw first hand the joy that its programs bring to so many people. People were clapping and singing along in a boisterous fashion as the choir belted out some old classics and traditional Christmas carols. I spoke with many of the participants there and they all told me how much they enjoyed their visits to the centre. There was a lot of laughter, many smiles, much foot tapping to the music and a wonderful atmosphere, celebrating fun and friendship.

Stan the Man, a regular at the centre, took a break from the day's entertainment to pose for a photo. He spoke to me about the value of the centre in connecting people who may be stuck at home for a variety of reasons, often lonely and in need of fun, friendship and some human company. Camaraderie was certainly on display at Myrtle Cottage, as was our caring community. The centre receives minimal funding and relies heavily on donations and the goodwill of its volunteers to administer its various activities and programs, whether it is art therapy, music or the centre's relaxing gardens. Myrtle Cottage is a place to gather, a place to share experiences and a place to form friendships.

Myrtle Cottage is certainly helping the frail aged, people with disability and people with dementia live up to its motto: Live social, live active and live well. At a time when more elderly people find themselves living independently at home, I trust that Myrtle Cottage may continue its vital work for many years to come. I commend its work to the House and congratulate Myrtle Cottage on its fortieth anniversary celebration and on making our community a better place.

#### *Community Recognition Statements*

#### **WALLSEND FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Ms SONIA HORNER (Wallsend) (13:16):** I congratulate Wallsend Football Club and the under-14 girls team on being the Telstra State SAP Champions. The team scored an impressive 18 goals in seven games in three days. Striker Sophie Macdonald scored 10 lethal goals during the competition. Wallsend played against Northern Inland, North Coast Hunter, Warners Bay, Mid North Coast, Northern New South Wales and Adamstown. Northern New South Wales head of the technical panel, Ryan Campbell, stated that Wallsend girls stood out and played extremely well. I compliment Sinead, Charlie, Savannah, Dana, Tiana, Montana, Jayde, Hollie, Sophie, Sophie, Chloe, Ariana, Lilah, Brianna, Olivia and Grace on their wonderful effort.

#### **MYALL LAKES COMMUNITY AWARDS**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:16):** Recently, with the New South Wales Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, I had the privilege of hosting the Myall Lakes Community Awards. Pamela Muxlow from Tinonee was awarded the Myall Lakes Citizen of the Year; Young Person of the Year was awarded to Quinn Patch from Taree High School; Senior Person of the Year was awarded to Beryl Ede who is very much involved in the Bulahdelah, Coolongolook and Wootton communities; Bianca Mason was named Junior Sports Person of the Year; and Sports Person of the Year went to Rex Johnston, OAM, from Tuncurry. Club Taree Community Team was named Community Group of the Year, James Turner received the New South Wales Premier's Award for his contribution to the Paralympics and six people were awarded their 50-year certificates as justices of the peace.

#### **TRIBUTE TO TED WALE**

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (13:17):** It is with sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Mr Ted Wale, a long-time Cabramatta resident who was well known to many in the local community. He was born George Edward Wale on 12 August 1910. Ted celebrated his 107th birthday this year, making him Australia's third-oldest man. Ted was born in England and moved to Lithgow after World War I. He moved to Cabramatta in 1956. He was also the oldest member of the Australian Labor Party. I have known Ted for many years and we have enjoyed many a chat, as I was always interested to hear about his experiences during the early decades of the twentieth century. Ted was a prominent artist and a founding member of the Fairfield City Arts Society. In 2016 Mr Wale was awarded the Fairfield Citizen of the Year. He is an inspiration to us all. I offer my condolences to his family and friends. Vale Ted Wale.

#### **LASER 4.7 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITOR DANIEL COSTANDI**

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (13:18):** I acknowledge Daniel Costandi of Oyster Bay, who recently represented Australia at the Laser 4.7 World Championships in Belgium. Daniel learnt to sail at the Georges River Sailing Club only four years ago. His early talent was noted at the Sandringham Yacht Club in Melbourne, where he went from strength to strength and improved at a remarkable rate. This year Daniel switched from the Tucker boat to the Laser. Daniel had been sailing a Laser for only eight months when he was invited to compete overseas in the Laser 4.7 World Championships held on 17 July 2017. At just 14 years of age, Daniel was the youngest by two years of the 12-man Australian squad selected to compete. After seven gruelling hours in the water every day for seven days of training and five days of racing, Daniel exceeded expectations and remarkably finished seventh of the Australian representatives and 112th of 240 competitors overall. I congratulate Daniel on his achievements and extend my best wishes for his future sailing endeavours.

#### **MICHELLE BEETS MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (13:19):** I draw the attention of the House to one of Maitland's most dedicated and hardworking health workers who has recently been recognised with a prestigious award.

Dr Keith Howard is a paediatrician and the medical lead of the northern Children's Healthcare Network. He is also based at Maitland Hospital in my electorate. Dr Howard's hard work was recently recognised by the Humpty Dumpty Foundation, which presented him with the Michelle Beets Memorial Award. The Humpty Dumpty Foundation is an organisation dedicated to making an immediate and tangible impact on the lives of sick children. One of the ways it does that is by providing essential medical equipment to hospitals that need it. As part of Dr Howard's award, the foundation has provided up to \$20,000 for a piece of lifesaving medical equipment for Maitland Hospital, which he will be able to choose. This is a wonderful achievement and I congratulate Dr Howard on his award.

#### **APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR WILLIAM ATTARD**

**Ms TANYA DAVIES (Mulgoa—Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for Ageing) (13:20):** I congratulate Orchard Hills resident William Attard on being named the 2017 New South Wales Apprentice of the Year at the HIA-CSR NSW Housing and Kitchen and Bathroom Awards. William is the first second-year apprentice to win the honour. The award, which has been going for nine years, aims to recognise and to celebrate the achievements of future tradespeople. The young apprentice developed an interest in carpentry at the age of five; a passion inspired by his late grandfather, a former builder. William was nominated in the New South Wales Apprentice of the Year Awards by his host boss, Josh Pszczonka, who commends William's positive attitude and advanced skills. According to Mr Pszczonka, these qualities have made William stand out among his fellow apprentices. I have known William for more than seven years and I am incredibly proud to see how he is successfully building his future. On behalf of the New South Wales Parliament, I wish William the best of luck as he progresses as a finalist in the 2018 HIA-CSR Apprentice of the Year Australian Housing Awards.

#### **UNITING RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE**

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (13:21):** On 27 October 2017, I had the pleasure of attending the twentieth anniversary celebrations of the Uniting Residential Care aged care facility at Meredith Street, Bankstown. The facility is a true community asset. Over the past two decades, it has delivered an aged care service which is welcoming and family-friendly and which hosts a range of specialist support services, such as physiotherapy and podiatry, that are tailored to the needs of individual residents. I thank Reverend Bob Wyndham and Keith Bongers, who set up the facility and who were there to celebrate. I also acknowledge the current manager and staff, who all do a wonderful job in caring for the many residents. That was a story told in the happy faces of those whom I met at the celebration.

#### **THE SISTERHOOD CHARITY FUNDRAISING**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (13:22):** I acknowledge The Sisterhood, a network of like-minded women who work not only to inspire and to connect women across my electorate of Manly but also to create awareness and to fundraise for those less fortunate in our community. The Sisterhood comprises a team from Balgowlah, led by founder Andrea Hogan, and teams from North Balgowlah, North Manly and Clontarf. Each team has supported worthy local charities and organisations such as the Manly Women's Shelter, Community Northern Beaches, and Dalwood Spilstead at Seaforth—three organisations that I have been fortunate to work with this year. The Sisterhood is a shining example of the wonderful and compassionate people of the electorate of Manly. It is important that we recognise and thank them for their contributions, and I am incredibly grateful for the work these wonderful women do for our community.

#### **SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR PROFESSOR GORDON WALLACE**

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (13:23):** I acknowledge and congratulate Professor Gordon Wallace of the University of Wollongong, who was recently named the 2017 New South Wales Scientist of the Year. What a fitting tribute to a lifetime spent pursuing scientific research and inspiring students around the globe. I had the good fortune to work alongside Gordon at the Australian Institute for Innovative Materials and have seen first-hand the level of admiration the global research community has for him. His work in electromaterials science and his innovative use of nanotechnology sets him apart from many others. Gordon has focused on how he can translate his and his team's research work into commercial reality because he knows the value of a research breakthrough is multiplied if it can be used to change lives. Importantly, he also has the gift of communication and is able to translate complex interactions and ideas into language and concepts that can be understood by those without a background in science. He might support Geelong, but he is a good bloke and well deserving of that fitting recognition.

#### **CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:24):** Congratulations to the six schools who recently won awards as part of the 2017 Central Coast Council Environment Program. Each of the participating schools were recognised for their involvement and creativity based on the theme "Our Green Classroom", which was aimed at promoting

outdoor learning at school. Two of the six schools to receive awards were from my electorate of Terrigal: Brisbania Public School in Saratoga won the Most Improved School award for its enthusiastic commitment, and Chertsey Primary School won Small School of the Year—the overall Environmental School of the Year award. I thank Central Coast Council and its new Mayor Jane Smith for this program which has been running for many years. It has been designed to integrate with programs already offered at our local schools and is helping students develop an appropriate understanding of and appreciation for our natural environment. Congratulations to both Brisbania Public School and Chertsey Primary School.

#### **PORT STEPHENS ELECTORATE SUPPORT NETWORK**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (13:25):** I pay tribute to the incredible community leaders in Port Stephens who have stepped up in the face of a spiralling tragedy to build a support network for the families affected by the Williamstown contamination. These community-led groups have been an invaluable source of information, support and advocacy for the hundreds of families affected. I recognise and thank Cain and Rhianna Gorfine from the Williamstown and Surrounds Resident's Action Group. I pay tribute to Nick Marshall and Kim Smith from the Salt Ash Community First group. Although it sits just outside my electorate, I must also mention the Fullerton Cove Resident Action Group. Thanks to Lindsay and Ann Clout, Justin Hamilton and Sue Walker for their important work. Despite living this nightmare they have shown amazing strength and advocacy without which this ordeal would have been much worse for many others. There are many other people that I could mention but unfortunately time prevents me from doing so. Once again I call on the New South Wales and Federal governments to do everything possible to support the families living this nightmare.

#### **NORTH SHORE WOMAN OF THE YEAR PROFESSOR GEMMA FIGTREE**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:26):** I congratulate the 2017 North Shore Local Woman of the Year, Professor Gemma Figtree of Royal North Shore Hospital. Professor Figtree has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to the local community and for research that seeks to make a difference to lives across the world, all while she is working as an interventional cardiologist at the Royal North Shore Hospital. I was honoured to meet with her and present her with this award, alongside members of the team including Clinical Director Division of Medicine Dr Terry Finnegan, Acting Director of the Kolling Institute Carolyn Sue, Executive Director of Operations Elizabeth Curran, and North Sydney Local Health District Chairman Trevor Danos. I thank James Yeandal for organising the event. I thank the Royal North Shore Hospital for hosting me yesterday to celebrate and recognise Professor Figtree's significant local and global contribution. I encourage nominations for the 2018 Woman of the Year award. I thank the Minister for Women, Tanya Davies, for her support for the award.

#### **TRIBUTE TO BROTHER NICHOLAS HARSAS**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (13:27):** Today I have the great privilege of recognising the outstanding contribution to education by Brother Nicholas Harsas, who is presently serving as the principal of Our Lady of the Rosary Fairfield. Over the past 30 years Brother Nicholas has dedicated his life to educating, guiding and nurturing young minds throughout our local community. The realisation that one has been teaching for a long time is never more apparent than when one is suddenly teaching the children of former students. That is what has happened to Brother Nicholas on more than one occasion. In honour of his dedication and service, I had the great pleasure of presenting him with a long service teaching award for his invaluable contributions to our local community, and as an educator and mentor to so many students over the past 30 years. Brother Nicholas is also one of the most recent recipients of the Pride of Workmanship award from the Rotary Club of Wetherill Park for commitment and dedication to service in our community. Thirty years as an educator and community leader is no small feat. It fills me with pride when I say that I worked with Brother Nicholas in our community for many years. I thank Brother Nicholas for his ongoing dedication and commitment to education and for everything he has done for our local community. We are all incredibly proud and thankful to claim him as our own.

#### **PORT MACQUARIE WOMEN'S GOLF CLUB PINK DAY**

**Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (13:28):** I recognise the Port Macquarie Women's Golf Club's annual Pink Day hosted on 27 October 2017. Pink Day was held in support of breast cancer patients at the Port Macquarie campus of the Mid North Coast Cancer Institute. While the annual Pink Day traditionally sees the club supporting women's organisations and charities, this year's event took on special significance as it coincided with Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event saw competitors sporting pink clothing, pink bras hanging from flags on the greens and a clothesline at the end of the ninth hole. President Wendy Gordon said that breast cancer remained the most common cancer for women so it had particular relevance for club members. Congratulations to all the members of the Port Macquarie Women's Golf Club on raising \$2,000 for breast cancer research.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (13:29):** On Saturday 11 November I was pleased to see the projection of the beautiful poppies of Flanders Field upon the sails of the Sydney Opera House for the second year. All credit for this fabulous idea goes to my good mate Paul Graham, a veteran of the Konfrontasi and the Suez Crisis and the former president of Mascot RSL Sub-Branch. In 2015 I wrote to the Premier requesting that the poppies be displayed on the sails of our Opera House. I am grateful to both the Premier and Minister for Veterans Affairs for their continued support for this initiative. I am confident that long after Paul and I have departed from this earth, those poppies will still adorn the sails of our magnificent Opera House and the remembrance of our fallen soldiers will never die. I congratulate Paul on this achievement. Lest we forget.

### TRIBUTE TO STEVE GLENDAY

**Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (13:30):** Long-time Vincentia High School principal Steve Glenday will sadly be retiring at the end this school year. Steve's career in public education spans almost 40 years. He filled the role of principal at Vincentia High School in 2005 after moving to Jervis Bay from Dubbo. The high school has flourished under Steve's guidance and he has led the way in innovative programs that have provided students with work experience, essential skills and pathways into employment. His strong leadership has instilled confidence and optimism in staff and students alike, and he has always had the students' best interests at heart. As a principal he has always strived for the best opportunities, programs and resources for the school, staff, students and community. I thank and congratulate Steve on his 12 years of service to the Vincentia community, and commend his commitment and dedication to the school and its students over that time. I hope he will enjoy his well-deserved retirement.

### ILLAWARRA CONVOY

**Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (13:30):** I congratulate the organisers of the Illawarra Convoy. It is an important initiative of which I know Temporary Speaker Watson and the member for Wollongong are well aware. The event involves hundreds of trucks, cars and motorbikes snaking their way from the top of the escarpment down to Albion Park, right through the Illawarra region. Since 2005 the organisers of the event have raised nearly \$10 million for charity. This fantastic community event is driven by former Wollongong Citizen of the Year and i98FM radio presenter Marty Haynes. I congratulate Marty and all of the team who worked on the convoy, as well as the sponsors and supporters who gave their time and money to make this year's convoy another great event.

### TRIBUTE TO JOHN JEWELL

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (13:31):** I congratulate one of Liverpool's most dedicated and hardworking volunteers, Mr John Jewell. John was recently recognised at the 2017 Order of Liverpool Awards, where he received an Officer of the Order of Liverpool award for his decades of service to our local community. John has served our community in many ways, including through the bicentennial committee, Holsworthy amateur swimming club, and Macarthur Woodturners. He was also integral in the formation of the Liverpool District Men's Shed and the Moorebank Men's Shed.

It should also be noted that John has a deep love for our local history. This year, he organised the seventy-fifth anniversary commemoration of Lieutenant George Cantello's death at Lieutenant Cantello Reserve in Hammondville. As with everything else he does, John put 100 per cent into the event to make it a successful day in remembering our local history. John also assisted in providing an historic account for a pamphlet I produced for the eightieth anniversary of Hammondville, which was well received by the community. John is a pillar of our community and very deserving of this award. I congratulate him.

### BRISBANE WATER SECONDARY COLLEGE

**Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:32):** This week, students in year 9 at Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina Campus will be attending school and entering an interview room in a mock job interview atmosphere to give students experience in how to perform well in the future. Volunteers from across the peninsula will be attending the school to conduct these interviews for the students, including former teachers and Jackson Tumpey, a former student who received his first job after the mock interviews when the owners of KFC at Woy Woy interviewed him. Ever since that day, Jackson has volunteered to interview the students and to continue to recruit for KFC in the local area in the hope that more students will get the same opportunity that he did. This helps to give the students experience for when they enter the workforce in the hope that they will not be nervous in their job interviews in the future. I wish the year 9 students of Brisbane Water Secondary College all the best in preparation for their interviews and for a fabulous future.

### GEORGY AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Mr GREG APLIN (Albury) (13:33):** I congratulate the Albury Wodonga Theatre Company on winning best musical for their production of *Wicked* at the Georgy Awards. Venetia Heath, who starred as Glinda, walked away with two awards for best female singer and best female musical performer. Susan Vaccaro received the choreography achievement award and John Parry, who played the Wizard, won best male supporting performance in a musical. This is an amazing achievement for a local theatre company. I congratulate the show's producers, directors, cast and crew who helped make this production truly memorable. I also congratulate another local theatre company: BYTESized Productions was also successful at the Georgy Awards, for *Beauty and the Beast JR*, with best junior supporting performance by a male going to Mitchell Clarke, who played Cogsworth, and best junior supporting performance by a female to Charlotte Kay for her performance as Mrs Potts.

### INGLEBURN RSL SUB BRANCH

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (13:34):** I acknowledge my local Ingleburn RSL Sub Branch and the RSL Women's Auxiliary. President Ray James, Secretary John Lees and President of the RSL Central Council Women's Auxiliary [CCWA] Pauline James, and many other volunteers, have done and continue to do great work to remember and to pay respect to the brave Australians who are part of our Defence Force. In addition, they make a concerted effort to raise much-needed money and provide services for returned service men and women and their families. For example, the CCWA raised \$850,000 through its street stalls selling badges and defence memorabilia. This is a remarkable achievement for a volunteer community organisation. Whether it is Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Battle of Long Tan, Battle of Coral-Balmoral or the HMAS *Sydney* services, Ray and his team conduct an excellent ceremony. The Macquarie Fields electorate has a proud military history and the work of the sub branch and the CCWA ensures that this history is never forgotten.

### BRAND WITHOUT A BOTTLE COMPETITION

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs) (13:35):** On Monday 6 November I had the pleasure of attending the Muirfield High School in North Rocks and commending its creative young students Thomas Wilby and Brendan Keane who were named first runners-up in this year's Sydney Water Brand Without a Bottle short film competition. The powers of persuasion and creativity were put to the test as these students constructed a compelling story board and script to encourage their peers to choose tap water over bottled water. In an age when plastic is discarded everywhere, polluting lands, waterways, oceans, beaches and shorelines, I commend the effervescent principal, Jennifer Reeves, as well as teacher Jane Cole for inspiring this remarkable short film and promoting healthy habits from an early age.

### TRIBUTE TO BEVERLEY DONOVAN

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (13:36):** Today I commend Ms Beverley Donovan for her dedication and hard work to the Mount Druitt Local Area Command. Ms Donovan has worked at the command for the past 27 years. I especially highlight her time as the Aboriginal community liaison officer for the past 18 years. As a lifelong Western Sydney resident, Ms Donovan has been a true asset to the area and her departure will be a great loss to all. I wish Beverley all the best in her new position at the Kempsey Local Area Command, which has gained a valuable contributor to its community.

### OATLEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (13:37):** In October I had the privilege of attending Oatley West Public School's Community Festival, which was well attended by many local residents in the St George area. This was the thirty-seventh year that Oatley West Public School hosted the major fundraising event and the seventieth birthday of the school. I thank the family, friends and community groups who volunteered their time generously to host a great weekend for families. The parent-organised festival is a testament to the close network of friends and families who create an inviting environment to bring the community together. I acknowledge sponsors such as Ray White, Edmonds and Greer, Abode Renovations, Paul Doran Framing, and other local businesses renowned in the community. The success of this long-lasting tradition is due to the festival's reputation for providing great food, fine wine, rides, live music and entertainment. I thank the many volunteers for the fantastic weekend and their commitment to serving our local community.

### CAMPBELLTOWN AND AIRDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:38):** I acknowledge the seventieth anniversary of the Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society. Since 1947 it has played a key role in preserving the rich, proud and vibrant history of our great city. As one of the oldest historical societies in Australia, it actively engages members of the community in our local history through tours, publications and actively advocating for the preservation of

historical sites. Recently I had the privilege of attending the seventieth anniversary celebrations of the society with my colleague, the Federal member for Macarthur, Dr Michael Freeland; as well as my dear friend and deputy mayor, Councillor Meg Oates. I congratulate the president, Mr John White, and Mr Christopher Thomas, who is the nephew of the founding president, Dr Ivor Thomas, as well as another good friend, Mrs Jenny Goodfellow, and many others on their efforts in organising the event. I celebrate 70 years of the Campbelltown and Airs Historical Society and congratulate all members of the society on their involvement and effort in preserving the rich history of our great region.

#### **HUNTER HOUSING AWARDS APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (13:39):** I congratulate Dylan Hamilton from Wingham, who has been named the 2017 Apprentice of the Year at the prestigious 2017 HIA-CSR Hunter Housing Awards. Dylan attended the awards accompanied by his grandparents, Brian and Kae, and his parents, Michelle and Nic. Dylan is a second-year apprentice. I believe this is the first time that a second-year apprentice has received this award. He will now represent the Hunter at the Australian Housing Awards in 2018, to be held in Singapore. He and Terry Cross will attend those awards all expenses paid. Terry and Allie Cross, who own the Marlee-based Altez Building Contractors, are his employers. Well done on receiving the award, Dylan, and good luck.

#### **LIFELINE BRASS BLOKES AWARDS**

**Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown) (13:40):** Lifeline's Brass Blokes Awards acknowledges men who have faced great adversity yet still find the courage and time to make a significant difference to the community and inspire others. I recognise my constituent Lloyd Valentine, who was a finalist in this year's Lifeline Brass Blokes Awards. Lloyd, who was a worthy nominee, has long been committed to the disability sector. While working overseas, Lloyd Valentine was overcome by anxiety and depression and attempted suicide twice. During his recovery, Lloyd began volunteering to help people with disabilities. His project, the Healthy Change Challenge, was designed as a fun and empowering healthy eating, shopping and exercise program for people with a disability or mental illness. Working collaboratively with families, carers and friends, the challenge aims to make long-term improvements to eating and exercise habits. Lloyd has established also the social enterprises Leg Up Village and Challenge Tom. I congratulate Lloyd and Lifeline on the Brass Blokes Awards.

#### **MAN IN A VAN AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (13:41):** I acknowledge Rob Watson of GyMEA, who was recently awarded the New South Wales Man in a Van Award at the Hire a Hubby Franchisee of the Year Awards. Three years ago, Rob joined Hire a Hubby after finalising his studies to become a professional carpenter. Upon leaving school, Rob began his carpentry apprenticeship but put it on hold to take up a career in an alternative direction. Today, Rob successfully runs Hire a Hubby GyMEA, providing quality handyman and property maintenance services to our community and also volunteering his services to local childcare centres, including GyMEA Childcare and Treetops Childcare, Kirrawee. Rob's new career has provided him with a much-needed flexible work-life balance that has enabled him to spend more time with his family and coach his son's football team. Rob competed against 80 fellow Hire a Hubby small business franchisee owners from across New South Wales and prevailed as the handiest hubby of them all. I congratulate Rob on his achievement and extend to him my best wishes for the future.

#### **TRIBUTE TO TOM AND AUDREY MCDONALD**

**Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (13:42):** The date of 7 November marked the 100th anniversary of the October revolution—the formational moment of the Soviet Union and a moment that influenced the politics of many in our community, including two Central Coast people, Tom and Audrey McDonald. Tom and Audrey are two of the most loved elders of the Australian union movement, with an extraordinary history of activism, struggle and solidarity. Both were committed members of the Communist Party of Australia. Tom was a former national secretary of the Building Workers Industrial Union. Audrey was a key figure in the Union of Australian Women and, before that, a key member of the Restaurant Employees Union. They remain active members in the union movement and in progressive politics on the Central Coast. I thank them both on behalf of the people of the Central Coast for their work.

#### **GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION JUNIOR CHAMPION**

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (13:43):** I wish today to bring the attention of the House to Oska Davis. Oska is a 12-year-old from St Huberts Island in my electorate of Terrigal who last month was crowned as the New South Wales junior champion of the Game Fishing Association of Australia. Not only that, Oska holds the Australian junior and open record for the heaviest mako shark ever caught on a six kilogram line. He has a history of catching big sharks. Last year he managed to land a 97-kilogram shark, a 119-kilogram shark and, most recently, a hammerhead shark and a 81-kilogram blue shark. Not bad at all for a 40-kilogram

12- year- old. Although Oska has been game fishing for only the past year or so, he was inspired from an early age by his dad's passion for fishing. Congratulations to Oska, New South Wales junior game fishing champion. It is a fantastic achievement indeed.

#### **EXCELLENCE IN ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION AWARDS**

**Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore) (13:44):** I congratulate the recipients of the Excellence in Road Safety Education Awards, hosted in my electorate yesterday. I was honoured to present the facilitator award for the RYDA courses to facilitators from the Paraplegic Benefits Fund [PBF] Australia who deliver the "After the Crash" session. Road Safety Education has been working with PBF for more than 10 years giving students the chance to hear firsthand about the very real experience of this talented group of presenters. With presenters working at all three Sydney venues and metropolitan and regional venues in Queensland, it is estimated that more than 40,000 students have benefited from the work that PBF has done through RYDA. Every day, someone in Australia suffers a spinal cord injury. From workplace incidents to road and water and extreme sport accidents, permanent paralysis is always unexpected and frequently preventable. PBF was established to create greater awareness of these risks, with the aim of reducing the impact and incidence of spinal cord injury in Australia. I congratulate the PBF presenter, Michelina Pelosi. I thank the chair, Kerry Chikarovski, chief executive officer Terry Birss, and the organisers, as well as Mr Kevin Anderson, the member for Tamworth and Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight.

#### **COMPANION OF THE ORDER OF LIVERPOOL AWARD RECIPIENT**

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (13:45):** I congratulate Criss Moore on her recent achievement in receiving a Companion of the Order of Liverpool Award at the 2017 Order of Liverpool Awards. Criss has given a great deal of her time to supporting the Casula community, particularly the youth in our community. Criss runs a kids club for socially disadvantaged children and a camp for teens with disability. In addition, she helps with the running of a soup kitchen and provides essential care to many homeless people who are living rough on the streets. Criss should also be proud of forming the Casula Community Group for Responsible Planning and for opposing a proposed pub to be built at Casula in a residential area close to a school. I was proud to support her and the community as we all believe it was in the wrong location, and we were proven right when the court upheld our case. I congratulate Criss on this wonderful achievement. It is people like Criss in our community who make it a wonderful place to live and work.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Anna Watson):** I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.15 p.m.

#### *Visitors*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** A very warm welcome to Grant Fenn, the chief executive officer [CEO] of Downer Group, who is accompanied by Geoff Moxham, guests of the Deputy Speaker and member for Lismore. I also welcome Gemma Weguelan, a year 9 student from Uralla Central School, who is accompanied by her mother, Bec Weguelan, guests of the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Assistant Minister for Skills and member for Northern Tablelands. I welcome to the gallery Christian Georgallis, who is completing work experience with the member for Holsworthy, guest of the Deputy Government Whip and member for Holsworthy. I also welcome Ms Susanna Waller, guest of the member for Wollondilly. I welcome students from Caroline Chisholm College who are attending Parliament today for a leadership day, guests of the member for Londonderry. I welcome the chief executive officer of Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and former member for Strathfield, Charles Casuscelli, who is accompanied by his staff. They are guests of the member for Blacktown. I welcome Sharon Justice, Isabelle Harding and Heather Harding, guests of the member for Kiama.

#### *Commemorations*

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

**The SPEAKER (14:19):** In November 1917, Bolshevik Red Guards seized the Winter Palace and arrested the Russian Provisional Government. Within days, the Second Congress of the Soviet of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies passed the Decree on Peace, written by Vladimir Lenin, which proposed an immediate withdrawal of Russia from the war. Since the failure of the Kerensky Offensive some months earlier, morale and discipline in the ranks of the Russian army had steadily deteriorated. There were increasing reports of soldiers disobeying orders and deserting the front line. When peace talks stalled and hostilities briefly resumed, the Central Powers overwhelmed the Russian forces and occupied territory in Ukraine, Belarus and the Baltic states, forcing the Soviet Central Committee to sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, despite its punitive terms.

The withdrawal of Russia enabled Germany to transfer large numbers of troops to the Western Front. It also allowed Germany to occupy significant territory, once controlled by Russia, where there were large stockpiles of military equipment, much of it originally supplied by the Allies. Concerns that this material would fall into German hands and be used on the Western Front led to the subsequent decision to send troops into Russia in the months that followed. Several hundred Australians volunteered to serve in the British-led North Russian Expeditionary Force and the North Russia Relief Force as well as specific operations in the Caucasus. By the time the Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War concluded in October 1919, 10 Australian soldiers had died. Lest we forget.

*Announcements*

**NSW PARLIAMENT SPRING BALL**

**The SPEAKER:** Many members would have attended the Spring Ball last month. It was my great pleasure to this morning join the President of the Legislative Council and representatives from selected charities, including Royal Far West, Shine for Kids and Lifeline South Coast, to present them with funds raised from the 2017 Parliament of New South Wales Spring Ball. A total of \$45,000 was raised for these charities. Additionally, we have informed the Good Samaritan Hospital of the Solomon Islands that it was selected by our Spring Ball committee as the fourth beneficiary of the funds raised and its staff have expressed their sincere delight. This donation will see much-needed upgrades to the maternity unit and improved services for the residents of the local village. I thank everybody involved with the 2017 Parliament of New South Wales Spring Ball and particularly staff from my office, Jane Boag and Luke Sikora.

*Members*

**REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS**

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** On behalf of Ms Gladys Berejiklian: I advise the House that today the Minister for Finance, Services and Property will answer questions in the absence of the Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations.

*Announcements*

**DEATH OF WILLIAM HENRY HAIGH, FORMER MEMBER FOR MAROUBRA AND MINISTER OF THE CROWN**

**The SPEAKER:** It is with regret that I have to inform the House of the death on 15 November 2017 of the Hon. William Henry Haigh, a former Minister of the Crown, who served as the member for Maroubra from 24 February 1968 to 9 August 1983. On behalf of the House I extend to his family the deep sympathy of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained.

*Members and officers of the House stood in their places as a mark of respect.*

**DEATH OF WALLACE CLYDE FIFE, FORMER MEMBER FOR WAGGA WAGGA AND MINISTER OF THE CROWN**

**The SPEAKER:** It is with regret that I have to inform the House of the death on 16 November 2017 of the Hon. Wallace Clyde Fife, a former Minister of the Crown, who served as the member for Wagga Wagga from 14 December 1957 to 15 October 1975. On behalf of the House I extend to his family the deep sympathy of the Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained.

*Members and officers of the House stood in their places as a mark of respect.*

*Question Time*

**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CRIMINAL SENTENCING**

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:27):** My question is directed to the Attorney General. What actions has the Attorney General taken to ensure that there is an appeal against the manifestly inadequate sentence handed down to a Dubbo child sex offender?

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (14:27):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Everyone in this Chamber would agree that child sexual abuse is abhorrent. It is hard to think of a worse crime than abusing a child. It is a crime that has a profound physical and psychological impact on victims for many years, if not for their entire lives. I share the longstanding community concerns about lenient sentences for child sexual abuse.

In the Dubbo case that has had media attention in the last couple of days, the offender was sentenced to imprisonment but the sentence was suspended. That outcome will not be possible once the reforms we legislated

last month come into effect next year. We are abolishing suspended sentences—but guess who introduced suspended sentences into our criminal law? It was the Carr Labor Government in 2000. The then Liberal and National Opposition opposed Labor's bill that introduced suspended sentences. This is a legal hangover from 16 years of Labor governments that were soft on crime. It was a Labor Government that caused the problem we face today. It was a Labor Government that let criminals off with a slap on the wrist.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 129, relevance.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Attorney General is being completely relevant to the question.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** This issue should be above politics. Is the Attorney General going to appeal the sentence?

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

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** Labor governments create mess; Liberal and National governments clean- up mess. That is what is happening today. There is no doubt that suspended sentences are ineffective. They do not rehabilitate. That is why we are abolishing them.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Point of order: I cannot remember the standing order but it is about keeping order in the House—I think it is Standing Order 59. This is a very important issue and the Attorney General should not be politicising it.

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

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** We are cleaning up Labor's mess. I wish the Leader of the Opposition would make his mind up. Earlier today he was demanding that I should appeal the decision. This morning he was on radio demanding that I should direct the Director of Public Prosecutions to appeal. Anyone with an ounce of knowledge about our criminal justice system well knows that I cannot direct the Director of Public Prosecutions to appeal. That is probably why the Leader of the Opposition asked this question. The member for Liverpool knows better. He would be too embarrassed to ask this question.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will cease interjecting. I have ruled on the point of relevance. The Attorney General has the call.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** A further point, the judge made his decision on the basis of the existing law. Existing case law indicates what seems to be a systemic problem in our criminal justice system—outcomes for historic sexual abuse cases are inconsistent with community expectation. At the moment courts must sentence offenders of this kind in accordance with sentencing principles that existed at the time the offence was committed, rather than contemporary community expectations. We have released a discussion paper seeking community views on changing this law in response to the royal commission requirement. Let there be no mistake, the reason we have these sorts of problems is lax Labor laws.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order. The member for Prospect will calm down or leave the Chamber.

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:32):** I ask a supplementary question. I thank the Attorney General for his answer. Will the Attorney General confirm that the time to lodge an appeal had expired before he got around to doing anything about lodging an appeal?

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (14:33):** This was brought to the attention of myself and my office over the weekend. We have acted swiftly—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Keira to order for the first time. The member will cease shouting. I call the member for Maroubra to order for the first time. I call the member for Maroubra to order for the second time. I direct the Clerk to stop the clock until members come to order. The Attorney General has the call.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** And in that time, before the sentence and my office becoming aware of the matter, not once have we heard a peep of protest from those opposite.

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

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** As I said in my previous answer, the reason we have this problem is lax Labor laws. They are the party that when in government introduced suspended sentences; we are the parties in government that are abolishing them.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. The question is not about what Labor may have done; it is about where the Attorney General has failed to do.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. The member for Maitland will cease arguing. The Attorney General remains relevant to the question.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** The truth hurts: Lax Labor laws have created the sorts of problems we now have with suspended sentences. We have Limelight Luke, the Leader of the Opposition—

**Mr Stephen Kamper:** Point of order: My point of order is relevance. It is almost seven long years—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** Limelight Luke who stumbled across this in the past day or so has now become Flip-Flop Foley. He cannot decide what he wants the Government to do.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order is under Standing Order 129. The Attorney General became aware of this matter over the weekend. We have only just found out about it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. I have already ruled on the point of relevance. The member for Strathfield will resume her seat. The Attorney General has the call.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** Flip-Flop Foley cannot decide whether he wants me to launch an appeal or if he wants me to dictate, like Robert Mugabe, to an independent prosecuting authority.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Maitland that this is not an opportunity to scream into the microphone.

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** I am waiting for quiet.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I often wait for quiet from the member for Maitland. What is the member's point of order?

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** My point of order is under Standing Order 73. What about the victims?

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

**Ms Jenny Aitchison:** Mr Foley, who is trying to advocate on behalf of the victims, is being attacked by the Attorney General who is not doing his job.

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

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** The member for Maitland obviously does not want to hear the truth: We are a government that is moving to fix the lax Labor laws that created this problem.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Maitland will cease screaming. I call the member for Maitland to order for the third time.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** This sort of problem is because of Labor's lax laws. In 16 years Labor did nothing. Labor introduced these lax laws.

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

*[Pursuant to sessional order the member for Maitland left the Chamber at 14.37.]*

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** We are fixing up Labor's mess. Labor introduced suspended sentences in 2000; we are abolishing them. Flip-Flop Foley, the Leader of the Opposition, cannot decide whether he wants me to appeal or whether he wants me, like Robert Mugabe, to tell the Director of Public Prosecutions to do it.

**Ms Kate Washington:** Point of order: I urge Madam Speaker to direct the Attorney General to refer to the Leader of the Opposition by his correct title.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I uphold the point of order. The Attorney General will refer to members by their correct titles.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** The Leader of the Opposition is asking these questions because the member for Liverpool is too embarrassed to ask them. He knows that I cannot give directions to the Director of Public Prosecutions. He knows that the Director of Public Prosecutions is an independent authority. He knows that I cannot act like Robert Mugabe.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. Members who continue to interject will be removed from the Chamber.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** These cheap political stunts are because Labor wants to disguise that it was its laws that created the problem. Labor introduced suspended sentences; we are abolishing them.

### VEHICLE REGISTRATION CHARGES

**Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (14:38):** My question is addressed to the Premier. How is the New South Wales Government assisting drivers by easing cost of living pressures?

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

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Premier) (14:39):** I thank the member for Riverstone for his question. I know he appreciates what a huge relief our policy is for households in his community as well as for many communities across greater Sydney. The member for Riverstone knows that his constituents might use the M4 and M5 and that they also might use the M2 and the M7. We have worked very hard to ensure we are in a strong financial position.

*[Interruption]*

The member for Londonderry interjects. Why will she not support her constituents having free rego?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Fairfield will cease shouting at the Premier.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Her constituents might use the M4 and M5 and they might use the M2 and M7.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Drummoyne will come to order. Government members will come to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** But the member for Londonderry does not care. If she cared she would have had words with the Leader of the Opposition to make sure he supported our proposal. It is interesting that the member for Strathfield—

**Mr Andrew Constance:** You are a dope.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: There is abuse coming from across the Chamber and I ask the transport Minister to withdraw his comment.

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

**Mr Anthony Roberts:** To the point of order: A member did yell out "dope". Whoever responds to the interjection is up to the individual. I do not think it was meant to be personal; it was merely an offer and it was accepted as said. I am seeking to clarify the matter a little further, Madam Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I thank the Minister for Planning for that clarification. Members will calm down and come to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** It is little wonder that the member for Strathfield is so sensitive on this issue because as the shadow Minister for transport and roads she and the Leader of the Opposition have done nothing to offer up an alternative policy. The Leader of the Opposition has been in his job for three years and he has not announced one single cost of living measure. I heard the member for Strathfield interject that we should remove all tolls.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** No, she did not.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** You did so. You said "remove all tolls".

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. I will not have the Premier put words in my mouth. I said remove the M4 toll, and she knows it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Strathfield to order for the first time. That aggressive behaviour is not necessary. There is no point of order. I call the member for Strathfield to order for the second time.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** Let us get back to the great question asked by the member for Riverstone. We have worked hard to repair the budget mess we inherited, we have worked hard to build up the economy—and guess what? The people of Sydney and New South Wales are benefiting as a result. Yesterday's

announcement means that any regular toll user who spends \$25 or more a week on tolls will get free registration. That is a saving of, on average, \$358 a year.

**Mr David Elliott:** How much?

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** On average, \$358 a year.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cessnock will cease shouting or he will be removed from the Chamber. I direct the Clerk to stop the clock. The member for Kogarah will come to order. The member for Rockdale will come to order. The member for Balmain will come to order. He will not be incited by other members. Government members will restrain themselves. Opposition members will cease behaving aggressively.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** We do not blame those opposite for being sensitive because we know that their constituents support what we have done. It is no wonder the new member for Blacktown invited the former member for Strathfield here as his guest—the current one is letting him down. The current member for Strathfield should support our policy. I say to those members opposite, especially those who represent greater Western Sydney—and I know some of them have raised their displeasure with the Leader of the Opposition but, unfortunately, he will not listen—remain vigilant because our Government is helping their constituents when their leader will not. Those opposite want us to forget that when they were in government they put a toll on the Eastern Distributor, which was 49 years long—five years longer than the WestConnex toll. Labor's record on tolls is very inconsistent with what those opposite are saying here today. We will stick up for the people those opposite have failed. [*Extension of time*]

What is welcome news for residents throughout greater Sydney is that we are a government that builds roads and public transport, and we will continue to build projects that those opposite said were too hard—whether it is the M4, the M5, the missing link joining the M4 and M5 and WestConnex, whether it is the F6 and the northern beaches tunnel. All of those commuters will benefit from this policy, and I know the member for Rockdale and the member for Kogarah will be secretly relieved to know that when the F6 comes their constituents will benefit also. I am very interested to know what the member for Granville thinks about our policy. I am interested to know what the member for Prospect thinks about our policy. We already know that the member for Londonderry does not support our policy and that she is letting her constituents down.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Prospect will come to order. I warn the member for Prospect. I place the member for Prospect on three calls to order.

**Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN:** I am interested to know what the member for Blue Mountains thinks about our policy. Surely the comrade member for Liverpool must support this policy, because it means that his constituents will benefit. I am sure the member for Macquarie Fields will think this a good policy for his constituents. Where those opposite have let down the people of this great State and not reduced the cost of living pressures, we will do so. We are a government that works hard and we give back to the community. Those opposite failed to deliver for their constituents, but we will.

### JOBS GROWTH

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN (Upper Hunter) (14:48):** My question is addressed to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I cannot hear the member for Upper Hunter. Government members will come to order.

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN:** How is the New South Wales Government encouraging business confidence and a future-fit workforce for its record infrastructure spend, and will the Deputy Premier update the House on any alternative policies?

**Mr JOHN BARILARO (Monaro—Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business) (14:49):** I thank the member for the Upper Hunter for his question. He is a member who understands the importance of having strong business confidence in regional New South Wales that encourages investment and creates jobs. At the same time, he understands the importance of government infrastructure spend that creates jobs. The Government is leaving a legacy of opportunity for people to gain skills and training for the jobs of today and of the future. The member's question relates to alternative policies and it makes me wonder whether members opposite have an alternative policy in the area of infrastructure, skills and business. There has already been an interjection by a member opposite.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** It is a policy-free zone on that side of the House; those opposite have no vision, no action and no ideas.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Members opposite claim to be part of the Country Labor wing of the Labor Party and their famous core publication is, "Country Labor Dialogue".

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** That publication has not been updated since May 2014. We have Country Labor talking about regional New South Wales but it has not updated its Country Labor magazine since 2014.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Rockdale to order for the first time. He will cease interjecting. I direct the Clerk to stop the clock.

**Ms Kate Washington:** My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. The question related directly to infrastructure and the Minister straightaway is referring to Labor.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. I will hear more from the Minister.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** The member's question touched on alternative policies and the alternative policy of those opposite is zero—nothing, nothing in the bank. The only thing we have heard about Country Labor over the past six months is that it is more than \$1.8 million in debt.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Rockdale to order for the second time. He will cease interjecting.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** It is led by the Labor candidate for Monaro. He is running the Country Labor wing of the Labor Party, and it is \$1.8 million in debt. That is what one gets from those opposite.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** But let us go to Labor's record in this House. Since I became the Deputy Premier 12 months ago, have I had any questions from the shadow Minister for Regional New South Wales?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Rockdale that he is on three calls to order. He will cease interjecting.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** The answer is zero—no questions in relation to development in regional New South Wales. When it comes to the shadow Minister for Small Business, even though there are 710,000 small businesses in New South Wales, how many questions have I received in relation to small business? Zero. What about the shadow Minister for Skills? Since becoming Deputy Premier, have I received a question from the shadow Minister for Skills? The answer is, zero—absolutely nothing, the centre of a donut.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** When those opposite have no policy ideas and no vision and when they ask no questions in the House, one can only assume that they are in resounding agreement with the Liberals and The Nationals when it comes to regional New South Wales—and who can blame them?

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Who can blame them? They say imitation is the greatest form of flattery. I turn now to the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** In his speech the Leader of the Opposition stated, "Labor announces a massive apprentice and trainee job scheme." That was on 22 June 2017.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Londonderry will come to order. This is not a debate.

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** Labor promised that it would attach to the infrastructure spend of government a skills legacy program to deal with apprentices, growing trainees and Indigenous Australians and the long-term unemployed. I thought, "What a great idea." The Leader of the Opposition said, "We will use the billions being spent on New South Wales government infrastructure to create jobs instead". And the shadow Minister for Skills, the member for Londonderry, said, "It could create as many as 9,000 jobs for young people." But I sat back in my chair after listening to the announcement by the Leader of the Opposition and it was clear—

**Mr Clayton Barr:** Point of order: My point of order relates to relevance under Standing Order 129. Under Standing Order 128 the Minister has been asked about related matters. That means he cannot refer to hypotheticals and can answer only in relation to a policy position of his Government.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister is not talking about alternative policies. The member for Cessnock is confused.

**Mr Clayton Barr:** The Minister's response to the "related matters" part of the question and the excuse he is using at the moment are not acceptable within the standing orders.

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

**Mr Clayton Barr:** It is in the standing orders, which apply to Opposition members.

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** I want to talk about the alternative policies that those opposite refer to. Labor members are embarrassed because it took the Leader of the Opposition in this year's budget reply speech to announce a policy that the Government announced 12 months earlier—the Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program, through which we are delivering skills, training and job outcomes. The Government announced its Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program on the back of our \$70 billion infrastructure program to which would attach skills outcomes. Twenty per cent of the total project labour force would be learning workers, 20 per cent of all trades positions would be apprentices and we would double the number of women in trade-related work and increase contract value to support Aboriginal participation. We then went on to announce another \$100 million for Smart, Skilled and Hired, dealing with young people who find themselves unemployed and, of course, without skills. The program targets young people aged under 25.

But all Labor did was rehash the policies we already had in train—programs that are seeing positive outcomes. When one wishes to imitate someone's policy, one should try to match the policy and maybe do a little better. The Government announced a 20 per cent target; those opposite announced a 15 per cent target—they are going to take away. The Government announced that off the back of this program something like 16,500 jobs will be created; those opposite announced almost 9,000 jobs. That is Labor's alternative: Those opposite have copied one of our programs that has seen a significant investment in skills and jobs outcomes but would slash it from 16,500 job or training outcomes to 9,000 and reduce the 20 per cent target to 15 per cent. That is in line with what Labor is doing to Snowy Hydro. [*Extension of time*]

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

**Mr JOHN BARILARO:** With Snowy Hydro, Labor promised that 100 per cent of the proceeds—around \$4 billion—would go to regional New South Wales to build infrastructure. I assure those opposite that by the time they get to the end of this term of government we will have spent \$9.1 billion in regional New South Wales. The alternative policy of those opposite means that a vote for Labor will slash the regional infrastructure program by 50 per cent—from \$9.1 billion to \$4 billion—and cut the number of working and training outcomes. It is clear that those opposite, after 6½ years in opposition, have no plan.

#### CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CRIMINAL SENTENCING

**Mr LUKE FOLEY (Auburn) (14:56):** My question is directed to the Attorney General. In light of his earlier answer that there will not be an appeal launched against the leniency of the sentence handed down to the Dubbo child sex offender, will the Attorney General advise the House what action he has taken to ensure that the victim's wishes are respected and the suppression order on his identity is lifted?

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

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (14:57):** First, I do not accept the Leader of the Opposition's characterisation of my answer to the previous question, which will stand in *Hansard* and speak for itself. When I became aware over the weekend—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition asked the question. He will allow the Attorney General to answer it.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** When I became aware of this issue in recent days my office and I contacted the Director of Public Prosecutions. I have spoken with the Director of Public Prosecutions and told him that my strong preference is that there be an appeal. Under our system of independent prosecutorial authorities, that is a decision for him. The Leader of the Opposition is deluded if he thinks I can march into the office of the Director

of Public Prosecutions and tell him what to do. He makes independent prosecutorial decisions. The other issue that the Leader of the Opposition raised is the question of a non-publication order. Non-publication orders in this area of the law are typically made to protect victims, not offenders.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition asked the question. He will allow the Attorney General to answer it.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** In January the Crown, without opposition from the accused, applied for a publication order that extended to the name of the then accused, now convicted offender. That decision was made on the basis that the revelation of the name of the offender may disclose the names of the victims. Traditionally, in child sex offence matters the victim's identity is protected. It is clear now from media statements that the victims do not want that suppression or a non-publication order; they want their names and the perpetrator's name known. I have asked the Director of Public Prosecutions to take every step possible to contact the victims and confirm their wish to make an application to remove the non-publication order. If it is the case that the victims do not want their names protected, then it seems to me that there is no good reason to retain the non-publication order. That is a matter for the court and the victims. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions can make such an application, and it is an application I would support. I have been active in this area, which is the product of 16 years of Labor's lax laws.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order. The chorus of interjections from Government members will cease. The Minister for Health will come to order.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** This Government is cleaning up the mess regarding suspended sentences that Labor introduced over the Coalition's opposition. Suspended sentences will be abolished from next year to ensure that this situation does not occur again. Yet again, the Leader of the Opposition asked the question and not the shadow Attorney General, who is too embarrassed to ask it.

#### COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY INSURANCE PREMIUMS

**Ms MELANIE GIBBONS (Holsworthy) (15:00):** I address my question to the Minister for Finance, Services and Property. Will the Minister explain to the House what the Government is doing to reduce the cost of living for motorists across New South Wales, including through lower compulsory third party insurance premiums?

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (15:01):** I thank the member for Holsworthy for her question. I know that the member is looking forward to the many motorists in her electorate benefiting from reduced green slip premium prices. It is the direct result of government reforms. Over the past few months the Government has been working hard to deliver outcomes for motorists. Yesterday the Premier announced an initiative that will provide registration refunds for hundreds of thousands of motorists across the State. It will save them hundreds of dollars. In addition, the Government has announced the rollout of FuelCheck, which the NRMA states could save motorists up to \$500 per year. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission says that FuelCheck is a game changer as it provides competition in the marketplace.

This hardworking Government is making life easier for motorists. As a result of the reforms that this Government has introduced, there will be an average \$120 reduction in the cost of green slips across New South Wales. We are starting to see those reductions come through the system. If we add together the cost saving of those three initiatives, we see that the average motorist could save up to \$1,000 per year. That is significant. The Government is working hard to ensure that costs are reduced for motorists. I am pleased to announce that the New South Wales Government is doing more to help motorists in New South Wales.

**Mr Brad Hazzard:** You're kidding! There is more?

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** Yes. I am pleased to announce a new price comparison website called Green Slip Price Check. The website is [www.greenslips.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greenslips.nsw.gov.au).

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

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** The website will assist motorists to compare prices in order to receive the best deal on their green slips. Customers are loving it. There have been 77,000 visits to the website in the past 30 days alone. The website satisfaction rating is 94 per cent thumbs up. People are saying they love the website because they can see the benefits it produces. Prior to question time the member for Holsworthy visited the website and compared prices. The best price she was offered was \$469. I cannot recall when a green slip was last available with a four as the first figure in the price. Under those opposite, the prices were heading towards a figure with a seven at the front. That is good news for motorists, but the good news does not end there. As a result of the

reforms that will drive down the cost of premiums, more than four million motorists across New South Wales will be eligible to claim a refund from a total pool of \$300 million.

I am delighted to announce to the House today that Service NSW has been tasked with delivering the refunds on behalf of the Government. Refunds will be available to eligible drivers from early next year by using the online platform and opening a MyServiceNSW Account or visiting a service centre. Everyone in this House knows that Service NSW will ensure that motorists receive their money efficiently and securely. Those premiums were collected by insurers but this Government will ensure that the funds are returned to the pockets of motorists as fast as possible. If we compare this Government with the Labor administration with regard to green slips, we see the difference could not be more stark. The Attorney General has got it right. I listened carefully to his answer, and he said that those opposite create the mess and this Government fixes it.

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

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO:** Those opposite cannot run away from the truth. Without reform, the green slip process that the Coalition inherited from those opposite would have seen the cost rising to \$700 per premium in New South Wales. That is the scheme we inherited from those opposite. Because of the hard work of this Government, in speaking to lawyers and insurers and making sure that injured road users are protected, the motorists have come out first. [*Extension of time*]

Premiums will reduce to \$540. There is more good news. Comparing the two sides of the Chamber, over the past decade under the scheme the Government inherited green slip premiums rose 85 per cent, making New South Wales the most expensive State in the country for green slips. Now not only has that incline been arrested, but also there will be reductions. Under Labor's green slip scheme, taxi drivers paid premiums of \$8,000 or more each year. Those premiums will now be slashed by 50 per cent. Yesterday while in Dubbo with the Minister for Police, and member for Dubbo, I announced that taxi drivers in Dubbo will see a reduction of \$2,300 in their premiums. That is a significant amount of money. Who looks after the big end of town? Under those opposite, insurer super profits rose to 31 per cent. Under this Government's reforms, there will be an end to insurer super profits. To prove what I am saying is not a fiction, I can inform the Chamber that a young driver in his twenties from Minister Kean's electorate of Hornsby will receive a saving of \$165. That is available because of the hard work this Government is doing to look after motorists.

#### CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

**Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra) (15:08):** My question is directed to the Minister for the Environment. The Premier stated yesterday in the media that there will be 200 collection points for the container deposit scheme ready to go on 1 December. As of today, 21 locations have been announced. Will the Minister confirm that there will be 200 collection points by next week and tell us where the citizens of New South Wales will find them—or is it a secret, like everything else the Government does?

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

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage) (15:09):** The Opposition needs to take a chill pill. This scheme has not even started yet.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Canterbury will cease interjecting. I call the member for Fairfield to order for the first time. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the first time. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the second time.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** This scheme starts on 1 December. It will be a great day and it will get better.

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

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** This scheme starts on 1 December. It is a new low for Labor. It is seeking to undermine this scheme before it has even started. It is trying to hijack this scheme.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Fairfield to order for the second time. The member will cease shouting. I call the member for Canterbury to order for the third time. I call the member for Port Stephens to order for the first time. The member will cease shouting.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** It will be a great scheme when it starts rolling out on 1 December.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** Point of order—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister will resume her seat. Members who have been called to order are deemed to be on three calls to order. The level of interjections is dreadful.

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** The Minister seems to have the Premier's disease.

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

**Ms Yasmin Catley:** It is tedious repetition.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Swansea will resume her seat. There is no point of order. The member will resume her seat. I call the member for Swansea to order for the first time.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** I will put the member for Swansea out of her misery. There will be 200 collection points on 1 December.

[*Interruption*]

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order. They will behave maturely in the Chamber.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** We will be updating the public from the beginning of next week. I want to update the House—did members opposite hear that? Will I repeat it?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Opposition members are not interested in the answer; they only want to interject.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** There will be 200 collection points at the start of the rollout on 1 December. This Government is implementing a game-changing environmental initiative.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Those members who are on three calls to order will be removed from the Chamber for the rest of the day if they continue to interject. The member for Gosford will put her phone down. I remind the member that the taking of photographs is not permitted in the Chamber.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** Every day new collection points are being rolled out. More and more businesses are signing up. Restaurants and car washes have signed up in the electorates of Opposition members. Woolworths and IGA have signed up. There will be further opportunities for businesses to sign up and partake in this game-changing environmental initiative. Since I read this to the House last week even more collection points have been rolled out. We are delivering to the new member for Blacktown, who I noticed snuck in late to question time. I do not know what he was doing. We are delivering for the electorate of the new member for Blacktown.

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

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** The member for Maroubra is having a chuckle. We are not sure whether we like him. We are delivering for the member for Maroubra. There are some other members across the Chamber who we like just a little bit more—just a little bit more. The member for Rockdale has a collection point. The member for Shellharbour has a collection point. This scheme is an environmental initiative across the State. The member for Coogee has a collection point.

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

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** The member for Wagga Wagga has a collection point. The member for Albury has a collection point. The member for Parramatta has a collection point. This is a game-changing environmental initiative. I call on the Opposition to back this scheme in.

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

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** Their communities want this scheme—get behind it.

#### **COST OF LIVING**

**Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly) (15:14):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation. How is NSW Fair Trading helping consumers with the cost of living pressures?

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

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (15:15):** I thank the member for Manly—otherwise known as the rock star politician—for his question. I thank him for his interest in the cost of living pressures for the people of Manly and people across New South Wales. I know he works hard every day for the mums and dads of Manly.

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

**Mr MATT KEAN:** The constituents of the member for Manly, as well as those in all other electorates, are interested in the cost of living pressures. That is why NSW Fair Trading is taking this issue seriously. We only have to look at the recent ticket scalping reforms. Those reforms will ensure that genuine fans can access tickets at fair and reasonable prices. It is any wonder that the member for Manly is interested in concerts? He is often mistaken for being a member of a boy band. These reforms are about ensuring that people can access tickets at a fair and reasonable price.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Canterbury for the final time. I remind the member that she is on three calls to order. If she continues to interject she will be removed from the Chamber for the rest of the day.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** These reforms will stop the bots and also smash the business model of dodgy ticket scalpers in New South Wales. We think genuine fans should be able to attend the events they want to. We think the Leader of the Opposition should also be able to access the Australian Chamber Orchestra's concerts at a fair and reasonable price.

**Mr Guy Zangari:** What is wrong with that?

**Mr MATT KEAN:** It is a great institution.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Fairfield for the final time.

**Mr MATT KEAN:** They hold great concerts, known to be liked by the Leader of the Opposition. We are leading the country in banning the bots and cracking down on dodgy ticket scalpers. I know that Madam Speaker is interested in feedback on the reforms. One letter states, "We believe that the New South Wales legislation provides a leading model for a broader national approach that could be considered by other State and Territory governments to better protect Australian sporting fans." That is from James Sutherland, Chief Executive Officer, Cricket Australia. We received another testimonial that states, "These new laws are just what we need to ensure fans pay the right price to see our best rugby league games." That is from National Rugby League Chief Executive Officer Todd Greenberg. Another great testimonial from the member for The Entrance states, "This is great policy." He loves our ticket scalping reforms. We received great feedback from the member for Mount Druitt. He thought it was fantastic policy. Another testimonial states, "This is quite possibly the greatest reform from a very good-looking Minister." That was from my mum!

It is not only concert fans who are interested in our reforms that are putting consumers first. It is also the mums and dads who use gift cards. We are ending the great gift card rip-off in this State by extending gift card expiry dates to three years. Each year people in New South Wales lose \$60 million of their hard-earned cash because of early expiry dates on gift cards. Indeed, \$200 million of Australian consumers' money is lost because of early expiry dates on gift cards. Our reforms ensure that consumers get what they pay for. As the Deputy Premier said, imitation is the best form of flattery. The Victorian Australian Labor Party backed our plans last week.

I am pleased that everyone seems to like our reforms whether it be Victorian Labor, members on this side of the House, or consumers right across the State. Other people have embraced our reforms. It is funny what comes across one's desk. I have a leaked secret document from the Australian Labor Party's Kris Kringle. They have embraced gift cards this Christmas. The first gift card is from the member for Strathfield to the member for Maroubra—an Uber voucher that does not have an expiry date. The next is from the backbench to the member for Auburn, the Leader of the Opposition—a tolling policy. [*Extension of time*]

It is not just members on this side of the House who are putting consumers first, backing them in and supporting this Government's gift card reforms to end the dodgy ticket scalpers rorts, but all members throughout New South Wales. The member for Mount Druitt has his gift card, which soon will have a three-year minimum expiry date in New South Wales. The Government is easing cost-of-living pressures in New South Wales through the work of NSW Fair Trading.

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

#### CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

**Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (15:20):** My question is directed to the Minister for the Environment. Will the Minister advise whether Woolworths has been granted a monopoly that will prevent any rival return-and-earn collection site being located within 2.5 kilometres of its stores? Has this arrangement been approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [ACCC]?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! This is my final warning to the member for Canterbury.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON (Vaucluse—Minister for the Environment, Minister for Local Government, and Minister for Heritage) (15:21):** There is a collection point in the electorate of the member for Shellharbour and there are more to come, including in the electorates of the members for Liverpool, Bankstown, Wollongong and Newcastle—and I could go on.

**Ms Jodi McKay:** Point of order: The question is specifically about Woolworths and the ACCC. Could the Minister answer that question?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It is very early in the Minister's answer to take a point of order. She has spoken only two sentences. The member for Strathfield should know better.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** This is a sophisticated, nation-leading scheme. It has reverse vending machines that allow people to take back their cans and eligible drink containers to receive a refund, to be able to donate to charity or put the refund into their PayPal account. There is the ability for local business and community organisations across this State to be able to participate as an over-the-counter collection point as well. There will be depots where large volumes can be received. In direct answer to the question asked by the member for Shellharbour, there are several retail partnerships. As this scheme is rolled out, everyone in this State will have a chance to participate and do the right thing by the environment and by their fellow members of the community. There is no exclusive partnership with Woolworths. TOMRA Cleanaway, our network operator, is signing up with other retail partners—for example, one has been signed with IGA.

Let us not forget that this game-changing scheme will address the largest part of our litter stream: drink containers. It responds to a commitment made by this Government to reduce the litter stream across our communities. Why are we doing that? We are doing that because that is what our communities are calling for. They want to help our environment.

**Mr Michael Daley:** Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. Madam Speaker, will you ask the Minister to address the issue of the exclusion zone, which is what people are concerned about?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister answered the first part of the question very clearly.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** There are no exclusive arrangements with Woolworths. There are contracts between our network operator and retail partners. There are no exclusive relationships because we want this game-changing environmental initiative to benefit everyone in the community. The community of one of our newest members of Parliament, who is having a conversation over there, is one of the early recipients of a collection point.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will come to order. Those members who wish to have private conversations will take them outside the Chamber. The member for Londonderry will come to order. The member for Swansea will come to order. The member for Mount Druitt will cease interjecting.

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** Every member of this House should get behind this game-changing environmental initiative, which will be rolled out on 1 December. I call upon the member for Shellharbour and others to come on board and support their local community to make a big difference to the environment.

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

**Ms GABRIELLE UPTON:** It has taken this Government to put this scheme together to deliver to all our communities across New South Wales. I urge the Opposition to come on board. This will prove to be a great scheme.

### HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

**Mr CHRIS PATTERSON (Camden) (15:25):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Housing. How is the Government assisting first home buyers with the cost of living pressures. Are there any alternatives?

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS (Lane Cove—Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, and Special Minister of State) (15:26):** One of the biggest pressures on the New South Wales hip pocket is housing. It is our largest cost of living but, for millions, it is also our largest investment. When the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government came to office it committed to making housing more affordable, and within reach of a generation of young people becoming disillusioned with their chances of even owning a home. I am proud to say that every member on this side of the House stands shoulder to shoulder with them because that is real Liberal-Nationals policymaking: to pick the biggest target and zero in on it. We make no apologies for being ambitious on behalf of the people of New South Wales. We will leave the lazy, small target politics to the Labor Party and the Leader of the Opposition.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! This is my final warning to the member for Prospect.

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** This Government is confidently responding to the biggest, most complex economic challenge of our times, that is, housing affordability. New South Wales has experienced its forty-fifth consecutive month of record housing approvals, far exceeding the Premier's policy and priority target of 50,000. New South Wales leads the nation in approvals and completions, with Greater Sydney seeing an 18 per cent increasing in dwelling completions in the past 12 months alone.

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

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** But we are not just building houses; we are handing over the keys to families for whom an affordable house, until recently, was well out of reach. Since July, when stamp duty concessions were introduced, 10,496 individuals and families have secured the keys to their first homes, in comparison to just over 3,000 in the same period last year. I refer to young couples like Jayden and Taylor, whom I was honoured to visit last month with the Premier and the Treasurer. Thanks to saving about \$25,000 on stamp duty, they were able to afford a new home. Their happiness was contagious. And there are another 10,000 families just like them who have done the same thing since July. This is further evidence that our policies are working. But it gives me no pleasure to inform the House about what scares the people of New South Wales—the Labor Party alternative.

In 2009, under Labor, housing completions flatlined to just over 13,000 in 2009—the same amount as in 1957—which left us with a legacy of a 100,000 home deficit—and there is every indication that those opposite are ready for a repeat performance. It is the same old rhetoric, "Sydney is full." The same old tactic of scaremongering communities about development because Labor hates growth. They hate growth and prosperity as much as they hate delivering on infrastructure. Those opposite hate new infrastructure. They cannot stand the thought that one million new residents would dare move to this State. They want to send those people back to Queensland and Victoria to suffer in the public service gulags of Annastacia Palaszczuk or the policy salt mines of Daniel Andrews.

I make this promise to the people of New South Wales: No Australian should have to suffer the indignity of living in a state that is not New South Wales. No-one, none, never. If we are going to have the strongest economy, the most jobs and the best government, we should expect that people will want to move here. We know the policy of those opposite because it is the same as last time. They want to smash the economy, lose jobs, be a terrible government and make us number eight again. That is how they intend to solve their housing supply issue. They want a state nobody wants to live in and where there are no jobs. That is Labor's future—a State where Zimbabwe looks like a good prospect for young New South Wales families to migrate to. In contrast, we are preparing for a bright future and planning for people because people make places. We are ensuring that our children and our grandchildren will have the opportunity to call this place home and to own their own home. *[Extension of time]*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members of the Opposition have been warned. The member for Canterbury is treading a very fine line.

**Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS:** If Labor has its way, people will be living under bridges because there will not be enough houses. I note that they will be the bridges that we built, because those opposite could not get an infrastructure package off the ground to save their lives. I cannot talk about failure to deliver infrastructure without talking about my newest constituent in Lane Cove, the former Premier, and Minister for Planning, Kristina "Concrete" Keneally, who approved 320 part 3A projects and applications without any community consultation or infrastructure support. They were approved with just a flick of the planning Minister's pen. I can still see them crumbling around Sydney as I drive around. It is a bit rich for former planning Minister Keneally to say as much as a word about New South Wales planning policy when she used part 3A of the Planning Act to do whatever she wanted. Labor were happy to sign off on development applications for their mates but where is the infrastructure? Did they plan for the future, for growing communities, for more hospitals or for any new schools? No. They shut schools down.

We have planned precincts literally being built around train stations. That would never have been delivered under those opposite. We have planned communities that will have the priority infrastructure delivered concurrently or before families move in. It is nearly the end of the year, and after eight months as Minister for Planning I have learned something that Labor could not figure out in 16 years: it is called the Planning portfolio because we plan for the future. It is not called the "part 3A favours-for-mates" portfolio. *[Time expired.]*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Canterbury has had numerous final warnings. She will cease interjecting.

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

**The CLERK:** In accordance with section 63C of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce the receipt of the Auditor-General's Financial Audit Report entitled "Central Agencies 2017", dated 21 November 2017, received 21 November 2017 and authorised to be printed.

*Committees***LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE****Report: Legislation Review Digest No. 47/56**

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN:** As Chair: I table the report of the Legislation Review Committee entitled "Legislation Review Digest No. 47/56", dated 21 November 2017. I move:

That the report be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Mr MICHAEL JOHNSEN:** I also table the minutes of the committee meeting regarding Legislation Review Digest No. 46/56, dated 14 November 2017.

*Petitions***PETITIONS**

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

**Sussex Inlet Community Church**

Petition requesting an investigation into the sale of the Sussex Inlet Community Church and calling for protection of community land used by churches, received from **Mrs Shelley Hancock**.

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

**Plastic Bags**

Petition requesting the banning of plastic bags in New South Wales, received from **Ms Trish Doyle**.

**RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

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

The Hon. Niall Blair—Slaughterhouse Monitoring—lodged 17 October 2017 (Mr Alex Greenwich).

The Hon. Andrew Constance—Summer Hill Electorate Bus Routes—lodged 19 October 2017 (Ms Jo Haylen).

The Hon. Mark Speakman—Community Legal Centres—lodged 19 October 2017 (Mr Alex Greenwich and Ms Jenny Leong).

*Motions Accorded Priority***MOTORWAY TOLLS****Consideration**

**Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (15:36):** My motion deserves priority because the Government has a plan to help the families in Western Sydney, Sydney and beyond. Cost-of-living pressures affect everybody in New South Wales. They are especially important to families who rely on cars to get to work, to take their kids to school or to go shopping. On this side of the House, we have taken the tough decisions to make New South Wales a powerhouse of economic growth. We have devoted ourselves to fiscal responsibility and economic prudence. This has resulted in New South Wales becoming the number one state or territory in Australia. We are in a strong financial position. We want to help the people who made it all possible. We have worked hard to become a strong financial state and we want some of those benefits to flow back to the hardworking people of New South Wales.

Yesterday I was delighted to hear the Premier announce that soon, eligible toll road users may be entitled to free registration. Drivers may be eligible for free rego if they spend more than \$25 per week over a 12 month period on tolls. This motion deserves priority because the majority of eligible toll road users will potentially save from \$358 to a maximum of \$715 per year. This is on top of the downward pressure we are putting on green slip prices. There is further good news: This scheme will be backdated to July 1 2017. These savings need to start as soon as possible. On this side of the House, we want to give all toll road users a fair go. This will allow those using toll roads to spend more time at home with their families and less time stuck on the congested roads. The news only gets better: This fair go also will apply to any new tolls in the future and to those who currently qualify for the M5 cash back.

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

**Dr GEOFF LEE:** This is an important decision to support toll road users. I commend this motion to the House.

## MOTORWAY TOLLS

### Consideration

**Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (15:39):** The "Minister against Western Sydney" strikes again. It is typical of this backflipping Government to come out with another half-baked policy as soon as it starts to feel the heat. The "Minister against Western Sydney" is feeling the heat. So he should. In his electorate of Penrith, people are well and truly fed up with a local member who is more concerned with spending \$2 billion on Eastern Suburbs stadiums and cutting train services for the community. They are most fed up with having to pay this "great big new tax" on Western Sydney—a tax of more than \$2,000 a year to travel on a road that we have already paid for. This why my motion should be accorded priority.

The Government's response to this increased cost-of-living pressure on the constituents of the member for Penrith is: "You might get some of it back." A fat lot of good that will do for pensioners, who already have concessions on their registration; a fat lot of good that will do for owner-drivers and small businesses. It is another example of the Liberals' ideology and standard operating procedure: Those who can afford it the least have to pay the most. The real winners from this policy will be the fat cat mates of the "Minister against Western Sydney", the people who will never have to pay this toll: the toll operators. They are going all the way to the bank. Kerching! They will reap millions and millions of dollars from his community. He is happy to watch his community suffer under this crushing toll and to see the money flow straight to the M4 toll operators.

All I can say is that nothing will save the member for Penrith. He might be worried about his seat, and so he should be. How dare he acquiesce while his community suffers under this tax—a tax he has the power to remove. Members of his community will never, ever forgive him for this betrayal. They will never forgive him for condemning them to 43 years of paying a toll on a road that they have already paid for.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Strathfield and the member for Canterbury know that clapping is against the standing orders, yet they do it every day. I remind them that they have been called to order several times. The question is that the motion of the member for Parramatta be accorded priority.

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....49

Noes .....37

Majority.....12

### AYES

Anderson, Mr K  
Barilaro, Mr J  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Dominello, Mr V  
Evans, Mr L  
Goward, Ms P  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Notley-Smith, Mr B  
Pavey, Mrs M

Aplin, Mr G  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Elliott, Mr D  
Fraser, Mr A  
Grant, Mr T  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Maguire, Mr D  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Petinos, Ms E

Ayres, Mr S  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Davies, Mrs T  
Evans, Mr A  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Griffin, Mr J  
Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Provest, Mr G

## AYES

Roberts, Mr A  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

Rowell, Mr J  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mr R

Sidoti, Mr J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Mrs L

## NOES

Atalla, Mr E  
Car, Ms P  
Cotsis, Ms S  
Dib, Mr J  
Finn, Ms J  
Harris, Mr D  
Hornery, Ms S  
Lynch, Mr P  
Mehan, Mr D (teller)  
Park, Mr R  
Scully, Mr P  
Warren, Mr G  
Zangari, Mr G

Bali, Mr S  
Catley, Ms Y  
Crakanthorp, Mr T  
Donato, Mr P  
Foley, Mr L  
Harrison, Ms J  
Kamper, Mr S  
McDermott, Dr H  
Mihailuk, Ms T  
Parker, Mr J  
Smith, Ms T F  
Washington, Ms K

Barr, Mr C  
Chanthivong, Mr A  
Daley, Mr M  
Doyle, Ms T  
Greenwich, Mr A  
Hoenig, Mr R  
Leong, Ms J  
McKay, Ms J  
Minns, Mr C  
Piper, Mr G  
Tesch, Ms L  
Watson, Ms A (teller)

## PAIRS

Berejiklian, Ms G  
Perrottet, Mr D

Haylen, Ms J  
Lalich, Mr N

**Motion agreed to.****MOTORWAY TOLLS****Priority****Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (15:49):** I move:

This House supports the Government's plan to provide toll relief for New South Wales motorists.

We on this side of the House are aware that cost of living pressures are mounting. We understand, particularly members like the member for Riverstone, that many people in Western Sydney need cars—to get to work, to drop kids at school or to go shopping—as part of their lifestyle. Motorway toll relief is an important initiative to ease the cost of living pressures on the hardworking people of Western Sydney and beyond. What charges will this rebate include? It will include the motor vehicle tax as well as the administration fee. It is available to all drivers of light vehicles registered for private use. It includes all standard cars, utilities and four-wheel drives up to 2.749 tonnes—this covers 99 per cent of all privately registered light vehicles.

I take this opportunity to remind the House of other initiatives introduced by this Government to reduce cost of living pressures. Earlier today in question time the Minister for Finance, Services and Property referred to the NSW FuelCheck app, which the NRMA has said could save motorists up to \$500 a year. Also with the downward pressures on green slips the average New South Wales motorist will save \$120 per year. In New South Wales we also offer a 50 per cent reduction in licence fees for motorists with a good driving record—I was fortunate enough to receive that. The Minister for Planning and Housing has also initiated stamp duty exemptions for eligible first homebuyers. But I digress.

How do people qualify for this rebate? A frequent user of tolls who spends more than \$25 on average a week for 52 weeks will receive free registration of his or her vehicle. This will mean that someone spending more than \$1,300 on tolls per annum will receive free registration. We estimate that around 85,000 privately registered road users spend \$25 per week or more on Sydney's toll roads, excluding the M5, which equates to around 4 per cent of toll road users. This scheme will apply to both Roads and Maritime Services and private electronic e-tags. The savings are estimated, depending on the size of the vehicle, at between \$272 and \$715. Motorcyclists will save around \$127.

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

**Dr GEOFF LEE:** It is very disappointing to hear those on the opposite side interjecting. It is well known that they do not have a plan. Sadly, they are bagging the system and not supporting the hardworking people of Western Sydney. Why do those opposite not support easing the cost of living for the good citizens and families in this State? They have failed to articulate any means to reduce the cost of living. Those opposite do not have any plans. We on this side have a comprehensive strategy. Indeed, every week this Parliament sits we introduce new initiatives to help reduce the cost of living for the people of New South Wales.

This initiative offers light for the hardworking people of Western Sydney and beyond; those opposite want to oppose it. Labor opposes tolls but what is its alternate policy? Those opposite have failed to articulate any credible evidence as to their future plans for tolls. Labor has a history of putting in toll roads, yet it is not saying a word. This important initiative shows that the Government is committed to the hardworking families in Western Sydney and beyond to ease the cost of living pressures. I commend the motion to the House.

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (15:55):** The draconian policies and arrogance of those opposite have no boundaries. The member for Parramatta's contribution was uninspired. The Government has dragged this bloke out like a lamb to the slaughter. Indeed, his failed contribution demonstrates this Government's ignorance of the struggles faced by the people of Western Sydney. It told us nothing.

[Interruption]

I note the interjection of the member for Riverstone. I will come back to him shortly. This rebate is nothing more than another greedy cash grab. Let me make it very clear for the member for Parramatta: we would not need any a rebate if the toll had not been put back on and the M5 toll was not being extended for another 40 years. Why compensate something that should not have been put there in the first place? Wherever one looks, this Government is reaching into the pockets of drivers and taking thousands of dollars in tolls to make up for its incompetence in managing major infrastructure projects. Wherever one looks there are billions of dollars in blowouts—the WestConnex around \$7,000 million, and the light rail is heading towards \$1 billion. People should be sacked on the spot for such outrageous mismanagement—make no mistake, we on this side of the House will make sure that happens in March 2019.

A rebate of a few hundred dollars for drivers paying thousands of dollars in tolls is nothing more than a half-baked policy aimed at saving the seats of Liberal members in west and south-west Sydney. This is not about policy or people; this is about those opposite trying to save themselves. But the people of west and south-west Sydney are not naïve. They are waiting with a baseball bat, and the members for the electorates of Macquarie Fields, Wollongong, Strathfield and I will be there to encourage them. The communities of west and south-west Sydney are right to be outraged. This Government's agenda on excessive tolls on Sydney's roads is out of control. Indeed, the only rationale for these excessive tolls is to fund the failings and incompetence of those opposite.

How is the member for Riverstone going to tell his constituents that this Government is going to tax them for a toll on a road they have already paid for, which is still congested, and then have a rebate? The member for Riverstone is kidding himself. I will give up my Friday night to go and watch when he holds his community forum. The member for Riverstone and the member for Parramatta, and even the Premier, would knock your dog off, then give its collar back and say, "There you go, mate. Good on you. Thank you very much." That is how good the mob opposite are. They would pickpocket some poor homeless bloke down the road, then have the discourtesy to give him his wallet back and think they are being nice. Those opposite are delusional. Drivers using the M5 to get to and from work will be paying more than \$2,000 per year to drive on a road they have already paid for. Do those opposite really think drivers getting a rebate of \$300 are going to be happy?

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** Absolutely.

**Mr GREG WARREN:** Mate, you have lost the plot. This mob is going to blow the mental health budget with its own actions. They have lost the plot. It is remarkable that they are so far from reality. The petition that I and my colleagues, including the member for Macquarie Fields, are running is getting an overwhelming response from thousands. The people of south-west Sydney and Campbelltown do not like the toll. They do not want it because they have already paid for it. The Government wants to bring in rebates and provide compensation for these tolls, but let me give the Government a news flash: Do not impose the toll in the first place. The Government wants us to fix its problems. We do not want to fix the Government's problems but, make no mistake, we will. Just as Labor governments have done so well in the past, again and again, for generations, we will fix the problems that Liberal governments create. We will bring the Government to its knees on this issue.

**Mr KEVIN CONOLLY (Riverstone) (16:00):** People from the north-west of Sydney who travel into town on the motorway system travel on the M7, followed by the M2, the Lane Cove Tunnel and perhaps the Sydney Harbour Tunnel or the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Some people use the Cross City Tunnel. On how many

of those roads did Labor take any cost off for anyone? This is the first time in history that people from my part of Sydney, the north-west, have got anything from a government—they got zilch, zip, nothing, nada from Labor. The member for Campbelltown talks about fixing problems. Who was it that stuffed up the Sydney Harbour Tunnel contract, the Cross City Tunnel contract and the Lane Cove Tunnel contract? Who left us with those dud deals? It was those opposite.

People in the north-west of Sydney have paid tolls for years. Has any Labor government ever given them any relief, any help, any relaxation of the burden? No, not a jot. The member for Campbelltown can come out to my part of the world and he can tell the people there that Labor does not support this policy, he can tell them that Labor will not give them \$300, \$400 or \$500, and he can see how he goes. They are going to love that message from the member for Campbelltown. They are going to be delighted with this package because for the first time in history somebody cares about the north-west and somebody is going to give them some relief. This relief will apply not only to people in the north-west but all across the motorway network. When we build more motorways—the F6, the NorthConnex, the second harbour tunnel, the northern beaches tunnel and other connections—they will all qualify for this program. Everybody will share in the toll relief.

People who spend a lot of money on tolls will get a helping hand from this Government because of the good financial management those of us on this side have been able to practise over our years in government. We are now in a position to help people with cost-of-living pressures, which Labor created but which it cannot and would not fix. Where is the alternative plan? Where is a policy from those opposite to reduce cost-of-living pressures? Are those opposite going to build a motorway and somehow give people relief? They cannot do that, but they will not say it. One day they are for WestConnex and another day they are against it. Are they ever going to find a way to pay for it? They have never told us of one. Those opposite pretend. They sit on the sidelines and criticise, whinge, harp and whine, but they have no answers. They have no plan to give everybody relief from cost-of-living pressures. This Government is providing cost-of-living relief for people across New South Wales because of its good budget position, and we will continue to do so.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind Opposition members that several of them are on three calls to order.

**Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields) (16:03):** This motion is not about toll relief. The only thing this Government is good at is a magic show. Those opposite are experts on how to pull off the perfect trick—giving with one hand while taking with the other. The Premier and her Government are trying to fool the people of south-west Sydney who have long suffered having to pay a travel tax for the privilege of sitting in traffic on crowded toll roads. This Government has cynically chosen the lead-up to Christmas—a period when everyone is worried about money and their household budget—to flash some cash to road commuters.

"Free rego" shouts the Government's political spin machine and media release. But, as we all know, people get nothing for free from this sneaky, stingy Liberal Government. The people of south-west Sydney are wiser than this Government thinks. They know the Premier has put on her magician's hat and has tried to trick them. Many residents in south-west Sydney took to social media to tell the Government exactly what they think of this sleight of hand. No-one sees this as a freebie, because it is not. Here is just a small selection of comments from long-suffering people in south-west Sydney:

It's just to encourage everyone back on to the toll roads so the likes of WestConnex become more profitable.

You'll get nothing for free from the government ... in the end the people that don't use the toll enough will be charged more somewhere along the line.

And you can almost hear the sarcasm dripping from this comment that comes complete with an eye-rolling emoji:

This looks like a great way to increase traffic congestion and reduce state revenue at the same time. Genius.

But perhaps this comment sums it up best:

Nothing for nothing.

Premier, the people of south-west Sydney have your number. This is a sneaky, tricky Liberal Government driven by polling numbers and political lobbyists. People do not trust this Government, and why should they? Now the Government is allowing toll companies to slug motorists with these unfair tolls for at least another 40 years as part of the sale of WestConnex—taking money from the public purse and handing it over on a gold profit platter for multinational tolling companies. As we all know, some multinational companies pay barely any tax in Australia.

People are missing out on valuable time with their families and their kids because of traffic congestion and draining commutes. So what does this Government do? It announces a tolling policy that will push more people onto already overcrowded roads so the tolling companies can reap in super profits. The people of

Macquarie Fields, Campbelltown, Holsworthy, Mulgoa, Camden, East Hills and Wollondilly are forced to sit in traffic jams. Perhaps the Premier has put her magician's hat back on in the hope of making the concerns of south-west Sydney disappear. [*Time expired.*]

**Dr GEOFF LEE (Parramatta) (16:07):** In reply: It was very interesting to listen to other members' contributions in this debate. I commend the member for Riverstone for his eloquent and rational contribution. He is standing up for his community. Unlike those opposite who want to increase prices, the member for Riverstone clearly wants to decrease the cost of living.

**Mr Kevin Conolly:** Down, down, deeper and down.

**Dr GEOFF LEE:** Just like Coles, it is down, down, down. We understand that saving money is very important for families in Western Sydney and throughout Sydney. We are putting downward pressure on the cost of living for road users who pay tolls, not just in Western Sydney but for all road users who are eligible to apply for this relief. The member for Riverstone reiterated my argument that those on the other side have no policy—they do not know how to pay for building roads; they have no answers. All they can do, and I quote the member for Riverstone, is whinge and whine about the great things we are doing on this side of the House to drive down the cost of living.

I offer the member for Campbelltown a little bit of advice. His confected anger was quite inspirational—I nearly believed what he was saying for a while—but just because he speaks loudly it does not mean that what he is saying is true. What he said was empty rhetoric and it demonstrates the Opposition's lack of policy. The personal attack on me concerning my dog and where I got it from was particularly hurtful. Everybody knows I love dogs.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Parramatta is quite distressed. Members will come to order.

**Dr GEOFF LEE:** I remind the member for Campbelltown that it was the Labor Party that sold off the M4 corridor. That is why we had to build the WestConnex underground. On that side of the House we hear lots of noise and lots of rhetoric. Just because Labor members say it loudly does not mean it is true. Those opposite have no policy and they have no answers to the problems that we have faced. They want to condemn the people of New South Wales to continual cost of living increases. This is a great initiative from a great Premier and a great government. I commend the motion to the House.

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

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....51  
Noes .....35  
Majority..... 16

#### AYES

Anderson, Mr K  
Barilaro, Mr J  
Conolly, Mr K  
Coure, Mr M  
Dominello, Mr V  
Evans, Mr A  
Gibbons, Ms M  
Griffin, Mr J  
Henskens, Mr A  
Kean, Mr M  
Marshall, Mr A  
Patterson, Mr C (teller)  
Piper, Mr G  
Rowell, Mr J  
Stokes, Mr R  
Tudehope, Mr D  
Williams, Mr R

Aplin, Mr G  
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)  
Constance, Mr A  
Crouch, Mr A  
Donato, Mr P  
Evans, Mr L  
Goward, Ms P  
Gulaptis, Mr C  
Humphries, Mr K  
Lee, Dr G  
Notley-Smith, Mr B  
Pavey, Mrs M  
Provest, Mr G  
Sidoti, Mr J  
Taylor, Mr M  
Upton, Ms G  
Williams, Mrs L

Ayres, Mr S  
Brookes, Mr G  
Cooke, Ms S  
Davies, Mrs T  
Elliott, Mr D  
Fraser, Mr A  
Grant, Mr T  
Hazzard, Mr B  
Johnsen, Mr M  
Maguire, Mr D  
O'Dea, Mr J  
Petinos, Ms E  
Roberts, Mr A  
Speakman, Mr M  
Toole, Mr P  
Ward, Mr G  
Wilson, Ms F

## NOES

Atalla, Mr E	Bali, Mr S	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
Foley, Mr L	Greenwich, Mr A	Harris, Mr D
Harrison, Ms J	Hoening, Mr R	Hornery, Ms S
Kamper, Mr S	Leong, Ms J	Lynch, Mr P
McDermott, Dr H	McKay, Ms J	Mehan, Mr D (teller)
Mihailuk, Ms T	Minns, Mr C	Park, Mr R
Parker, 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

Berejiklian, Ms G	Haylen, Ms J
Perrottet, Mr D	Lalich, Mr N

**Motion agreed to.***Private Members' Statements***TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOO****Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services) (16:19):**

By leave: I pay tribute to the Taronga Western Plains Zoo located at Dubbo for its win at the recent tourism awards for excellence in accommodation. The zoo has won in that category for the past four years. It has now entered the NSW Tourism Awards Hall of Fame and will go on to represent the State at the national tourism awards, where it is the defending champion in the unique accommodation in tourism in Australia category. Today is an important day for the zoo. It is a leader in tourism, and all members on this side of the House understand the significance of tourism to the rural economy. The Visitor Economy Taskforce set a challenge to this Government to extend overnight stays across New South Wales to twice what was experienced under 16 years of Labor governance. That has made a significant contribution to the rebound in the New South Wales economy.

The Taronga Western Plains Zoo is a significant tourist leader due to the unique experience it offers, the animals, the accommodation and the fact that it is a world-leading conservation organisation. I am proud to be the member for Dubbo. This week the latest addition to the herd of southern black rhinoceros calves has been on display. I was present for the birth of Bakhita, who has now had her own calf. The year she was born three different rhinoceros breeds produced calves. It was unique. Now one of those calves has had her own calf, who is a wonderful addition to the zoo. Whether the new addition is a hippopotamus, rhinoceros or giraffe, it gives a lift to zookeepers, who are passionate about the animals in their care.

The Taronga Western Plains Zoo was not the only business from Dubbo to be showcased for its achievements at the recent business awards. The Dubbo Chamber of Commerce was recognised at a state level. I congratulate each of the participants. The Government understands the contribution that tourism makes to the Dubbo economy, and the local area is booming. We are proud of the zoo and its ability to win these prestigious awards. It highlights the fact that the investment this Government is making is producing results and bang for the taxpayers' buck. I strongly encourage those in the gallery to visit Taronga Western Plains Zoo if they have not done so already. It is only a 4½-hour drive from Sydney across the Great Dividing Range to the western plains. They are most welcome.

Destination NSW has promoted Dubbo and the Mudgee wine district in Hong Kong. The Minister for Tourism and Major Events is promoting tourism across the State and the country, and ensuring that these unique regional tourism destinations receive international visibility. There are many ways to enjoy the Taronga Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo: People can drive their car, cycle or take a golf cart. Each year a charity fun run called the Dingo Dash is held at the zoo. It has been a while since I did any dashing—as my girth may indicate—but I have completed the five kilometres, slowly. I commend the Taronga Western Plains Zoo to the House. [*Time expired.*]

*Bills***TERRORISM (HIGH RISK OFFENDERS) BILL 2017****Second Reading Debate****Debate resumed from 15 November 2017.**

**Mr PAUL LYNCH (Liverpool) (16:25):** I lead for the Opposition in debate on the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Bill 2017. The Opposition does not oppose the bill. Labor's view of its application is contrary to the Government's rhetoric surrounding the bill. While he did not say it in his second reading speech, the Attorney General has admitted to other audiences that most terrorist offenders will already be subject to the currently existing post-sentence detention and supervision scheme. Put simply, the current scheme applies to high risk violent offenders. Granted that by definition terrorists use or threaten violence, it is pretty obvious why they would be covered by the current regime. To most people, it is hard to pursue an argument that terrorist offenders are not associated with violence. I concede that there are gaps in the present structure, but they are not as gaping as Government rhetoric would suggest.

It is perhaps for that reason that when the Government was talking up the legislation the Corrective Services Commissioner, Peter Severin, could not identify anyone to whom it might apply. Bearing in mind it can apply only to people imprisoned previously—if there were any—Peter Severin would know. Interestingly, security authorities would probably prefer to rely on the existing regime, which has a maximum detention and supervision period of five years, rather than on this bill, in which the maximum period is three years. The primary object of the bill is to provide the Supreme Court with power to order the detention or supervision of certain offenders after they have served their sentence of imprisonment, providing the court is satisfied the offender poses an unacceptable risk of committing serious terrorism offences if not detained or supervised.

This is presented as an extension of the already existing scheme that was introduced by the previous Labor Government for high risk sex offenders, and extended in 2013 by the current Government to high risk violent offenders in legislation that Labor did not oppose. I note that further amendments were made several weeks ago following a statutory review of the legislation. The bill is modelled upon the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act, which is the legislation governing the current regime. Many of the provisions of this bill are identical to those in that Act. One option might have been to amend that Act, rather than establishing a completely new piece of legislation. But it is probably a bigger media story if it is a completely new Act.

Part 2 of the bill deals with extended supervision orders [ESOs] and part 3 with continuing detention orders [CDOs]. Applications are made to the Supreme Court. The test for the court is that it is to be satisfied to a high degree of probability that the offender poses an unacceptable risk of committing a serious terrorism offence if the order sought is not made. There are provisions for interim supervision orders and interim detention orders. There are also provisions for emergency detention orders. As with the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act, there are provisions that proceedings are in accordance with the law relating to civil proceedings, provisions concerning victims and victims' statements, appeals to the Court of Appeal and a prohibition on costs orders against offenders. Likewise, conditions are set out that can be part of an ESO, provisions for information to be sought by the Attorney General and warnings to be given to the offender about the Act.

The most complex components of the bill are contained in part 1, division 1.3, entitled "Key Concepts". This is a series of definitional provisions setting out who is caught by the regime of the Act. An eligible offender is someone aged 18 years or older who is serving or being supervised or detained after serving imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable offence. This means the bill does not apply in respect of Commonwealth laws. This also, self-evidently, excludes juveniles. The court can make orders against eligible offenders who are convicted New South Wales terrorist offenders, or a convicted New South Wales underlying terrorism offender or a convicted New South Wales terrorism activity offender. The first of these broadly relates to people imprisoned under section 310J of the Crimes Act, being a member of a terrorist organisation. There are not a lot of people in that category. I will quote from an email dated 21 November that was sent to the Parliamentary Research Service from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research. It states: According to the latest publically available NSW Criminal Courts data from BOCSAR ending June 2017, there have been no finalised charges under section 310J of the NSW Crimes Act 1900 since the section's commencement.

A convicted New South Wales underlying terrorism offender is someone serving a sentence or being supervised or detained for a New South Wales indictable offence that is serious and occurred in a terrorism context. Proposed section 9 (2) provides a definition of serious and proposed section 9 (3) deals with the terrorism context. A convicted New South Wales terrorism activity offender is someone serving imprisonment or being supervised or detained for an indictable offence and the offender has been subject to a control order, or has been a member of a terrorist organisation, or has made statements or engaged in conduct advocating support for engaging in any

terrorist act, or is associated or otherwise affiliated with other persons or with organisations advocating support for engaging in any terrorist acts.

Proposed section 11 provides a list of indicia to assist a court in determining whether someone is a convicted New South Wales underlying terrorism offender. Some provisions in this bill are different from the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) legislation. Section 52 provides that a court may allow a prescribed terrorism intelligence authority to make submissions to the court if the court thinks it would assist its determination. Proposed section 60 deals with the use of offenders' information involving terrorism intelligence. An application can be made that particular information be dealt with as terrorism intelligence. The court must take steps to maintain the confidentiality of such information, including receiving and hearing argument about it in private. The court must allow a form of access to the intelligence information. The most restrictive provision is clause 60 (4) (e), which allows the party's legal representative to view but not have a copy of the intelligence, but denies the party any form of access to that intelligence. The court has given explicit power to make orders to prohibit or restrict access to, or the disclosure or publication of, terrorism intelligence.

One interesting variance between this bill and the existing CDO and ESO regime relates to the maximum length of detention and supervision orders. Proposed section 26 (6) provides a maximum period for an ESO of three years. Proposed section 40 (1) provides the maximum term for a CDO of three years. That is in very clear contrast to the current regime. Section 10 of the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act provides a maximum period for an ESO of five years. Section 18 of that Act provides a maximum period for CDOs of five years. The current regime has a maximum term of five years. This bill has maximum terms of only three years. That strikes me as a curious anomaly, as the Government has marketed it as a tough new anti-terrorism law. I understand that because an application can be made to extend existing orders the same result can be achieved under this bill. But it seems odd and makes the Government's supporting rhetoric hypocritical. I ask the Attorney General to explain this discrepancy between five years and three years in his speech in reply.

What makes this issue even more significant is the element involved of misleading the people of this State. The Government not only said it was introducing new, tough anti-terror laws; it was more specific. In the midst of the media announcement on 4 October the Premier, according to James Robertson of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, said explicitly that the maximum period of supervision and detention would be five years. That is entirely wrong; the bill states three years. The Premier is not entirely across her brief and does not know one of the primary aspects of the legislation she is talking up. In my view, what is worse is that she has misled the people of this State about what she was going to legislate. The incompetence is bad; misleading is worse. While we are talking about the way the Government has presented this issue to the public, I note the seriousness that it invested in the topic.

A post-sentence preventative detention scheme was first raised at the Council of Australian Governments [COAG] two years ago, which was clear in the communiqué from 11 December 2015. It was raised again at COAG on 1 April 2016. If this issue is as urgent as the Government claims, it is astonishing that it has taken two years to develop, unless almost everyone liable to be subject to the bill is already covered under the existing schemes. Some might think that is just as well because under the existing scheme they would be caught by the five-year maximum rather than the three-year maximum. That is not to say there are no people who, theoretically, are not caught under the current regime and would be caught under this bill. I note the statutory review of the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act says at page 64 that certain New South Wales offenders would come within the existing High Risk Offenders Scheme, and there was a Commonwealth scheme that covers Commonwealth offences under December 2016 legislation. The report goes on to say:

However there may be high risk offenders with a high risk of committing a future serious terrorist offence who would not come within either scheme. These offenders would not meet the Commonwealth threshold of having committed a Commonwealth terrorist *index* offence. For example, if an offender is found guilty of the NSW offence of supply of a firearm which is used to kill a person as part of a terrorist act, this offender would not come within the NSW scheme and would only come within the proposed Commonwealth scheme if there were *also* relevant Commonwealth terrorism offences for which the offender was imprisoned.

The other scenario of someone currently not caught presented by the report is someone imprisoned for a non-terrorism, non-violent offence—for example, fraud—who is radicalised in prison. Currently, there must be a link between the offender's previous offence and future offences. That report is now quite dated. If the Government thought this was an urgent issue why is it being dealt with in only the last two sitting weeks of the year? Schedule 2 to the bill deals with changes to other legislation. Schedule 2.14 amends the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act to effectively provide exemption for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation [ASIO] and public sector agencies dealing with ASIO from various provisions of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act.

Recommendation 12 of the joint Commonwealth and New South Wales review arising from the Martin Place siege deals with that, as does recommendation 42 of the Coroner's inquest into the deaths arising from the Lindt cafe siege. I note the Coroner's recommendation refers to the Health Records and Information Privacy Act, which is not caught within this amendment. I ask the Attorney General in his reply speech to explain why that is

the case. I also note the entirely unrelated amendments dealing with the Local Court's capacity to deal with longer- term inmates possessing prison contraband. As I indicated, the Opposition does not oppose the bill.

**Debate interrupted.**

*Members*

### INAUGURAL SPEECH

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Blacktown, I extend a very warm welcome to his family, friends and supporters, in particular, his wife, Anne; his son, Stephen junior; his brother, Charles; and his mother, Eva. I also welcome the Ambassador of Hungary to Australia, His Excellency Mr Attila Gruber. I welcome the Consul General of Poland to Australia, Ms Regina Jurkowska. I also welcome the Federal member for Chifley, Ed Husic, and former members of State and Federal parliaments, Gary Punch, Frank Mossfield, John Robertson, Paul Gibson, and Charles Casuscelli, who are guests of the member for Blacktown. I trust you will enjoy the inaugural speech of the member for Blacktown and your time in Parliament this afternoon.

**Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (16:36):** Parliamentary colleagues, distinguished guests and my dear family. I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and I pay my respects to elders past and present for their custodianship of the land on which we meet. I also acknowledge the Dharug people whose ancestors walked the Blacktown electorate. It is an incredible honour and a humbling experience to address this historic Chamber, the oldest Parliament of Australia, and to represent the needs and aspirations of the people of Blacktown. To do so as the son of a refugee says much about the equality and opportunity of Australian society. I recognise in the gallery the Ambassador to Hungary, His Excellency Dr Attila Gruber, and the Polish Consul General, Ms Regina Jurkowska.

My family story has much in common with many of the constituents of Blacktown, and indeed with many members of this Chamber. My parents came to Australia by boat as refugees after the 1956 Hungarian communist revolution. My father, Karoly—known as Charlie—was 20 years old and learnt English on the boat. My mother, Eva, was a teenager accompanying her family who were settling in Melbourne. My father travelled the countryside, working wherever he got a job. They met and married in 1959 and moved to a house in Doonside, which was the home of my Aunt Gizi. When Gizi returned to Hungary my parents took over the mortgage on the fibro house, which is still my mother's home today. My father was a fitter and turner and toolmaker. Dad was a proud member of the Metal Workers' Union. He joined the union in the late 1950s and was an active member until his death. In the mid 1980s Dad had a skirmish with the union leadership and managed to get elected as the national organiser on behalf of the rank-and-file reform group in their attempt to wrestle the union from communist influences.

Regardless of the political leanings of the union leadership, my father was always loyal to the cause as unions are the best form of protection and advancement for workers. Dad often served as a delegate at his local workplaces, as well as representing the union as a delegate to Australian Labor Party State conferences. His general nature was to serve his family, friends, workmates and the community. My father joined the Labor Party in the early 1970s and I recall my earliest election polling day activities in 1974 for the Whitlam Government. We maintained the rage in 1975 despite the result. I still have "Give Gough a Fair Go" stickers on my former bedroom door, at my mums' place of course.

Dad was elected to Blacktown Municipal Council in 1977—the year Labor won a one seat majority from the conservatives. I remember the great debates around the dinner table as my brother and I, as teenagers, obviously had the solutions to all of Blacktown's, and indeed the world's, problems. Dad remained a councillor until his resignation in 1987 and he also served as deputy mayor for 18 months. That decade, under the mayorship of Aquilina, Lynch and Kelly, provided leadership, innovation and change that created the foundation for a modern Blacktown city. Blacktown municipality was declared a city in 1979. It underwent a massive change and provided much-needed investment in infrastructure. I am very proud of my father's legacies, including the creation and establishment of a sports committee, a youth committee, the annual sports awards, the Youth Ambassador program, the City Games and the Nurragingy Reserve. These initiatives continue to flourish and benefit the City of Blacktown today.

My parents' values and beliefs can be distilled into two key themes: Always give to the community by seeking to make our society better and make a difference, and change what needs changing and create lasting benefits. Dad died in 2002, two years before I was elected to council. I hope I am upholding his values and building a great community. In local politics, representing the Blacktown electorate is a daunting task considering the achievements of my predecessors: the Hon. John Aquilina, former Mayor of Blacktown, former education Minister and Speaker of this House; the Hon. Pam Allan, former environment Minister; Mr Paul Gibson, a staunch advocate for the area; and Mr John Robertson, a former leader of the New South Wales Labor Opposition who

implemented party governance reforms and spearheaded new policy initiatives. I acknowledge with some humility the presence of both John Robertson and Paul Gibson in the gallery and thank them for their invaluable support.

The strong support for Labor in the Blacktown region is a result of the hard work, dedication, and vision of local Labor branch members, generations of Labor councillors and local members of both State and Federal parliaments. In particular, my good friends Ed Husic, the Federal member for Chifley, who is here today, and Michelle Rowland, the Federal member for Greenway. Michelle, Ed and I have all been involved in the local area since our teenage years. This explains our passion for the area and our desire to make a difference. I also acknowledge in the gallery Blacktown Deputy Mayor Tony Bleasdale, OAM, and all my Blacktown Labor councillors, as well as General Manager Kerry Robinson with Director Glennys James who started her career when my father was an alderman. The collective support, loyalty and dedication of councillors and staff is driving a series of transformational projects in Blacktown City.

I acknowledge the great works of former Blacktown mayors Alan Pendleton, Charlie Lowles and Leo Kelly, whom I served under as a councillor. We mourned the recent deaths of Charlie and Leo. I appreciate the support and mentorship of Alan Pendleton and look forward to his continued future guidance. I also thank the Blacktown City Liberals for opening my eyes to outsourcing. Generally I am concerned by the outsourcing model, but the local Liberals brought a whole new dimension to it by outsourcing the role of mayor to me for the past two years of the term, despite having had the numbers in the council chamber. As a result Labor reversed all the Liberals insane policies and won the 2016 council elections by 10 seats to five.

I am thankful to my parents for my upbringing and instilling in me their Catholic Christian values of community spirit and commitment to social justice. These values made it easy for me to align with Labor's rich tradition of improving the collective rather than focusing on the individual. In his Light on the Hill speech in 1949 Labor Prime Minister Ben Chifley said that Labor is "a movement bringing something better to the people, better standards of living..." Chifley was also the first Prime Minister to introduce the post-war immigration that so enriched Australia. His heritage, which was built on by the Whitlam and Wran governments, lives on in our multicultural society, which seeks to treat all people equally and with respect. Blacktown City is probably one of the most diverse societies in New South Wales, and possibly Australia or even the world. Within our borders are peoples from 188 cultures, speaking 182 languages, and doing so in relative peace and harmony.

In relation to my goals in Parliament, as with most electorates, the key priorities in Blacktown are health, education, services and infrastructure. The key for any government is to ensure that fairness and equity are balanced appropriately between the eastern Sydney seaboard and the western side of Sydney, as well as accommodating the needs of regional New South Wales. We must not allow Western Sydney to be sliced and diced to fit definitions that suit some special interests but not that of Western Sydney residents. How can anyone seriously exclude Blacktown from the west? What logical reason is there for the Prime Minister and Premier to decide that Blacktown City is not part of the Western Sydney cities deal. I note the presence of Paul Lederer and David Slade from the Western Sydney Wanderers in the gallery. Given that they play out of Parramatta Stadium and their training base is in Blacktown City, perhaps they should rename the team the Central Sydney Wanderers. I don't think so.

In relation to health, the previous Labor Government started the redevelopment of Blacktown hospital and the current second stage is a much-welcomed investment that will make Blacktown hospital the fourth-largest in the State. I hope the Government will provide much-needed financial support to staff and resource the hospital adequately to enable it to provide appropriate medical treatment and address the current emergency waiting times. The incidences of cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness, and diabetes are all higher in Western Sydney than they are on the eastern seaboard. Why is there more availability of high-end acute medical services on the eastern seaboard than there is in Western Sydney? There is an urgent need to improve the level of medical services and implement preventative strategies to address the imbalance.

In relation to education, former Labor Premier Bob Carr placed a heavy emphasis on education and introduced the Premier Reading Challenge in 2001. Today we see New South Wales maths and science standards are below that of Kazakhstan, and literacy levels are below the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD] averages. School buildings also play their part in providing an environment in which to learn. Three schools in my electorate—Doonside Technology High, Blacktown Boys High and Blacktown South Public—have collectively more than \$3 million in outstanding works to be completed. How can we in this Chamber believe that we have fairness and opportunity when many Western Sydney schools fail to make the grade to serve the needs of their student community? Some say education is a great leveller of society. I say education is the great enhancer.

If the people of Western Sydney are to find quality jobs, they need access to well-resourced TAFEs and universities. The debate on the purpose of education seems to be favouring the preparation of the individual for a job rather than preparing an individual for life. The problem with focusing on job-specific traits is that the jobs

that people will be doing in 20 to 30 years' time are yet to be created. We need to develop an adaptive society where knowledge is transferable as the nature of jobs change so that people can participate in the democratic process effectively.

We should take our inspiration from iconic Dharug elder Maria Lock who was educated at the Native Institute and at 14 won first prize in an education competition. Maria used her education in 1831 to negotiate and secure her rightful land entitlement, as she said, to earn "an honest livelihood and provide a comfortable home" for her family. What a visionary, given some 75 years later the Australian Workers' Union Harvester case ruled on the same principle of defining the living wage. The population is approaching a 50:50 mix between Western Sydney and the eastern seaboard, so why are the vast majority of the university places located in the east? As Blacktown City's population rapidly moves towards half a million people, we need a university so that the aspirations of Western Sydney's students can be realised without the need of hours upon hours of commuting—including expensive toll roads.

The residents of my electorate are angered when the current Government boasts it is anticipating a \$12.5 billion surplus over the five years to 2021 and they look around their local community to see an understaffed police force that cannot adequately respond to calls, urgent school maintenance not being done, their children in demountable classrooms that were supposed to be temporary, inadequate facilities to support victims of domestic violence, a lack of services and advocacy for people with disability or the homeless, a lack of rehabilitation facilities, cuts to early child learning and youth services, and once again just a trickle of arts funding in the west when we are led to believe in the model of three cities and a half-hour commute.

The New South Wales Government has set a population target of at least 522,000 people living in Blacktown City by 2036. This is the equivalent of the current population of Tasmania living in one local government area, but without the infrastructure and services the residents of that State currently enjoy. Even at the current population of 350,000, our infrastructure is overstretched. The State roads required to sustain such a large population are running more than 20 to 30 years behind current demand, we lack appropriate services to cater for people with disabilities, rail commuter car parking fails to meet demand and the existing hospital upgrades will be insufficient to meet the needs of the 10,000 residents a year moving into Blacktown City.

Residents using Doonside Railway Station have been crying out for lifts and we know that in 2011 designs were undertaken for the installation of lifts. I plead with the Government. The evidence is clear as to why the lifts are required, so please make the announcement to give Doonie a lift. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for committing to the construction of lifts in our first year in office. Maybe the residents of Doonside would have a better chance with the transport Minister if we renamed the lifts at Doonside Station Lifty McLiftface.

Much has been said about Badgerys Creek airport. The bulldozers are ready to start work, yet Western Sydney remains deeply divided on the merits of the project. Why? We had an environmental impact statement [EIS] assessment without any official flight paths. There is no identified and funded rail plan—just aspirational hopes of what it could be. There is no real fuel delivery plan, no procurement strategy to give local businesses a chance, no jobs or training plan for locals to access the alleged soon to be created high-value jobs and no noise abatement strategy. Once again on the simple issue of fairness and equity across Sydney, why does eastern Sydney get acoustic insulation, curfews and intraday flight restrictions while Western Sydney gets the raw sound and disturbance of an unrestricted 24/7 airport?

After 30 years of talk, one would believe there would be a detailed costed plan with timeframes in place. Unfortunately there is not and the locals are left to trust that the Government will look after them. If we are waiting decades for school maintenance backlogs, station lifts and road upgrades, what chance do we have of getting the aspirational promises espoused by Liberal-Nationals State and Federal governments for Badgerys Creek airport? The strong Labor vote in the Blacktown by-election can be attributed also to the community being fed up with the unfair M4 tolls. Yesterday's tokenistic announcement demonstrates the fundamental stuff-up by this Government. The community is also fed up with the lack of adequate funding for services, including health, education and policing; lack of housing affordability initiatives; cost-of-living pressures as a result of the actions of this Government; and the lack of fairness and equity dividing Western Sydney from the eastern seaboard.

Finally, it is time for thanks. Election campaigns occur because of teams, not individuals. We deliberately treated the by-election campaign as if it were a marginal seat, unlike our political opponents who gave up before the race started.

**Opposition members:** Shame.

**Mr STEPHEN BALI:** It is not too shameful. It is good.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! That proves that Opposition members will interject on everyone.

**Mr STEPHEN BALI:** There was overwhelming support from Labor members and voters, the general public, many community organisations and many former Liberal voters who voted Labor for the first time. To get 82.3 per cent, we are still finding them and we have sent out the search party for the rest. In particular, for the campaign I thank Jason Cranson, Jessica Malnersic, Liz Banks, Satish Kumar, Kathie Collins, Julie Griffiths, Balraj Sangha, Clyde Sinclair, Martha Lynch, the Facchin family, Jack Miller, Jim Kelly and so many others I probably will be apologising until Christmas for not mentioning them. I make special mention of Rebel and Rachael Hanlon, who turned their home into a campaign warehouse to store leaflets, signs and booth kits, and also a meeting place and a feeding place. I believe people are still turning up for a feed—the campaign never ends. I thank the Young Labor team led by Geeth Geeganage that helped in Blacktown and the regional electorates. I appreciate your support and enthusiasm.

My place here would not have come about without the support of the mighty union movement. I thank Mark Morey from Unions NSW; Alex Claassens from the Rail, Tram and Bus Union [RTBU]; Graeme Kelly from the United Services Union [USU]; Gerard Dwyer and Bernie Smith from the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association [SDA]; Brian Parker from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union [CFMEU]; and Tara Moriarty from United Voice's liquor and hospitality division. I thank you all for your support and friendship over the years. I emphasise the value of Russ Collison and Daniel Walton of the AWU. Russ has been a staunch trade unionist, and a leader of the AWU for more than two decades prior to his recent retirement. Thank you, Russ, for giving me a start and for the faith you put in me as I moved through the ranks to become branch assistant secretary and New South Wales president. Daniel, you are the new generation union leader to take our union to the next level. Thank you for your continuing support on my new adventure in life in the New South Wales Parliament. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the union movement in delivering great outcomes for the people of New South Wales.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to the Australian Labor Party [ALP] State Office, including ALP NSW secretary Kaila Murnain, assistant secretary Pat Garcia, ALP president Mark Lennon and the whole team for all your help and support. Kaila, working with you as we both moved up the ranks in our respective organisations has been a privilege. I anticipate our friendship and banter will continue into the future. I also thank many of my parliamentary colleagues who came out and helped. I will probably miss naming a few, but these people were constantly in my face. Maybe they just wanted to be seen—there goes my short career in Parliament! I thank Prue Car, Hugh McDermott, Nick Lalich, Sophie Cotsis, Jihad Dib, Julia Finn, Jodi McKay, Greg Warren, Courtney Houssos, Peter Primrose, Guy Zangari, Liesl Tesch, Tania Mihailuk and Steve Kamper, as well as all Labor members of Parliament and members of the Legislative Council who not only supported me in Blacktown but actively engaged in the regional by-elections. To my former councillor colleague and now partner on the backbench, Edmond Atalla, thank you for all your help—particularly during those early mornings at railway stations.

It was great to see former Federal members of Parliament and great friends Frank Mossfield and Gary Punch coming out to help. I thank you and appreciate it immensely. To my parliamentary Labor leader, Luke Foley: You are an inspirational leader who engaged with the local community on several occasions. Your call to make Doonside railway station lifts an election issue cemented the local community behind Labor, but I believe we were upstaged by your son on the announcement day. I thank you and your staff, particularly Chris Willis and Mick Popple, for helping out on the campaign and being a great sounding board for ideas.

Finally, with deep humility, thanks to my family. I cannot believe the courage and inner strength of my mother, Eva. She has had a shocking health year. A week out from the by-election we were told there was no chance of recovery from the dreaded cancer and she should consider palliative care. Yet, with her weight down to 36 kilograms, she insisted on handing out leaflets and stayed to the end of the election victory party. The family is deeply appreciative to St Vincent's Hospital specialist Dr Richard Gallagher—who I believe is here today—who admitted mum to hospital the day after the by-election and, through his intervention, has given mum a fighting chance to defeat cancer. Mum is here on day release and will be heading back to St Vincent's Hospital shortly. Mum, you are an inspiration to us all.

To my brother, Charles, who has always been the ideas man and gifted musician—we do not look alike—my Melbourne cousin Alex and my uncle Alex, thank you for all your support. As you may have noticed, imagination for names in my family is fairly limited: The firstborn is always named after the father. To my loving and ever-patient bride, Anne, and my son, Stephen Jr, thank you for all your help and support, and for allowing me to spend so much time in the community. I know you see the great outcomes we are achieving for the community but I also know the sacrifices you are making. I love you both most deeply, and I lovingly thank you for your profound understanding of community life.

In conclusion, it is humbling to see so many people in the gallery from so many different walks of life. In my time as councillor and mayor I have had the privilege of meeting people from a variety of backgrounds who

have had impacts not only on me but also on the local community. It is impossible to name each and every one of you in the gallery, given there are more than 120 of you, but please rest assured that you are considered important friends. Thank you for giving up your time to be here.

I see our role as Labor members in this House to strive to address the issues of the day and to provide opportunities for tomorrow. We are here to help those in need and to provide real solutions. We must serve the people to make a positive difference in their lives. Thank you for your trust and faith in me to make a difference for the people of Blacktown. My task is now to continue to work hard to live up to your expectations.

*Members and guests stood in their places and applauded.*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** On behalf of all members of this House, I congratulate the member for Blacktown and wish him every success in his role.

### *Bills*

## **TERRORISM (HIGH RISK OFFENDERS) BILL 2017**

### **Second Reading Debate**

**Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

**Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services) (17:05):** I support the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Bill 2017. This bill is further evidence of this Government's commitment to our most important responsibility—that is, keeping the people of New South Wales safe. This bill is also an unfortunate reminder of the times in which we live. Recently, we have witnessed a number of horrific attacks around the globe including, but not limited to, the October 2017 attack in New York in which eight people lost their lives; the August 2017 attacks in Barcelona in which 16 people lost their lives; the June 2017 London Bridge attack in which eight people lost their lives, including two Australians; the May 2017 bombing in Manchester in which 22 people lost their lives; the December 2016 attack in Berlin in which 12 people were murdered; the July 2016 attack in Nice in which 86 people lost their lives; the March 2016 Brussels bombings in which 32 people lost their lives; and the November 2015 attacks in Paris in which—in one of the most devastating events in the world's history—130 people were murdered in an act of terrorism.

Locally, we—and I in particular—will never forget the Lindt café siege of December 2014 when Tori Johnson and Katrina Dawson lost their lives. I will also never forget the 2015 murder of police accountant Curtis Cheng, who was shot at the NSW Police Headquarters in Parramatta, which was subsequently renamed the Curtis Cheng Centre in his honour. These events are changing our world. They are a constant and sad reminder that New South Wales is not immune to acts of terrorism and that we cannot be complacent in our efforts to prevent such acts from occurring. This Government will always ensure that our authorities have the appropriate tools to keep the community safe, and this bill is but one example of our efforts. We have reformed our bail laws, we have reformed our parole laws and now we are strengthening our post-sentence detention laws. This bill creates a post-sentence supervision and detention framework for offenders posing an unacceptable risk of committing a serious terrorism offence at the end of their sentence of imprisonment.

On 1 December 2016 the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Criminal Code Amendment (High Risk Terrorist Offenders) Act 2016, which enables the post-sentence detention of Commonwealth terrorist offenders who pose an unacceptable risk of committing a future terrorism offence. However, there may be New South Wales offenders who pose a significant risk of committing terrorism offences after the expiry of their sentence but who could not be detained under the Commonwealth Act or the existing New South Wales high-risk sex and violent offenders post-sentence supervision and detention scheme. Therefore, this bill reforms the New South Wales post-sentence framework to fill these gaps. It also supports the operation of the Commonwealth post-sentence detention scheme and makes it easier for New South Wales public sector agencies to share information with the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation [ASIO].

The bill will enable the Supreme Court to impose extended supervision orders [ESOs] or continuing detention orders [CDOs] for a maximum period of three years in four categories of offender: offenders who have previously served a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales terrorism offence, under section 310J of the Crimes Act 1900, and are serving a sentence of imprisonment for another indictable offence; offenders currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales terrorism offence; offenders currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable non-terrorism offence, where the offence for which they are serving a sentence has an underlying connection to terrorism; and offenders currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable non-terrorism offence with no underlying terrorism elements, where the offender is radicalised in custody.

Importantly, the bill provides for the protection of terrorism intelligence used in applications for ESOs and CDOs by allowing the Supreme Court to make any necessary orders and by the inclusion of offences for disclosing protected information. These reforms will involve a large degree of cooperation between justice agencies in identifying those that should be the subject of an application, preparing applications, and providing for custody or supervision arrangements in accordance with orders made by the Supreme Court. I am confident that the skills and professionalism of our justice agencies will ensure that everything that can be done, will be done to keep New South Wales safe. I am pleased to note that the bill also implements recommendation No. 12 from the "Martin Place Siege—Joint Commonwealth-New South Wales review" and recommendation No. 42 from the New South Wales Coroner's inquest into the deaths arising from the Lindt cafe siege. These recommendations related to possible legislative impediments to sharing information between levels of government for law enforcement and national security purposes. This was not something that was a particular issue in the Lindt cafe siege. However, it was highlighted as an issue that required further examination.

In response to these recommendations, the bill amends the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 to allow New South Wales public sector agencies to disclose personal information they hold to ASIO, where ASIO requests that information and certifies that it is reasonably necessary for ASIO to fulfil its statutory functions. I thank and congratulate the Premier for her leadership on this issue. I congratulate the Attorney General for his hard work in ensuring that the NSW Police Force and other justice agencies have all the tools they need to combat the ever-present and constantly evolving threat of terrorism. I commend and thank the Minister for Counter Terrorism, and Minister for Corrections, for his dedication and diligence in this important reform, and for the vital role that he and Corrective Services NSW play in the protection of our community. I thank the NSW Police Force and the Office of Police for their contribution in providing ongoing strengthening of our justice framework laws to keep New South Wales safe. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (17:12):** I contribute to debate on the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Bill 2017. I also endorse the contribution of the member for Liverpool. The tragedy of terrorism has had a dramatic impact upon liberal democracies not only in our community but also in other parts of the world. That impact has caused a number of extraordinary legislative provisions to be introduced in parliaments to keep people safe. Indeed, that is the prime responsibility of governments and parliaments. Labor's decision not to oppose this legislation is predicated on the basis that the government of the day is acting on the advice of intelligence agencies and law enforcement officers, as the Minister for Police said, to plug the gaps. We need to take the government of the day at face value because a lot of the material is sensitive and we accept the accuracy and reliability of those assertions. I was disappointed when the Attorney General, a member for whom I have the highest regard, said in his second reading speech:

There is no doubt that laws to keep offenders behind bars or under supervision after they have completed their sentences are tough laws.

They certainly are tough laws and those of us with views on post-sentence detention have clearly lost that debate. The Attorney General continued:

The New South Wales Government makes no apologies for this. The bill adds to the already strong arsenal of laws aimed at disrupting terrorism and keeping the community safe.

Whilst I expect those comments to come from a variety of members of Parliament, it is not normal for the Attorney General to use language that is not measured—as it was this afternoon in respect of some legitimate questions asked by the Opposition. The Attorney General is the Government's chief law officer and legal adviser. So it is important that the chief law officer always remains measured in his or her observations to this House.

Australia's national terrorism threat remains probable, which indicates there is credible intelligence, assessed by security agencies, that individuals or groups continue to possess the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia. The Commonwealth Government has introduced post-sentence detention schemes for offences against Commonwealth terrorism laws. The bill is designed to complement the Criminal Code Amendment (High Risk Terrorist Offenders) Act 2016, a Commonwealth Act, and follows an established precedent in New South Wales for post-sentence detention or supervision. It is not some super Act by New South Wales in order to beat its chest about being tough on law and order; it is part of a scheme that arose from a Council of Australian Governments [COAG] meeting in April 2016 of all States and Territories Attorneys General with the Commonwealth Attorney General. It is a national approach and, despite criticism of the Prime Minister's assertion, I have confidence in the assessment of those security agencies. They have obviously taken on board a variety of recommendations from coronial inquests and other tragedies that have befallen us in New South Wales.

I observe, to ensure people are measured, that no-one in a liberal democracy, if given a choice, supports post-sentence detention because it offends every conceivable principle of the doctrine of separation of powers and infringes against the principles contained within the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but

parliaments have to make decisions on balance. I am interested in the observation of the Minister for Police, and probably by the Attorney General, that there is a gap in the system for radicalised prisoners who have committed offences and are regarded as eligible offenders. The Commissioner of Corrective Services, when asked publicly, could not identify whether he had any prisoners who were so radicalised. However, I spent some time, courtesy of the Minister for Corrections, going through the Long Bay complex with staff members of Corrective Services NSW, and for somebody who has spent a lifetime in the criminal justice system, I was extremely impressed with their knowledge of prisoners, how they deal with them and how they can forecast prisoners' behaviour. So I do not take any issue in that regard, and no doubt if any application is made to the Supreme Court reliance will be placed upon those corrections officers.

However, I note that there is plenty of published research that indicates that predicting future criminal conduct is not necessarily within the expertise of experts who it is anticipated the court would rely on in making orders. Should this bill become law, it is essential that it operates and acts on those that it is intended to act upon. It cannot be wrong, because if it is wrong, when we are forced to pass a law that so fundamentally offends against principle, the whole process will fall into disrepute, and no person should be subject to those sorts of errors.

I know we often say in this House that having the Supreme Court making determinations is the ultimate protection, but cases such as these—just like the continuing and preventative detention orders in cases in which I have appeared—do not proceed in the way that often the judicial arm of government operates; they do not proceed with the same standards that apply in a criminal trial where proof is required beyond doubt. So there should never be an assumption that simply because eminent jurists from the Supreme Court make these determinations they are either free from error or that mistakes will not be made. It is my concern that if this bill is to be applied—and I do not take any issue with the bill—it cannot result in a wrong decision, because such a miscarriage of justice becomes a miscarriage in its extreme.

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (17:22):** I make a brief contribution to this debate and speak in support of the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Bill 2017. This bill performs two important functions: It creates a post-sentence supervision and detention framework for offenders posing an unacceptable risk of committing a serious terrorism offence at the end of their sentence of imprisonment, and it enables offenders coming under the Commonwealth post-sentence detention scheme to be housed and managed in New South Wales correctional centres. I note the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Minister for Corrections is present in the Chamber. I also acknowledge the contributions of the Minister for Police and Minister for Emergency Services, and the second reading speech of the Attorney General.

I will speak about the post-sentence supervision and detention framework that this bill establishes. This scheme is applicable to offenders posing an unacceptable risk of committing a serious terrorism offence at the end of their sentence of imprisonment. I note at the outset that the post-sentence supervision and detention scheme proposed in this bill is not designed to capture all offenders in the New South Wales criminal justice system in some sort of attempt to arbitrarily extend their sentences. Instead, the scheme is designed to enhance community safety by ensuring offenders who pose an unacceptable risk of committing a future terrorism offence at the completion of their sentence are kept behind bars or under the supervision of the relevant authorities. The post-sentence supervision and detention scheme contained in the bill will apply only to an eligible offender. An eligible offender is an offender who is 18 years or older and who is serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable offence. This also includes a person who is continuing to be supervised or detained after serving a term of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable offence.

In addition to the eligible offender criteria that I have just mentioned, the Supreme Court will only be able to make an extended supervision order [ESO] or a continuing detention order [CDO] if it is satisfied that an eligible offender is a convicted New South Wales terrorism offender, a convicted New South Wales underlying terrorism offender or a convicted New South Wales terrorism activity offender. These additional criteria capture eligible offenders who have previously served a sentence of imprisonment for the New South Wales terrorism offence under section 310J of the Crimes Act 1900, which is "membership of a terrorism organisation", and who, additionally, pose a risk of committing a future terrorism offence after their sentence of imprisonment for another indictable offence; are currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for the New South Wales terrorism offence and pose a risk of committing a future terrorism offence after their sentence of imprisonment; are currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable offence, other than the New South Wales terrorism offence, where the offence for which they are serving a sentence has an underlying connection to terrorism and who pose a risk of committing a future terrorism offence after their sentenced period of imprisonment; or are currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable offence, other than the New South Wales terrorism offence, with no underlying terrorism elements where the offender is radicalised and poses a risk of committing a future terrorism offence after their imprisonment.

Overall, the reform measures in this bill have several important benefits for the people of New South Wales. Community safety will be improved through extended supervision and continuing detention orders through the Supreme Court. People in my electorate on the Central Coast are very concerned about safety and I have received communications from many of them saying how supportive they are of these measures being taken. The bill supports the operation of the Commonwealth post-sentence detention scheme, allowing people detained under the Federal legislation to be housed and managed in New South Wales' correctional system. The bill also implements the coronial recommendations that arose from the Lindt cafe siege, which the Minister for Police and Minister for Emergency Services referred to earlier. This will ensure that New South Wales public sector agencies can better communicate and liaise with ASIO to ensure safety in our community, which is so precious to many members of the community, especially those on the Central Coast.

I conclude by acknowledging the fantastic work of the staff who have worked on this bill: Clare Wesley, Bran Black, and the Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Tom Loomes, from the Attorney General's office; Mitch Clout and Katherine Danks from the office of the Minister for Corrections, and I also commend the Minister for his work; Ed Clapin and Greg Dezman from the office of the Minister for Police; Julian Whealing from the Treasurer's office; and I thank Andreas Heger, Daniel Noll, and Anna Read from the Department of Justice. This is an important reform that builds on the already impressive work undertaken by the New South Wales State Liberal Government to help ensure the community is as best protected against terrorism acts as it can be. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr ALEX GREENWICH (Sydney) (17:28):** The Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Bill 2017 will allow the Supreme Court, on application of the Government, to order the continued detention or supervision of an eligible offender beyond the completion of their sentence for up to three years, on the grounds that they pose an unacceptable risk of committing a terrorism offence. Many people in the community feel unsafe from the threat of a terrorist attack. A very small number of people in Australia have been found to support and relate to the ideology of overseas terrorist organisations and there is the chance that someone will try to harm people in the name of foreign causes. While it is important for governments to respond to reduce threats, it is a difficult task to achieve with no way of providing any guarantee of safety because we cannot watch everyone all the time and we do not have a crystal ball that can see into the future.

Governments and parliaments should be cautious in the measures they use to deal with terrorism and not resort to popular measures just to appear to be tough on terror. Unfortunately the bill's approach relies on the premise that eroding people's civil liberties and rights to freedom from arbitrary detention will make people safe. Under the bill the Supreme Court will be required to judge the risk that a person will potentially commit a crime that has not taken place. This is not the role of the court in criminal proceedings, which is to find the truth, through inquisition and assessment of evidence. The test that the court will use is weak and does not even require there to be a conclusion that a terror act is more likely than not to occur. The courts cannot predict what a person will do and they will be using accounts about eligible offenders from prison guards and other inmates. People may say outlandish things that they will never act upon particularly, I imagine, in the tough environment of a prison, which is problematic, unreliable and unfair.

If an accused person has a high profile and the media follows the process, there could be immense pressure on the Government to make an application to the courts and this could impact findings in favour of detention. Existing terrorism laws can already deal with someone who clearly expresses that they intend to commit a future terrorism crime, which means that these new laws will fall back on risks associated with a person's belief and associations. This bill takes us into dangerous territory where saying or believing something can put you behind bars. The bill represents another erosion of the justice system that further removes the basic human right to freedom. Of greatest concern is the power to order detention of an eligible offender who has finished their sentence. Orders should be limited to supervision only. We cannot manage all risks and I do not believe removing civil rights is the way to reduce home-grown terrorism. Indeed, countries that breed terrorism provide citizens with few individual freedoms and rights.

The Government has already introduced strong control order regimes and intelligence services already have surveillance powers to monitor people who have been identified as posing a risk. The bill does risk seeing innocent people locked up, without improving public safety. I cannot support it.

**Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (17:3):** I speak on behalf of The Greens to express our deep concern about this bill. It is yet another in a long line of draconian actions from this Government that do far more to damage our civil liberties than to protect public safety. The object of this legislation is to allow for continuing detention powers aimed at suspected terrorists. This law penalises future crime, rather than any actual offences committed by a person. The Greens have a strong and principled stance that believes that keeping people in jail for a crime they have not committed is an extremely dangerous erosion of our civil liberties. Continuing to impose punishment after any period of incarceration has been served is simply wrong. It is clear that people in the

community fear acts of terrorism. The act of terrorism is designed to create fear and the response from governments to be able to address the fear that people feel is not to let that terror be propagated by introducing measures that create more fear within our community, by talking up the risks and the terrors that we face and by winding back human rights and civil liberties and the principles of justice and freedom that we should be valuing. The terrorists win when we pass laws like this that wind back our human rights and civil liberties.

This is not the way to address terrorism and it is not the way that we respect fundamental human rights. But it is not just The Greens that believe this. The NSW Bar Association has consistently opposed the statutory high-risk offenders regime and has said that the amendments proposed will extend the cohort of offenders caught by the Act, remove safeguards and are contrary to established sentencing principles. The New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties strongly opposes the post-sentence continuing imprisonment of persons.

**Mr David Elliott:** What a surprise, what a surprise.

**Ms JENNY LEONG:** I note the Minister's interjection saying, in a sarcastic way, "What a surprise" that the Council for Civil Liberties opposes the bill. How wonderful that there is such respect from this Liberal Government for organisations and groups in society that stand up for civil liberty and human rights. It is offensive to see that the organisations and groups that have been attempting to prevent the wind-back of civil liberties are spoken about in such a way by the Minister. No wonder they are concerned. No new crime will have been committed and no trial will be held. This raises serious issues for the Council for Civil Liberties in relation to the fundamental right to freedom from arbitrary detention, and the long-established common law understanding relating to the right to a fair trial and the role of the judiciary in our justice system.

It is indeed a dangerous trend. A central problem with the continuing detention regime is the inherent unreliability of any known risk assessment tool or process to determine whether a person is likely to commit a future terrorist crime, unless they clearly indicate that this is their intention. If so, they can be charged and tried under existing terrorism laws. A combined submission from a number of the councils for civil liberties across Australia addresses the fact that this bill is unjustified and a serious encroachment on the fundamental rights of liberty of the person and of the rule of law.

The Greens have specific concerns about this bill. We are concerned about how the bill will apply to convicted terrorism activity offenders and convicted underlying terrorism offenders. The definition of this is extraordinarily broad. Clause 10 (2) makes it clear that the offender does not even have to have been convicted of a terrorism offence for the conduct concerned. Clause 11 sets out the test for determining whether an individual is a convicted underlying terrorist offender or a convicted terrorism activity offender. Once again, this test is extraordinarily broad. Clause 11 paragraph (h) prescribes that any intelligence regarding the offender's associates or affiliations can be considered and paragraph (j) prescribes that any other information the court considers relevant will be considered. As it is written, this law would apply to somebody whose workmate, friend, cousin, child or sibling was in a terrorist organisation. They may be in jail for unrelated offences but any association or any affiliation with any persons or groups advocating for support of terrorist acts is enough for somebody to be caught up in these changes. That is a seriously disturbing change to our laws in New South Wales.

Clause 21 sets out that the Supreme Court is not required to be satisfied that there is a more than likely risk that the offender will commit a terrorism offence and suspicion alone appears to be enough for an extended supervision order to be applied. Extended supervision orders can be imposed for up to three years but nothing prohibits the Supreme Court from extending orders indefinitely. Clause 29 sets out the conditions that can be imposed on individuals the subject of an extended or interim supervision order. Individuals may be electronically tagged and monitored. Enforcement officers are permitted to visit the offender's home at any time and to seize their electronic devices and data and other personal items owned by the individual for a forensic examination.

Part 3 of the bill sets out the process for making continuing detention orders. Continuing detention orders allow individuals to be in prison for up to three years after their sentence has expired. Nothing prohibits the Supreme Court from extending orders indefinitely. Clause 35 again sets out that the Supreme Court is not required to be satisfied that there is a more than likely risk that the offender will commit a terrorism offence. Suspicion alone appears to be enough for a continuing detention order to be applied. Clause 39 sets out the process the Supreme Court must follow when determining the application for a continuing detention order. Clause 39 (c) states that "The safety of the community must be the paramount consideration of the Supreme Court". Once again, civil liberties are eroded under the guise of community safety which trumps all.

My colleague in the other place Mr David Shoebridge has expressed his concerns about the bill. He has said that these are thought crimes where the evidence will be given by prison officers with minimal regard to essential legal principles such as the presumption of innocence and credible independent evidence. Mr Shoebridge said:

We are letting terrorists win if just the fear of them makes us give up what makes us a free and fair democratic society.

The Greens cannot support this bill. I appreciate the frustration of the Minister and the Coalition Government when The Greens come into this place and time and again oppose attempts by the Government to appear tough on law and order and terrorism. The Greens will not cave in to the fear that those opposite are trying to whip up. There are genuine solutions to address the terror and fear inflicted by radical terrorist acts in our community rather than introducing legislation such as this, which is creating a parallel criminal justice system based on rumour, innuendo, suspicion and prejudice.

The Greens do not support jailing people for offences they might commit in the future. There is a raft of criminal offences to capture anybody who plans, conspires or takes any steps to further a terrorist offence. These laws will not make us safer but they will undermine efforts at rehabilitation and the fundamental principles of common law and will further erode the protection of human rights and civil liberties in this State. It is a shame. Unfortunately this Liberal-Nationals Government is consistently behaving in this manner.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT (Baulkham Hills—Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs) (17:41):** I speak in support of the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Bill 2017 and to hopefully dispel some of the outrageous concerns raised by the previous speaker, the member for Newtown.

**The ASSISTANT SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Newtown was heard in relative silence. If the member for Newtown persists with her interjections I will direct her to leave the Chamber.

**Mr DAVID ELLIOTT:** This bill will ensure that New South Wales has the strongest counterterrorism laws in Australia—for which I do not apologise—and the world. Unfortunately, Australia's national terrorism threat level remains at probable. As recently as July, authorities detected a complex terrorist plot involving an aircraft, which is a stark reminder of the threat that exists. Thankfully, not all planned acts of terrorism are successful. Thanks to the tireless efforts of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, many terrorism plots at various stages of planning are detected and prevented before innocent lives are lost. There is no room for complacency.

The bill will establish a supervision and detention scheme for eligible offenders who continue to pose an unacceptable risk of committing a future terrorism offence following the conclusion of their prison sentence. On application from the State, the Supreme Court will be able to make an extended supervision order [ESO] or a continuing detention order [CDO]. The maximum term of an ESO and a CDO is three years, although both orders can be reissued by the Supreme Court at the end of the three-year period if an offender still poses an unacceptable risk. An eligible offender is an individual who is 18 years old or older and serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable offence. This also includes a person who is continuing to be supervised or detained on a post-sentence order after serving a term of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable offence.

Before making an ESO or a CDO, the court must be satisfied that an eligible offender is one of the following: a convicted New South Wales terrorism offender, which captures someone currently serving or who has served a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales terrorism offence; someone with membership of a terrorism organisation under section 310J of the Crimes Act 1900, which is the offence of membership of a terrorist organisation; or a convicted underlying terrorism offender, which captures someone serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable offence that is connected to terrorism; or a convicted terrorism activity offender, which captures someone who is serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales indictable offence with no underlying link to terrorism but who has become radicalised.

This continued detention scheme is tough, but the Coalition makes no apology for introducing laws that will keep the community safe. New South Wales has some of the toughest laws in Australia and they are strengthened by these new measures to protect the community from known threats. This is about being responsive to the evolving threat of terrorism. If an offender poses an unacceptable risk to the community then it is critical that we address that risk proactively and without delay. There are recent examples available. The scheme builds on a range of reforms already introduced by the Government, including new laws for investigative detention, a presumption against bail and parole for anyone with links to terror, and providing certainty for police officers required to use lethal force against terrorists.

This bill further introduces an important exemption for the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation [ASIO] to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act. This acts on a recommendation made by the Coroner following the tragic Lindt café siege. This amendment will permit New South Wales public sector agencies to share personal information requested by ASIO that is reasonably necessary for ASIO to carry out its

statutory functions. Exemption to privacy legislation is not something a government ever takes lightly, but with the appropriate safeguards this provision will improve the ability of intelligence agencies to keep us safe.

The bill also makes important reforms regarding contraband offences within the New South Wales correctional system. It is entirely unacceptable that inmates and visitors risk the safety and good order of the correctional system by introducing contraband such as mobile phones, drugs or weapons. This reform will build on the good work of Corrective Services NSW, which was most evident in the recent 11-week crackdown during Operation Purge. At each of the State's 36 correctional centres more than 1,300 custodial officers and 90 Security Operations Group officers executed intelligence-based raids over and above each facility's regular contraband searches. The unprecedented operation produced great results, with searches of 8,377 inmates, 5,079 cells, and 576 common areas. I put on record the Government's appreciation of the staff across the correctional system for their hard work during this operation.

There is currently a gap in the Local Court's capacity to effectively punish longer term inmates for possession of prison contraband offences. Currently, the Local Court cannot impose any additional prison time on a contraband offender who is already serving a term of more than five years for other crimes. Instead, the time of imprisonment for the contraband offence must be served concurrently with the head sentence. The effect of this provision is that where an offender is serving a sentence in excess of five years, there is effectively no deterrent in relation to the prison contraband offence.

Existing sanctions such as loss of privileges, restricted visits, deprivation of liberty and permanent changes of classification are used by Corrective Services NSW in appropriate circumstances. However, there are a small proportion of offences that are serious enough to proceed to prosecution. Where this occurs, it is important for the Local Court to have effective sentencing options available. Readily available contraband in a correctional centre increases the potential for violence, bullying, standover tactics and conflict over debts. Further, the availability of contraband contributes to a weakening of good governance and undermines the aims of making a prison environment safe and secure. The bill will amend the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 to enable the Local Court to impose a new prison sentence on an inmate for a prescribed contraband offence even if the new sentence would end more than five years after the existing sentence began.

Prosecution for contraband offences in this context is appropriate, particularly given matters only proceed to prosecution where the existing sanctions do not reflect the seriousness of an offence. The prescribed contraband offences are: introducing or supplying drugs, alcohol and other prohibited substances into place of detention; introducing or supplying syringes into places of detention; possessing offensive weapons in places of detention; and using or possessing mobile phones, SIM cards or chargers in places of detention. These offences are contained in the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999. The amendments relating to prison contraband offences will support the everyday good work of corrections officers to ensure the safety and security of the State's prisons.

I also echo the Attorney General and thank all of those from the Department of Justice, Corrective Services NSW, the NSW Police Force and the Department of Premier and Cabinet who worked hard to put together this reform. This comprehensive bill is yet another example of the Government's strong record of legislative reform to improve community safety. The people of New South Wales can rest assured that this Liberal-Nationals Government will leave no stone unturned to keep the community free from terrorism. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (17:49):** I contribute to debate on the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Bill 2017. Notwithstanding the elucidating contribution from the Minister for Counter Terrorism and Minister for Corrections, I take an alternate view on this important bill. We live in an ever-changing world and we must constantly review how we adapt to it. We have a responsibility to our electors and to the people of this State to respond to those changes and to ensure, as best as possible, that our communities are safe. In exercising that responsibility we must be extremely careful that we do not overplay our hand and dramatically infringe on the fundamental civil rights and freedoms of the people of New South Wales. We must, as much as possible, guard against lightly undermining those tenets of law and justice that, while on occasion are found wanting, have overwhelmingly served our society well.

Those tenets relate to the separation of powers that have already been eroded through the introduction of mandatory minimum sentencing and the effective removal of a judicial system having the power to determine merit or mitigation in some circumstances. This bill goes to another level and seeks the State to have the power to speculate as to what a person might do in the future and pre-emptively incarcerate or re-incarcerate a person based on fear, not fact. I do not believe that detaining and imprisoning people for crimes they have not committed will keep the people of this State any safer than they are already. Indeed, this bill could create the opposite situation, and I trust that is never the case. I accept the Government has produced this bill with the best intentions.

I acknowledge the bill establishes rigorous processes for authorities to deal with offenders. In particular, I accept that the Supreme Court must rule that a person is deemed to be an underlying terrorist offender and the evidence must be supported by reports from psychologists, medical practitioners and other relevant experts. The fundamental issue is that we will be identifying and incarcerating people for things that have not happened—thought crimes, for instance. It is an almost Orwellian measure that will rely on the evidence of prison officers and others that a person may have been radicalised while serving time in jail. That fact alone is an indictment that our system should be attuned to the risk of radicalisation of inmates and should focus on rehabilitation. I recognise that the Minister seated at the table is sensitive to the need for rehabilitation in prisons. I have asked questions and discussed these matters with the Minister in the past. We should not surrender that view. These offenders do not need to have been convicted of a terror-related offence. They may have served a prison term for a firearms offence or for violent behaviour.

**Mr David Elliott:** Murder.

**Mr GREG PIPER:** And murder. Detaining or incarcerating offenders for a further three years on the basis of a suspicion that they might be involved in a terrorist-related atrocity not only erodes their presumption of innocence but also lacks basic legal principles, unless we change those principles. I have listened to the Premier, the Attorney General and others. They have said that in drafting this bill they have made tough decisions. I understand that this Government wants to take appropriate steps to protect the community from the threat of terrorism. Perversely, eroding the freedoms that potential terrorists or actual terrorists seek to take away from us is exactly what terrorists want us to do.

This State already has the toughest anti-terror legislation in the country and, according to the Minister, in the world. Regardless of my views, those laws already allow police to detain a person for 14 days on the suspicion that they may commit a crime. The police already have the power to lock someone up merely on a suspicion that they might be involved in terror-related activity or for what they have said. The bill extends the incarceration period from 14 days to anything up to three years for a crime that has not been committed and may never occur.

To their credit, our intelligence agencies have been able to thwart a number of terror-related activities. I am sure the Minister agrees that the community is not privy to many terror-related activities, for which I am thankful. I am unconvinced that this bill will allow the police to do their job better. I do not believe they will make our communities safer, but it will chip off another piece of our freedoms and basic rights. Existing laws give our authorities the right to detain an individual as young as 16 years of age without any evidence. Our laws and judicial system serves to protect the community. We cannot start creating a parallel justice system that is based on rumour, suspicion or prejudice. Surrendering more of our freedoms will not make us safer. It will not free us from the horrors that terrorists seek to inflict. If having a fear of a terrorist act alone is enough for us to give up our freedoms and liberties voluntarily then those who seek to inflict terror upon us have surely won.

I appreciate we sometimes tread a fine line between maintaining civil liberties and providing laws to protect the broader community, but this bill oversteps that line. Seen in conjunction with other pieces of legislation introduced under the guise of the war on terror—much of which I do support—we are unnecessarily and involuntarily one step closer to being seen by many as a police State. The bill will be passed in this Chamber. It is clear it is supported by the Opposition, although when listening to their contributions I was not sure that was the case. We have to ask ourselves: If there is another incident and there is a failure in the application of this law, then what next? It is a slippery slope. While I will not call for a division, I do not support the bill.

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (17:56):** I speak in support of the Terrorism (High Risk Offenders) Bill 2017. The main purpose of the bill is to create a post-sentence supervision and detention framework for offenders who pose an unacceptable risk of committing a serious terrorism offence at the end of their sentence of imprisonment. The increasingly complex global and national landscape, coupled with the rising and ever present threat of terror attacks on Western countries, illustrates that terrorism is continuing to evolve rapidly. This Government has a responsibility to keep the community safe.

Unfortunately, recent global and local events demonstrate that we must remain focused on tackling the rise of radicalisation and extremism and ensure that we always stay one step ahead of those who seek to harm our community. For that reason, I am particularly disappointed in the remarks made in this Chamber by The Greens member for Newtown. The member for Newtown effectively said that civil liberties eroded under the guise of community trumping all are not satisfactory. I say to the member for Newtown that if our community is not safe and our lives are not protected, we cannot worry about those civil liberties being eroded because they will not exist. I and other members on this side of the House will not apologise for doing what is necessary to make and keep our community safe.

By way of background, on 1 December 2016, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Criminal Code Amendment (High Risk Terrorist Offenders) Act 2016, which enables the post-sentence detention of Commonwealth terrorist offenders who pose an unacceptable risk of committing a future terrorism-related crime. Similarly, there may be New South Wales offenders who also pose a significant risk of committing a terrorist offence following the expiry of their sentence but who cannot be detained under the Commonwealth Act or the existing New South Wales high-risk sex and violent offenders post-sentence supervision and detention schemes.

Prisons can become breeding grounds for radicalisation and terrorism. In many cases, extremists' ideologies can flourish in prisons through recruiting vulnerable inmates to follow their path. Once radicalised, it is exactly those individuals who may be close to release and who would subsequently pose the greatest risk to the safety and welfare of our community. On 4 October 2017 the Premier advanced moves to avoid this and subsequently announced reforms to the New South Wales post-sentence framework in order to fill these gaps in the current legislation.

Based on the current risk of radicalisation occurring inside prisons, I am pleased that this bill creates a post-sentence supervision and detention scheme covering four categories of New South Wales offenders serving a sentence of imprisonment who pose an unacceptable risk of committing a terrorism offence in the future, following the completion of their sentence. The four categories include: offenders who have previously served a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales terrorism offence and are serving a sentence of imprisonment for another indictable offence; offenders who are currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for the New South Wales terrorism offence; offenders currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales non-terrorism related indictable offence, where the offence for which they are serving a sentence has an underlying connection to terrorism; and offenders currently serving a sentence of imprisonment for a New South Wales, non-terrorism, indictable offence with no underlying terrorism elements but where the offender is radicalised in custody.

This new high-risk terrorist offender scheme will allow the Supreme Court to impose extended supervision orders or continuing detention orders on New South Wales offenders who pose an unacceptable risk of committing a future terrorism offence at the completion of their sentence. Furthermore, extended supervision orders and continuing detention orders will be able to be imposed for a maximum of three years and can be renewed following the expiry date, if necessary. The bill also provides for the protection of terrorism intelligence used in applications for extended supervision orders and continuing detention orders by allowing the Supreme Court to make any necessary orders and by the creation of offences for disclosing protected information.

Importantly, earlier this year the Government accepted and supported all of the recommendations made by the New South Wales Coroner, following his inquest into the deaths arising from the 2014 Martin Place siege. The Government moved quickly to pass laws to provide clarity to police officers about the circumstances in which they may use force, including lethal force and in responding to a terrorist incident. This bill complements the decision made by the Government by implementing certain coronial recommendations from the resultant inquest following the Lindt cafe siege. Most notably, the bill implements a recommendation of the Coroner by creating an exemption to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 to enable New South Wales public sector agencies to disclose personal information to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

Regrettably, two innocent people, Katrina Dawson and Tori Johnson, lost their lives during that siege. It is now well documented that the man in question was the subject of many law enforcement and security investigations and assessments over the period of his residence in Australia. Monis had been granted bail on serious indictable offences, including being an accessory to murder, at the time of the siege. In response, the Government strengthened bail laws to minimise the risk to the community of offenders with links to terrorism. Ultimately, it is hoped that this bill and many of the other significant counterterrorism measures already implemented will prevent more innocent people from also losing their lives in the future.

The nature of terrorism today means that its implications may cross jurisdictional boundaries. Therefore it is vital that New South Wales remains committed to the development of a comprehensive counterterrorism approach. It is therefore important that the New South Wales Government continues to work with its agencies and other jurisdictions to combat terrorism and radicalisation leading to violent extremism. Finally, this bill supports the operation of the Commonwealth post-sentence detention scheme. The bill makes amendments to the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 and its regulations to permit individuals detained under the Commonwealth high-risk terrorism offenders scheme to be housed and managed in the New South Wales correctional system.

Importantly, the New South Wales post-sentence supervision and detention scheme adds to the already strong powers given to New South Wales law enforcement agencies to aid in the fight against terrorism. It is important to understand that, as a Government, we on this side do not introduce legislation as strong as this unless we believe it is in the interests of the community. Unfortunately, the difficult circumstances that we now face

mean that we must take the necessary action to always keep our communities safe and continue to support those who put their lives on the line each day. As this responsibility weighs heavily on each and every one of us, I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (18:04):** In reply: I thank members representing the electorates of Liverpool, Dubbo, Heffron, Terrigal, Sydney, Newtown, Baulkham Hills, Lake Macquarie and Miranda for their contribution to this debate. I address some of the matters that have been raised in debate by honourable members. The member for Liverpool suggested that perhaps the existing New South Wales High Risk Offenders Scheme already covers offenders which this legislation seeks to address. It is true that there is a potential overlap, but this bill addresses gaps to apply to offenders who are not covered under the existing New South Wales High Risk Offenders Scheme, nor by the Act passed by the Commonwealth in December last year—the Criminal Code Amendment (High Risk Terrorist Offenders) Act 2016.

The Commonwealth Act covers offenders who have been sentenced for certain Commonwealth terrorism offences. The reforms in our bill will complement the Commonwealth Act and address gaps in the Commonwealth's scheme by covering offenders who are serving sentences for New South Wales indictable offences. The Commonwealth Act does not apply to: first, the New South Wales terrorism offence; second, New South Wales non-terrorism offences like firearms offences where there is an underlying connection to terrorism; or, third, New South Wales non-terrorism offences such as fraud where there is no underlying connection to terrorism but where the offender is radicalised and poses an unacceptable risk to the community if released. For eligible offenders of concern, the Supreme Court would still need to be satisfied to a high degree of probability that the offender poses an unacceptable risk of committing a future serious terrorism offence if not subject to an order.

Referring to the comments of Commissioner Severin, I trust the members opposite will recognise why the commissioner may be reticent to make comments on specific individuals. The member for Liverpool queried the length of orders under the bill being debated here. Through this new scheme, we are legislating to address gaps in the Commonwealth scheme, which has three-year orders. The New South Wales maximum order length aligns with the Commonwealth Act. Because there is no limit to the number of orders that can be made with respect to any given offender, there is no risk for community safety as a result of having orders of three years rather than five years like the existing New South Wales High Risk Offenders Scheme.

New South Wales has sought to reconcile the need to enhance public safety and align with the Commonwealth where possible. New South Wales has taken this approach in this bill in the interests of supporting the development of a nationally consistent post-sentence preventative detention scheme that applies to high-risk terrorist offenders. That is consistent with the position agreed at the 1 April 2016 First Ministers at the Council of Australian Governments. The member for Liverpool asked why there are no changes to the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 in accordance with reports into the Martin Place siege. The bill seeks to implement the joint New South Wales-Commonwealth response to recommendation 12 of the Martin Place siege review report of 22 February 2015 and recommendation 42 of the State Coroner of New South Wales' "Inquest into the deaths arising from the Lindt Café siege: Findings and Recommendations" of 24 May 2017.

While neither report specifically recommended the precise amendment proposed in the bill to the Privacy and Personal Protection Act 1998, both reports recommended review of relevant New South Wales privacy legislation to ensure there is appropriate access to New South Wales information by ASIO. The New South Wales Government has undertaken that review in consultation with the Commonwealth and determined that the amendment is required to ensure that ASIO has appropriate access to New South Wales-held information where certain mandatory criteria are met. New South Wales consulted with the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation [ASIO], and ASIO advised that it does not require New South Wales to amend the Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 to carry out its statutory functions.

The members for Sydney and for Newtown suggested that this legislation encroaches arbitrarily on individual liberties and, if I could paraphrase the member for Lake Macquarie broadly, he thought the legislation was too broad. There is nothing arbitrary or lightweight about the tests that are being applied. Safeguards are in place to ensure that the measures are used appropriately. The decision to impose an extended supervision order or a continuing detention order is highly significant. That is why it is carried out by the State's highest court, the Supreme Court. After careful consideration of all the evidence and information provided, to make an order the Supreme Court must be satisfied to a high degree of probability that the offender poses an unacceptable risk of committing a serious terrorism offence.

The reforms include a safeguard in relation to emergency detention orders. Under the amendments, there will be a provision requiring immediate notification to Legal Aid NSW where an emergency detention order application has been filed or is likely to be filed. Another safeguard is that orders are subject to regular review. Under the bill, the Corrective Services Commissioner must provide the Attorney General with a report on the

eligible offender at intervals of not more than 12 months. This report is for the purpose of ascertaining whether to make an application to vary or revoke an order. The bill also enables offenders to appeal, first, any declaration that they are a convicted New South Wales terrorist offender, convicted New South Wales underlying terrorism offender or convicted New South Wales terrorism activity offender; secondly, an extended supervision order; thirdly, a continuing detention order; and, fourthly, an emergency detention order.

The bill provides an extensive list of elements that applications for extended supervision orders and continuing detention orders must include. The Supreme Court is required to consider each of these elements. This legislation is based on preventative detention legislation that has been in operation in several Australian jurisdictions for well over a decade and that has been approved in principle by the High Court. The bill complements the scheme enacted by the Commonwealth last year. The member for Newtown suggested that eligibility for the scheme is too broad. I agree that the proposed laws are extraordinary, but they are necessary. What else is extraordinary is the terrorist risk that an individual potentially subject to an order poses. An offender will be subject to an order only if the Supreme Court finds that an offender poses an unacceptable risk of committing a future serious terrorism offence. Given what is at stake, the Government considers the proposed cohort of eligible offenders is justifiable.

The member for Newtown also suggested that suspicion is enough to lock someone up under this scheme. However, under the proposed reforms offenders would still need to meet the requisite thresholds of having been sentenced and imprisoned for an indictable offence and being an unacceptable risk of committing a future serious terrorism offence in the view of the Supreme Court. It is anticipated that this reform will extend to a small number of offenders who pose a risk of offending who are not currently covered by the existing New South Wales scheme for high risk sex and violent offenders, nor the Commonwealth framework. The protection of the community from the ongoing threat of terrorism is of paramount importance to the New South Wales Government. The member for Newtown, in particular, suggested that this bill represents an encroachment on civil liberties—and it does.

Traditionally, people are incarcerated in a liberal democracy for what they have done or what they have been found to have done rather than who they are or what risk they may pose of committing a future offence. But that tradition and the civil liberties of an eligible offender must be balanced against the potentially catastrophic circumstances and results if someone who poses an unacceptable risk of a future serious terrorism offence is left at large. This is a balancing exercise. It is not a decision based on rumour or innuendo, as the member for Newtown suggested. It is a decision to be based on proper safeguards where not the police, the Attorney General, the corrections Minister or the Corrective Services Commissioner but the Supreme Court, acting independently, finds there is a high probability—not a chance, suspicion or probability—of an unacceptable risk of a future serious terrorism offence.

The member for Newtown pointed out that an unacceptable risk does not have to be greater than 50 per cent. But let us test the balancing exercise that this bill has to do in this way: Suppose there is a situation where it is found that there is a 30 per cent or 40 per cent chance that an eligible offender will commit a serious terrorism offence in future. Now, if we take the argument advanced by the member for Newtown to its logical conclusion, we would say that the civil liberties of such a person should trump the civil liberties of those whose life is threatened by this less than even but still significant chance. I suggest that the general public would regard public safety in those circumstances as trumping the civil liberties of someone who was found to be an eligible offender and who poses this very serious risk to public safety. It is a balancing exercise and there is an encroachment on civil liberties, but it is entirely justifiable and necessary.

We say this not, as the member for Newtown said in her rather unworthy observation, because we are trying to whip up fear; I am not trying to whip up fear. ASIO tells us that the threat level in Australia from a terrorist attack is probable. We do not know where or when, but its expert assessment is that there is a probability of a terrorist attack within the next 12 months. This is not whipping up fear or innuendo; this is being prudent and cautious in the interests of public safety. Imagine if, to protect the civil liberties of someone who was found to be a 30 per cent or 40 per cent chance of committing a future serious terrorism offence, we took no action and did not incarcerate or supervise that person and then they committed a terrorist attack. We would all be left asking, "Why did we let this happen?" This is not jingoistic or macho chest beating; this is a measured, proportionate response to a real threat of terrorism that has as many appropriate checks and balances as one could imagine.

These amendments will strengthen our comprehensive counterterrorism framework to protect the community from potential terrorists who pose an unacceptable risk at the completion of their prison sentence. Exceptional dangers require exceptional measures. These reforms show that the Government is stepping up to the anticipated new challenges as they arise. I agree with the member for Heffron that the need for this legislation is regrettable, but I also note that we cannot lose sight of the fact that, for the small number of high risk terrorist offenders who may be subject to an order, the highest court in New South Wales will have found that the offender

poses an unacceptable risk of committing a serious terrorism offence. To enhance public safety in New South Wales, I commend the bill to the House.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Lee Evans):** The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

**Motion agreed to.**

### **Third Reading**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN:** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

**Motion agreed to.**

## **VEXATIOUS PROCEEDINGS AMENDMENT (STATUTORY REVIEW) BILL 2017**

### **First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Mr Mark Speakman, read a first time and printed.**

### **Second Reading Speech**

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (18:17):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time. The Government is pleased to introduce the Vexatious Proceedings Amendment (Statutory Review) Bill 2017. The bill implements all recommendations from the 2017 report of the statutory review of the Vexatious Proceedings Act 2008—which I will call "the review" for short—that was tabled in Parliament on 31 May this year. The review and development of this bill involved extensive consultation with key legal stakeholders, including the Chief Justice of New South Wales, the Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court, and the President of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. There has been broad stakeholder support for the recommendations in the review and their inclusion in the bill. The review concluded that the Act provides a sound framework for managing vexatious litigants. However, it recommended nine minor amendments to promote the efficacy of the Act, and to simplify and clarify its operation. The bill also includes savings and transitional amendments.

The Vexatious Proceedings Act provides a mechanism for authorised superior courts of record in New South Wales to manage litigants who abuse court processes by repeatedly pursuing vexatious legal proceedings. Vexatious litigants are individuals or parties who persistently take legal action against others without reasonable grounds, or for improper purposes. Such actions have the potential to: abuse court processes, deplete courts' and opposing parties' resources, undermine the general efficacy of the justice system, and cause emotional stress for opposing parties. The Vexatious Proceedings Act allows an authorised court to make vexatious proceedings orders against litigants who the court is satisfied have frequently instituted or conducted vexatious proceedings in Australia, or are acting in concert with a person subject to a vexatious proceedings order or who has frequently instituted or conducted vexatious proceedings in Australia. A person subject to a vexatious proceedings order may apply to an appropriate authorised court to vary or set aside an order, or for leave to institute proceedings.

The Act strikes a balance between preserving the rights of citizens to approach the courts on civil matters and to defend themselves in criminal proceedings on the one hand, and on the other hand ensuring that courts have suitable powers to control litigants who may abuse the justice system. Importantly, there are safeguards in the Act to ensure that a person's access to justice is not unfairly restricted by a vexatious proceedings order. These safeguards include: limiting the power to make vexatious proceedings orders to superior courts of record; providing that orders can be made only after a relevant litigant has been given a chance to be heard; providing that orders can be made only if the court is satisfied that the litigant has frequently instituted or conducted vexatious proceedings in the past; and providing litigants subject to orders with the capacity to seek to have orders varied or set aside, and to seek leave to institute proceedings despite an order being in place. The bill does not affect those protections.

The amendments in the bill clarify the matters that superior courts can consider when determining whether to make a vexatious proceedings order, so that there is greater consistency in court decisions and greater certainty for litigants. The bill also clarifies the rights of vexatious litigants to institute and conduct later proceedings. Fundamentally, the amendments in the bill, as recommended by the review, are designed to provide greater clarity around the Act's operation and application. This bill is the outcome of consultation with key stakeholders and research undertaken by the Department of Justice. The bill will help ensure that the justice system in New South Wales remains accessible but is also effective and efficient. It is important that judicial processes cannot be misused by a small minority of litigants to the detriment of others. However, it is also important to ensure that stable protections remain in place so that access to justice is not inhibited.

I will now outline the details of the bill. Schedule 1 [1] reduces ambiguity for courts, litigants and others by clarifying the meaning of "proceedings" under section 4 of the Act. The amendment ensures that, in determining whether to make a vexatious proceedings order against a litigant, an authorised court can consider both the civil and criminal proceedings that the litigant has previously instituted or conducted. The amendment

clarifies that "proceedings" for the purposes of the Act include all interlocutory and procedural applications in civil and criminal proceedings, and can therefore be considered in determining whether a litigant has frequently instituted or conducted vexatious proceedings in the past, and be included in the scope of proceedings that a litigant can be restricted from instituting or conducting in the future.

Schedule 1 [2] clarifies that, in determining whether past proceedings have been instituted or conducted in a way that is vexatious, the court is to look at the objective effect of the proceedings, rather than the subjective intent of the litigant—in other words, the court is to look at the actual effect of the proceedings rather than the litigant's intended effect of the proceedings. This amendment rectifies the ambiguity identified in the current section 6 (d) of the Act, which was identified by courts and other key stakeholders as problematic. Schedule 1 [3] addresses operational issues with section 8 of the Act. Section 8 allows authorised courts to have regard to previous orders of other Australian courts and tribunals to determine whether a litigant has frequently instituted or conducted vexatious proceedings. This is potentially inconsistent with section 91 of the Evidence Act 1995, which provides that "Evidence of the decision, or of a finding of fact, in an Australian or overseas proceeding is not admissible to prove the existence of a fact that was in issue in that proceeding."

This has the potential effect that an authorised court must make its own determination as to whether each and every previous proceeding was instituted or conducted vexatiously. The bill clarifies that authorised courts may have regard to the previous orders of other Australian courts and tribunals, even if that evidence would otherwise not be admissible by virtue of section 91 of the Evidence Act 1995. This amendment will help to promote the object of promoting timely and efficient decision-making by authorised courts. Schedule 1 [4] also addresses issues with section 8 of the Act. It clarifies the effect of a vexatious proceedings order, and ensures that litigants subject to vexatious proceedings orders are still able to access the courts in certain circumstances. There is a fundamental distinction between restricting the capacity of litigants to bring unmeritorious civil proceedings against others on the one hand, and on the other hand restricting their capacity to defend themselves against criminal charges brought against them. It is essential that the rights of individuals to fully defend criminal charges against them, and to apply for bail, are preserved.

The bill therefore amends section 8 of the Act to clarify that, unless it expressly says otherwise, a vexatious proceedings order does not stay criminal or fail proceedings already underway or prohibit a litigant from instituting or conducting any criminal proceedings in connection with or incidental to criminal proceedings against him or her or from making a bail application. Schedule 1 [5] addresses operational issues with respect to section 9 of the Act. Section 9 allows the circumstances and conditions under which an authorised court may vary or set aside a vexatious proceedings order. The bill will allow authorised courts to decline to consider an application from a vexatious litigant to vary or set aside a vexatious proceedings order issued against him or her if the court is not satisfied that the application is materially different from an earlier application made by that litigant to vary or set aside the same order which was not successful. This amendment aims to reduce the burdens placed on authorised courts that may arise when vexatious litigants make persistent and unmeritorious applications to vary or set aside vexatious proceedings orders.

Schedule 1 [6] addresses operational issues with respect to section 14 of the Act. Under section 14, a person who is subject to a vexatious proceedings order may apply to an appropriate authorised court for leave to institute proceedings that would otherwise be prohibited under the order. The bill will allow an authorised court to decline to consider a section 14 application made by a vexatious litigant if it is not satisfied that the application is materially different from an earlier, unsuccessful application made by that litigant. This will ensure that courts are not expending undue time and resources dealing with vexatious litigants who persistently make frivolous or vexatious applications under section 14 of the Act.

Schedule 1 [7] makes operational amendments to section 15 (2) of the Act. Currently, section 15 (2) allows an authorised court to dismiss applications for leave made under section 14 if the applicant does not appear at the hearing for the application. This could imply that a hearing must be held for every application for leave, whether or not the application must be dismissed for failing to comply with the conditions of section 15 (1). This is not the intended application of the section. Requiring courts to hold hearings for unmeritorious applications is contrary to the objects of the Act and would involve further strain on court resources. The bill will amend section 15 (2) so that applications for leave under section 14 can be dismissed even if an oral hearing is not held or the applicant does not appear at any hearing of the application. This will better align section 15 (2) with the Act's overall objective of maintaining the effectiveness and efficiency of the justice system.

Schedule 1 [8] makes operational amendments to section 16 of the Act. Section 16 allows authorised courts to grant applications for leave to institute proceedings made under section 14 of the Act. The bill will ensure that, unless otherwise specified, when an application for leave is granted, it includes leave to make interlocutory applications and other procedural applications associated with the main proceedings. It would be impractical and

disruptive to proceedings if a vexatious litigant, having obtained leave to institute proceedings, had to obtain further leave to make each and every interlocutory application that might be made within those proceedings.

Schedule 1 [8] further clarifies that a grant of leave to institute proceedings does not include leave to make the following applications: to join a new party to the proceedings; to introduce a substantially new cause of action based on facts different from those already pleaded; or to remove the proceedings from one court or tribunal to another. Schedule 1, items [9] and [10] make savings and transitional amendments to schedule 1 of the Act. The bill makes important operational amendments to the Act to ensure that the New South Wales justice system is as effective and fair to all parties as possible. It also clarifies certain provisions and removes ambiguities to ensure that there is greater certainty for authorised courts and litigants. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

## **STATE DEBT RECOVERY BILL 2017**

### **First Reading**

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

### **Second Reading Speech**

**Mr VICTOR DOMINELLO (Ryde—Minister for Finance, Services and Property) (18:31):**

I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

New South Wales government agencies currently hold at least \$130 million in overdue debt. These are debts that individuals or businesses owe to agencies for services rendered but have not been paid, and remain unpaid, despite reminders and other efforts to secure payment. To be clear, this is debt owed to New South Wales government agencies; it does not take account of debts owed to local councils, such as overdue rates. Every dollar of debt not collected is a dollar that could otherwise be spent on providing the services and infrastructure required by residents of this State, and in reducing the burden on taxpayers. Why do we have this problem of outstanding debt? The simple answer is that we do not have the framework to support efficient and effective collection of debt. Government agencies and local councils individually manage their own debt, either in-house or through outsourcing arrangements. Expertise, capabilities and resources in debt management vary.

What we have are multiple platforms and systems across the sector for managing debt, with no consistent guiding strategy or approach. Even for those who do pay their debts, it can be a frustrating experience having to deal with several agencies or their representatives. Furthermore, the system can make the management of difficult debts a complex and arduous process. By "difficult debts", I mean debts owed by people who consistently avoid payment or have difficulty in paying—for example, if a debtor chooses not to pay a debt, despite reminders and warnings, an agency has little option but to obtain a judgement debt from a court. Additional court processes can be required in enforcing such a judgement. This is time consuming and costly, both for the agency and the debtor. It also means that our courts, where workloads are already heavy, are occupied in dealing with government-related debt when they could be focusing their energies on other matters.

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's 2016 draft report on the local government rating system is telling. It indicates that councils' court orders for overdue rates impose a major burden on the Local Court system, with more than one-third of all civil claims in the Local Court system involving councils pursuing overdue rates. The other option for an agency or council to deal with a difficult debt is to write off the debt, which I am sure members would agree is not optimal. Fairness demands that we ensure that those who owe debts are not free riding on those who do the right thing. Equally importantly, this Government is committed to driving down the cost of managing and collecting government debt. We have adopted a strategy of establishing a consolidated, whole-of-government approach to debt management. The State Debt Recovery Bill 2017 is a major step in implementing that strategy.

The bill permits an agency, including a local council, to enter into an agreement with the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue for the recovery of that agency's debts. Once an agency has referred a debt to the chief commissioner, he or she is authorised to recover such a debt by using the same incentives and sanctions that are currently available for the collection of debts, taxes, fines, victims' restitution orders and Ambulance Service of NSW fees. Those incentives and sanctions include payment plans as well as measures such as garnisheeing of wages, property seizure and placing a charge on land. As with the debts I have just mentioned, the bill authorises the chief commissioner to take recovery action for a civil debt without obtaining a court judgement, but only where debtors have failed to engage with the chief commissioner after attempts to encourage them to enter into a payment solution.

Every notice issued by Revenue NSW will advise of the options available, including payment plans, as well as the consequences of not paying. Where possible, Revenue NSW will also provide reminders to customers when payment deadlines are approaching, including by SMS or email. The bill also contains new powers to suspend some State-issued licences as a way of encouraging persons to resolve a debt. Such sanctions would be used to take action against those who, despite being financially able to do so, deliberately and consistently avoid payment. This form of sanction would not apply to driver licences. Any of these debt recovery actions can be suspended or reversed at any time if the customer contacts Revenue NSW to arrange a payment solution. The bill reinforces the rights of a debtor to dispute a debt in two ways. First, it includes extensive rights of review. Prior to a debt being referred to the chief commissioner, a debtor may seek a review from the agency concerned. A debtor may also seek a review after the debt has been referred to the chief commissioner unless a review has already been conducted.

These rights of review are more transparent than what exists now as they are statutory rights, not simply rights conferred under administrative processes, and notices issued under the Act must advise debtors of those rights. Secondly, the bill protects the fundamental right of a debtor to dispute the validity of a debt in court. Under the existing system, if an agency commences action to obtain a judgement debt from the court, the debtor has the right to dispute that debt. Under this bill, after a debt has been referred to the chief commissioner, the debtor has an express right to elect to challenge the debt in court unless the court has already given judgement for the debt concerned. Once a debtor chooses to take the matter to court, the burden of actually initiating court proceedings remains with the creditor, being the chief commissioner. The chief commissioner is also required to cease any debt recovery action pending the outcome of the proceedings.

I will now briefly summarise the process for recovering State debts under the bill. If a debt owed to a State agency remains unpaid after the agency's usual payment processes have run their course, the agency will issue a debt notice. The debtor will have the option of paying or applying for a review of the debt. If the debtor does neither, or if the review confirms the debt, the debt will be referred to Revenue NSW to make a debt recovery order. The debtor will again have the options of paying, or applying for a review if one has not been conducted, or electing to have the matter dealt with by a court. If the debtor neither pays nor court-elects, or if the review confirms the debt, Revenue NSW will commence recovery action. If the debtor court-elects and the court gives judgement for the chief commissioner, the chief commissioner may make a further debt recovery order for the debt and any costs payable under the judgement and commence recovery action. Such action may include those sanctions which I have mentioned—wages garnishee, property seizure, and so on.

The potential for the court to award costs against the debtor will discourage debtors from choosing to have the matter dealt with by a court if their claim has no merit, but awarding costs will be at the court's discretion. Each step, from issuing the debt notice to commencing recovery action, is subject to requirements to notify the debtor and appropriate time limitations. For example, a debt recovery order cannot be made until at least 35 days after a debt notice is issued, and recovery action cannot be taken until at least 28 days later. The bill will help maximise the amount of debt recovered and returned to agencies and, ultimately, to the taxpayer. While the bill does not mandate that agencies refer debts to the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, it provides the means to do so. Centralising civil debt recovery in one specialist agency will enable government to reduce duplication of debt recovery functions and costs across government, will leverage the proven debt recovery expertise of Revenue NSW, and will enable agencies to eliminate back-office debt functions and to focus on their own service delivery priorities.

Revenue NSW has specialist capability, systems and strong experience in customer engagement, which is preferable, from both service delivery and cost perspectives, to agencies separately managing debt through multiple platforms and processes. A clear example of the benefits of these reforms is provided by the recovery of ambulance fees by Revenue NSW. Prior to the Government's reforms, which commenced in 2015, the collection rate for the Ambulance Service of NSW fee debt was around 12 per cent. Since this function was transferred to Revenue NSW the recovery rate has increased to around 65 per cent to 70 per cent. The potential in applying these reforms across the government sector is obvious. At this point, I should emphasise that the bill applies only to civil debts, and that fines debts will continue to be enforced separately under the Fines Act 1996. However, ongoing management of both civil and fines debts by Revenue NSW will enable both kinds of debt to be considered when determining how best to deal with customers, in particular vulnerable community members with limited capacity to pay. Better customer service and client engagement are key drivers of this proposal.

Making Revenue NSW the primary point of contact for debts will provide greater convenience for customers, who will be able to deal with a single agency to manage debt and payment arrangements. Revenue NSW has access to better data, including more comprehensive access to current addresses, and provides more flexible debt resolution options for the disadvantaged. Many customers who owe debts to other agencies are existing Revenue NSW clients for tax or fines debts, meaning that this initiative will reduce duplication across agencies. When the scheme is fully operational, customers will also have access to information about their debt

through Service NSW. Revenue NSW is already in discussions with a number of agencies to take on their debt recovery functions, including some local councils. The scheme implemented by the bill achieves the correct balance between improving the State's collection of overdue revenue and the rights of individual New South Wales residents. In particular, the bill provides review procedures to deal with disputes over liability, alternative debt resolution options for vulnerable customers and appropriate protections for individuals' right to privacy.

I turn now to the provisions of the bill. Part 1 contains preliminary matters such as commencement and definitions. In particular, clause 4 defines the public authorities who may refer debts for recovery under the Act being any public or local authority constituted by or under an Act, a public service agency or a New South Wales government agency. State-owned corporations can be included by regulation only. Part 2 provides authority for the chief commissioner to recover State debts as defined in clauses 6 to 9. These include tax debts for unpaid taxes under the Taxation Administration Act 1996, and grant debts arising from non-repayment of grants and rebates under the First Home Owner Grant (New Homes) Act 2000, the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Act 2011 and the Small Business Grants (Employment Incentive) Act 2015. These debts are already recovered by the chief commissioner, but are brought under the new Act to allow them to be recovered as part of consolidated State debt, using the same powers for all civil debts.

Other debts are termed "referable debts", and initially only two kinds of referable debt are included under schedule 1 to the bill. The first is ambulance fee debt under the Health Services Act 1997, which, again, is already recovered by the chief commissioner; the other is council rates, charges and fees under the Local Government Act 1993. The latter will only apply where the individual council has entered into a debt recovery agreement with the chief commissioner. Any other referable debts will be included by amendment to schedule 1, or by an order published on the New South Wales legislation website. Clause 10 outlines a summary of debt recovery procedures, and clause 11 provides that debt recovery action cannot be taken against minors. Clause 12 provides for debt recovery guidelines to be made by ministerial order after consultation with the Attorney General. These guidelines will apply in respect of the chief commissioner's functions under the Act, and will be publicly available on the Revenue NSW website when the new Act commences.

Where appropriate, the new guidelines will be consistent with existing guidelines in relation to fines debts. In particular, the guidelines will deal with action taken in relation to a vulnerable person, being a person who has a mental illness, an intellectual disability or cognitive impairment, or a person who is homeless, is experiencing acute economic hardship or has a serious addiction to drugs, alcohol or volatile substances. Part 3 outlines the preliminary steps that must be taken before a debt recovery order can be made for a referable debt. Clauses 13 and 15 allow a public authority to serve a debt notice on a debtor, and to revoke a debt notice. Clause 14 defines a debt notice as requiring a person to pay a specified debt by a specified date, and advising of the consequences of non-payment and the review options available. Clause 16 requires a debt notice to be served before a referable debt can be referred to the chief commissioner. Clauses 17, 18 and 19 outline the process for referral of the debt to Revenue NSW, and for revocation of the referral.

Clause 20 authorises the chief commissioner and a public authority to enter into a debt recovery agreement providing for the referral of debts, the functions to be undertaken by Revenue NSW on behalf of the authority, and the fees payable to Revenue NSW. Clauses 21 and 22 prevent an agency from taking various actions in relation to a debt that has been referred to the chief commissioner, including the taking of civil proceedings and the charging of interest. Clause 23 authorises the chief commissioner to exercise the functions of the responsible authority by agreement. This would, for example, allow Revenue NSW to issue invoices and debt notices on behalf of other agencies. Clauses 24 to 34 provide a formal process by which a referable debt specified in a debt notice can be reviewed to address any errors as to the identity of the debtor or the amount of the debt, and to review payment arrangements before recovery action is taken. Referable debts that are already subject to a statutory debt review, such as ambulance fees, are excluded from this process. Part 4, clauses 35 to 43, contains formal provisions governing debt recovery orders, including a requirement in clause 39 for the chief commissioner to serve notice of the order on the debtor.

Clause 40 provides that the notice must inform the debtor of a number of things, including the date for payment, the consequences of non-payment and the options available to the debtor. Part 5 provides a process for debtors to dispute a referable debt in court. Tax debts and grant debts are already subject to statutory rights to review by tribunals or courts, and these rights are not affected by the new arrangements. Clauses 44, 45 and 47 outline the process for court election. Clause 46 requires a debt review to be conducted before court proceedings commence. Clause 48 permits the chief commissioner to take proceedings to obtain judgement for the debt, and to make a debt recovery order for the purposes of taking recovery action under the Act following judgement. Clause 49 allows a court to award costs to the chief commissioner if the chief commissioner obtains a favourable judgment.

Part 6 of the bill outlines the debt recovery action that can be taken by the chief commissioner. Clause 50 authorises the taking of debt recovery action only if the chief commissioner has served notice of a debt recovery order and the debt remains unpaid. Clauses 51 and 52 allow any single debt recovery action or combination of action to be taken to recover debts for which recovery action is authorised. This is qualified by clauses 53 and 54, which only allow licence suspension action to be taken if the other debt recovery actions are not available or not effective, prohibit licence suspension against vulnerable persons and provide that recovery action is subject to the debt recovery guidelines. Clauses 55 to 57 authorise principal debt recovery powers, being the making of property seizure orders and garnishee orders, and placing a charge on land.

Clauses 65 to 67 authorise ancillary powers to enable the effective execution of the principal powers, such as the power to require information, records and attendance of the debtor to identify the debtor's property and other means of satisfying the debt. This is similar to the existing information-gathering powers of the chief commissioner for tax debts but is further limited by requiring any document to be produced to be sufficiently described so as to be capable of production in court proceedings. These powers can be exercised only for the purposes of enabling debt recovery action to be taken or to ascertain the debtor's means of satisfying the State debt. Clauses 58 to 64 provide authority for the chief commissioner to suspend a number of State-issued licences as a means of encouraging debt repayment. These are occupational licences such as a real estate agent's licence or a motor dealer's licence. A full list of relevant licences is in Schedule 2 to the bill.

Part 7 provides authority to make time-to-pay arrangements and to deal with hardship cases. Clauses 68 to 71 authorise payment arrangements and clauses 72 to 74 give the chief commissioner power to deal with cases of financial, medical or personal hardship. Clauses 75 to 82 establish a new Hardship Review Board. The separate boards currently operating for tax debts and fines debts will be replaced by a single Hardship Review Board with functions under the new State Debt Recovery Act, the Taxation Administration Act and the Fines Act. The new board, consisting of the secretaries of the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation, Treasury and the Department of Justice, will be authorised to review specified decisions of Revenue NSW.

Part 8 outlines the circumstances and process for suspending or cancelling debt recovery action. Recovery action is suspended if the debt is being paid by instalments or is subject to a review or at the direction of the Hardship Review Board or the responsible public authority. Recovery action is cancelled only as a consequence of the revocation of the debt recovery order. Part 9 of the bill provides that interest may be charged on unpaid debts and details specified costs of taking debt recovery action, both of which are included in the State debt and are payable by the debtor under a debt recovery order. Clauses 93 and 94 allow interest to be charged on any overdue State debt at the rate prescribed under the Civil Procedure Act for judgement debts. The costs provisions in clauses 95 to 98 are similar to the provisions for costs in relation to ambulance fee debts with a specified amount to be payable for each debt recovery action as prescribed by the regulations.

Part 10 deals with payment processes. Clauses 99 to 101 provide for debts paid to the chief commissioner to be paid into the Consolidated Fund in the case of tax or grant debts and to the responsible authority in the case of referable debts. Clauses 102 and 103 deal with the priority for allocation of amounts recovered between costs, tax debts, grant debts and referable debts. Clauses 104 and 105 deal with refunds of overpayments. Part 11 deals with administration of State debt recovery by the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue. Part 12 provides authority for the chief commissioner to access certain information and restricts disclosure of that information. Following consultation with the Privacy Commissioner, clause 116 prohibits disclosure of personal information obtained under the Act except as required or authorised by law.

Part 13 contains miscellaneous provisions, including clause 123, providing for the manner and timing of service of notices by the chief commissioner. Clause 125 provides authority to make regulations under the Act, including to make provision for the waiver, remittance, postponement or refund of any interest, costs or fees payable under the Act. As already noted, Schedule 1 lists referable debts and Schedule 2 lists the licences subject to suspension orders. Schedule 3 contains savings and transitional provisions, including that the Act applies to debts arising before the commencement of the Act but subject to any applicable time limits in the Limitation Act 1969.

Finally, Schedule 4 makes consequential amendments to a number of Acts and Regulations to recognise the new Act and to prevent duplication. These provisions include an amendment to the Fines Act 1996 to allow a State debt to be added to a fines debt that is subject to a work and development order. These orders require a vulnerable person to undertake unpaid work or training or to undergo treatment or counselling as a means of satisfying their debt. A State debt would be included in a work and development order only at the request of the debtor and subject to the agreement of the approved person who supervises the debtor's compliance with the order. I am sure members will agree that the debt management scheme established by the State Debt Recovery Bill is comprehensive and balanced. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

**PROPERTY, STOCK AND BUSINESS AGENTS AMENDMENT (PROPERTY INDUSTRY REFORM)  
BILL 2017****First Reading**

**Bill introduced on motion by Mr Matt Kean, read a first time and printed.**

**Second Reading Speech**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (18:57):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Property, Stock and Business Agents Amendment (Property Industry Reform) Bill 2017. This bill is the first step in the introduction of the New South Wales Government's major reform package for the real estate and property industry. The reform package will put consumers first by improving educational and professional standards across the industry, improving accountability and transparency, streamlining the licensing framework and strengthening Fair Trading's compliance and enforcement powers. Property services agents are entrusted to manage valuable rental properties and strata schemes. Property agents act on behalf of consumers in the biggest and most important transactions of most people's lives—the sale or purchase of a property. Almost every citizen of New South Wales will, at some point, have dealings with a property industry agent. The real estate and property sector is also an integral part of the New South Wales economy, with more than \$11 billion in stamp duty collected in the last financial year.

Although many real estate and property industry agents undertake their responsibilities to a high standard, the industry itself continues to express concerns that educational and qualification requirements are inadequate. With this in mind, in the last financial year the Property Services Compensation Fund paid out more than \$500,000 to consumers due to agents' failure to account for their clients' funds. In previous financial years the amounts paid out of the compensation fund have exceeded two or even three million dollars. I am sorry to report that NSW Fair Trading also receives a high volume of complaints every year from consumers about their dealings with the real estate and property industry. Fair Trading data shows there were 4,077 complaints about real estate and property matters in 2016-17, accounting for 9 per cent of all complaints during the period.

There is a clear need for Government action. The Property, Stock and Business Agents Amendment (Property Industry Reform) Bill 2017 is the first step in the Government's overall reform package. It is essential that the legislation regulating the industry balances the need for appropriate levels of consumer protection with the need to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the industry. The Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002 is the primary piece of legislation regulating the real estate and property services industry. The Act establishes a mandatory licensing system for the following service providers: real estate agents, buyer's agents, stock and station agents, business agents, strata and community managing agents, and on-site residential property managers.

Although the amendment bill provides the overall foundation for the reform package, other key elements will be introduced by amendments to the Property, Stock and Business Agents Regulation, which includes the Rules of Conduct; the Property, Stock and Business Agents Qualifications Order; the guidelines for continuing professional development; and the supervision guidelines for licensees in charge. These aspects of the reform package will be the subject of further close consultation and discussion with stakeholders in coming months. The development of the reform package was guided and informed by an independent review of the property services industry training framework, an assessment of the current licensing system using the IPART Licensing Framework and Guide, identification of key industry issues by Fair Trading's Real Estate and Property Division, and extensive discussions with NSW Fair Trading's Real Estate Reference Group.

The independent training review was undertaken in response to industry concerns that property services training was insufficient, meaning that real estate agents and property services agents were working in the field without adequate training or the qualifications necessary to assist members of the public. The panel's final report, publicly released in June 2016, noted that the major function of educational standards should be to protect the public. In fact, improving consumer protection is a key principle of this reform package. The reform package was set out in the Government's Real Estate and Property Services Industry Reform Paper that was released in November last year.

Industry and community feedback on the reform paper showed strong general support for the reforms, in particular the enhanced training and educational measures. The matters dealt with in this bill are as follows. The new licensing framework will have three levels of licences: licensees in charge, licensed agents, and certificate of registration holders. The highest level will be a class 1 licence. This licence will be required for anyone working as a licensee in charge of a business. In order to apply for the new "licensee in charge" class licence, a licensee will need to have two years' work experience and will have to complete a diploma from the national property

services training package. Alternatively, they must hold a certificate IV and an equal qualification in business management.

While all property businesses are currently required to have a licence holder acting as licensee in charge to supervise the operation of the business, there is currently no specific licence type or qualification for this role. In addition, an examination of complaints received by Fair Trading and claims on the Property Services Compensation Fund indicates that a lack of proper supervision of staff is putting consumers at risk. Given the level of responsibilities of licensees in charge, these training and experience requirements are considered appropriate and they will enhance industry professionalism, and help minimise consumer detriment. These higher education requirements reflect the significant responsibilities of licensees in charge.

The framework will also provide more flexibility, as one licensee in charge will be allowed to supervise more than one office of the same business, but they will still have to ensure that business operations are being properly and effectively supervised. The next level will be a class 2 licence, equivalent to the current full agent's licence. Class 2 licence holders will be known as "licensed agents". Licence applicants are already required to complete a certificate IV level qualification, and this requirement will remain. However, the reforms mean that class 2 licence holders will also need to have 12 months' industry experience to apply for a full licence. The bill will also streamline the licensing framework, and reduce the number of licences required.

For example, the buyer's agent licence, the business agent's licence and the on-site residential property manager's licence will all be integrated into one licence, the real estate agent's licence. Holders of the licences to be merged will be grandfathered onto the real estate agent's licence with appropriate restrictions so that their business operations will not be affected. The required competency units for the certificate IV in property services that must be completed to obtain a real estate agent's licence under the new framework will be revised to ensure they reflect the wider functions that these licence holders may undertake. Current holders of the licence types to be integrated will be grandfathered onto a real estate agent's licence. This will avoid any interruption to routine business operations from the licensing reforms. The range of activities for grandfathered licence holders will be restricted unless they complete the additional competency units required to qualify for a full real estate agent's licence as will be required in the revised qualifications order.

New industry entrants, or certificate of registration holders, the third class of licence, will need to complete three additional competency units from the certificate IV qualification, increasing the total to seven competency units needed to become a certificate holder. However, new licence applicants will also need to have 12 months' industry experience, and will need to demonstrate that they have attained certain competencies. The additional training units will improve the knowledge of people who are just starting out in the industry. The reforms to continuing professional development will also create a clear path for certificate holders to progress to a full licence within three to four years.

The qualifications and specific competency units to be required for the new licensing framework will be the subject of close industry consultation in coming months. To further reduce regulatory burden, a specific exemption from the requirement to hold any qualifications will be introduced for people working in property services agencies who do not undertake any real estate functions. For example, this would include those employees who complete reception, administration and/or graphic design work duties. There is currently some uncertainty in the industry regarding what qualification some employees should have, and this aims to resolve that issue. If a business operator prefers to employ people who hold qualifications, they will not be prevented from doing so. This will ensure that operators can decide how best to run their businesses and how to meet their clients' needs.

The definition of strata managing agent has been clarified to capture licensees who manage strata schemes or community schemes. This ensures that there will be no impact on the regulated functions of strata or community managing. The regulated functions of stock and station agents remain appropriate and are also being retained. To improve educational standards across the entire property services industry, the Continuing Professional Development [CPD] guidelines for the property services industry will be overhauled to introduce new requirements for each qualification level. Class 1 and class 2 licence holders will have to complete six hours of CPD annually. This will involve three hours of compulsory topics and three hours of elective topics. This is an increase from the current requirement of four hours of CPD.

The compulsory topics will cover matters such as legislative changes and key compliance matters. They will be chosen by an industry-government advisory group and will be reviewed regularly to ensure CPD remains appropriate. Licensees in charge will have to do the same six hours as class 2 licence holders, but will also have to do another three hours of CPD focusing on business skills. To establish a professional training pathway, annual CPD for certificate holders will be competency units from a certificate IV qualification. In combination with the seven competency units required to enter the industry, this will ensure that certificate holders will complete enough competency units within three to four years to obtain a certificate IV qualification. This will mean they will

increase their knowledge while gaining on-the-job skills and experience, and will obtain all the qualifications to be eligible to apply for a licence.

The new CPD framework will help establish a clear career pathway for certificate holders to advance to a full licence. It will also make CPD more relevant for licence holders and licensees in charge. To ensure that different activities in the real estate and property industry are undertaken by people with appropriate qualifications, the bill prescribes which roles and responsibilities are suitable for each of the three classes of real estate licence. This will mean the significant areas of responsibility, such as approving withdrawals from trust accounts, will only be undertaken by licensees in charge, and certificate holders will have more limited responsibilities. This will be introduced by regulation, and there will be close industry consultation to determine the appropriate roles and responsibilities for each level of qualification.

The bill will introduce greater flexibility for business operations. Under current requirements, every place of business must have a licensee in charge. Exemptions can only be granted by application to the Secretary of the Department of Finance Services and Innovation. This requirement does not allow for the ability of modern technology to enable a licensee in charge to conduct transactions while not being physically present and the increasing use of the internet in real estate transactions. The bill will allow for a real estate or property business to have one licensee in charge of the entire business instead of each place of business. This means that one licensee in charge will be able to supervise more than one office.

Licensees in charge will still be required to ensure the proper supervision of the business. The current supervision guidelines will be reviewed to reflect the new business arrangements. To protect against potential conflicts of interests, a licensee in charge will still not be able to work for more than two licence holders unless those licence holders are in a partnership. In addition to these provisions, the supervision guidelines will be reviewed in an appropriate manner regarding proper oversight of employees. The bill also will introduce a restriction on the gifts and benefits that may be accepted by people working in the real estate and property services industries. A dollar value limit will be prescribed by the regulation, in consultation with industry. This restriction will help limit gifts and benefits being given that would act as inducements for an agent not to act in their clients' best interests. These provisions have been carefully drafted to ensure that items such as gifts provided by employers to employees as a form of bonus will not be captured.

In addition, gifts provided to agents from clients as a thank you for providing quality services are still allowed. It is a reasonable expectation that agents should not be accepting gifts or benefits that are potential inducements. Such gifts or benefits could create a conflict of interest to encourage agents not to act in their client's best interests. The bill will require all trust account audits to be lodged with NSW Fair Trading. All licensees are already required to have their trust accounts audited, so having to submit all trust account audits should not be a significant extra burden. Agents' failure to account for money held in trust is a major risk area for the industry, and a major source of consumer detriment. During the last financial year, the Property Services Compensation Fund paid out more than \$500,000 to consumers. As well, there were other significant consumer repayments from businesses where Fair Trading has appointed a manager.

Furthermore, if an audit is not lodged it is not clear whether the audit was unqualified and did not have to be lodged, or was in fact qualified but the agent had failed to lodge a copy. To minimise any additional administrative burden, an online audit lodgement portal is being developed. This system will be in operation before this requirement comes into effect. Additional trust account requirements will be introduced by regulation. This will include a requirement to hold separate trust accounts for sales and rental payments, and a requirement to clear rental trust accounts at the end of each month. This will help keep landlords aware if there is any shortfall in their rental income that cannot be accounted for. The bill also will allow for an extension of the time for which a licence can be suspended while a licensee's conduct is investigated. Where the secretary considers that the grounds for disciplinary action are serious, the bill allows a suspension to be imposed for as long as the secretary reasonably requires to investigate the matter, rather than the usual limit of 60 days.

Extended licence suspension will also be possible for failure to lodge an audit report, so the suspension may continue until the audit report is lodged. I commend Victor Dominello, former Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, for the development of the reform package. I also thank the Real Estate Institute of New South Wales, the Estate Agents Co-operative, the Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association, and Strata Community Australia. These key industry stakeholders have been integral to the development of the package through their participation in Fair Trading's real estate reference group. The primary aim of the package is to improve industry professionalism and skills and to deliver better consumer outcomes. The measures in the bill strike an appropriate and reasonable balance between effective consumer protection and industry regulation.

These proposals fit with the Government's commitment to better regulation and appropriate licensing through the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal [IPART] framework. The reforms in this bill also support the Government's "Consumer First" initiatives that aim to support members of the community in their

dealings with traders. The Government will continue to work with the industry in the next stages of the implementation of the reform package. I am confident that the reform package will help to build higher educational and professional standards across the State, and to deliver improved outcomes for consumers. I commend this bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

*Community Recognition Statements*

**NORMANHURST WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL**

**Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby—Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation) (19:13):**

I acknowledge the achievements of four young students from Normanhurst West Public School who have done outstandingly well at the NSW All Schools Paper Plane Challenge. The competition was organised by Paper Pilots and was held at Sydney University, with over 600 primary and high school students competing in various categories. With those numbers involved in the competition, the five wins from the one primary school are more than praiseworthy—they are absolutely amazing. Noah McCarthy took out the Air Time Champion with 8.16 seconds in the air; Ellis Tutty won the Junior Pilot Air Time Champion with 5.03 seconds; Daniel Hawkins won the Master Pilot division with his plane travelling 20.9 metres; and Dominic Coonan won second place for Distance in the Junior Pilot category with his plane travelling 17 metres. I did not take notes of my own paper planes when I was at school but I am confident these four outperformed any plane I ever made. I congratulate Noah, Ellis, Daniel, Dominic and all the amazing staff at Normanhurst West Public School.

**ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM**

**Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron) (19:14):** I place on record the immense pride of the Alexandria community in the achievements of the Alexandria Park Community School under 15 boys basketball team. The boys were runners up in the 2017 NSW Combined High School knockout, narrowly defeated by Sydney Boys High, 99 points to 82. The Alexandria Park team can now claim the mantle of New South Wales' second-best under 15 basketball team. It is a huge achievement. The team are coached by their teacher Stewart Okell and local Indigenous elder Uncle Terry Denzil. The team's commitment to community and inclusivity has paid off; this is a team of boys, many of whom have never played basketball before, who are now amongst the best basketball teams in the State. There is something special about Alexandria Park Community School and its students. Principal Diane Fetherston is rightly proud of them all. I commend their achievements to the House.

**PROJECT YOUTH**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (19:15):** I recognise the twenty-fifth anniversary of Project Youth, a youth service offering a range of programs and services with the aim of creating opportunities for young people to create their own future. In October I had the opportunity to attend the grand opening of Project Youth's new location, Dora Street Youth Centre in Hurstville. It was a privilege to celebrate the achievements of the organisation for the last 25 years. Youth homelessness is a dire concern in not just my local area, but in most parts of our nation. However, it is admirable to see how Project Youth has taken on this large-scale crisis and responded to the need in our backyards. In 2015, more than 2,000 young people attended a drop-in centre and Project Youth housed 141 young people last year. Project Youth assists with safe, affordable housing for youths aged between 14 and 24 years of age. Project Youth's work not only ensures that the risk of homelessness is decreased, but that ongoing support is provided for young people in need. On behalf of the St George community, I thank Project Youth for their ongoing services to southern Sydney, not only in my area but across the local area. It was an honour to recently attend the opening of the Hurstville centre.

**CHIFLEY COLLEGE SCIENCE EXPO**

**Mr EDMOND ATALLA (Mount Druitt) (19:16):** I congratulate teachers of Chifley College Mount Druitt Campus for their efforts in promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics [STEM] amongst high school students. Run in partnership with Macquarie University, the school's annual science expo was held as part of the National Indigenous Science Education Program. Science is the basis of future developments within society and must be continuously promoted to all students from a variety of backgrounds. I congratulate Chifley College staff for their continued support of STEM through ensuring each child has the support to reach their full potential should they wish to pursue a scientific future or career. I look forward to seeing the capabilities of these students in the future.

**PACIFIC PALMS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (19:17):** I congratulate Ginger Harrison and Gabby Edwards from year 6 at Pacific Palms Public School who have been selected to perform at the Pacific School Games, which will be held in Adelaide next month. Ginger qualified for the games by jumping 1.53 metres at the

State qualifier at Sydney Olympic Park. She tied for first but on a countback was put in the second position. It was enough for her to make the team. Gabby Edwards was selected earlier this year for touch football. Both of the girls are excellent athletes. Ginger also enjoys soccer, sprinting and futsal and trains for one day a week in high jump. I wish both girls the very best. They come from Pacific Palms Public School in the greatest area of New South Wales.

#### **FAIRFIELD LOCAL AREA COMMAND**

**Mr GUY ZANGARI (Fairfield) (19:18):** On Friday 17 November I had the great privilege of attending the Fairfield Local Area Command award ceremony at Cabra-Vale Diggers. The award ceremony was hosted by our very own Fairfield Local Area Commander, Superintendent Peter Lennon, APM, who was joined by Assistant Commissioner Frank Mennilli, APM, Commander South West Metropolitan Region, who honoured the tremendous efforts of police officers in our community. Superintendent Lennon presented a large number of awards, medals, clasps and citations, which included the National Police Service Medal, national medals, first and second clasps, police medals and clasps, a police medallion, certificates of service, commissioner's unit citations, region commander's citations and local awards. It was great to witness so many brave men and women in our community receiving such distinguished awards and being acknowledged for their efforts. On behalf of the Fairfield community, I commend and congratulate all the award recipients for their ongoing dedication and commitment to policing in our local community. I extend our sincerest gratitude for all their hard work and wish them all a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

#### **EMPOWERING WOMEN FORUM**

**Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (19:19):** I acknowledge the young women who attended the Empowering Women Forum held at Taren Point Bowling Club. I was delighted to host an interactive forum with the Minister for Women, the Hon. Tanya Davies; the talented Amy Taylor, founder of the Amy Taylor Collection; and the amazing Kate Fitzsimmons, director of the Nicole Fitzsimmons Foundation, to discuss the issues affecting young women in the Sutherland Shire and, more importantly, the solutions we need to put in place to address them. I commend these young women who attended: Lia Stamatopoulos, Natasha Ransford, Brittany Ruff and Lucy Teague from Jannali High School; Joanna Flevaris, Cassandra Stojkoski and their teacher Narelle Rigby from Sylvania High School; Jessica Penny, Lisa-Maree Ghaly, Emily Larkins, Katiya Kraljevski and their teacher Bianca Skinner from Port Hacking High School; Kate Johnstone and Mikalee Clark from Menai High School; and Claire Pointing and Jane Kooiman from GyMEA Technology High School. I thank them for their contributions, which inspired me as much as I hope the panel motivated them. I extend my best wishes for the future.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin):** Order! I ask for a little more quiet in the House. It is difficult to hear the speakers when members are talking.

#### **TILLIGERRY ARTS GROUP**

**Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens) (19:20):** Last Sunday I was delighted to officially open the new home of the Tilligerry Arts Group, which is a beautiful space in the old Lemon Tree Passage Rural Fire Brigade station. The Tilligerry Arts Group was formed more than 10 years ago by a small group of local artists who wanted to promote and encourage the skill and creativity in our region. Ten years on and the group's significant membership has a new home, where they continue to showcase our incredible local artists and artisans, with locally made art, gifts and homeware. The new art gallery in the repurposed fire station is a truly unique offering, showcasing an ever-changing, impressively high quality of artworks. I strongly encourage everyone to visit.

I congratulate all of the members of the Tilligerry Arts Group, who have worked so hard for its success—especially President Janette Matts and the three founding members, Jenny Crozier, Pam Riddell and Diane Swain. I also acknowledge and thank the inaugural life members, Vic Marden and Kevin Colman, as well as the Tilligerry Rural Fire Brigade, Tilligerry Men's Shed, Tilligerry Lions Club, Port Stephens Council and Club Lemon Tree.

#### **THE ROWELL FAMILY**

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (19:21):** I thank, once again, my beautiful wife, Belinda, and our two amazing sons, Will and Menzies, who never cease to amaze me and, of course, always support me without question. My wife is my rock and I thank her for being my biggest supporter and my best friend. Wollondilly is all the better for her involvement in our community. Belinda and I are looking forward to welcoming our son Chase when he is born in the New Year. He will come into this world with two amazing young men to look up to—Will and Menzies. They are fine young men and I am so proud of them. No-one in this House can do their job without the support of their family. I am blessed to have an amazing family. To them I say: I love you.

### GREEK OLDER WOMEN'S NETWORK

**Ms TANIA MIHAILUK (Bankstown) (19:22):** On Monday 30 October, I was delighted to join Voula Kerr and the ladies from the Greek Older Women's Network at the Bankstown Arts Centre, for their Cancer Council Pink Ribbon Day morning tea to raise funds for breast cancer research, prevention, and support programs. I congratulate the Greek Older Women's Network for the fantastic event. It was a most enjoyable morning, and I was honoured to be able to lend my support to this extremely important cause. Voula and her team not only provide a space for women in my electorate to celebrate and enjoy one another's friendship, they also are truly kind-hearted and eager to lend a hand to women in need across New South Wales. With the support of organisations like the Greek Older Women's Network, finding a cure for breast cancer is within our reach.

### POTTSVILLE RSL REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (19:23):** I wish to congratulate Pottsville RSL Pottsville and District Sub-Branch on another wonderful Remembrance Day service. This year marks the ninety-ninth anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War. The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month—the moment when hostilities ceased on the Western Front—became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in the war. I was humbled by the number of community members that attended the Pottsville service to show their respects. The Pottsville RSL was recently a recipient of a grant and now has a display of a donated Light Horse uniform and hat, and other memorabilia. That is deeply respected by the wider community.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Greg Aplin):** Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. I remind members to remain seated and not to put papers on the lectern when another member has the call. Both Opposition and Government members have been guilty of doing that.

### YOUNG AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR MACINLEY BUTSON

**Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong) (19:24):** I congratulate Macinley Butson, who was recently named as New South Wales Young Australian of the Year, an impressive achievement from an impressive young woman. An inventor, Macinley has designed and developed Smart Armour, a shield that can be used by breast cancer patients to protect their non-treated breast while undergoing radiotherapy. In addition to this most recent award Macinley also made history earlier this year when she became the first Australian to win the top medicine prize at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. She has also invented a system that simultaneously collects solar power and filters water, a spoon that accurately measures and delivers oral medicine to children, and a device that deters garden snails without the use of poison. I am sure that all members would agree that this is an impressive record for a 17-year-old who has only just started year 12. I think the Young Australian of the Year judges said it best when they described Macinley as "a rising star in the male-dominated world of science". No doubt we will hear of Macinley's achievements long into the future. I congratulate her and wish her the best.

### YOUTH FRONTIERS AWARDS

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (19:25):** I congratulate Michaela Gregory and Thomas Duff, local students who were finalists at the Youth Frontiers Awards today. Youth Frontiers is a statewide mentoring program that encourages young people in years 8 and 9 to use their creativity, passion and determination to make a positive difference in their communities. Michaela was a finalist in the general category. She is a year 9 student at Our Lady of Mercy Burraneer and she planned and implemented a presentation to year 7 students about Air Force cadets. Her presentation included guest speakers from the Air Force cadets and an iMovie made by Michaela to promote awareness of the increased female participation in the Air Force cadets. Michaela's ambition is to be a pilot.

Thomas was a finalist in the environment and conservation category. He is a year 8 student at Kirrawee High School. He researched, planned and constructed a garden at his high school to provide a habitat for native bees. Thomas is aware of how important bees are to the ecosystem, and how their habitats are being threatened. I congratulate Michaela and Thomas.

### YOUTH FRONTIERS AWARDS

**Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea) (19:26):** I, too, wish to talk about Youth Frontiers. Youth Frontiers is aimed at students in years 8 and 9, who have the capacity to benefit from youth mentoring that focuses on leadership and civic engagement. Today we had the great pleasure of attending the Youth Frontiers award ceremony in the Strangers' Dining Room at Parliament House. There I met with Flynn Wallis Smith, who is from Belmont High School. Flynn was a finalist in the engaging in sport category. Flynn went on to win that category, which his parents were most elated about. I have known Flynn since he was born so I was delighted to be there and participate in that with him. Flynn put together a seniors exercise program. He partnered with Swansea Pensioners Group and he goes there on a weekly basis and does exercises that he has designed for the seniors.

Apparently the seniors love him more than any other person who has been there. I congratulate Flynn for the work that he has done. Well done, Youth Frontiers.

### SHOALHAVEN RIVER WATCH

**Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (19:27):** The Shoalhaven River is one of the outstanding natural features of the South Coast. The river catchment, estuary and associated coastal floodplain are significant resources for the people of the South Coast and an important and unique ecosystem for flora and fauna. Local volunteer organisation Shoalhaven Riverwatch has been working diligently for many years to improve and protect the health of the river in partnership with the community, the council and the New South Wales Government. Recently, Shoalhaven Riverwatch was recognised with a Fish Habitat Innovation Award for its development of the Shoalhaven sand sausage. The sand sausage is a continuous sandbag of up to 50 metres that is installed on the riverbanks in the inter-tidal zones to prevent riverbank erosion and allow for the planting of mangroves and other trees, which serve as a longer-term solution to riverbank erosion. I congratulate the dedicated organisation—in particular former president Charlie Weir, who began it all—the committee members, chairman Peter Hanson and all the volunteers on their win and thank them for the vital conservation work they perform for the benefit of our region. I thank Riverwatch committee members Keith Hazlewood, Ron Cowlshaw, John Tate and Peter Jirgens for their fantastic work.

### GOROKAN HOUSING PROJECT

**Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyang) (19:28):** Last week I was pleased to attend the sod turning for the construction of one of Australia's first National Disability Insurance Scheme housing projects in Gorokan with Central Coast Living Options [CCLO]. When finished, the \$1.7 million share homes will provide much-needed accommodation for those living with a disability. It was great to join chair Judith Andrews, chief executive officer Kevin Johnston, and staff and clients at this event. CCLO currently has four supported accommodation homes in Woongarah Waters and Toukley, plus four units at Toukley in my electorate. CCLO provides 24/7 staff support and community access to encourage independence by developing a range of life skills. Central Coast Living Options was established in 1996 and is a community-based not-for-profit organisation providing services for people with a disability on the Central Coast. Central Coast Living Options is operated by a board of management with all seven directors being volunteers. Management of the organisation is under the control of Kevin Johnston.

### BLUE DATTO ROAD SAFETY PROGRAM

**Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (19:29):** I draw to the attention of the house Blue Datto, which is a registered charity providing a driver and road safety education program in schools and to community groups. Recently I attended a Blue Datto "Keeping Safe" program for 170-plus year 10 students at Terrigal High School. The students spent the day learning to evaluate driving risks, took part in a fire and rescue presentation, engaged in case study analysis, and prepared a community safety plan which they presented to me and the team.

From firsthand experience, I know the importance of safe driving. I strongly commend the Blue Datto organisation for its engagement with young people in such a relevant and important issue. Terrigal High School is the first school on the Central Coast to run the Keeping Safe program. I know that Henry Kendall High School in the Gosford electorate will be running this program soon. I really encourage the other public high schools in my electorate—Erina High School and Kincumber High School—to make the most of this fantastic program. I congratulate the team of Blue Datto and the 170-plus year 10 students at Terrigal High School for being the trendsetters in this field.

### AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

**Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (19:30):** Tonight it is with pride I advise the House that on 30 July five of my friends and party colleagues were awarded life membership of the great Australian Labor Party [ALP]. For more than 40 years Councillor Meg Oates, Martin Peebles, George Purdie, Norm Robertson and Wal Glynn have given selflessly to the New South Wales branch of the ALP. They have worked tirelessly to promote the well-known ALP cause of helping the community and fellow citizens. Meg is well known throughout Campbelltown as a long-serving councillor and deputy mayor and now holds the prestigious honour of giving 30 years of service. Wal is a returned serviceman and was a long-term councillor on the Campbelltown City Council, having stepped aside in 2016. Norm is a Vietnam veteran who has provided invaluable support to those suffering from the ravages of mental ill health. Marty provides his excellent knowledge as a regular volunteer and tour guide. George continues his role as the branch stalwart. Nothing surpasses the love and commitment of those five strong Labor allies for the Campbelltown region.

### ROSEVILLE MEMORIAL PARK

**Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson) (19:31):** Yesterday I took part in a significant event at Roseville in my electorate of Davidson. Soil was taken from the Roseville Memorial Park for inclusion in the refurbished Anzac War Memorial in Hyde Park when it reopens next year. Roseville is one of 1,699 locations identified in New South Wales from which Australians enlisted for World War I. Soil samples will be displayed in the Anzac War Memorial's Hall of Service as part of a permanent artwork and a reminder that many people from across New South Wales answered the call to defend our country.

The Mayor of Ku-ring-gai, Jennifer Anderson, and Councillor Peter Kelly attended the soil collection along with representatives of surveyors LTS Lockley, who were engaged by the New South Wales Government to assist with the project. Michael Askey, who is the President of the Roseville RSL Sub-Branch, was instrumental in facilitating the Roseville soil collection, supported by his secretary, Dr Bruce McAdam. Also present was John Whitworth, who is the President of the Roseville Memorial Club, which stands adjacent to the memorial park. I commend all those involved in this admirable project, including the Minister for Veterans Affairs and his department.

### SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL CABRAMATTA

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (19:32):** On 30 October I had the privilege of attending the Sacred Heart Catholic School at Cabramatta for the blessing and opening ceremony of the new school buildings and facilities. The opening of those multimillion-dollar facilities signifies another step forward in assisting our youth to gain an education founded on guidance and good teachers as well as accommodating them in well-planned facilities. During the ceremony, family and friends witnessed the new building and facilities receive a blessing—a proclamation to invoke the presence of God upon the new structures.

I thank all who participated and attended, with special thanks to the principal, Patricia Laidler, and the school's staff for organising the wonderful ceremony. I also thank Bishop Anthony Randazzo for conducting the blessing, the executive director of Catholic schools, Dr Dan White, and Father Liem Duong of the Sacred Heart Parish.

### WELLINGTON BICENTENARY

**Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services) (19:3):** I draw the attention of the House to the Wellington community in the southern part of the Dubbo electorate—a wonderful community that is celebrating its bicentenary. It is a wonderful celebration of the siting of Wellington in countryside that has such rich history. The seat of Wellington was created well before the Dubbo electorate emerged. The community has faced its social challenges and issues, particularly those associated with the ice epidemic, but the local economy has bounced back—something of which all Wellington residents can be proud. The people have combined to engender a new spirit of optimism about the future. Tomorrow is the inaugural Cob Loaf Festival. I am very disappointed that I will not be able to attend and enjoy a cob loaf. However, I wish the committee, the people of Wellington and all the community groups who have contributed to this inaugural festival the very best of luck.

### MAITLAND WOMAN OF THE YEAR NAOMI REES

**Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland) (19:34):** I recognise the retirement of Naomi Rees, who was the centre manager of the Maitland Neighbourhood Centre and who was named as the 2017 local Woman of the Year in Maitland. It is important to recognise in this place the hardworking people in our community who work day in and day out, not for glory but for the betterment of our communities. During the April 2015 super storm, Naomi and her team played a crucial role in providing support and assistance to those who lost everything in the floods. At that time and on every other day since I have been elected, Naomi has impressed me with her compassion and her hard work. Naomi's work has assisted the most vulnerable people in the Maitland community. She has made a lasting impact on the lives of many people who needed a helping hand. I pay particular tribute to her work in the Woodberry community with socially disadvantaged people. I wish Naomi all the best for the future and thank her for her years of service to the Maitland community.

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMPETITOR SUI WATTS

**Mr STEPHEN BROMHEAD (Myall Lakes) (19:35):** I congratulate Sui Watts from Oxley Island who has a chance of being named in the Australian equestrian team squad to contest the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi in 2019. Sui has been selected in the New South Wales contingent to head to the Special Olympics Australia National Games in Adelaide from 16 to 18 April 2018. The National Games are held every four years and provide four days of competition for athletes with an intellectual disability to compete in a range of 11 sporting disciplines. Sui, who has been riding since she was four years of age, represented Australia

in 2012 in the International Hope Cup but she knows a spot at the Summer Games will outstrip that. She will be able to compete in four events at Adelaide including English equitation and dressage and then she can pick two more from working trails, gymkhana events, figure eight and Prix Caprilli, which is a dressage test with two jumps in it. I wish Sui the best of luck.

#### **DISABILITY ADVOCACY ALLIANCE**

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (19:36):** I congratulate the New South Wales Disability Advocacy Alliance, which held a forum in Parliament House last Thursday. Many disability organisations and multicultural community groups from my electorate were involved. They attended to stand up against the dreadful and shameful cuts to disability advocacy services across the State by the Government. The provision of funding to disability advocacy groups promotes, protects and ensures that people with disability receive full and equal inclusion of human rights and community participation.

At the New South Wales forum a number of community groups, particularly disability advocacy groups and multicultural groups in my electorate, launched the Stand By Me campaign. People with a disability personally called on the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, to continue funding. Leigh Creighton, who has Down syndrome, said: "I am here to ask the Premier to reconsider the cuts to advocacy services. Advocacy groups are like a telephone line that helps people with a disability to be heard clearly."

#### **NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (19:37):** Recently I had the privilege of attending a breakfast in the New South Wales Parliament to acknowledge National Nutrition Week, which was held in October. I thank Barbara Ward and the Nutrition Australia team for the services and education resources provided to the Australian community. Of course, their partners—Bayer Australia, the Lupus Association of New South Wales and SHARE—must also be recognised for their support and collaboration on goals to encourage Australians towards a healthier lifestyle.

With beginnings more than 20 years ago, National Nutrition Week with its focus on Try for 5 this year has raised awareness of the role of food in maintaining good health and the benefits of prioritising healthy eating and exercise. Over the years, Nutrition Australia has educated the community on how we can achieve the best possible quality of life. It has communicated how important it is that our daily routines consist of consuming a diversity of nutritious foods and being consciously active. I sincerely congratulate Barbara Ward and Nutrition Australia on another successful National Nutrition Week and on many years of successful service in reminding us to embrace a healthier lifestyle.

#### **TIMOR CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Mr NICK LALICH (Cabramatta) (19:37):** It was a privilege for me to attend the Twenty-first Presidential Inauguration Ceremony of the Timor Chinese Association of New South Wales. I acknowledge the great contribution the Timor Chinese community has made to Cabramatta. Since establishment of the Timor Chinese Association of New South Wales in 1978, the association has offered tremendous support for both its own people and for the wider community. It was a great honour to witness the inauguration of the new president, Mr Tony Von. With his experiences of serving as president from 1999 to 2003, the great work of the Timor Chinese Association of New South Wales will continue. I congratulate the association and I wish Tony Von and the association all the very best.

#### **SYLVANVALE FOUNDATION**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (19:38):** I acknowledge the Sylvanvale Foundation, which recently celebrated its seventieth anniversary. The Sylvanvale Foundation was formed in 1947 when a group of parents united to form an organisation that would give their children with disability a better quality of life through access to education and social inclusion. From humble beginnings in the Sutherland Baptist Church hall, Sylvanvale's Kirrawee headquarters today heads more than 50 locations and supports more than 750 children and adults from a range of cultural backgrounds to live and participate in their community as they choose. It was a pleasure to join the Sylvanvale Foundation as it celebrated its seventieth anniversary with a memorable evening at Parliament House on 20 September. I congratulate chief executive officer Leanne Fretten, chairman Jeff McCarthy, deputy chairman David Kelly, and board directors John Slack, Robert Brown, Bethany Taylor, Olga Stouthilina and David Rafferty. I thank the Sylvanvale Foundation for its service to our community for the past 70 years and wish them the best for the next 70 years.

#### **WHITE RIBBON WALK**

**Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury) (19:39):** I thank everyone involved in organising the White Ribbon Walk that will take place this Friday in Lakemba. I thank the Campsie Local Area Command, the NSW

Police Force, the Canterbury-Bankstown Council, its councillors and dedicated staff, the members of the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, the Canterbury unit of the State Emergency Service, the United Muslims of Australia, the Greater Western Sydney Giants, and many of the school groups, community groups and multicultural groups. This year will be bigger and better. All our volunteers have worked tirelessly in advocating that violence and domestic violence is unacceptable in all circumstances. This event is a fantastic way to educate people in our broader community, raise awareness about domestic violence and show solidarity with victims to let them know they have the support of the community.

#### **TRIBUTE TO THE HON. RICK COLLESS, MLC**

##### **Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services) (19:40):**

I honour and congratulate the Hon. Rick Colless in the other place who is the duty MLC for the Orange electorate. It has been 12 months since the Government lost its member for Orange and I thank God for the Hon. Rick Colless. He has delivered for the Orange and Cabonne communities and is doing an outstanding job to ensure that Government money continues to flow in those communities. The hunters party member has delivered nothing since being elected 12 months ago. The member for Orange constantly has a go at the Government and does not work with any Minister to achieve his goals. His tactics are demoralising and have a negative impact on the Orange community. The Hon. Rick Colless is filling the gap and meeting the needs of communities in the Orange electorate. They can rest assured that they can rely on the Hon. Rick Colless. I congratulate him on his outstanding contribution over the past 12 months.

#### **BIG RED RUN**

**Mr JAI ROWELL (Wollondilly) (19:41):** I draw the attention of the House to the efforts of Mel Farrow and Nerissa Nicki, who in June this year took part in a run across the Simpson Desert to raise funds for juvenile diabetes research. The Big Red Run is a 250-kilometre staged run which involves multiple marathons, a sprint of 30 kilometres and one day in the desert for more than 80 kilometres. Mel and Nerissa raised money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, particularly research programs into type 1 diabetes. Their team set a goal of raising \$2,000, with all money donated to the foundation to put to use in its quest for the cure, prevention and treatment of the disease.

#### **AUSTRALASIAN FIREFIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Mr GEOFF PROVEST (Tweed) (19:42):** I acknowledge the four Tweed fireys who travelled to Carterton in New Zealand to compete in the Australasian Firefighting Championships which took place from 17 to 19 November. Jacob Spence, Jonny Chemello, Daniel Perrin and their trainer, Callum Taylor, decided to put their training skills to the test and take on the other Australian and Kiwi firefighters. It was the first time all four competed, and I wish them all the best. I praise all our fireys in Tweed Heads, Banora Point and Kingscliff, because the retained staff as well as the permanent part-timers work hard. The Tweed community can sleep safely knowing the fireys are working 24/7.

#### **AUSTRALIAN CHINESE CHARITY FOUNDATION**

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (19:43):** I acknowledge the work of the Australian Chinese Charity Foundation [ACCF] and its service to the St George area for 27 years. It was my great honour to be in attendance at the ACCF's annual dinner in October when the achievements of the foundation were celebrated. My gratitude is extended to Michael Tse, chairman of the ACCF, and his wonderful team of members and volunteers who contribute diligently across the St George community and New South Wales. The foundation is a broad-based organisation which aims to help the community at large. Its objectives are to promote multiculturalism in our society, help those in need, support community projects in need of assistance, and respond to the urgent needs of many in a state of emergency. Some of their initiatives include the New South Wales Bushfire Appeal, Rwanda Appeal, Taiwan Earthquake Disaster, Cyclone Larry in Queensland, among many others. I acknowledge the volunteers of this organisation.

#### **SHOALHAVEN RIVER FESTIVAL**

**Ms SHELLEY HANCOCK (South Coast) (19:44):** On 28 and 29 October, Nowra once again hosted the Shoalhaven River Festival. As its name suggests, the festival centres around the mighty Shoalhaven River, kicking off with a street parade through Nowra's central business district. Its program includes riverside entertainment and stalls. It is a celebration of all things Shoalhaven, attracting thousands of visitors and families from across the South Coast. It delivers a welcome injection of tourism funds and boosts the local economy. Promotion of the event statewide also builds branding for the Shoalhaven as a tourist destination. I am proud to say that over the years the event has enjoyed the financial support of the Government, which has helped to reinvent and reinvigorate a festival that was forced to take a 15-year break. Since then, the festival has gone from strength to strength, becoming more popular each year. I congratulate the Shoalhaven River Festival committee, in

particular, chairperson Lynn Locke, and the event's sponsors and volunteers on the organisation of another successful and well-attended festival.

*Private Members' Statements*

**TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE MACCASKELL**

**SYLVANIA HEIGHTS COMMUNITY AND YOUTH CLUB**

**Ms ELENi PETINOS (Miranda) (19:45):** I commend the quick-thinking and bravery of Danielle MacCaskell of Sylvania for attending to a young boy suffering from a cardiac arrest. On Monday 6 November, coach Danielle rushed to the aid of 10-year-old Cooper Appleyard who suddenly went into cardiac arrest during a soccer game at the Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club. Calm under pressure, Danielle utilised her training and experience as a registered nurse, performing life-saving cardiopulmonary resuscitation to stabilise Cooper until the paramedics arrived. Thanks to the actions of Danielle, Cooper is now in a stable condition and recovering with his family in hospital.

I am informed that if it had not been for Danielle, it is likely that Cooper would not be with us today. I wish Cooper a speedy recovery and thank Danielle for her courageous actions. The selflessness displayed by Danielle embodies the true community spirit of our shire. Since this traumatic incident occurred, a defibrillator was donated to the Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club by the Marc Arcuri Foundation. This will ensure immediate help is always on hand should an incident like this ever occur again. I thank hardworking Tony Robbins, treasurer of the Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club, for bringing Danielle's heroism to my attention.

Although the Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club as we know it today was officially incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act in 1985, remnants of the club have been around for more than 60 years. From humble beginnings in 1956, members of the Local Progress Association met to discuss a proposal from Sutherland Shire Council about the allocation of land at The Heights to be developed for sporting activities. The land in question was located at the rear of the stud farm adjoining Box Road and sloping to Garnet Road, which the club still occupies today. In early 1958, the local progress association called on interested local sporting stakeholders and residents to form clubs. These groups then enlisted the help of parents at Sylvania Heights Public School to publicise the association and its inaugural meeting. Subsequently, Sylvania Heights Sports Club was formed.

In 1961, the name "Sylvania Heights Youth Club" was adopted to reflect the number of young people participating in sport at the club. The name was again changed in 1974 to Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club and has remained so ever since. The club is a not-for-profit community organisation with a primary focus on sporting and recreational activities for all ages and genders. Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club offers a range of traditional and unique sporting and recreational activities in which young people from across our shire can participate. These include sports such as football, netball, cricket and badminton to recreational activities including calisthenics, jazz and tap dance classes, jujitsu, and historical and non-historical war games. I thank the 2017 executive committee members who are instrumental to the success of the Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club: president John Allingham, vice-president Trent Jordan, secretary Jenny Buchanan, treasurer Tony Robins and registrar Sue Foster.

At the start of this year, the Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club commenced renovations to the canteen area of the clubhouse. This was made possible by a \$9,000 grant issued under the 2016 Community Building Partnership [CBP] Program. I have no doubt that the new facilities will be a welcome addition to an already wonderful local organisation and I am delighted to have been able to support our community with this grant. The Sylvania Heights Community and Youth Club, with all its teams, players and hardworking individuals behind the scenes, truly is a testament to our shire's love of sport and community spirit. I look forward to seeing the finished product of the 2016 CBP canteen refurbishment project in March and extend my best wishes to all involved for another successful year in 2018.

**TEACHING**

**Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (19:49):** On behalf of some of my former teaching colleagues, I share some of their stories to give a voice to those at the coalface. Kerrie says:

I feel that the work of a teacher is underestimated and undervalued by the community, and government. I have been teaching for a long while and the changes and increasing workload have been phenomenal. I no longer encourage young people to choose teaching as a career. The personal rewards are few nowadays and the cost is great.

These are a few of my reasons:

- I travel an hour each way to work, often leaving home at 6am and returning at 7pm. I rarely see my husband and children before I leave and don't have much time with them in the evening. I need to do school work (programming, marking, lesson preparation, assessment, AP work, responding to emails, reports, entering, collating and collecting data etc).
- When I finally go to bed exhausted, I often wake from 1:30am onwards and cannot return to sleep due to worries and concerns about teaching. I am not alone; many of my colleagues have their sleep disturbed.
- The behaviour of students is increasingly impacting on teaching. Many students with special needs are in mainstream classes and schools are seriously underequipped to manage these extra demands.
- Whoever thought introducing 5 new syllabuses at the same time was a good idea? Enough said! Add to this the continuums, frameworks and LMBR changes to schools.
- Reporting has become a cumbersome and tiresome process that does not give parents MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION at all. I would say that a minimum of 72 hours straight of teacher's own time is devoted to reports twice a year. You can tell it is report time through the amount of sickness that befalls teachers: lower immunity and high stress
- The exorbitant workload means that the quality of teaching diminishes. There are not enough hours in the day to achieve all that has to be done. ... There was a time you looked forward to a weekend and holidays as there might be time for recuperation, relaxation, exercise and time with the family. Those days are long gone.

Another teacher friend hailing from rural New South Wales tells me of the impact of feeling demoralised by a system that does not value teachers' professionalism, time and dedication—how incredibly isolating and discouraging this is—despite being such a remarkable teacher and a few years into a relatively new career change; despite kicking substantial goals, loved by his students and their parents; despite being a progressive thinker and having secured a degree with distinction; despite having the most positive impact on some of our most disadvantaged and vulnerable kids; and, despite being a fantastic, energised, intelligent and committed teacher. It is very sad.

My last comment is for another very special teacher in recognition and commendation of one of the very best. I pay tribute to Craig McGown, head teacher of music at Winnalee High School. Craig McGown has also spent the past 12 years conducting the Pulse Public Schools Concert Band. He is well known and revered throughout the music world. Sadly, he now finishes up with Pulse. The band has been a significant part of Craig's life: an unpaid commitment through which he has brought passion, talent and first-class large ensemble music into our children's lives. Mr McGown's musical expectations of young people in the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney were high.

Performances at major events in the Opera House and Sydney Town Hall and at New South Wales State Band Championships are testament to the hard work Craig McGown and the children put in each Wednesday night—rehearsals and performances both amazing and rewarding. Successful music careers have been built on Craig's skill and dedication: professional musicians, music therapists, music teachers and students accepted into and graduating from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Craig McGown is a proud Western Sydney music educator and he is well loved: Thank you for sharing yourself with our children and our families. Music has changed our lives because of you.

Next year Mr McGown takes his family on an exchange to Canada. I have no doubt that the middle school in Bragg Creek, Alberta, will adore and appreciate you, Craig. Your inspirational music-making will thankfully see a more broad and international impact. Our loss is Canada's gain. Finally, you deserved better treatment from a system that demands teachers fit and tick boxes. You deserved to be valued more by some who just do not get it. I absolutely trust that you will be honoured and respected beyond measure in your next musical adventure. I hope our paths cross again. Thank you, Craig McGown, and take care. You are salt of the earth—an impressive human. I thank all our fabulous teachers: At this time of year, during report writing, feeling weary and in desperate need of a break, you still give our precious children—our future—everything you have got.

#### **DUBBO ELECTORATE FAMILY INVESTMENT MODEL**

##### **Mr TROY GRANT (Dubbo—Minister for Police, and Minister for Emergency Services) (19:54):**

This evening I advise the House of the progress of the Family Investment Model, a wonderful justice reinvestment strategy running in the Dubbo electorate. I am enormously proud that since 2011 Dubbo has seen historic and unprecedented levels of funding. Investment in roads, hospitals, schools, policing, community infrastructure and local justice services for this period exceeds \$1.2 billion. Today Dubbo is a regional powerhouse, outstripping cities throughout regional New South Wales. Beyond that economic prosperity, Dubbo is one of the most honest communities one could ever find. Dubbo does have crime problems, some social dysfunction and some social justice problems, but it also has a lot of people who have such a strong sense of civic duty that they are prepared to be honest about those problems, face the challenges and try to fix them with good outcomes.

Dubbo is piloting the Family Investment Model [FIM] to try to tackle some of those prevalent and perennial issues. The FIM evolved from the ministers action group [MAG], a key group that I formed in 2012 to overcome some of the serious social issues originally arising out of the Apollo Estate and then spreading more

broadly across Dubbo. The MAG tackled some of those issues of social dislocation and compounding crime that were stigmatising the City of Dubbo's reputation and functionality. Much was achieved through the collaboration of agencies and not-for-profit groups, but a lot more needed to be done. The FIM pilot is currently running in Dubbo and Kempsey. At the conclusion of the 24-month trial, it will be assessed and evaluated by the Australian Institute of Criminology. At the halfway mark, I am pleased to report that the FIM model has already seen outstanding success.

The FIM has representatives from each of the key government agencies—Family and Community Services, Juvenile Justice, Corrective Services, police, education and health, for example—working together day in and day out, making real and tangible differences. The FIM has broken down bureaucratic silos, and put the focus back on those in our community who really need help to keep their families on track and out of the criminal justice system. Since the trial commenced it has helped 39 of Dubbo's most vulnerable families to address issues often driven by drug and alcohol abuse, such as unemployment, disengagement from education, domestic violence, mental health problems, child protection and homelessness.

Last Friday I briefed the local council and the community about some of the outstanding results of the program. One gentleman from a family that has been supported by the FIM is 36 years of age. He has spent 26 of those years in incarceration. In those 26 years, the longest period he has spent without being incarcerated has been when he has been working with the Family Investment Model. That speaks volumes of the real outcome being achieved by the FIM. I thank Narelle Jeffrey, the manager of the FIM, and her team for their outstanding work. The FIM does not work in isolation; it works with community partners such as Apollo House, led by Johanna Leader and her team who also do excellent work in the housing commission section of east Dubbo. They also work very closely with justice reinvestment and other justice programs, such as the Extra Offender Management Services, the Youth on Track program, Eternity Aid and Midnight Basketball, just to name a few.

When I talk about funding for roads, schools and hospitals in Dubbo, and about the economic prosperity that will lift and support those who struggle socially, we know that it is not one silver bullet or a single initiative that will fix our problems. We know that roads and schools funding is not about bricks and mortar; it is about people and lives. These economic and social investments will give Dubbo a very bright and prosperous future. It will change lives—it already is. I am confident that the Family Investment Model is one the Government will adopt in future.

### COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**Mr MARK COURE (Oatley) (19:59):** I acknowledge and bring to the House's attention the Country Women's Association [CWA] of New South Wales and its outstanding work in Sydney, across New South Wales and across Australia, but particularly in my electorate. The CWA was founded in New South Wales in 1922 and it is the largest women's organisation in Australia today. It has 44,000 members across 1,855 branches nationwide. Now, 95 years later, these ladies do so much more than bake delicious scones, although I unashamedly hope that legacy will live on for many years to come.

Whilst it might be hard to imagine a CWA morning tea without tea and their famous scones, its dedicated membership prioritises helping people in a way that is sincere and purposeful. I most admire their value of improving the conditions for women and children to make life better for families, especially those living in remote parts of the country. I have never experienced the remoteness of residing in a rural part of Australia. However, I can only imagine how isolating it may be from time to time and how support networks would be stretched more than in busy and densely-populated Sydney.

The CWA's 95 years of service to local communities across the nation are a testament to its loyalty, dedication and commitment to serving women and families. In light of CWA Awareness Week, which was held in the first week of September this year, I honour the work of all women involved in a CWA branch in Australia for their generosity and kindness in volunteering their time and effort. In just the last few months, the CWA in New South Wales has been involved with or attended Family Safety Week, the National Council of Women, the NSW Farmers Conference and social issues committees, amongst many other events. State president Annette Turner was interviewed on several prime-time television segments over the same period and met with Premier Gladys Berejiklian recently. The Premier's first comment when she met with Annette was how she noticed a greater strength in the CWA's advocacy role and presence in lobbying governments across the nation.

It is organisations like the CWA that have inspired governments to act on the most pressing needs in the community. As members of Parliament, we need such groups to ensure we are making decisions that best reflect and address the needs of the individuals we have the privilege of representing. I am incredibly grateful for constituents in my electorate who advise me of their concerns and I encourage them to do so. However, the standouts are those who are willing to get their hands dirty and advocate for change. The CWA does exactly that. The Country Women's Association of New South Wales has outlined its mission statement as aiming to improve

the welfare and conditions of country women by bringing opportunities for recreation within their reach, encouraging active study of local affairs, promoting a wise and kindly spirit, and supporting medical industries however possible.

Ambassadors and partners with CWA help make this vision possible and assist in ensuring the core message is able to reach as many women as possible. This year's supporters are Rebel Black, founder of *THE Rural Woman*; Simone Eyles, founder of *365cups*; Zoe Lamont, founder and chief executive officer of *10 Thousand Girl*; and *Girls Academy*. Through collaboration, partnership and unity, so much can be achieved. I warmly welcome Deb Gavan, newest member of the Georges River branch, and Elizabeth Connellan, newest member of the St George-Sutherland Shire branch, to CWA branches in my electorate. I sincerely hope they realise what a positive impact they will have in my local community within the respectable organisations they are a part of. I warmly congratulate CWA on its ninety-fifth anniversary. Here is to more tea, scones and social change to come.

### OUTER SYDNEY ORBITAL CORRIDOR

**Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry) (20:03):** Something that is causing considerable consternation in my community is the preservation of the corridor for the north-south rail link and the Outer Sydney Orbital, otherwise known as the M9 orbital. The Government has made several announcements about its commitment to the Outer Sydney Orbital, particularly stage one. While we on this side acknowledge that these transport corridors need to be pursued and advocate for them, as the local member I need to raise the concern of my community that the Government is not communicating with communities along this corridor about whether they will be affected by the reservation of such a corridor. Recently, a leaked government document came into our possession which showed up to 450 properties in the suburbs of Llandilo and Cranebrook—Llandilo is in the electorate of Londonderry and Cranebrook is shared by the electorates of Londonderry and Penrith—could be adversely impacted by the gazetting of a corridor for the Outer Sydney Orbital.

Since my election in 2015, I have repeatedly written to the various planning Ministers to ask which suburbs will be impacted by this corridor. First we were told to expect community consultation on the corridor to take place at the beginning of 2016, then it became the middle of 2016. Still the residents wait to find out whether they will be in the line of the corridor for this incoming road. While we acknowledge that it may be many decades before this road is constructed, people living in the suburb of Llandilo—a small, semi-rural community in my electorate—deserve to know whether a road will potentially go through their homes. They are rightly very concerned when a Transport for NSW document names their suburb as being potentially adversely impacted by the corridor but they cannot get an answer out of the Government as to whether the corridor will go through their suburb, nor will the Government tell their local member what is happening.

I speak now in Parliament as the last step to say to the Government: Tell us what is happening in Llandilo. I congratulate the Berkshire Park, Llandilo and Shanes Park Community Action Group. Lisa Xuereb from this group is a force to be reckoned with. She is in constant communication with me as the member for Londonderry about what is happening with these corridors. It is not unusual for her to convene a community meeting of up to 100 or 200 people. The Government should know that this is widely felt in this community and we need to know where this corridor is going. She cannot obtain information from the Government and nor can her local member. While we all argue for greater infrastructure in Western Sydney—particularly given the impetus of the coming Western Sydney Airport and the opportunity it presents, which will be wasted if we do not construct such infrastructure—we deserve to know where these corridors are going.

I put on record my frustration that this timetable keeps getting dragged out for my community. I will not stop until we have some sort of explanation from the Government. It will not tell us where it is going, but the Government must know if it is saying that up to 450 properties in Llandilo and Cranebrook will potentially be compulsorily acquired—do not underestimate how much anxiety that causes in the community. This is not good enough for me as a local member because—and this is what matters—it is not good enough for that community. They will not let me rest on my laurels. I will keep pushing until we get an answer as to what the corridor will be and it goes to community consultation, because of the way this potentially game-changing infrastructure might impact the community of Londonderry in future.

### KATOKE TRUST FOR OVERSEAS AID

**Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla—Attorney General) (20:08):** One of the best things about being a member of Parliament is being able to connect with and be a part of local community groups that do so much volunteering within our society. Earlier this year I had the privilege of becoming a patron of the Katoke Trust for Overseas Aid. On 3 November I attended its annual dinner in GyMEA. This year, the dinner was focused on 20 years of celebrating the outstanding achievements of the trust and its goals heading into the future. The Katoke Trust for Overseas Aid was founded by Dr Alan Watson in 1998. It is funding and supporting a multi-pronged,

sustained attack on extreme poverty in the Katoke area of Tanzania. Passionate volunteers are at the core of this operation, both managing the trust and helping in person in Katoke, Tanzania. The trust is a grassroots Christian organisation that provides for people irrespective of their race, colour or religion. Its most important form of aid is education, which is the most sustainable form of aid. Its major project is a secondary school, meeting the great need for secondary education in Tanzania. In Tanzania less than one-third of children have access to education beyond primary school.

The trust employs more than 15 local teachers, who educate more than 460 students at Katoke Secondary School. In the past year alone, two classrooms, one dormitory, staff flats and a dining hall have been constructed. The trust has also delivered anti-malaria education in 14 villages and distributed mosquito nets, which have cut the incidence of malaria to around 10 per cent in the Katoke region. The project has also implemented an agricultural project to help communities earn income through growing crops. This belief in a hand up, not a handout is central to the trust's vision and its success in building a sustainable effort to fight poverty. Helping the locals of Katoke to take hold of their own future is not only the most efficient way to assist communities like this but also the best way to empower them to make a real difference. This is a philosophy that I believe in, and it should be what not-for-profits across the developing world are all about. It should also be the goal for those helping disadvantaged people across Australia and in our local communities.

I congratulate the trust on what it has accomplished, and I thank the volunteers and its supporters. Dr Watson has been the backbone of all the successes achieved by the trust over the past 20 years. Dr Watson first spent four years as an educator at the Katoke College in the 1960s with the Church Missionary Society. He returned in 1998 to see that education standards had fallen and diseases become endemic in the surrounding area. The Katoke trust began by operating a dispensary, AIDS seminars and malaria prevention programs. Katoke Secondary School opened its doors in 2009 and today has more than 460 students and numerous graduates who have been accepted into tertiary education. This is the twentieth year of the trust. The successful longevity of the organisation speaks greatly of its devoted supporters and enthusiastic volunteers. What the trust has managed to accomplish in Tanzania in improving the quality of life and supporting the education of locals, whether through building new facilities or providing teaching staff, is invaluable—and testimony to the efficiency and hard work that sets the Katoke trust apart.

#### **PREMIER'S ANZAC AMBASSADORS PROGRAM**

**Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale) (20:12):** I report to the House on the recent Premier's Anzac Ambassadors Program trip to Greece and Israel that I was fortunate to be part of. It was an incredible privilege to join some inspiring young people to commemorate our fallen Anzacs on some of the battlefields of the First World War and the Second World War where Australian troops made the ultimate sacrifice, including the site of the Battle of 42nd Street in Crete and the Battle of Beersheba in Israel, as well as to visit many of the Commonwealth cemeteries where Australian soldiers were laid to rest. Six high school students from across our State wrote exceptional essays on what the Centenary of Anzac and the Battle of Beersheba mean to them and earned scholarships from ClubsNSW to embark on this amazing trip. After spending the past two weeks with these astonishingly bright and passionate young men and women, I could not think of a better group of ambassadors to join the Australian delegation during these historic tributes.

We began our journey in Athens, visiting the Phaleron Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery—the final resting place of 2,029 Commonwealth servicemen, including almost 600 Australians. We then travelled to Lemnos, where many Australian soldiers were stationed during the Gallipoli campaign, as well as to the location of the Battle of 42nd Street on the island of Crete, where Australian forces won one of the few Allied victories on Crete. The heavy casualties they inflicted led in part to the German military abandoning airborne assaults. Next we arrived in Israel for the official commemoration of the Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba and the charge of the Light Horse, an incredibly moving service that included a visit to the Commonwealth Cemetery. It was incredibly moving to see one of the young essayists, Oliver "Coota" Litchfield, visit the grave of his great- great- grandfather—a truly special opportunity to acknowledge the sacrifice his family made for our nation. We were driven to tears as Oliver's fellow students embraced him during this moving experience. In fact, we called it "Operation Coota"—we had to find his great-great-grandpa—and it was beautiful.

At every location we visited, we stopped as the students laid a wreath on behalf of our country in memory of our fallen servicemen, and I could not be prouder of how they acquitted themselves. This was a particularly special trip for me as I had the opportunity to visit the Monastery of St George in Jerusalem, where my father passed away during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land two decades ago. While this trip was non-stop, I am grateful that I had the opportunity to help escort these six bright young Australians and witness the deep respect and thoughtfulness with which they approached Australia's military history and the legacy of the Anzacs. I wish to acknowledge the young leaders whom this trip was all about: Eeva Lehtonen, Vani Sritharan, Hunter Leech,

William Foster, Oliver Litchfield and Rockdale's very own Eloise Cooper, all of whom have bright futures ahead of them.

A special thanks must go to ClubsNSW and its chief executive officer [CEO], Anthony Ball, who facilitated this delegation. I could not think of many other CEOs who would take time out to help act as chaperone for such a packed trip. Anthony Ball is a genuinely good guy, who sought to get the very best out of the students throughout the trip. He challenged them to express themselves and to build their confidence on a daily basis. I am quite sure they came back as different people. It was great to see. I also thank the fantastic member for Miranda, Eleni Petinos, who fussed over these kids for the whole trip. She was a bit of a pain on occasion but she was fantastic! She was on top of all the photography requirements, since I am hopelessly low tech. She joined me in accompanying the students for the entire trip. It was also great to join the Minister for Veterans Affairs, David Elliott, and the member for Kiama, Gareth Ward, on the Israel leg, and Speaker Shelley Hancock and her better half, Ossie. The trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and the fine young students we chaperoned made our nation proud.

### SCHOOL SAFETY

**Mr ROB STOKES (Pittwater—Minister for Education) (20:16):** I speak about a sadly familiar sight around my local community, and one that many here will know all too well—the bane of many parents' lives: the daily school run. Anyone who finds themselves near a local school in the early morning or mid-afternoon will be aware of the twice-daily rigmarole that dropping off and picking up children can become. Suburban streets become choked with cars driven at a snail's pace by stressed-out parents. The air is filled with the sound of car horns, shouting and the stench of exhaust fumes. Safety risks are created as drivers try to navigate their vehicles through narrow suburban streets. Children and parents find themselves having to run the gauntlet of vehicles pouring in from all directions as they try to reach each other before fighting their way out of the stationary traffic surrounding them. This is a profoundly unpleasant, unsafe and unhealthy situation for everyone involved.

The solution is simple and obvious. The Government has been doing plenty of things in relation to school safety, such as installing school zone flashing lights, but it is equally important to get more people to leave their cars at home and have more children walking or riding to school. Choosing active transport may seem simple: It is, quite literally, as easy as riding a bike. Yet in the space of my lifetime there has been a disturbing trend away from walking and riding and towards the increased use of cars for the school run. In the 1970s more than 60 per cent of Australian children used active transport to get to and from school; four decades later, that percentage has dropped to less than 40 per cent. This fits a concerning trend across all parts of our community, where people are becoming less active and choosing more sedentary lifestyle options.

It is no secret that obesity rates are on a constant march upwards. Being overweight or obese increases the risk—particularly for a child—of a range of health issues, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular complications and cancer. It should be of grave concern that walking and riding to school—a healthy and highly practical transport choice, not to mention affordable and great incidental exercise—has been supplanted by the traffic jam bedlam of the modern school run. How do we fix this? For a start, we can plan schools better. Ensuring that schools are located at the centre of communities, rather than at the periphery, is a good start. If we ensure that schools are located at the centre of communities it will be a good start.

Common sense dictates that a school at the heart of where we live—a close, accessible, familiar place—is one that parents are more likely to feel comfortable letting their child travel to under their own steam. Incidental exercise is the best way of getting kids out and about—for example, if a child who lives one kilometre away from their local school walks to and from school each day, he or she will be meeting more than half of that child's daily exercise needs through incidental exercise. That is outside formalised sport. If a school is located near other community facilities and destinations, parents can walk or ride with their children, kiss them goodbye at the school gate, and continue on with the rest of their day. If a school sits on the fringes of a local area, placed at distance from other daily needs and devoid of active transport routes, then parents are inevitably going to feel that it is necessary to get in the car.

Schools and the areas surrounding them should be safe, attractive and useable pedestrian environments. The Government not only needs to play its part by planning schools better, which we are intent on doing; councils need to make sure that schools fit within their communities, are permeable spaces and well connected by active transport routes. We need to improve the walking and cycling infrastructure that connects schools to their local communities. Shared pathways, bike racks and crossings for major roads are obvious improvements, as well as providing proper shade trees and making it a pleasant environment in which to walk. A New South Wales Government funded walking and cycle path from Palm Beach, in my electorate of Pittwater, all the way down to Manly is a great example of the top-notch active transport infrastructure currently under construction. The Sydney Green Grid that the Government is establishing, linking our open spaces with active transport links, is another wonderful initiative.

More broadly though, we need a major change in how we approach active transport. It is not uncommon to find places around our schools, and in our communities generally, where well-built and maintained roads sit beside footpaths with cracked, uneven pavers and tree roots creating trip hazards. These roads benefit road users but create obstacles for pedestrians. This sends a message that active transport—our walkers and cyclists—does not matter and is not a priority for our communities and policy makers. This needs to change. We need to make schools and their surrounds more accessible and permeable for walkers and cyclists. We need to look at ways to reduce the number of cars on the road. Fewer cars on our roads also cuts down air and noise pollution, making for a healthier and much more pleasant environment for us all to live in. It is not only the children who walk and ride to school who will benefit, but also all members of the public. I encourage all levels of government to help create a healthier, more mobile and happier community by supporting active transport.

#### **WHITE RIBBON DAY**

**Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (20:22):** Saturday 25 November is White Ribbon Day 2017. Unfortunately, more than most members in this place, I know about the very real horror of domestic violence. Before coming to this place, I was a police officer for more than 20 years. For 16 of those years, I stood at the bar table of many local courts on a daily basis to defend the uncountable number of victims who sought protection from perpetrators—many of whom they thought loved and cared for them. I took no pleasure in reading aloud to the court the abhorrent acts that people inflicted upon their own kin. It is no secret that the majority of victims are physically weaker and considerably more vulnerable than the perpetrators of domestic violence. Women and children are overwhelmingly represented as the victims in need of protection and, as a man, I am embarrassed and disgusted that men overwhelmingly present as the offenders in the majority of cases.

Domestic violence is serious. I have observed criminals, led to the docks in handcuffs, who were accused and later convicted of killing a family member. The evidence presented to the court typically demonstrated a pattern in which the deceased was a long-suffering victim and, in many instances, was trapped and unable to escape the captive reign of the despicable offender. Statistics show that over a 12-month period, on average, one woman is killed every week by a current or former partner. Domestic violence does not just involve the brutalities of blunt force trauma from clenched fists resulting in bloodied noses and black eyes; it also ranges across a vile spectrum from psychological abuse and trauma, through intimidation, neglect and economic deprivation, to unimaginable death following inescapable torture.

In the electorate of Orange the incidence of domestic violence is, shamefully, reported as being twice the State average. Senior Constable Granton Smith of the Canobolas Local Area Command is a dedicated advocate of victims of domestic violence, as were the domestic violence liaison officers from whom he took the mantle. Granton, under the leadership of Superintendent Shane Cribb, has been justifiably recognised on many occasions for his significant contribution to addressing domestic violence. But, despite their best efforts, police are only part of the solution in addressing domestic violence. We are the eyes and ears within our community. We need to be vigilant and not hesitate to stand up and speak out to protect those among us who are often too weak or scared to seek help. Indeed, the warning signs are often so subtle as to be indiscernible to those who have been fortunate never to have experienced domestic violence.

So let us ask questions and learn about it. Let us all talk about domestic violence and become involved. This morning I took the oath to stop violence against women. I will stand up, speak out and act to prevent men's violence against women. I invite all members and those in our communities to do the same. There is no silver bullet to eradicating domestic violence. It involves more than police intervention, judicial and correctional responses. It also involves government resources, education, community awareness and support. Please get involved. Start by pinning a white ribbon to your shirt. This Saturday be proud to participate in White Ribbon Day across the State.

**Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (20:26):** I commend the member for Orange for a very fine speech that few could disagree with. Before becoming a member of Parliament he was a police officer. Importantly, in that speech he brought to bear his great experience as a police officer and a police prosecutor. His stories are very valuable in educating the community about this most important issue of domestic violence.

**TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Adam Crouch):** I note that I have also taken the oath to stop violence against women. I thank the member for Orange for his contribution this evening.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to resolution, at 20:27 until  
Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 10:00.**