



New South Wales

Legislative Council

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament
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Thursday, 25 August 2016

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Motions	1
Hearing Awareness Week	1
Professor George Williams, AO	1
Mr Michel Elias Jarjoura, OAM	1
Professor Patrick McGorry, AO	2
Indonesian Independence Day	2
Australian Arab Business Council	3
Documents	4
Auditor-General's Report	4
Business of the House	4
Postponement of Business	4
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Order of Business	4
Order of Business	4
Bills	4
Steel Industry Protection Bill 2016	4
Second Reading	4
In Committee	11
Adoption of Report	19
Third Reading	19
Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Bill 2016	20
Messages	20
Motions	20
Fairfield Youth Off the Streets	20
Business of the House	28
Order of Business	28
Motions	28
Fairfield Youth Off the Streets	28
Questions Without Notice	30
NSW Police Force Restructure	30
Westconnex Compulsory Property Acquisition	30
Parramatta Road, Camperdown, Flooding	31
Community Harmony	31
Pacific Highway Lismore Signage	32
Commercial Fishing Industry Adjustment Program	33
Forestry Industry Strategic Plan	34
Broken Hill Water Supply	35
Crown Land Sport and Recreation Facilities	35
Wayne O'mally Bridge	36
Public Transport Noise Management	36
Pacific Highway Upgrade and Koala Habitat	37

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Cultural Diversity in Sport.....	37
Agricultural Industry Employment.....	38
Wentworth Park Administration	39
Parramatta Road, Camperdown, Flooding.....	39
Documents	40
Tabling of Papers	40
Motions	40
Fairfield Youth Off the Streets	40
Business of the House	42
Order of Business.....	42
Motions	42
Fairfield Youth Off the Streets	42
Committees	43
Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption	43
Membership	43
Adjournment Debate.....	44
Adjournment	44
Hearing Awareness Week.....	44
Domestic Violence.....	44
Battle of Fromelles Centenary	45
Battle of Long Tan Fiftieth Anniversary	45
The Greens.....	46
Civil Aviation.....	47
Racial Vilification Legislation.....	48

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 25 August 2016

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. Donald Thomas Harwin) took the chair at 10:00.

The PRESIDENT read the prayers.

Motions

HEARING AWARENESS WEEK

The Hon. SOPHIE COTSIS (10:01): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) Hearing Awareness Week occurs each year in the last full week of August and this year runs from Sunday 21 August to Sunday 28 August 2016;
 - (b) Hearing Awareness Week aims to eliminate stigma, isolation, lack of work opportunities and associated health issues for people who are hearing impaired or deaf and seeks to improve their overall quality of life;
 - (c) four million Australians are hearing impaired or deaf, a number which is increasing because of long-term exposure to excessive noise, often in the workplace, as well as accidents, the environment and the ageing of the population; and
 - (d) Hearing Awareness Week is promoted by the Deafness Forum of Australia, the peak national body representing Australians who are hard of hearing, deaf, deaf blind, have a hearing loss or a chronic ear or balance disorder and the families who support them.
- (2) That this House thanks the Deafness Forum of Australia for its hard work promoting Hearing Awareness Week and wishes the Forum every success in raising awareness about deafness and hearing impairment in Australia.

Motion agreed to.

PROFESSOR GEORGE WILLIAMS, AO

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE (10:02): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that Professor George Williams, AO:
 - (a) succeeds Professor David Dixon as Dean of the University of New South Wales [UNSW] Faculty of Law;
 - (b) has held an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship and visiting positions at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Columbia University Law School in New York, and Durham University and University College London in the United Kingdom;
 - (c) possesses exceptional experience as a practising barrister, appearing in many High Court cases over the past two decades, including those on freedom of speech, freedom from racial discrimination and the rule of law, as well as having appeared in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal of Fiji regarding the legality of the 2000 coup;
 - (d) as Chair of the Victorian Human Rights Consultation Committee in 2005, was instrumental in bringing about Australia's first state bill of rights and made contributions on a number of high level Commonwealth-State and constitutional issues;
 - (e) has written and edited 34 books in the legal field; and
 - (f) was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2011 for distinguished service to the law in the fields of anti-terrorism, human rights and constitutional law as an academic, author, adviser and public commentator.
- (2) That this House congratulates Professor David Dixon on his decade as Dean of the University of New South Wales Faculty of Law and wishes Professor George Williams well on his appointment as Dean of the University of New South Wales Faculty of Law in this important leadership role.

Motion agreed to.

MR MICHEL ELIAS JARJOURA, OAM

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE (10:03): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) Mr Michel Elias Jarjoura, born in 1929 in Betram, Lebanon, migrated to Australia at the age of 19;
 - (b) Mr Jarjoura was a hawker, the same as most Lebanese migrants at the time, who traversed all over New South Wales;
 - (c) Mr Jarjoura first established the Mansours chain of retail homeware specialty stores in Lakemba in 1957;

- (d) the Mansours chain later spread right across New South Wales and now comprises over 40 stores known as MyHouse;
 - (e) Mr Jarjoura has served in various community roles including as:
 - (i) Chairman of the Antiochian Orthodox Committee of Sydney from 1983 to 1992;
 - (ii) President of the Australian Lebanese Association New South Wales Branch from 1977 to 1980;
 - (iii) Vice President of the World Lebanese Cultural Union from 1979 to 1984; and
 - (iv) Dean of the Lebanese Humanitarian Appeal Committee from 2007 to present.
 - (f) for his services, Mr Jarjoura has been awarded:
 - (i) the Order of the Cross of St Peter and Paul in 1989;
 - (ii) the Gold Merit Award from the World Lebanese Cultural Union in 1983; and
 - (iii) the Medal of the Order of Australia [OAM] in the General Division for service to the Lebanese community of New South Wales in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2012.
- (2) That this House notes the business achievements of Mr Jarjoura and congratulates him on his lifelong contribution to the wider Australian community.

Motion agreed to.

PROFESSOR PATRICK MCGORRY, AO

The Hon. MARK PEARSON (10:04): I move:

- (1) That this House commends the outstanding and visionary work of Patrick Dennistoun McGorry, AO, FAA, FASSA, FRCP, FRANZCP, Professor of Youth Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, who is an Australian psychiatrist renowned for his development of early intervention services for youth experiencing symptoms of psychosis.
- (2) That this House notes that:
 - (a) 28 years ago, Professor McGorry established a youth mental health program at the Aubrey Lewis Unit, Royal Park Hospital, which was the precursor to the Orygen Youth Health Program operating out of the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre [EPPIC]; and
 - (b) EPPIC has played a key part in an early psychosis treatment paradigm for psychiatry and has led to significant reform of mental health services across all States and Territories of Australia.
- (3) That this House congratulates Professor McGorry on his outstanding advocacy in early intervention programs with young people who are at risk of psychosis, but who are not currently psychotic.
- (4) That this House notes that:
 - (a) in 2010, Professor McGorry was named Australian of the Year for his services to youth mental health as well as being appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia; and
 - (b) in 2013, Professor McGorry was honoured with the National Alliance on Mental Illness Scientific Research Award.
- (5) That this House notes that the Hon. Mark Pearson, MLC, who had the pleasure of working with Professor McGorry while training as a psychiatrist, has written to Professor McGorry to invite him to Parliament House to meet the Minister for Mental Health, the Hon. Pru Goward, MP, to discuss the EPPIC programs as well as the effective community treatment of mentally ill people suffering from acute episodes of psychosis or depression.

Motion agreed to.

INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (10:04): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) Wednesday 17 August 2016 was the seventy-first anniversary of the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence;
 - (b) in celebration of Indonesian Independence Day, the Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia in Sydney, Dr Yayan Mulyana, hosted an Independence Day reception with his wife Mrs Irene Mulyana;
 - (c) the keynote speaker at the reception was the Governor of New South Wales, His Excellency General the Hon. David Hurley, AC, DSC, (Ret'd);
 - (d) the Hon. Shayne Mallard, MLC, attended the reception, representing the Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC; and
 - (e) according to the 2011 census, the Indonesian-born community in Australia at the time consisted of 63,159 persons, 26,834 or 42 per cent of whom lived in New South Wales.
- (2) That this House congratulates:

- (a) the Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia in Sydney, Dr Yayan Mulyana and his wife Mrs Irene Mulyana for their successful celebration of the seventy-first Indonesian Independence Day and their continued attention to Indonesian-Australian relations in New South Wales; and
- (b) the Australian-Indonesian community for its continued contribution to and embrace of multicultural Australian society.

Motion agreed to.

AUSTRALIAN ARAB BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE (10:05): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) the Australian Arab Business Council [AABC] celebrated 10 years of continuous service in the advancement of the interests of Australia and in particular New South Wales;
 - (b) the AABC is a dynamic and vibrant organisation that works closely with governments and businesses in Australia and overseas to grow trade within Australia and between the Arab world;
 - (c) the AABC is also a business referral and support network which can provide employment opportunities through its members;
 - (d) the AABC has over 170 members ranging from small to large size businesses covering an array of industries and professions including banking and financial institutions, insurance, media, legal, accounting, health, business management, information and communication technology, property development, travel, building and construction, food, furniture and timber;
 - (e) the AABC endeavours to be a premier platform to facilitate business and social networking among the Australian Arab business community as well as the wider Australian business community;
 - (f) in May 2013, the AABC hosted a forum in the Parliament of New South Wales to address trade issues, which was attended by 37 members of the Parliament of New South Wales, of all political persuasions;
 - (g) in March 2014, the AABC, in conjunction with the Council of Arab Ambassadors, organised a trade expo which was held at the Parliament of New South Wales;
 - (h) the AABC established a branch in Lebanon and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Egyptian Business Forum, based in Cairo, Egypt, to facilitate links for Australian business wanting to establish connections in the region;
 - (i) the AABC organises an annual joint forum in Canberra with the Council of Arab Ambassadors which involves all Heads of Diplomatic Missions representing Arab countries in Australia; and
 - (j) in 2015, the AABC held its eighth such joint forum in the Commonwealth Parliament in the presence and active engagement of senators and members of Parliament from across the political spectrum.
- (2) That this House notes the work of the AABC and in particular:
 - (a) Mr Hassan Moussa, President;
 - (b) Mr Radwan Hamdan, immediate past President;
 - (c) Mr John Maait, foundation President;
 - (d) Mr Zak Refai, Vice President;
 - (e) Mr Roy Skaf and Ms Fatima Ali, Secretary;
 - (f) Mr Eddie Chebab, Treasurer;
 - (g) Ms Natalie Karapatsakis, Assistant Secretary;
 - (h) non-executive board members:
 - (i) Mr Farid Zaki;
 - (ii) Ms Fatima Ali;
 - (iii) Ms Dina Tadros;
 - (iv) Mr John Law;
 - (v) Mr Amir Atie;
 - (vi) Mr Sam Zreika; and
 - (vii) Ms Reem El Kudor.
 - (i) Ms Raghida Katieh, Executive Officer.
- (3) That this House congratulates the AABC, its executive and wider membership on their work and on their contribution to growth in trade between Australia and the Arab world.

Motion agreed to.

*Documents***AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

The CLERK: According to the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of a performance audit report of the Auditor-General entitled "Red tape reduction: Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of Finance, Services and Innovation", dated 25 August 2016, received out of session and authorised to be printed this day.

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

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I move:

That Business of the House Notice of Motion No. 1 be postponed until the next sitting day.

Motion agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to allow the moving of a motion forthwith relating to the conduct of business of the House.

Motion agreed to.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I move:

That the order of Private Members' Business for today be as follows:

- (1) Private Members' Business item No. 669 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Mr David Shoebridge relating to the Steel Industry Protection Bill 2016.
- (2) Private Members' Business item No. 7 in the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Lou Amato relating to Fairfield's Youth Off the Streets program.
- (3) Private Members' Business item No. 5 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile relating to Alcoholic Beverages Advertising Prohibition Bill 2015.
- (4) Private Members' Business item No. 937 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Courtney Houssos relating to intercity train fleet contract.
- (5) Private Members' Business item No. 859 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Dr Mehreen Faruqi relating to select committee on the CBD and South East Light Rail project.
- (6) Private Members' Business item No. 860 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Walt Secord relating to Nepean Hospital.

Motion agreed to.

*Bills***STEEL INDUSTRY PROTECTION BILL 2016****Second Reading**

Debate resumed from 23 June 2016.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:14): It is always hard to pick up where one left off when the start of a speech was so long ago, but I will give it a go today. I thank the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps for his encouragement in this regard. I think I was talking about the status of free trade agreements in particular and how this bill, which would seek for Australia—and New South Wales in particular—to turn our back on the world, would encounter difficulties when talking about our free trade agreements.

Mr David Shoebridge: Like the United States, Europe and Canada.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I will get to some of these things. Mr David Shoebridge raises a very good point about free trade agreements and the retaliatory nature that Australia often takes on with them. I will get to that shortly. Free trade agreements allow our industries to get access to many more markets across the world than are available domestically. We must be looking outwards. If those on the other side of the House want to be like Donald Trump and turn their backs on the world and say, "Protectionism is good, we are not going to engage, it is not a global world and trade is not global," well, that is fine.

We in New South Wales want to look at a bigger, more global world and we want to look at the opportunities that are available for Australia. That is one of the reasons we oppose this bill. The bill would also force tens of thousands of suppliers to create duplicate supply chains—one supply chain for government and another for everyone else. That is cumbersome and inefficient. It would make it even more difficult for the steel industry in New South Wales because it would turn people away from Australian steel. It would make it tougher for small businesses in New South Wales to support the New South Wales Government in the development of its infrastructure projects.

I return to the point that Mr David Shoebridge raised earlier about free trade agreements with the United States and the like. The Senate economics reference committee inquiring into the future of the Australian steel industry was recently advised that Australia was the most active initiator of trade retaliation cases in 2015. The second and third most active initiators of retaliation cases in that period were Mexico and the United States of America respectively. It is also worth noting that during the same year Australia produced 4.5 million tonnes of crude steel compared to Mexico which produced 16.8 million tonnes and the United States of America which produced 73.1 million tonnes. So it is not unreasonable for us to foresee that several of Australia's key trading partners with substantial steel industries—such as the United States—would be concerned about their interests should this bill become law.

In many cases the markets our exporters gain access to through free trade agreements are much larger than those available within Australia. That is why for a country such as Australia—for all countries, but particularly for Australia—with a population of only 24 million, trade is so important. We want to look out at those huge markets around the world, not just at those internal markets. For example, the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement gives Australian exporters the opportunity to supply to the United States Federal Government which spends at least US\$535 billion annually. This export opportunity is approximately 50 times the size of the expenditure of the New South Wales Government on all goods and services. We cannot turn our backs on markets like that.

We want our local businesses to have the opportunity to supply to both the New South Wales Government and the Federal Government. This can only occur if we adhere to free trade agreements. We want Australian steel to be the best in the world. We want to help transition the Australian steel industry so that it is competitive globally and is not just a supplier to the New South Wales Government. This bill would promote unfair competition in the steel industry in Australia and would therefore encourage our trading partners to rethink the terms under which we are given access to their markets.

The New South Wales Government is concerned about the economic welfare of the people of the Illawarra. If we look at the track record of this Government since it came to office, in particular, the unemployment statistics in the Illawarra, and leaving aside the significant impact we have had in respect of infrastructure in the Illawarra, youth unemployment is now 6.4 per cent. It was at 6.8 per cent when this Government came to office, which means youth unemployment is down 0.4 per cent in the Illawarra. Since this Government came to office there has been 16.9 per cent cumulative employment growth in the Illawarra. When we look at the unemployment rates, they are not that big a drop, and people may say that the Government could have done better.

The participation rate of those who are willing and able to work and are seeking employment in the Illawarra has increased by six points from 56 per cent to 62 per cent. That is significant. That is part of what this Government is doing, particularly in the regions, when it comes to employment growth across this State. Growth in employment is not just confined to Sydney. We have seen from the recent employment statistics that 60 per cent of the jobs created in Australia are created in this State, but a lot of these jobs are being created in regional New South Wales, in particular, in the Illawarra. As I said, there has been 16.9 per cent cumulative employment growth. For those reasons I oppose the bill and would like to see it defeated in the House today.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (10:20): I speak in debate on the Steel Industry Protection Bill 2016. It is worth noting the gobsmacking hypocrisy of Mr David Shoebridge introducing a bill like this one because there is not one project in New South Wales that he has not opposed. If he had his way we would not be building anything. There would be no steel used in New South Wales; there would be no jobs in New South Wales. He has seen a chance to slip into the union movement under the Labor Party and play politics with a jingoistic bill.

The Hon. Adam Searle: I am comfy.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I know the Hon. Adam Searle is loving this. I will get to him in a moment. The temptation is too much. Mr David Shoebridge saw the main chance and went to the unions to try to undermine the Labor Party. The Labor Party is supporting him as well. Their track record of building things in this State is appalling. The only thing they helped was the printing industry and the timber industry because there were a lot of trees brought down to print glossy brochures. Contra that, we replaced The Greens-Labor Government and are

now spending more in my portfolio on roads in New South Wales than Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: Combined.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: All combined. They are the red governments. They are the governments with The Greens and the Labor Party in charge. If we want any solace about jobs and the steel industry, we will not go to the Labor Party or The Greens because we will be wasting our time. They will desert us.

Mr David Shoebridge: Point of order: The member needs to address the Chair.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Mr David Shoebridge is right. The Hon. Duncan Gay must address the Chair. However, that does not require him to look at the Chair the whole time. The convention and the rulings deal with the requirement to address the Chair, which is to ensure that members are not distracted by interjections. The Minister will proceed.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: The New South Wales Government has spent billions in construction over the past five years, with nearly 70 per cent of the spending supporting New South Wales-based suppliers. The New South Wales Government has sourced thousands of tonnes of steel for major infrastructure projects from Australia. As a result, this Government is the single largest procurer of steel in Australia. It is focused on maximising industry participation and local employment opportunities. As Minister for Roads, I can proudly state that we use majority sourced Australian steel for many of our projects such as WestConnex, which is one of the largest projects in the Southern Hemisphere. We have already used more than 3,000 tonnes of reinforced steel. Of this, 1,800 tonnes were used for girder production, using a local supplier AUSREO.

The \$3 billion NorthConnex is a nine kilometre tunnel that will link the M1 Pacific Motorway at Wahroonga to the M2 motorway at Pennant Hills, to be completed in 2019. NorthConnex uses 100 per cent Australian steel, which is approximately 26,050 tonnes. It is expected there will be 8,700 jobs created throughout the life of the project. Once again, they are projects The Greens and the Opposition are opposed to, and they would not be happening under them. Australian steel is being used in the Western Sydney road projects and the \$140 million Schofields Road—that is 100 per cent, which is 1,494 tonnes of steel. The first 3.3 kilometre section of the 35 kilometre \$1.6 billion Northern Road upgrade, from the Old Northern Road to Peter Brock Drive, is using 100 per cent Australian steel—907 tonnes. The \$95 million Old Wallgrove Road upgrade is using 100 per cent Australian steel—380 tonnes. Stage one of the \$509 million Bringelly Road upgrade is using 87 per cent Australian steel, which is 908 tonnes out of 1,041.

The Hon. Adam Searle: Room for improvement.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: It would not have been built if Labor was still in government.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: He is silly. The whole point is, as my colleague says, there would have been no steel used if Labor was in charge, because it would not have been built. There would have been zilch—no steel. Labor members are hypocrites.

The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane: Point of order: The Minister knows full well when he is addressing members he should address them by their correct title.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Interjections are disorderly at all times. All members should calm down.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: Stage two of the Narellan Road upgrade is using 98 per cent Australian steel, which is 342 tonnes out of 350 tonnes. Of the \$135 million Schofields Road stage two upgrade, more than 80 per cent of Australian steel is being used, which is 922 out of 1,145 tonnes. Some of these projects are part of the Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan, which, during its 10-year life cycle, is expected to generate 4,000 direct and indirect jobs. People across our State are benefiting from the nation-leading infrastructure agenda of this Government. The bill introduced by The Greens would threaten to stall and increase costs for critical infrastructure projects like these, and that would hurt everyone from commuters to employees and steel workers.

The New South Wales and Australian governments are investing heavily in the upgrading of the Pacific Highway along the east coast of Australia. Many of our contract partners helping to build the highway upgrade use Australian steel in concrete bridges, other structures and concrete pavement. For example, the \$830 million Warrell Creek to Nambucca Heads upgrade uses 100 per cent Australian steel and to date it has used 4,900 tonnes. To date, nearly 700 people have been working on the project.

The \$618 million Kempsey bypass was opened in 2013 and included the Macleay Valley Bridge, which, at 3.2 kilometres long, is Australia's longest bridge. I understand that it may also be the Southern Hemisphere's longest bridge. Of the 20,900 tonnes used in the Kempsey bridge, 100 per cent is Australian steel. At peak

construction, more than 865 people worked on the project. The \$922.7 million Tintenbar to Ewingsdale upgrade used 13,200 tonnes, and 99 per cent of the steel used was Australian. About 2,200 tonnes of steel was used in the manufacture of special girders for the twin bridges over Minor Creek, Emigrant Creek and Byron Creek. At peak construction more than 685 people worked on the project.

Are the members in this Chamber getting the picture? The political opportunists on the other side of the Chamber want to introduce a bill, but the people who are actually delivering the steel—and the jobs—are sitting on this side of the Chamber, and we oppose the political opportunism. Other road projects that have used or are using high percentages of Australian steel include Sapphire to Woolgoolga, Frederickton to Eungai, Nambucca Heads to Urunga, and the Oxley Highway to Kundabung. On the Princes Highway, the upgrade to the Foxground and Berry bypass uses a majority of Australian steel.

Mr David Shoebridge: Majority?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I said, "majority". Steel has been used within the Bridges for the Bush program: the bridge over the railway on the Olympic Highway; at Kapooka, the Bemboka River widening; the bridge on the main road, I think it is Main Road 256, near Crookwell; and the bridge over Sportsman Creek. The Barangaroo ferry hub used 800 tonnes of steel sourced right here in Australia. Over 2,100 tonnes of steel has been used for steel safety barriers in the past two years, with a value of \$9.6 million. I am not talking just about new roads; I am talking about upgrades, including the construction of barriers.

These are just some of the projects that are using Australian steel in this State. We do not need tokenism. We need the ability to move on and do these jobs, and do them properly. We need Australian steel, a majority of Australian steel, but we do not need to be hamstrung on percentages, because there are some niche areas where Australian steel would not be suitable. This bill would make it harder in those cases. The Coalition will continue employing people and getting things done.

I know there will be moments when people will speak out because of their political views, but deep down in the hearts they know that New South Wales has never provided more jobs and more opportunities in the steel industry than is occurring at the moment. I hear the token cries from the gallery, but they are coming from people who are way out of touch with what is happening in this State. Their political representatives have failed them. If they have put their money into The Greens and the Labor Party, they have got absolutely nothing for it. This Government is delivering the jobs that those opposite did not.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! The Minister should address the Chair, not the gallery. The gallery should remain quiet. Mr David Shoebridge will not provide commentary.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (10:33): In reply: I thank all the members who contributed to this debate: the Hon. Niall Blair, the Hon. Adam Searle, the Hon. Paul Green, Mr Scot MacDonald, Dr Mehreen Faruqi, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, the Hon. Penny Sharpe, the Hon. Greg Pearce, the Hon. Lynda Voltz, the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps, the Hon. Shayne Mallard, the Hon. Scott Farlow, and the Leader of the Government in this House, the Hon. Duncan Gay. There has been a thorough exchange of views. The views of the industry, of the people who work in the industry, of the fabricators who rely upon Australian steel and of the unions who represent the interests of those who work in the Australian steel industry are the views of which The Greens representatives in this House take the most cognisance.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: Like you took the views of the people in the greyhound industry?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Despite the bleatings of the former Government Whip, the views of the industry are unambiguous. They want this Parliament to take action to support one of the most strategic and essential industries in the country. They want us to retain a manufacturing base and build the renewable energy future that we need; they want us to connect our cities by high-speed trains built on Australian steel. The industry that is essential in order for us to have a high-wage, renewable energy future is the Australian steel industry.

The peak body of the Australian steel industry is the Australian Steel Institute. I am sure all honourable members would have received a document from Mr Tony Dixon. Normally, when the Coalition Government receives representations from a peak industry body it says, "This is what the peak body of the industry wants," and it does it. That is what it does when it receives representations from the property industry and the insurance industry. But when the peak body for the steel industry makes representations to each and every one of the Government members, we get embarrassed silence. What did Mr Tony Dixon say in his representations to the Government, which the Government has ignored? I will read part of it onto the record. He said:

The ASI [Australian Steel Institute] is basically asking for two things: firstly, that our import policies are brought into line with other western countries; and secondly, for relatively small changes to procurement levels of local steel in infrastructure projects. The effect would be dramatic.

These are not radical proposals—we are not advocating tariff protection or unrealistic local advantages. It's about fostering free and fair international competition for the steel industry and taking advantage of public works to engage a valuable industry and hundreds and thousands of jobs.

What's at stake? A \$29 billion a year industry and the jobs of over 90,000 people directly employed in the steel industry—plus the future of four to six times that number of people in associated jobs.

Local jobs generate payroll tax for state governments, training and apprenticeships opportunities and deliver social benefits that come from growth and employment.

It is also about environmental sustainability, manufacturing standards and the economic benefit of the local supply of goods, labour and capital investment.

It is time for action.

That is what the industry body has said to the Government. The Government's response was to not even mention Mr Dixon's contribution. The Government is pretending that the peak body for the steel industry does not have a view about this. That body has a very clear view—it wants action. The peak body wants the bill passed. It wants procurement to be legislated by this Parliament. The fact that no Coalition Government member even mentioned the position of the industry as stated in its document, which the industry had put in their in-boxes in the past few days—we have had embarrassed silence—sums up the shallow political opportunism of the Government in opposing what is unambiguously the best solution for the steel industry, not just in New South Wales but around the country.

As recently as today the chief executive officer of BlueScope, Paul O'Malley, was reported in the *Illawarra Mercury* as making the case that some sort of blind and narrow market approach adopted by the Government—whereby the Government just looks around the world for the cheapest steel and brings it here as though there is no social or economic cost from ignoring local manufacturers—is so wrongheaded. He said:

Our issue is when governments tax us and then buy from overseas ... In my view that's unfair. If they're going to buy from overseas they should take into account the taxes they put on us in determining whether we're price competitive. I don't think that's done properly at the moment.

The article goes on:

Mr O'Malley said he wasn't asking governments to waive all taxes for BlueScope ...

That is not what he was saying. But he then said:

If the government imports steel from Korea and let's say it's \$20-30 a tonne cheaper than Port Kembla steel but they charge us payroll tax, which is equivalent to \$30 a tonne, they should take that into account when assessing whether we're cost competitive.

What is the best way of taking that into account? What is the best way of responding to concerns from the steel industry? It is the way the United States of America, Canada and Europe have done it. It is the way we should do it. It is to legislate for local procurement. The Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, the Hon. Duncan Gay, referred to a list of projects in which the majority of the steel used was Australian steel. He said that for some projects its use was 90 per cent, for some it was 87 per cent, and for some it was a majority. He referred to a list of projects, and it is good that Australian steel is being used in those projects. But what he did not say and did not put on the record was that all those projects are founded upon foreign steel.

Every project that uses imported steel is taking jobs from Australians. Not only that, but we could face the prospect of events that we have seen recently in New Zealand where \$2 billion road projects have basically come to a grinding halt because imported Chinese steel, with erroneous certification, has been used in the heart of a road project, and a bridge had to be pulled apart at enormous cost to the taxpayers of New Zealand. That happened because of reliance upon certification by a foreign steel manufacturer and because it did not use high-quality local steel. That is the prospect we face in New South Wales if we do not get behind the Australian steel industry and stand with the workers in the industry, the employers, and the people of the Illawarra to demand that not just one list of projects uses Australian steel, as the Minister says, but that every single infrastructure project in this State uses 90 per cent to 100 per cent Australian steel. That is the challenge for this Government, and it is squibbing by not supporting this bill.

Among all the Government's contributions to this debate, a series of arguments were repeated. One was that the bill would violate Australia's free trade agreements. Not one clause from a free trade agreement was put on the table by the Government to show where a breach would occur. Not one clause from a single international agreement was read onto the record by the Government to say, "There you go, that's the clause that will be breached." Why? It is because the Government's argument is specious, false and full of hot air. The Government says that international trade agreements prevent our governments from preferring Australian steel. Really? If that is so, then how is it that the United States [US], Canada and many European countries have policies that directly favour their local steel for use in public infrastructure projects?

The bill that is currently under debate is largely cannibalised from similar bills that have been presented in Illinois and Pennsylvania—the heart of the free market United States. The United States has been doing this for two decades. It is about time this Government got on board and recognised reality. The free market, which is so utterly corrupted on the international stage when it comes to steel, will destroy the Australian steel industry and the Illawarra. The Government needs to step in and ensure that we have fairness, and to recognise the national interest in steel procurement. The other argument presented by the Government is that somehow having steel procurement would hurt our ability to export steel. The Government cannot quite explain how that would be. Someone in Mexico may not like us having a steel procurement bill—I think that is the best argument the Government can advance. What is the reality? There is nothing in the Steel Industry Protection Bill that would in any way prevent or hinder New South Wales from exporting steel to other countries.

BlueScope Steel has an annual steel production capacity of approximately 2.6 million tonnes, with approximately 800,000 tonnes already being exported to countries that include the United States and China. The 2015 BIS Shrapnel report found that the local steel industry is extremely well positioned to meet any increase in demand from the government sector while maintaining exports. In other words, BlueScope can do both. This may surprise the Coalition but the Australian steel industry can chew gum and walk at the same time. The Australian steel industry can provide steel for Australian infrastructure projects. With the increased market and certainty the industry would have, it could actually reduce the cost of steel and expand export opportunities. This bill is good for exports, not bad for exports.

Regardless of export opportunities, policymakers should be focused on keeping the steel industry in New South Wales and Australia open and viable. If we continue with business as usual, BlueScope and Arrium are at risk in the medium term of shutting down. If that happens, Australia will be left to the whims of the international market and New South Wales will lose key jobs in manufacturing. The argument put forward by the Government time and time again is that somehow the steel procurement bill will put in place onerous red tape for suppliers and contractors and may duplicate supply chains. I have listened intently to the debate. There was not a single representation from a single supplier or a single contractor—none—who actually made out that argument. No-one in the industry, no supplier, has adopted the Government's argument. All of the suppliers and fabricators in the industry would celebrate having to submit a form once a year if it meant that they could have an ongoing and secure guarantee of work and contracts.

The steel industry in New South Wales is seriously at risk of collapse in the medium term unless the Government takes decisive action. Every steelworker and steel manufacturer and fabricator to whom I have spoken would happily fill in one or two procurement forms if it kept their businesses solvent, if it kept them in work, and if it kept the Illawarra afloat and with a positive future. The benefit to local steel manufacturers of securing demand for their product through government contracts so far outweighs any tiny cost or inconvenience associated with filling in one or two forms—an argument I find embarrassing to hear from the Government. We can again learn the lessons from the United States, which has this procedure down to a fine art. There is minimal paperwork, but there is a guaranteed outcome for the US steel industry.

One of the more extreme arguments advanced by the Government is that somehow supporting our steel industry will end up hurting more industries. It will end up with us saying that we cannot produce certain infrastructure, which will end up costing other industries down the track and, ultimately, the loss of jobs. Where is the report or study? Where is a single, credible source to support that false argument put forward by the Government? There is none. The Government's argument is all hot air and ideology. That is all it is. Currently, BlueScope employs approximately 4,500 people at its Port Kembla plant and contributes approximately \$3.3 billion every year to the Illawarra economy. If the last remaining blast furnace at Port Kembla closes, thousands of direct and indirect jobs will be lost, with devastating impacts on the local economy and community. If that furnace closes, other businesses involved in further steel processing, including fabrication, will face inevitable economic hardship and closure.

The cost of assisting thousands of workers to find new employment will be extraordinarily large for the New South Wales Government, let alone all the social services that will have to be put in place to deal with the downturn that would occur in the Illawarra. It is not just The Greens who are saying that. It is not just me making some hollow statement without support. The 2015 BIS Shrapnel report, which Government members do not even seem to have read, found that using 90 per cent to 100 per cent local steel in local projects, far from costing jobs and the economy money, would add a cumulative \$1.3 billion to the real gross domestic product [GDP] of the State over a five-year period. It would mean \$1.3 billion more in the economy if the Government takes off its ideological blinkers and supports the steel procurement bill.

Another argument advanced by the Government is that the Coalition Government already is buying Australian steel, as evidenced by the list of projects referred to by the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight—and to some extent, that is true. There are some projects that use Australian steel, but what is happening as a long-

term trend? The long-term trend shows that what the Government has put forward in that list is at best a half-truth. The 2015 report by BIS Shrapnel found that Australia-wide domestic production of steel produces less than half the steel used in public sector construction, and that share is expected to decrease to just 43 per cent by 2019-20 if business as usual happens and if no action is taken to address overseas steel companies dropping their below-cost product into the Australian market.

I think the Coalition contribution that offended workers more than any other was that made by a Government member suggesting that the dumping of steel into the Australian market was somehow good and that we would benefit from steel produced overseas and dumped into the market below cost because we would get cheap steel. The idea that we would somehow support those predatory actions of overseas steel suppliers, which we know would be grossly unfair and deliberately destroy our steel industry—the fact that that argument had the support of a Coalition member and was not rejected by the Minister when he spoke in the debate today—I think is one of the most offensive and socially and economically irresponsible arguments I have heard from a member of this Chamber. To suggest that those opposite would support the dumping of steel, which would destroy Australian jobs and distort the market even in their free market world, was nothing less than grossly disrespectful to the thousands of workers who depend upon this industry to put bread on the table and to keep the Illawarra afloat.

The other argument that has been threaded through each of the Government members' contributions was that the costs of using Australian steel to the New South Wales taxpayer would somehow be excessive. What do we know? We know that requiring public infrastructure projects to use Australian steel would not add billions of dollars to the cost; it would cost just 0.2 per cent of the total construction costs for public projects. We could save 4,500 direct jobs as well as thousands more jobs in the broader industry and pump \$1.3 billion into our economy over five years at a cost of less than half of what the Government has already contributed through the payroll tax holiday.

The only thing stopping the Government from supporting this bill is blind ideology. It is the ideology of Margaret Thatcher and the late twentieth century, which has been rejected by every other advanced economy with a mature steel industry. The United States rejects that ideology. The United Kingdom [UK] now rejects that ideology. Europe rejects that ideology. As a member of The Greens in this place, I reject that ideology as well. We have governments for a purpose: so that we get the best social, the best economic and the best environmental outcomes that we can.

I genuinely thank members of the Christian Democratic Party for their support of this bill, which they expressed in their contributions to this debate. I highlight the contribution of the Hon. Paul Green for his recognition that it is far easier to save a job than it is to create a new job in regional New South Wales. That is what this bill does. It not only saves jobs, it puts in a platform to create new jobs; it does both. The Hon. Robert Brown of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party made the same argument in his contribution to the debate. He said that when we are talking about regional jobs, we are talking about the lives of real people.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: Like the timber industry and the coal industry, you hypocrite.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: We are talking about crucial economic support. There is nothing more crucial to the future of the Illawarra, one of the most important regions in this State, than the Government getting behind this bill. We will consider in Committee the amendments moved by the Labor Opposition. We would love 100 per cent Australian steel, but we know that we can get a majority in this House to stand firmly behind 90 per cent Australian steel. We will get a majority in this House and we will continue to build the argument. We will stand up to the blind ideology of the Baird Government which puts its market ideology ahead of jobs, ahead of the industry and ahead of Australian steel. It is time we passed this bill and got guaranteed government procurement of Australian steel for Australian projects.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Scott Farlow): Order! Applause from the public gallery and interjections are disorderly at all times. The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

The House divided.

Ayes20
Noes18
Majority.....2

AYES

Borsak, Mr R
Cotsis, Ms S
Green, Mr P

Brown, Mr R
Donnelly, Mr G (teller)
Houssos, Ms C

Buckingham, Mr J
Faruqi, Dr M
Mookhey, Mr D

AYES

Moselmane, Mr S
(teller)
Primrose, Mr P
Sharpe, Ms P
Voltz, Ms L

Nile, Reverend F
Searle, Mr A
Shoebridge, Mr D
Wong, Mr E

Pearson, Mr M
Secord, Mr W
Veitch, Mr M

NOES

Ajaka, Mr J
Clarke, Mr D
Farlow, Mr S
Gay, Mr D

Amato, Mr L
Colless, Mr R
Franklin, Mr B (teller)
MacDonald, Mr S

Mallard, Mr S
Pearce, Mr G

Mason-Cox, Mr M
Phelps, Dr P

Blair, Mr N
Cusack, Ms C
Gallacher, Mr M
Maclaren-Jones, Ms N
(teller)
Mitchell, Ms S
Taylor, Ms B

Motion agreed to.**In Committee**

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): There being no objection, the Committee will deal with the bill as a whole. I have a set of Opposition amendments appearing on sheet C2016-054D and another amendment appearing on sheet C2016-062. I have been advised that the first amendment appearing on sheet C2016-054D is not to be moved. I call upon the Opposition leader to start with the amendment on sheet C2016-062.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (11:04): By leave: I move Opposition amendment No. 1 on sheet C2016-062 and Opposition amendments Nos 3 to 6 on sheet 2016-054D in globo:

No. 1 **Definition of "excluded steel"**

Page 2, clause 3, paragraph (a) of the definition of *excluded steel*, lines 10–12. Omit all words on those lines. Insert instead:

- (a) any kind of steel that is not manufactured at any location in Australia and, in relation to a particular public works project, could not be manufactured in Australia for the purposes of that project:
 - (i) at a reasonable cost, or
 - (ii) within a reasonable time, or

No. 3 **Percentage of Australian steel to be used**

Page 3, clause 4, line 2. Omit "all steel". Insert instead "at least 90 percent of the steel".

No. 4 **Percentage of Australian steel to be used**

Page 3, clause 5, line 6. Omit "any steel". Insert instead "at least 90 percent of the steel".

No. 5 **Percentage of Australian steel to be used**

Page 3, clause 6 (1) (a), line 12. Omit "any steel". Insert instead "at least 90 percent of the steel".

No. 6 **NSW Steel Industry Advocate**

Page 4. Insert after line 17:

9 NSW Steel Industry Advocate

- (1) The Governor may appoint a NSW Steel Industry Advocate.
- (2) The principal office of the Advocate is to be located within the Illawarra region.
- (3) The Advocate may be removed from office by the Governor on the address of both Houses of Parliament.
- (4) The office of Advocate is a full-time office and the holder of the office is required to hold it on that basis, except to the extent permitted by the Minister.
- (5) The office of Advocate is a statutory office and the provisions of the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* relating to the employment of Public Service employees do not apply to that office (except as provided by this section).

- (6) The Advocate holds office for such term not exceeding 5 years as may be specified in the instrument of appointment, but is eligible (if otherwise qualified) for re-appointment.
- (7) The office of Advocate becomes vacant if the holder:
 - (a) dies, or
 - (b) completes a term of office and is not re-appointed, or
 - (c) resigns the office by instrument in writing addressed to the Governor, or
 - (d) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his or her creditors or makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for their benefit, or
 - (e) becomes a mentally incapacitated person, or
 - (f) is convicted in New South Wales of an offence that is punishable by imprisonment for 12 months or more or is convicted elsewhere than in New South Wales of an offence that, if committed in New South Wales, would be an offence so punishable, or
 - (g) is removed from office under subsection (3).
- (8) The following provisions of or made under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* relating to the employment of Public Service senior executives apply to the Advocate (but, in the application of those provisions, a reference to the employer of any such executive is to be read as a reference to the Minister):
 - (a) provisions relating to the band in which an executive is to be employed,
 - (b) provisions relating to the contract of employment of an executive,
 - (c) provisions relating to the remuneration, employment benefits and allowances of an executive.

10 Functions of NSW Steel Industry Advocate

- (1) The NSW Steel Industry Advocate has the following functions:
 - (a) to monitor compliance with the requirements of this Act,
 - (b) to monitor whether steel (other than excluded steel) required by this Act to be used in the construction of relevant public works is manufactured to appropriate Australian Standards,
 - (c) to conduct a review of the steel manufacturing and fabrication sector with particular focus on the following:
 - (i) the supply chain capabilities of the sector;
 - (ii) the co-ordination by the sector of research and development and innovation;
 - (iii) the investment in the sector of plant and equipment;
 - (d) to prepare reports in accordance with this Act.
- (2) The Advocate may, in connection with the exercise of the functions of the Advocate under this Act, make such inquiries and undertake such investigations as the Advocate considers necessary.
- (3) The Advocate may, by notice in writing, request that any person provide, or require any public authority to provide, the Advocate with information (including documents) relevant to the exercise of the functions of the Advocate under this Act.

11 NSW Steel Industry Advocate required to report to Parliament

- (1) The NSW Steel Industry Advocate is required to prepare, at least once every 12 months, a report setting out a State infrastructure plan that identifies future relevant public works, and the steel requirements of those works, and to furnish the report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament.
- (2) The Advocate is required to prepare, at least once every 2 years, a report on the procurement policies of the State, and whether those policies adequately take into account all costs and benefits related to steel procurement (including costs and benefits related to transport, insurance, maintenance and repair, the environment, employment and regional development), and to furnish the report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament.
- (3) The Advocate may, at any time, make a report on any other matter arising in connection with the exercise of the functions of the Advocate and furnish the report to the Presiding Officer of each House of Parliament.

- (4) A copy of a report furnished to the Presiding Officer of a House of Parliament under this section is to be laid before that House within 15 sitting days of that House after it is received by the Presiding Officer.
- (5) The Advocate may include in a report a recommendation that the report be made public immediately.
- (6) If a report includes a recommendation by the Advocate that the report be made public immediately, a Presiding Officer of a House of Parliament may make it public whether or not that House is in session and whether or not the report has been laid before that House.
- (7) If such a report is made public by a Presiding Officer of a House of Parliament before it is laid before that House, it attracts the same privileges and immunities as if it had been laid before that House.
- (8) A Presiding Officer need not inquire whether all or any conditions precedent have been satisfied regarding a report purported to have been made and furnished in accordance with this Act.

12 Staff of NSW Steel Industry Advocate and delegation

- (1) Persons may be employed in the Public Service under the *Government Sector Employment Act 2013* to enable the NSW Steel Industry Advocate to exercise his or her functions.
- (2) The Advocate may arrange for the use of the services of any staff or facilities of a NSW Government agency and may, subject to the regulations, engage such consultants or contractors as are necessary for the purposes of this Act.
- (3) The Advocate may delegate the exercise of any function of the Advocate (other than this power of delegation) to any person referred to in this section.

The package of amendments together achieve a number of objectives. The first amendment, dealing with an amendment to the definition of "excluded steel" as it stands in the bill, addresses some of the alleged criticisms of the bill in its current form that have been advanced by members of the Government. The amendment seeks to make sure that included in the definition of excluded steel is any kind of steel not manufactured in any location in Australia but also, in relation to a particular project, steel that could not be manufactured for the purposes of that project at a reasonable cost within a reasonable time. I know that the Government advanced niche steel needs and certain requirements for certain projects as being a reason that the bill in its current form is not practicable. This amendment addresses that issue comprehensively.

The package of amendments includes a review of the State's infrastructure plan, which will provide indicative future demand for Australian-made steel and infrastructure projects and will set up a known pipeline of projects so that Australian steel producers can plan for the demand. Our package of amendments also provides for what I describe as a strong cop on the beat—a steel industry advocate to be appointed to ensure that new Australian standards and certification for Australian-made steel use are monitored and complied with—to be based in the Illawarra region of this State.

Our amendments will stop different classifications of steel and low-quality imported steel from being used in publicly funded State infrastructure as far as is practicable, and the steel industry advocate will also be tasked with undertaking a major New South Wales steel and fabrication sector review focusing on the supply chain capability of the sector, coordination of innovation, research and development and investment in plant and equipment. There has been substantial criticism that the steel and fabrication sector is highly fragmented, its supply chain capability is compromised and its investment in plant and equipment is declining. We think there is further scope for the State to review the steel and fabrication sector regarding its supply chain capability and to improve these matters, and these are addressed in detail in the amendments.

The BIS Shrapnel report that I referred to in my second reading contribution and that Mr Shoebridge also referred to has indicated that a local content policy achieving a 90 per cent local steel content for publicly funded projects would provide a substantial net benefit to the economy, which is why we proposed the 90 per cent figure as opposed to mandating an across-the-board 100 per cent use. Ideally, 100 per cent would be achieved, and that is why we say "at least 90 per cent" in the amendments: because we recognise that this should be the start of the journey which we can build upon, but we want to make sure that the policy framework we are putting in place can be properly bedded down to meet the objectives for which it has been designed.

The Opposition believes that the amendments together will greatly strengthen certainty in the sector and provide a platform for investment growth, and even expansion not only in steelmaking but also throughout the supply chain. I am not referring only to the steel industry but also to those other industries and suppliers that support it. The benefits to the manufacturing sector will fan out from Port Kembla across west and south-west Sydney, the Hunter, and the rest of the great State of New South Wales. The Opposition recognises that although

the focus is on steel production and steel use, many individual businesses and industries depend on a strong steel sector for their viability.

The ripples across the economy from the failure of our steel manufacturing capability would do irreparable social and economic damage. It is important when we make public investment decisions that we focus not only on the best up-front price but also on real value for money. That is why when the Opposition announced its steel plan it said that we must look not only at the up-front purchase price but also at the true cost of a project across its life to establish whether or not to go ahead would be penny wise and pound foolish. We should not pay a cheaper up-front price for a product and then spend millions of dollars patching and repairing it earlier than would otherwise have been required. Rather, we should invest a little more up front and get longer durability and real value for money.

Given the important public policy objectives that flow from the hundreds of millions of dollars, or, indeed, billions of dollars of investment of public moneys by the State Government and local councils, we must ensure that it is not only economically efficient but also socially efficient. That is why the Opposition welcomes the bill and has constructively engaged with it. Unlike the Government, the Opposition has consulted with industry, the regional communities that depend on this valuable industry, the trade unions representing the workforces, the captains of industry, and the people who live in the regions who depend upon a strong, thriving steel sector for their way of life and longevity. The Australian Labor Party has long been committed to the steel industry and to those communities. That will not change today, and that is why I have moved this positive suite of amendments. I invite members to join with the Opposition in ensuring that this bill is as effective as it can be. The non-Government parties in this place appear to support a strong, thriving steel sector.

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! I point out to the people in the gallery that rules and conventions apply in this place. Applause and interjections are not appropriate.

The Hon. Robert Brown: That is the third time.

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! I do not need any assistance from members. If the applause and interjections continue, my ultimate option is to clear the gallery. I do not want to do that.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (11:12): The Greens support each of the Opposition's amendments. I said during my second reading speech that this cannot be seen simply as a Greens bill. If it were, we would not be able to achieve its passage through this place. This legislation is the result of years of work. I particularly commend the work of my former colleague Dr John Kaye, who consulted with unions and the Illawarra community for years about this legislation. It has also involved collaboration between the non-Government parties in this Chamber. The Greens would prefer legislation providing for 100 per cent procurement of Australian steel in government projects. However, we want this bill to be passed and we want consensus in support of government steel procurement. That is why The Greens accept the Opposition's amendment inserting "at least 90 per cent". I believe that the Opposition is genuine in moving that amendment, and that is why The Greens consulted the Christian Democratic Party and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party to ensure that the bill would attract the broadest possible consensus.

This is a community bill, and I take my hat off to the Illawarra community for joining the political parties and unions on this journey. We are now at the point at which if we accept the Opposition's amendments we will achieve a community-building bill. That is why The Greens support the amendment inserting "at least 90 per cent" despite the fact that our counsel of perfection would demand "100 per cent". We want this bill passed and we want to build a coalition in support of it. We want to ensure that we build the movement in support of Australian steel procurement.

Some provisions in the Opposition's amendments do unambiguous good. That includes the provision that would see the establishment of a New South Wales steel industry advocate. That would be a substantial step forward, but only if it happens in conjunction with steel procurement legislation. By itself, it would be meaningless and a hollow gesture. The appointment of a steel advocate who has the instrument of a steel procurement policy to work with would make a real difference. Even if the Government does not support this legislation in the other place, it will become law at some point because the world and the community are moving in this direction. Victoria has had a legislated steel procurement policy for the better part of a decade. When the Government says that a 90 per cent goal is unachievable—which no doubt it will—we need only look to the evidence of steel procurement in Victoria over the past decade. The Australian Steel Institute states:

Results show the local content proportion has averaged 86 per cent in Victorian major projects over the decade to 2013/14, which led to an estimated \$7 billion of import replacement.

Victoria is doing it despite the fact that it does not have a blast furnace. The Victorian Government is doing more to support jobs in this State's steel industry than the New South Wales Government. It is time we got on board.

A 90 per cent goal is eminently achievable. If these amendments were agreed to, we would be building consensus for the steel bill. I am happy to commend the Opposition's amendments to the Committee.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (11:16): The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party supports Opposition amendment No. 1 and amendments Nos 3 to 6. Amendment No. 6 refers to the 10 proposed functions of the steel industry advocate. Included in those functions is that the advocate must consider the appropriate Australian standards. I have spent my life—apart from my years in this place—involved in the construction industry and the steel manufacturing industry, and my colleague the Hon. Robert Borsak still has a large interest in a manufacturing industry that uses steel. It is not enough to specify the minimum quantity of Australian-made steel that should be used in government projects, although that is a fine target and 90 per cent is probably more realistic at this stage. We must also consider the end product.

Mr Shoebridge and the Leader of the Opposition both referred to the end use of the steel. If it is not Australian steel, it must be steel manufactured to Australian standards, and the processes involved must comply with Australian standards. Those processes include welding, heat treatment and so on. We make decisions in 2016, but I doubt that any of us would care to predict what our strategic needs will be towards the end of the century. We all hear people say, "We've got no skills left in this industry." It might be the defence industry, shipbuilding or any other industry. The usual response is, "We don't need them." But we might need them one day.

The Hon. Robert Borsak: We do need them.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN: We probably do. I guarantee that not one ounce of Australian steel is being used in the chromium lignum barrels manufactured for the Australian Defence Force by Australian Defence Industries at Lithgow. If I go to buy a barrel for one of my rifles and have it chambered and fitted, I am forced to buy German or American steels. That is something that we have lost. We have lost the capability to supply into a market through a lot of circumstances over the years. It is fine to talk about the flat playing field and a liberalisation of trade, but it is not a 100 per cent solution. Some protectionism—and I never thought I would live to stand here and say this—is a good thing. This bill goes a little way towards providing us—

Mr David Shoebridge: It levels the field.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN: A little bit. We have got a long way to go yet. We support the Opposition amendments. We think they are very workable. There is perhaps an expectation among the proposers of the bill and the crossbench in this Chamber that we have the numbers on the Government—we know that. We do not have the numbers in the other place. So the question for the Government will be: Will it accept that perhaps this is not a bad thing and put aside the ideology; put aside the captain's calls? We have seen too many of those in recent years, both at State and Federal level. Think about this and say, "Let's try it. Let's give it a shot." When this bill passes through this place, I encourage the Premier and the Ministers responsible in the other place to say, "Okay. Let's give it a go. Fair enough is fair enough."

The Hon. PAUL GREEN (11:20): In response to these amendments, I reflect on some of the comments of the Hon. Duncan Gay during his contribution to this debate as to why it is probably not necessary to support this bill. I applaud the Government on the fact that many of its infrastructure projects used 100 per cent Australian steel—one must give credit where it is due—and there were some in which it was lacking. The point is that we could do so much more. I am happy to say that I have been part of the negotiations that have seen that happen. As noted by the Hon. Duncan Gay, this infrastructure across New South Wales has not happened by chance; it has happened because this Government has made leadership decisions to build major infrastructure. We are not going to take away from that because we have been very much a part of that.

It is due to the negotiations we have had with the Government that so much infrastructure is being created in New South Wales and, of course, requiring steel. It is fantastic. The Government is absolutely right: If we do not build infrastructure, we do not need steel. It is very important that we keep our economy driving forward and maintain our position as the leading economy in Australia. This bill, which has the requirement of 100 per cent Australian steel, will give us opportunities. We are very proud to be part of negotiations with the Government to deliver the infrastructure to restart and rebuild New South Wales.

We do not come from the same position as some of the Opposition and The Greens. I have always said our position is that we want to protect and keep regional jobs safe. That is very important to us and has been our consistent message for the six years I have been a member of the Legislative Council. We are not just for 100 per cent steel. We are not just for New South Wales being number one. The Christian Democratic Party [CDP] is for the workers. We want to make sure that people have jobs. If people have jobs, communities function much better, there is more connectivity and communities are stronger. Based on that, we believe this is a good bill because it promotes the opportunity for further jobs growth.

In saying that, when this bill was first put on the table the steel industry was in all sorts of trouble. Now it has come back a little bit from there. We have seen some very strong indications that BlueScope Steel is doing a lot better. For the benefit of the Chamber I put on the record that we would like to see BlueScope Steel put some of that profit back into the workers and workers' protections. It has been indicated that 500 people are going to lose their jobs. Some of that money should go back into retraining, upskilling or new opportunities that could exist for some of those workers. We implore BlueScope Steel to think critically about not simply putting that profit back into their pockets but to put it towards making the industry stronger than it is and has been in the past. We do not disagree with the amendments regarding compliance and advocacy. It is much too late to see whether the steel in the cement is Australian once it is buried and set.

Mr David Shoebridge: That is an expensive job.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: Yes. When a job has already been set and they say, "Yes, we have Australian steel in there," how can it be proved? Core holes would need to be drilled. We need someone to oversee and make sure that these things are ticked off before the steel is laid and cement is poured and set. Once again, our argument is that Australian steel is the best steel in the world and, as noted before, quality assurance is very important. The Government is building great infrastructure across New South Wales—roads, bridges, hospitals, new schools and so on—but if the quality of that steel is not good then the lifespan of that particular asset or building will not give value for money. The cheapest tender is not always the best.

We know Australian steel is quality steel and we would like any imported steel to undergo the same quality assurance tests to make sure that what we are putting in the ground has the correct properties as purported by the importers. My wonderful friend the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps used the terminology "corporate welfare" when he made an amazing speech on Australian steel some time ago. As with any welfare, sometimes even industry needs a hand up, not a handout. I am happy to be part of the debate in this Chamber today. This is about giving a hand up, not a handout. We want to give every opportunity for the steel industry—not only in New South Wales but nationally—to thrive because of the opportunities that exist for all our communities. We heard about the ripple effect on people. When we buy Australian steel it does not just feed one mouth; it feeds thousands. It also contributes in many other ways: for instance, by connecting communities through infrastructure.

In conclusion, this is about strengthening the steel industry in New South Wales. We want to see this industry thrive. One way of seeing it thrive is by making sure we give infrastructure projects their fair share of Australian steel. We implore the Government to make sure that the percentage of Australian steel in particular public infrastructure in New South Wales is 100 per cent. I add that we must not be short-sighted. We should be building the infrastructure of the twenty-first century, like the very fast train. Every year we do not build it, its cost rises by billions of dollars. We could sustain a strong steel industry if we were to start to lay those tracks sooner rather than later and make that 100 per cent Australian steel. It would guarantee our steel industry well into the future. That is a very important point that I would like to put on the table.

We hardly ever vote against the Government. The Government has been very gracious. We have been able to hold the line on this and vote with the Opposition, The Greens and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party on this matter. In this Chamber, we need to represent those for whom we feel deeply. I feel very deeply for those in regional areas. I feel very deeply for parents who need wages to pay mortgages, put food on the table and in the fridge, educate the kids and enjoy a quality of life. The decision of the Christian Democratic Party is in favour of the workers of New South Wales and in favour of sustainability and jobs growth.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (11:28): I seek clarification. Has amendment No. 2 not been moved and does that mean it lapses?

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Yes. It is gone.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: In the Government's opinion, both the Opposition's amendments to The Greens Steel Industry Protection Bill, which in a sense changes the mandate from 100 per cent to 90 per cent Australian steel and introduces a New South Wales steel industry advocate, and the underlying bill are the wrong approach to supporting domestic steel producers and the New South Wales Government opposes them. This is not a case of not wanting to support the New South Wales steel industry and jobs in regional communities; the Government believes it is the wrong approach to do so.

During my contribution to the second reading debate, delivered on behalf of the relevant Minister, I outlined that the bill will increase the cost of steel by 10 per cent or more, potentially putting in jeopardy the hospital, highway and other critical infrastructure projects this Government is delivering; it will be an unfair burden on New South Wales taxpayers, who will foot the bill; it will violate free trade agreements, potentially exposing sectors such as agriculture, natural resources, and professional services to tariffs and other measures; it will add more red tape for government agencies, local councils and suppliers; it will force tens of thousands of

suppliers, including small to medium enterprises, to create duplicate supply chains, one for government and one for everyone else; and it will remove the incentive for industry to innovate and become more competitive, failing to secure the long-term future of the steel industry. It is not a question of whether we support steel or not. This Government believes this bill and its amendments is not the approach to do that. Government members have made contributions to the bill. We believe that by investing in infrastructure—

Mr David Shoebridge: Point of order: The Minister has been contributing for quite some time but none of his contribution has been directed to the amendments. We are in Committee. This is about changing 100 per cent to 90 per cent.

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! I must admit that I have been distracted by another matter. Minister Blair is aware that I have sat Mr David Shoebridge down on several occasions in the past on the basis that he has not addressed the substance of amendments. I will now concentrate on what the Minister is saying and he will stick to the nitty-gritty.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: The Government opposed the bill with the figure of 100 per cent because it feels it is the wrong approach. The Government believes that changing that figure to 90 per cent, as per the Opposition amendments, is still the wrong approach. We believe that support for the industry can be done in other ways. The Government opposes the amendments.

The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS (11:32): The arguments that have been put forward for these amendments are just as specious and fatuous as the arguments that were made in support of the bill. The Hon. Adam Searle spoke about foreign imports. During the course of this debate I am the only one who has mentioned foreign imports other than Chinese imports; the implication being that the Chinese are engaged in a deliberate attempt to undercut the Australian industry presumably for some tactical or strategic advantage in the geopolitical sphere. I would be interested to hear the Hon. Ernest Wong give his interpretation on whether the Chinese are engaged in a deliberate geopolitical attack on Australia—

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order!

The Hon. Ernest Wong: Point of order—

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): I am making a ruling. The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps is entitled to speak to the amendments that are before the Committee. He is not to give a second reading speech. He has strayed into that area now. I invite the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps to address the amendments before the Committee.

The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS: Opposition amendment No. 1 speaks about any kind of steel that is not manufactured at any location in Australia. The question would then have to be asked: If we are seeking to save the steel industry in the State of New South Wales, why do the same rules not apply to the steel industry in South Australia or any other State? If this is a parochial matter in which we are attempting to save the jobs of workers in the Illawarra, why are we looking after the South Australians? It is an interesting situation.

The truth of the matter is that foreign imports occur largely because of overcapitalisation in the world industry and attempting to piggyback a bit of xenophobia into economic legislation does the members opposite no great service. The Hon. Adam Searle and a number of members spoke about industry consultation that they have undertaken with regard to this bill and how they have sought out not only the unions but also the industry's association. I leave them with the words of none other than Adam Smith:

People of the same trade seldom meet together, even for merriment and diversion, but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public, or in some contrivance to raise prices.

In both these cases the idea that we can mandate 90 per cent or more steel represents nothing other than a conspiracy against the public and a contrivance to raise prices. Opposition amendments Nos 3, 4 and 5 state "at least 90 per cent of the steel". What are the cost implications of that? The cost implications are that we will mandate that a product must be bought irrespective of the price for which it is being sold. Where in that instance is there the ability for industry modernisation or reform? We find ourselves falling into the situation that the industry got itself into in the first place—tariff walls, protective barriers, industry protectionism, the Australian compromise of big unions, big government and big business, all of whom conspire against the consumers and the smaller producers in this country to produce a range of higher priced products rather than allow for imports, which can be cheaper to be worked in in subsequent industries. I am not talking necessarily about steel manufacturing but the industries ancillary to steel manufacturing that could get their inputs cheaper.

The Hon. Paul Green mentioned that this is the best steel in the world and, therefore, we should be mandating it. My argument is if it is the best steel in the world it will stand or fall on its own merits. To say that we must have 90 per cent Australian steel in a product which might not require the highest possible grade of steel is gross featherbedding of exactly the sort that The Greens complained about when it came to the electricity poles

and wires industry. Is it the best steel in the world? Perhaps it is; perhaps it is not. Perhaps we do not need the best steel in the world for every project. More to the point, by mandating a system that says our steel has to be bought allows steel industries in Australia, therefore, to engage in collusive and anti-competitive tendencies, which will, in effect, raise the price of Australian steel so that if they are, as the Hon. Paul Green says, to grow and expand, presumably through export markets, they can seek to sell their steel—the best steel in the world—at a level that undercuts or at least reaches parity with the world steel market.

What is the implication of that? The implication is that taxpayers in New South Wales will pay higher amounts for steel, which will then go to the company for profits, which can then be used to subsidise its exports overseas. In other words, taxpayers of New South Wales will be paying money so that people in Bangladesh can get cheaper steel. That is the implication. It is the inevitable implication of what happens when we have a market that is mandated by government. The Hon. Paul Green also spoke about this being a hand up. This is not a hand up. If it was a hand up, we would have a bill addressing the burden on the steel industry through unnecessary regulation, through unnecessary legislation, through over-restrictive labour markets, through a lack of infrastructure relating to export industries. This is a handout because it purports to take money from consumers, from taxpayers by government taxation to pay for projects that are then subsequently parlayed into the coffers of BlueScope or South Australian steel. Where does it go to from there? It goes overseas, presumably through these growth export markets that the Hon. Paul Green talked about, to the benefit of those people overseas who might wish to buy Australian steel.

This is ridiculous. This is not a hand-up; this is a handout. It is literally a handout—by government in this instance. I am not at all surprised that there is a proposal for a New South Wales steel industry advocate. It is not good enough for those opposite to corrupt the free market in this State; they want to entrench a bureaucracy to go with that corruption of the free market. I am not at all surprised that The Greens will be supporting this, as will the Labor Party. The Labor Party believes that nothing can be achieved without a government bureaucracy taking the reins in the matter of free market interests.

Let us have a look at the functions of the steel industry advocate. It is basically a propagandist for steel, which would be fine if that was all it did. It also seeks to look after the accreditation of steel coming into this State. So this legislation would create a government bureaucrat who will do exactly what we criticised the Japanese Government for doing—in other words, using administrative procedures to put in place de facto trade barriers. Those on this side of the Chamber have traditionally opposed such measures. The old Federal Labor Party—the party of Hawke, Keating and Dawkins, and other people who understood what the modern economy was about—was critical of Japan for doing this kind of thing in relation to agricultural products over a substantial period of time.

It is nonsense to have a steel industry advocate. The socialist members on the opposite side of the Chamber believe that we have to have some sort of government bureaucratic official to look after an industry, and that says a lot about what they think of the future of the industry. Why do they not just do the honest, Corbynite thing? Why don't they just introduce a bill to nationalise the steel industry in New South Wales, to take full control of it and engage in whatever intra-governmental subsidy schemes they like? Those members should be honest about what they really want to do. The Leader of the Opposition in Britain, the Rt Hon. Jeremy Corbyn, is at least honest about these things. He says, "I want to nationalise things."

Mr David Shoebridge: Point of order: The member is not addressing the amendments.

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): I agree. The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps should bring himself back to the amendments.

The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS: If we look at the powers of the advocate we see that he will have a great deal of influence. In effect, it is a nationalisation without going through the bad publicity of having a nationalisation. The legislation seeks to regulate an industry by fiat. In that regard, I shall move an amendment to the Labor amendments. I move:

That Opposition amendment No. 6 on sheet C2016-054D be amended by omitting "Advocate" wherever occurring and inserting instead "Commissar".

That is the true nature of what this is all about.

The Hon. Paul Green: Point of order: I remind the Chair of a previous ruling that amendments need to be given in written form.

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! I am alive to that, but I think there is a more substantive point of order that could be made, rather than the procedural point of order.

Mr David Shoebridge: Point of order: The amendment is trifling and argumentative.

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! I have made this ruling before. I refer members to Erskine May and remind them that an amendment is out of order if it is vague, trifling or tendered in a spirit of mockery. I do not think I need go any further. I rule that the intended amendment meets all those criteria and is out of order.

Mr David Shoebridge: That ruling was used against me.

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): I think it may well have been. It just shows a degree of balance, I hope, on my part.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (11:44): I respond to the contributions made to the Labor amendments. I thank Mr David Shoebridge, the Hon. Paul Green of the Christian Democratic Party, representatives of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, and all those who made a contribution to the debate in the spirit of good public policy. The Australian Steel Institute has stated that maximising local content is of huge importance, estimating that for every \$1 million of local manufacturing output gained or retained in this State, six full-time jobs are retained, \$225,300 of tax revenue is generated and nearly \$65,000 of welfare benefits are saved.

The BIS Shrapnel report estimated that the proposed 90 per cent local steel content would cost somewhere between \$61 million and \$80 million annually for Australia, which would translate to an impact for New South Wales of between \$19 million and \$24 million annually. We think that this is an investment worth making when one considers the devastation of the loss of jobs to local economies and the increase in welfare, to say nothing of the additional pressures placed on families and society through marriage and other relationship breakdowns consequent on economic devastation that would come from the further deterioration of the steel industry.

The Labor Party also makes the point that this is not mandating the use of steel in construction generally in this State. It refers only to "relevant public works", as defined in the bill, constructed by or on behalf of—and paid for, in part or in full—by a public authority. A "public authority" means the New South Wales Government, a local council or a state-owned corporation. It is, no doubt, intended to be an important influence to support the viability of the steel industry and all of the supply chains and associated industries that support it and depend upon it. We make no apologies for that, but it is not a general mandate regarding the use of steel in construction in this State more generally. Some of the contributions made in this debate were seriously wide of the mark in that regard. This is a sensible, balanced and targeted set of measures to support those social and economic objectives that have been well and truly ventilated in this debate. I invite all honourable members to support the amendments.

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): The Hon. Adam Searle has moved Opposition amendment No. 1 on sheet C2016-062, together with Opposition amendments Nos 3 to 6 on sheet C2016-054D. The question is that the amendments be agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

The CHAIR (The Hon. Trevor Khan): The question is that the bill as amended be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I move:

That the Chair do now leave the chair and report the bill to the House with amendments.

Motion agreed to.

Adoption of Report

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I move:

That the report be now adopted.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING) BILL 2016**Messages**

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Bronnie Taylor): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly agreeing to the Legislative Council's amendment to the abovementioned bill.

*Motions***FAIRFIELD YOUTH OFF THE STREETS****Debate resumed from 11 August 2016.**

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (11:50): I acknowledge the Hon. Lou Amato for moving the motion, for his commitment to serving his community in south-west Sydney and for his heartfelt commitment to activities such as Youth Off The Streets and the good work that that organisation is doing in Fairfield. In the past I had the great opportunity to meet Father Chris Riley when I worked for Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, who is a board member of Youth Off The Streets and very active participant in the group's activity. It was inspirational for me to meet Father Chris Riley and hear of the wonderful work he does in the community for troubled youth by helping to get their lives back on track. I acknowledge the presence in the House of the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. John Ajaka, whose many responsibilities include youth. New South Wales has a very proud tradition of looking after youth.

In 1989 New South Wales introduced the Youth Week initiative, which was so successful that other States and Territories followed New South Wales' lead. In 2000 the Commonwealth Government began supporting the event, and it officially became National Youth Week. When the motion was first debated, the following day was International Youth Day, which was a pertinent time in which to be discussing issues that face the youth of New South Wales as well as important programs in New South Wales that assist in tackling youth issues. International Youth Day was first acknowledged on 12 August 2000. It is an awareness day that was designed by the United Nations to draw attention to issues surrounding youth. The focus issue of International Youth Day 2016 is the eradication of poverty among young people.

One of the issues associated with poverty, particularly for young people throughout the nation, is homelessness. Of people experiencing homelessness, 25 per cent are aged between 12 and 24 years. Therefore, assisting people in this age bracket is integral in tackling homelessness more broadly. The 2013 Mental Health Commission's report shows that between 50 per cent and 75 per cent of all homeless people suffer a mental health issue. Homelessness must be tackled holistically and by the adoption of a whole-of-government approach because it affects so many different areas of responsibility. I am sure that Minister Ajaka takes his responsibilities for youth very seriously and is cognisant of the wide effect of homelessness. The Minister is doing a fantastic job in that area, as he does in all of his portfolio areas. Reducing youth homelessness is one of the key priorities of the Premier of New South Wales.

There can be no better solution for anyone than gainful employment, and youth unemployment is always a matter of concern. While the rate of unemployment among 15- to 24-year-olds has decreased, it is still higher than it should be. That highlights the importance of various outreach programs across the State, particularly those provided by groups such as Youth Off The Streets—non-government organisations that are in touch with the community. Those organisations often have the benefit of those who are in the clergy, such as Father Chris Riley. It is important to pay tribute to the work that happens in our community, particularly work that is not part of the role of government but is supported by community organisations, such as volunteer groups, church-run groups or groups supported by other community organisations. That is fundamentally important, and one such group in my local community is Ku-ring-gai's KYDS Youth Development Service. I know quite a few people who have been involved with that group.

I thank the Hon. Lou Amato for moving the motion and providing me with an opportunity to mention the work of the KYDS Youth Development Service and the importance of such groups throughout the State, which are working to help youth. A good friend of mine, Darren Mark, is heavily involved. Councillor David Citer is one of the leaders of that group. Some other members include Matthew Sievier, Mark Northern, Andrew Price, Charlie Murton, Namoi Dougall, Karen Spitzer, Trish Barrett, Kym Carlson and Felicity McDonnell, who do a fantastic job in providing outreach services to the Ku-ring-gai youth community. While the New South Wales Government provides a great deal of support for community organisations, government support is only one source of assistance. The endeavours of community organisations and the independent fundraising activities they undertake are fundamentally important in the provision of community services.

KYDS is a free and easily accessible support program for 12- to 18-year-olds across northern Sydney. The focus of KYDS services is on confronting depression, anxiety, drug and alcohol issues, addiction, school

problems, body image, self-esteem, family communication problems, as well as grief and loss. This type of program is a fantastic initiative. It allows young people and their families to access free and confidential counselling as well as group programs that are fundamental to ensuring a good quality of life for the next generation. Another KYDS function which is so important is to provide schools with specialists to convene early intervention workshops that have been designed in response to the changing issues and circumstances facing youth in our community. We know that early intervention in issues related to homelessness or mental ill health is fundamentally important to prevent the problems from spiralling out of control. We also know that in many ways prevention is better than cure. The objectives of KYDS are having a very realisable and powerful effect in our community.

Youth Off The Streets commenced in 1991 and emerged from humble beginnings. It had only one van delivering food to young homeless people in Kings Cross. However, to date, Youth Off The Streets has helped more than 70,000 people; it employs 150 people and has 320 volunteers. Less than half the funding for Youth Off The Streets comes from government sources, which highlights the importance of community organisations. While the New South Wales Government might support community organisations, there is more bang for our buck when non-government and community organisations provide services across the State. A clear component of decreasing youth disadvantage is promoting the engagement of young people with their communities. Of course, the Government is committed to that and provides funding for several grants that target 31 youth opportunities for community engagement across New South Wales. Studies have shown that community engagement by young people can address the risk factors they face. Young people who live on the margins of society can be targeted specifically by programs offering mentorship, encouragement and early intervention strategies.

Since 2012, 120 similar youth programs and opportunities have been funded by the New South Wales Government with the aim of creating youth-led and youth-driven opportunities. As with so many such programs, it is important that peers encourage youth to engage with these programs as they speak the same language. An example of a program funded by this initiative is the Blue Mountains Youth, Environmental and Social Change Congress: For Young People by Young People. As the beneficiary of a grant, this program will empower young people in the Blue Mountains to develop a youth congress to brainstorm solutions for local environmental programs. Research has shown that contact with nature assists in reducing the effects of social, physical and emotional wellbeing challenges that face young people, and this program is important in tackling those challenges as well as promoting engagement with community issues. My wife was a councillor on Wingecarribee Shire Council where she piloted a lot of programs.

The Hon. Shayne Mallard: A great council.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I do not know that I would endorse the council so much, but I will endorse my wife's work on the council. My wife was involved in piloting programs for youth in the Southern Highlands, many of which focused on creating activities to encourage young people to stay in the Southern Highlands. Many regional areas lose their youth who often migrate to larger centres to find a social structure that gives them everything they want and need. Wingecarribee council tried to engage its youth in valuable activities and many of those initiatives still continue today. In many instances it is not up to government to provide such activities, but potentially government can work with non-government organisations to attract worthwhile initiatives to engage youth with community activities and events that interest young people. As we know, idle hands are the work of the devil. In this State we have issues with young people who have nothing better to do than engage in criminal activity, drug use and things like that. Often this activity leads to further problems, so having outlets and activities to engage youth is important in addressing social problems in our State and across the country.

Mentoring is important in this process. The Youth Frontiers Program was introduced by the Premier in 2015. It aims to mentor 1,200 years 8 and 9 students. Programs like this are an excellent opportunity for young people to spend at least 30 hours a week working with their mentor. They include 10 targeted one-to-one programs. The program specifically reaches out to those young people who will gain from this kind of initiative. Research has shown that this kind of initiative engages those who are isolated and marginalised within their community and the education sphere. Dealing with statewide mental health and confidence issues is fundamental to improving opportunities for these young people.

Brett Murray is a good friend of mine. He has worked with disadvantaged youth and schools throughout New South Wales for a long time in his Make Bullying History campaign. Brett has been featured in a range of media for his good work. I think he met with the Hon. Paul Green recently to talk about his campaign. We know that bullying is a big issue in schools and it has a devastating effect on students' self-esteem. We should not confine campaigns to certain areas of bullying; instead we should target and try to eradicate all forms of bullying in schools across New South Wales to help young people with self-esteem issues in their difficult transition to adulthood. Brett does a fantastic job going to schools with a well-researched and documented anti-bullying campaign which

can be used for any student no matter their race, creed, religion or sexuality. This campaign is making a difference to students in schools across New South Wales.

I was fundamentally involved in creating anti-bullying campaigns when I was a student at Sydney Technical High School. I understand these campaigns are used to this day, which is a good thing. In the past we accepted bullying as one of the things that happened to many students. I believe we now agree that while some people can withstand certain elements of bullying—and some people may even become stronger as a result of bullying—there are also many young people who are vulnerable. The eradication of bullying from our schools is fundamentally important for young people's mental health and their future progress through our society. The New South Wales Government is focusing on delivering such programs in our schools.

Many of these programs are spearheaded by the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. John Ajaka, through his portfolio responsibilities. He has been a beacon for the youth of the State in working hard to ensure that our youth are well looked after. His portfolios cover the age spectrum, from the youth to the seniors of New South Wales. He does a wonderful job across the age spectrum, and he is loved and revered across the State.

The Hon. Shayne Mallard: And in the Parliament.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: And in the Parliament as well, particularly by those opposite, who love the wonderful work done by the Hon. John Ajaka for New South Wales. I thank the Hon. Lou Amato for his commitment to the youth of New South Wales and particularly the people of south-western Sydney. He is a genuine person with a heartfelt commitment to what he brings to this House. He seeks to support those in the community, as evidenced in this motion. I commend him for his work in the community and his work in the Parliament. I commend the motion to the House.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (12:05): I support the motion moved by the Hon. Lou Amato concerning Fairfield's Youth Off The Streets program, which helps young people to find their footing in the community and equips them with essential skills to overcome any challenges they may face in the future. I wish to place on the record our recognition of the tremendous work done by the founder of Youth Off The Streets, Father Chris Riley. Father Chris Riley has served in the role of chief executive officer of the program for many years. He is a hardworking individual who is totally committed to helping the youth of Sydney, not just the youth of Fairfield. The Christian Democratic Party recognises the valuable work that he has performed over many years and continues to perform. We also recognise those who have followed his example and work on the various committees that have been established for Youth Off The Streets in different suburbs. The motion concludes:

That this House acknowledges the importance of youth outreach programs across our State and the enormous impact they have upon helping the next generation of community members to be safe, productive and fulfilled.

What could be more pleasing than to achieve that goal? I fully support this motion.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (12:07): I support this motion and congratulate the Hon. Lou Amato on bringing such an important motion to the attention of the House and drawing to members' attention the important work of Fairfield's Youth Off The Streets program. I come to this discussion with experience of Youth Off The Streets through its outreach work in Kings Cross. I acknowledge the vital work the program does in partnership with other worthy organisations. Having grown up in Penrith and more recently having spent several years working at Liverpool, I appreciate the important work of organisations assisting vulnerable youth in our society.

I have previously moved a motion, which was adopted by the House, regarding an event called Sport for Social Change—Youth Leaders, which was held at Fairfield in April this year. On 6 April I was privileged to represent the Minister for Sport, Stuart Ayres, at this event. This program is run by two not-for-profit community organisations targeting youth, called Creating Change and Football United. The program is best described as training the trainers—the idea being to train young people to train other young people, or a mentoring program. The program concentrates on youth leaders mentoring at-risk, isolated and disadvantaged youth in their areas through the empowering role of group sports.

This program promotes sport as a tool for social change. It shares strategies for social inclusion, appealing especially to migrant and refugee communities. There were a lot of young refugee mentors from Sudan and other places training there that day, and I was really inspired by those young people who want to take the message of sport to other young people and empower them. It is a great initiative. More power to them, I am sure all members agree.

Turning my attention to the challenges of youth at risk in the inner city, of which I have some experience, members will recall—and I regularly remind them—that I was a Liberal councillor in the inner city between 2000 and 2012. I was first elected as a Liberal councillor to the former South Sydney City Council for the old north

ward, which covered the suburbs of Kings Cross and Darlinghurst, in 2000. There could be no greater focus for Youth Off The Streets than the problems in those areas, particularly when I was first elected in 2000. Those areas were the epicentre of drugs, organised crime and prostitution. Regrettably, those areas attracted homeless youth, who were vulnerable to predators. That was where Youth Off the Streets began its work.

In the years I was a councillor and a resident of Potts Point, on the edge of Kings Cross, I came across the work of not only Youth Off The Streets but an organisation run by the Salvation Army called Oasis Youth Support Network. I take the time remaining in my speech to pay tribute to the work of the Salvation Army, the Oasis organisation and two of its key leaders I have had extensive dealings with and now consider to be friends. Oasis Youth Support Network is the Salvation Army's response to youth homelessness in the inner city and has been supporting disadvantaged and marginalised youth since 1992. Officially opened on 4 June 1992 by the then Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Nick Greiner, the Oasis, as it was called, offered a range of drop-in and accommodation services to homeless young men and women in Kings Cross. At that time it was serviced by 12 staff.

It also had premises in Surry Hills which were donated by the Hon. Peter Collins, who was then the Minister for Health, on a peppercorn lease in January 1990. A major fundraising campaign was then launched. It was interesting to note that the premises donated by the Hon. Peter Collins was a former tuberculosis hospital. If members visit, they can see how it would have operated and how confronting that would have been at a different period of Australia's history. I became involved around 2000. Alan Staines was the centre manager until 1994 and he was succeeded by John Drew, a lifelong member of the Salvation Army, before Captain, now Major, Paul Moulds took on the role in 1997.

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Hear, hear! Very good man.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: I acknowledge that interjection. He is a wonderful man, and his wife is a wonderful lady. Paul is a visionary. He understood the need to create a youth network rather than just a centre. At the end of 1997 he had merged three Salvation Army inner-city youth services—SOS Street Service, the Oasis Youth Care Centre and John Irwin Lodge—into one multifaceted service known as the Oasis Youth Support Network. Paul devoted the next 13 years of his life to Oasis and the young people who sought help there. He created the holistic program model still in use today and reinvigorated community support for the services. He was the driving force in the production of the quite famous *The Oasis* documentary, to which I will return. He stepped down as centre manager in 2009. His nine years in the role occurred in the period that I was a councillor, so I had great engagement with him.

Since wandering onto the streets as a 19-year-old idealistic youth worker on a holiday job for the Salvation Army, Paul wanted to dedicate his life to helping young people. This journey led him to work in different roles with the Wesley Mission, Mission Australia and eventually the Salvation Army. Recognised for his expertise in and understanding of the complex issues surrounding youth homelessness, Paul has advised and still advises governments on policy and innovative youth programs. His greatest passion is to work face to face with young people at the Oasis centres. Paul believes that every young person can be saved, no matter how addicted or damaged they may be. The depth of his connection with those he helps has meant that he has become a surrogate father to many dispossessed children. Paul is a determined advocate for creating a more just Australian society in which marginalised young people have access to the support and services they need.

I cannot talk about Paul without talking about Robbin, his wife. Captain Robbin Moulds is just as passionate about people and community. I met her through Paul, obviously, but also through her leadership of Foster House in Surry Hills, a drop-in centre and hostel for homeless and marginalised men that empowers them with training in basic skills like budgeting, shopping and cooking. In around 2013, my Liberal Party colleagues and I assisted with some fundraising for Foster House to replace a kitchen. Robbin too has worked with disadvantaged people since her late teens and believes it is only through community that one can find fulfilment. Since becoming a Salvation Army officer, she has directed her passion to the creation of the Streetlevel Mission, a ministry that reaches out to the marginalised people of inner-city Sydney. This innovative service offers a Friday night street church, internet cafe, showers, a food market, clothing, growth groups and prayer ministry.

Robbin and Paul met at the beginning of their careers as aspiring youth workers with the Salvation Army in Kings Cross, and they continue to cross paths in their work as they provide personal long-term support to the young people at Oasis and the Salvation Army. I mentioned *The Oasis* documentary earlier. The Oasis centre was the subject of a 2008 documentary produced by Shark Island Productions and directed by Ian Darling and Sascha Ettinger Epstein. The film follows Paul, Robbin and the Salvation Army staff who care for young people and try to make a difference to their lives over two years. It is quite harrowing, and I encourage members to view the documentary if they have not. I have a copy in my office, but it is also on YouTube. Your heart will go out to the young people and the challenges for those caring for them.

The film shows the daily lives of young people and the Salvation Army staff who care for them, work with them and try to make a difference in their lives, and it takes an unflinching look at the difficulties and triumphs that occur every day and night. Many of those young people have ongoing problems with drugs, abuse, violence and abusive behaviour and are resistant to attempts to help them. But whatever is happening in their lives, Paul and Robbin are there to try to assist them to turn their lives around. It was filmed in partnership with the ABC, and it put youth homelessness front and centre of national thinking in 2008-09. That was the first time it was realised that documentary toolmaking could be used as a positive tool for social change, which I think we take for granted today in the context of the greyhound debate. We know documentaries and films can change things, but in the context of youth homelessness this was the first time. The film won an international award and demonstrated the latent power of documentaries to deliver a high return on social capital.

Years after the initial screening of the documentary with ABC involvement in 2008, youth homelessness remains central to the national agenda. Major Paul Moulds has moved from Oasis, although he is still very involved, to a senior role in the Salvation Army, which included a six-month secondment to head the Salvation Army's work with asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus Island. He did that missionary work with great compassion, as did Robbin, and they came back quite distressed about what they saw. Major Moulds is a board member and official spokesman of the Salvation Army's humanitarian mission services, which coordinates the work with asylum seekers. In 2010 Major Paul Moulds and his wife, Major Robbin Moulds, were honoured with the Order of Australia for their work with homeless youth. It was well deserved.

In conclusion, I congratulate the Hon. Lou Amato on bringing this to our attention. The way a society nurtures its youth is, in my view, a fundamental measure of our compassion and our values. Organisations like Youth Off The Streets and Oasis, as I have outlined, demonstrate those values of compassion and protection that we must exhibit as a society. I commend their work and the work of other worthy organisations, including the work of government staff and government organisations, which are often overlooked but are at the front line as well. I commend this motion to the House.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (12:19): I also acknowledge and thank the Hon. Lou Amato for moving this important motion acknowledging the Fairfield Youth Off The Streets program, and particularly the work of Mr Tommy Poto and Ms Sonia Giwargis, who have worked tirelessly to support children in the local area. The motion also refers to Ms Jessika Wrage, who was involved in Youth Off The Streets when she was younger. I am pleased to advise the House that she has gone on to study nursing.

The Hon. Paul Green: What a great profession.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: Yes. Ms Wrage is also involved in the Youth Advisory Council, which the Government strongly supports. I note that nominations for membership of the 2017 Youth Advisory Council are open until 30 September. Any young people interested in getting involved should check the website or call 9248 0970. I thank the Minister for the work he is doing in this area. As I said, the Government is committed to fostering engagement with young people, and the advisory council enables that to occur.

As previously stated, Youth Week was initiated in 1989. It is the largest event involving young people in Australia, and it is held in April each year. We in this Chamber have on occasion discussed the event and commended the work it achieves across New South Wales. The best thing about Youth Week is that it involves thousands of young people, and gives them the opportunity to contribute to their local community. Children and young people between 12 and 25 years of age are encouraged to participate. The New South Wales event is the country's largest, attracting more than 110,000 young people from across the State. This year's Youth Week involved almost 800 different projects and activities and was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate young people's achievements.

Youth Week 2016 included a forum held at Parliament House focusing on young people and volunteering. The event was hosted by the Youth Advisory Council and more than 100 people from across New South Wales attended. I was not able to attend the forum, but I know that the Young Australian of the Year gave an inspiring presentation that focused on homelessness. NSW Health was a partner in this year's Youth Week in New South Wales, and focused on health outcomes for young people. The Office of Emergency Management was also involved and focused on raising awareness and the importance of disaster preparation. It encouraged people to work together and to look at innovative ways of getting young people involved at the local level. Local councils around the State are also involved in Youth Week and more generally with programs designed to help young people.

Youth Week in the Blue Mountains hosted the Creative Showcase: Rise Up for a Better World, which featured the talents of local high school students. People in the lower mountains area were also involved in that event. The Goodomabah Aboriginal Film Festival was a feature of Youth Week celebrations at Katoomba. The festival was held from 7 to 9 April and entry was free. Many people from the local community participated by

providing local stories and other entertainment. The Eurobodalla community hosted the fantastic Underground Event, which featured digital photography. Local people between 11 and 24 years of age were invited to submit photographs, and the finalists' photographs were exhibited in an underground car park.

The Tamworth Regional Youth Summit was also held during Youth Week this year. This year 50 young people from across the region participated in the TRY Summit, which focused on developing a regional youth strategy. The summit provides a framework and direction for young people living in the local area. The organisers collected 250 surveys from young people so that the summit could narrow its focus to four key areas on which to make recommendations. The four areas of focus were bullying, mental health, drugs and alcohol, and safe places for young people. Rockdale had an Express Yourself Youth Week Forum, which was supported by the Rockdale Youth Council. The forum involved people aged between 12 and 18 years in the St George area and brought together people from different backgrounds, genders and religions. The forum focused on the arts, and involved the outdoor Australian Poetry Slam. A great deal happens across the State during Youth Week, including the YouthRock band competition, which was initiated in 2000 by Belmore Boys High School. The competition is hosted by State and Federal parliaments in other countries around the world and is another way to encourage young people to visit our legislatures.

I draw the attention of the House to the Government's Strategic Plan for Children and Young People, which is a three-year, whole-of-government strategy. I commend the Minister for the work he has done on this strategy. It is the first of its kind and focuses on ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. It is the result of consultations undertaken with more than 4,000 children and young people. The children were asked various questions to determine their priorities. In response to a question about what is not working well, they said that they had issues with education, transport, drugs and alcohol, and employment. They were also asked what they thought the Government's focus should be, and they responded that education should be a priority. One of the key objectives in the strategy focuses on education and upskilling young people. It states that children and young people should have relevant skills for life, including technical and vocational skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

The Government has established fee-free apprenticeships and apprenticeship training. It is offering more than 2,000 young people the opportunity to transition to further training. National Skills Week, which will be held from 29 September, is a fantastic opportunity to highlight the importance of vocational training and providing pathways for young people to ensure they live a successful life and have a career and opportunities.

As I said, we are providing more than 200,000 places. We also have a commitment to focus on those who are experiencing or have experienced domestic or family violence to ensure that they have the support to get employment skills. Through the Smart and Skilled Fee-Free Scholarship 15- to 30-year-olds who meet the Smart and Skilled concession-fee eligibility criteria or are or have been in out-of-home care will be able to complete the Smart and Skilled training without having to pay. There are also scholarships available for 15- to 17-year-olds who are currently in out-of-home care and also for 18- to 30-year-olds who have previously been in out-of-home care.

There are six key principles to the plan. They are innovation, localisation, collaboration, prevention, transition and addressing disadvantage. Another area that is extremely important when it comes to supporting our youth is that of mental health. I acknowledge the Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Mental Health, the Hon. Scott Farlow, who is present in the Chamber. It is vitally important that we look at this area. The Mental Health Commission was established as a result of the Government's election commitment to reform the way mental health services are delivered in New South Wales, particularly focusing on prevention and early intervention.

The New South Wales Government is committed to mental health reform and in particular to improving outcomes for children and adolescents with mental health problems. It is committed to ensuring that there are resources for community outreach programs and providing resources and support to community organisations—for instance, for the work done through Youth Off The Streets. The New South Wales Government is undertaking a decade long whole-of-government approach to mental health care through Living Well: A Strategic Plan for Mental Health in NSW 2014-2024. The strategic plan has a particular section on young people. We must ensure that there is good mental health for children and adolescents. Unfortunately the prevalence of mental health problems and disorders in young people is significant.

Multiple surveys confirm that up to 20 per cent of children and adolescents may have at least one clinically significant mental health problem in a 12-month period. However, while we want to ensure that young people have access to the advice and support that they need, we also have to be careful not to over-medicalise adolescence. As I said, early intervention is important, as is the provision of support and information about mental illness. I also commend the work of the New South Wales Government in working with other organisations and the Federal Government to expand programs such as Headspace. Headspace is another good example of a local

organisation working with young people to address mental health and drug and alcohol issues. It also provides facilities to support children in the community.

At the more acute end of the spectrum, of those who experience psychosis 80 per cent will experience their first episode between the age of 15 and 30 years. Many of those young people will go on to develop long-term problems. I have worked as a psychiatric nurse. It was extremely disturbing to see young people, some of them minors, experiencing their first early psychotic episode. One can never underestimate the importance of early intervention and ensuring organisations provide support to the family and the young person. Unless these illnesses are managed well they can have long-term negative effects for the young person. Most importantly, if young people are supported they go on to live fulfilling lives.

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (12:34): I thank the Hon. Lou Amato for moving this motion. It is a great opportunity to speak about worthwhile causes. The motion reflects the things the honourable member strongly cares about. Youth Off The Streets is an amazing program led by an extraordinary man, Father Chris Riley. In the past 25 years he has grown the organisation from a single food van serving young people living in the streets of Kings Cross into the widely respected agency it is today. It is a tremendous story. The agency provides 35 services including crisis accommodation, independent schools, residential treatment programs, youth centres, Aboriginal programs and outreach programs. Its outreach programs extend across New South Wales and beyond, including to regional centres such as Griffith and Narrandera. Youth Off The Streets supports young people as they work to turn their lives around and overcome immense personal trauma such as neglect and physical, psychological and/or emotional abuse. It is a worthwhile cause and it is fantastic to be able to acknowledge it in this Chamber today.

Father Riley has two particular beliefs. He says that there is no such thing as a child born bad. He also says that we must have the courage to demand greatness from our youth. I find those statements powerful and extremely motivating. They are important messages to hold on to. Sometimes our communities' issues get so great that it can feel like there is nothing we can do, but every single child has potential. It is up to each of us to encourage them to achieve that potential. Those of us with the privilege of being in this place need to give those young people the opportunity to be the best people that they can be. That responsibility comes with the privilege of the office that we hold.

One of the things I like about what Youth Off The Streets is doing is its focus on service learning, engaging young people in programs through which they serve the community and develop skills, self-esteem and empathy. I am very strict with my children about the understanding of service. When they worry about the marks they are going to get, the courses they might do at university, the jobs that they will have and what those jobs can bring for them, as young people do, I constantly say to Hannah and Holly: "The greatest thing that you will achieve and the greatest thing that you will get reward from is what you do for others and are not remunerated for. You do it because you see a need." That is essential. My expectation and that of my husband is that our children will learn to serve their communities well, wherever that may be.

Engaging with our young people so they feel like valuable members of the community is critical to the future of our community. Nowhere is this more particularly the case than in our regional areas. We need people to be proud of where they are from and we need to fly that flag high. Where would many of us be without our strong community organisations, supporting others in times of need, operating clubs and groups that make our communities more dynamic and enjoyable and, most of all, uniting us to achieve more for our towns? Nowhere is this more evident than in rural and regional New South Wales.

I would not be in this place today if I had not joined a Monaro community group for cancer research through which I fundraised and worked really hard to get a local oncology service. I never envisaged myself doing that. I had a life in which I did not feel very much a part of communities because we moved around a lot. This is about building a strong sense of community for our youth and allowing them to feel they are a valued part of everything. Last week I had the pleasure of attending the handover of a community project in this place—it was a book dedicated to the Monaro with beautiful photos taken by ordinary people. By that I mean they were not professional photographers. It was a community volunteer project. It is things like this that make our lives richer and it is important to encourage them amongst young people. The very fine member for Monaro, the Hon. John Barilaro, who is also a great Minister, suggested that the next book of Monaro in pictures should be done by our youth. I thought that was a terrific suggestion and it was taken on by the committee there.

I commend the digital aspect of the youth outreach programs. People are finding themselves more connected not only to digital communities but also communities further afield. Within its youth outreach programs, Youth Off The Streets acknowledges that when it comes to service delivery, one size does not fit all. I take every opportunity to speak about service delivery in this place because it is important. Youth services can work together in this area to achieve better outcomes by sharing information and understanding that one size does not fit all and it can get on with doing different things that need to be done. Stories like that of Jessika Wrage are

fantastic and show why investing time and energy with at-risk youth is important. Organisations and programs that engage communities with their young people to encourage them to achieve and contribute should be supported.

I comment on the Youth Off The Streets Bourke Outreach program, which operates in partnership with the local high school. It runs a cultural-based literacy and numeracy program for young people who are disengaged from mainstream education. The Yarr-Pai program was created to help people re-engage with their education. Earlier this year, a 15-year-old Aboriginal person took part in the program. To qualify for Yarr-Pai, "a young person has to attend school fewer than 10 of school days". This young person was assessed at the start of the program and was found to have the reading and comprehension level of a year 3 student. The program is giving people the opportunity to receive a good education, which is what our young people need. Education is opportunity. It allows people to achieve higher goals and gain opportunities, which is vital. The Yarr-Pai program has experienced an increase in student attendance, which demonstrates how well it is working. Re-engaging young people with mainstream education is the key to a better future.

I have spoken about the outcomes of the Youth Frontiers program in Cooma in this place before. Kirk Wassink was the finalist last year. It was an exciting day for him when he came to Parliament. The program encourages community leaders to spend time with young people and to mentor them as they complete community engagement projects. Kirk built a billy cart, which he raced in Cooma. He has a tremendous story and is going ahead in leaps and bounds this year. It is another example of how we can make our community stronger.

I thank the Hon. Lou Amato for moving this motion so that we can reflect on the great work of the Youth Off The Streets organisation and the importance of the youth outreach programs. The Hon. Lou Amato and I were in the class of 2015 and it has been great to get to know him and work with him. I look forward to the years ahead. I know how deeply he cares about this important motion and this Parliament is a richer place for having him in it. The outreach programs are a reminder of the potential that exists in all our young people and our future. I commend the motion.

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (12:42): I speak to this motion because it is important to recognise the significant function that youth programs perform throughout New South Wales, not only in the city but also in rural and regional communities across the State. The Youth Off The Streets Fairfield Outreach program was established in March 2014, focusing on youth aged 12 to 25. The important principle governing the way in which Youth Off The Streets operates and one of the prime factors ensuring that the different programs are effective is to encourage families to become involved with their loved one who is involved with the program. Outreach activities sensibly take place after working hours and during peak youth activity times. Youth Off The Streets activities are connected with programs that already exist in the community, which builds community capacity wherever the Youth Off The Streets program takes place. Trainees are selected from the local community, which adds to the resonance and relevance of each Youth Off The Streets program.

Youth Off The Streets was officially founded by Father Chris Riley in 1991, with one van delivering meals to young homeless people on the streets of Kings Cross. It has grown to become a major youth specific agency, providing a wide range of services, such as crisis accommodation, residential treatment programs, centres for youth, Aboriginal programs, and early intervention and prevention programs in troubled suburbs through an outreach service. I also congratulate my colleague the Hon. Lou Amato. It is refreshing to have somebody in this Chamber of his quality who cares deeply about this issue. I back up everything my colleague the Hon. Bronnie Taylor has said about the Hon. Lou Amato. I thank him for moving this important motion to be debated in this place.

Youth Off The Streets is a non-denominational community organisation working for disadvantaged young people who may be homeless, drug dependent and/or recovering from abuse. Youth Off The Streets supports these young people, as we all should, as they work to turn their lives around and to overcome the immense problems that they face in the world. Father Chris Riley is also the chief executive officer [CEO] of Youth Off The Streets. He has worked with disadvantaged youth for more than 40 years in a variety of roles, including teacher, youth worker, probation officer, residential carer, principal and CEO. He has experienced working with young people at the coalface in many different levels of care. I cannot think of someone who is better able and capable of leading this organisation. As CEO of Youth Off The Streets, Father Chris oversees the operation of more than 35 programs that employ more than 200 staff and involve more than 400 volunteers. Father Chris has implemented innovative behaviour modification strategies to help young people deal with a history of trauma, abuse and neglect.

Importantly, the Youth Off The Streets program also has a regional presence in Griffith, Bourke and the Hunter Valley. Young people in regional, rural and remote areas of New South Wales also experience significant personal trauma such as neglect and physical, psychological and emotional abuse. We all know that that leads to a horrifying suicide rate in regional communities, which I believe is one of the most important issues that this or

any Parliament can face. I am of the view that we are not facing up to this challenge well enough. We must look at innovative strategies to bring down the suicide rates. It is true to say that mental health issues have broken into public acceptance and understanding, but I believe we have a long way to go. Father Chris and the Youth Off The Streets program are shining lights in showing us where we can go in this area.

Young people who live in the more sparsely populated areas of the State also need access to effective youth outreach and support services. The goal of the program is to support young people to live drug-free, with a high school education, living skills and a full-time or part-time job in hand. In 2012, Youth Off The Streets developed another innovative and important initiative—its first Reconciliation Action Plan. The Reconciliation Action Plan is a public document that aims to work towards achieving quality and building better relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The program's vision for reconciliation is to support the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by listening, learning, sharing their stories, respecting cultural diversity, and building opportunities to ensure that every individual contributes to creating a better future.

This motion also acknowledges the importance of other outreach programs and the wonderful work they do. I am delighted that this concept was included in the motion as well, because while Youth Off The Streets is an extremely important and credible organisation, and one which is being appropriately applauded today, there are many other organisations in our community that provide similar valuable and important services that also should be acknowledged. I will focus on a few of those today. We are fortunate in this State to have a range of youth programs run by a long list of hardworking and dedicated community volunteers, professional workers and parliamentary representatives.

For example, the New South Wales Government's youth mentoring program was established in October 2014 by the Minister for Citizenship and Communities, the Hon. Victor Dominello, MP, who called for tenders from interested mentoring organisations to deliver the New South Wales Government's youth mentoring program, Youth Frontiers. The Minister currently responsible for youth affairs is the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism. Under this excellent Minister's stewardship, young participants in this successful program receive a minimum of 30 hours mentoring, including a minimum 10 hours one-on-one mentoring. It is an excellent program, and I commend the Minister for his work in this area.

Also at a governmental level, the Youth Strategy and Participation Unit within the Department of Family and Community Services now has 35 services to offer young people in New South Wales. These programs are outstanding and stand testament to the fact that the Government is genuinely committed in this space. But there are even more locally run community services around the State which also do an outstanding job. Everyone in this Chamber would be able to talk about an example—or even five examples—in their own regions. In my local area, the Byron Youth Service was established in 1987 as a not-for-profit incorporated community association committed to providing services for young people between the ages of 12 and 24 years and their families. Services in Byron Bay are based on a sound understanding of young peoples' needs and experiences. The Byron Youth Service is the primary provider of youth services in Byron shire. It advocates for young people and provides programs and facilities that support and empower young people and their families.

[*Business interrupted.*]

Business of the House

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS: I move:

That the time for the debate on this motion be extended by 30 minutes.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

FAIRFIELD YOUTH OFF THE STREETS

[*Business resumed.*]

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (12:52): Byron Youth Service works in partnership with many members of the Byron Bay community to develop and deliver a dynamic range of programs and services. The locally based youth service is governed by a voluntary committee of management, comprising a range of local people with skills in education, government, community services, business, the creative arts and youth work.

Byron Youth Service currently has an exceptional team of five experienced and well-qualified staff, two casual workers and approximately eight co-workers employed by other organisations, who regularly work with

the team at the Youth Activity Centre in Byron. I commend them for the incredible job they do. The Byron Youth Service is committed to training the next generation of youth workers by mentoring students who are studying courses as part of the community services training package.

The Byron Youth Service operates from the Youth Activity Centre in Byron Bay and the Cottage in Mullumbimby, and also runs outreach programs throughout the Byron shire. Ninety per cent of the funding for the youth program comes from State and Federal government grants and that is supplemented by energetic local fundraising. Byron Youth Service is a registered charity and has deductible gift recipient status with the Australian Tax Office. I strongly encourage anyone interested to make a donation to this very worthy cause.

Access to local alternative secondary education, vocational learning pathways and training, cultural, sporting and recreational activities, youth entertainment, youth venues and events, transport, lack of affordable housing, social and environmental impact of tourism, personal safety, violence and police attitude and participation in the community, are all issues being addressed by the Byron Youth Service. Key stakeholders are young people, parents, staff, the committee of management and volunteers, the Arakwal and Bundjalung people, education providers—including schools, TAFEs, registered training organisations [RTOs], Southern Cross University, government organisations, funding bodies and their staff, and community services organisations.

Local businesses and their associations including job network agencies, youth and community service providers, health service providers, cultural organisations, sporting clubs and organisations, environmental and social movements and projects are also stakeholders in the youth outreach service. I think members would agree that this service is extraordinarily representative of its local community, as are so many youth outreach services. This is the way it should be, because those organisations must be genuinely representative of their communities in order to be able to achieve the goals that they set out to achieve.

The Byron Youth Service does an outstanding job, and I applaud it for its extraordinary contribution to our community. On a broader level, Police Citizens Youth Club [PCYC] programs also operate very successfully in regional areas of New South Wales. The PCYC was established in 1937 by Police Commissioner William John Mackay. It was a partnership forged with the community via Rotary to provide young people with a safe and positive alternative to the streets. Over 75 years later, that vision has grown and Police Citizens Youth Clubs NSW is one of Australia's leading youth-focused organisations.

PCYC provides an extensive and varied range of fun, safe activities for young people and the wider community. Focused on the reduction of crime by and against young people, and on the promotion of citizenship within communities across the State, the PCYC program is an asset to all regional communities. PCYC operates more than 60 clubs and centres throughout the State, with more than 85,000 members and over 140 different activities, making it one of the largest youth organisations in Australia.

Another wonderful youth outreach organisation is the Young Women's Christian Association [YWCA]. YWCA NSW is a member association of YWCA Australia. The YWCA has a footprint which extends from the Northern Rivers to Nowra on the South Coast. It is deeply embedded in the community and its office locations include Sydney metropolitan; the south-west region, which is based in Campbelltown; the south-east region, based in Nowra; and the Northern Rivers region, based in Lismore. Across these four regions, through the delivery of early intervention and support programs, the YWCA works to empower women, children, young people and their families. It is important that there is a particular focus on women, particularly those who are victims or potential victims of domestic violence. In times of crisis women know that there is an organisation which cares, has outreach and is deeply embedded in regional communities.

The YWCA also mentors students to transition from primary school to high school, providing positive role models through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, which encourages leadership in school students, provides support services to women experiencing domestic violence and provides financial literacy and homelessness services for an ageing population. I note that Michelle Green, the wife of my colleague the Hon. Paul Green, is a terrific example of the wonderful community support which is vital to run these programs around the State. Michelle is heavily involved with the YWCA in Nowra and works on invaluable local projects, including Links to Learning, the Y Quest youth leadership program for girls and the Everyday Girl program, all of which teach vital life skills to participants.

It has been an honour and a privilege to speak to this motion today. It is an important motion. It represents what is best about this place because we can all come together to support the valuable works that are being done in our communities to support those who are potentially vulnerable, at risk, or, even worse, on the verge of self-harm. These sorts of organisation—particularly Youth Off The Streets—provide a sense of certainty and stability, and a link with administrative and authority structures which they can trust. That is incredibly valuable for people. I congratulate the Hon Lou Amato on moving this very important motion, and I applaud and sincerely thank both

Youth Off The Streets and all of the youth outreach programs across our State which do such a magnificent job throughout New South Wales.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard): I will now leave the chair and cause the bells to be rung at 2.30 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: Order! According to sessional order, proceedings are now interrupted for questions.

Questions Without Notice

NSW POLICE FORCE RESTRUCTURE

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (14:30): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. What discussions has the Minister had with colleagues about the impact of the restructure of the senior leadership positions in the NSW Police Force, specifically its impact on the State's Traffic and Highway Patrol Command, as it relates to road safety?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (14:30): I thank the honourable member for his question. I have to say, if he ever makes Cabinet level, he would know that discussions in Cabinet stay in Cabinet.

The Hon. Walt Secord: That is not true!

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: Some days the Hon. Walt Secord is so helpful! There have been notable exceptions, but anything that involves the Hon. Walt Secord does not necessarily stay in house. Cabinet discusses matters to do with such matters, as one would expect and as it should. But any comments from discussions in Cabinet do not come from me.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (14:31): I ask a supplementary question. Could the Minister elucidate his answer with respect to conversations about the subject matter with colleagues outside of Cabinet?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (14:31): I thank the honourable member for the temptation, but he does not represent a radio station or newspaper that some people are enticed by. I stick to the rules. If there are comments in this area that need to go public, it is up to the Premier and portfolio Minister to make those comments, as they have done and done quite appropriately today.

WESTCONNEX COMPULSORY PROPERTY ACQUISITION

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (14:32): My question without notice is addressed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Can the Minister inform the House about rental reforms for owners of properties who have experienced compulsory acquisition?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (14:32): I thank the honourable member for her question. I think it is important that I explain a recent reform by this Government when people continue to reside in their former house for a period of time after the property has been compulsorily acquired. It is a significant change that, due to its complex nature, has not been fully appreciated. Before I explain this reform, it is worth noting, as I indicated to the House the other day, that for WestConnex 84 per cent of the properties to date have been acquired through a negotiated process between Roads and Maritime Services [RMS] and the affected property owner. In other words, in more than 80 per cent of cases, RMS reached an agreed financial settlement with impacted owners without the need for compulsory acquisition.

When a property is compulsorily acquired, the Valuer General, not RMS, determines the final sum of compensation. In some cases, people refuse to accept the Valuer General determined sum of compensation, and that is their right. They can then elect to initiate legal proceedings in the New South Wales Land and Environment Court. The court then ultimately determines the final sum of compensation. In special cases we also allow people to continue to live in their former residence for a negotiated period. Examples include situations where people are preparing for the Higher School Certificate [HSC] or a family member is ill. For families in such predicaments, we understand more time may be needed for them to find a new home or alternative accommodation. People who continue to occupy the premises after the property has been compulsorily acquired are required to pay rent. Without paying rent, people would have the benefits of continuing to occupy the property after also receiving compensation.

The Government also pays former owners interest on the sum of the compensation. To make things even fairer, former owners who continue to occupy a property post-acquisition are not out of pocket when it comes to rental payments. In other words, the rent merely accrues on paper—they do not have to fork out the cash each

week for rent. On final settlement any accumulated rent is simply accounted for in the total sum of compensation awarded. We have also made sure that any accumulation of rent is fully offset by interest earned on the compensation amount.

Put simply, we have made sure any accrued rent never eats into the determined compensation amount to be paid. As such, our reform guarantees the former owner cannot be paid less compensation than the amount determined on the date of compulsory acquisition. In summary, our new rental policy eliminates the potential that just terms compensation is diminished through continued occupation of an affected property. Let us be clear: Labor acquired hundreds of properties in its 16 years in office using the same legislation it now describes as broken. For example, the same laws were in place when Labor acquired homes and businesses for the construction of the M7, a project that impacted on more than 200 properties. This Government has made the changes. Labor's system was broken. [*Time expired.*]

PARRAMATTA ROAD, CAMPERDOWN, FLOODING

The Hon. WALT SECORD (14:36): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. What is the Minister doing to fix dangerous and repeated flooding on Parramatta Road near the University of Sydney, where the major arterial was last night reduced to a single lane once again?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (14:37): What we are doing for the roads in New South Wales is spending record amounts of money, money the likes of which has not been seen in the State before. Those opposite tried to stop us from acquiring this money to spend on these roads. When the crocodile tears come out on these particular pieces of infrastructure, we know quite well that those opposite did not have a plan to do anything. Within our maintenance and repairs program, there is a record amount of money.

The Hon. Walt Secord: Point of order: My point of order is relevance. My question involves the specific part of Parramatta Road near the University of Sydney that was flooded last night and reduced to one lane.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The location was specific but nevertheless it was asked in a policy context and the Minister is addressing that.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I return to the question. I was about to cover the specifics when the inopportune point of order was taken. The fact is that last night in Sydney there was a huge cloudburst in that area. I know the honourable member lives in Stanmore, which is at the back of Parramatta Road. When I am in Sydney I live in Redfern.

The Hon. Walt Secord: That was you outside my house!

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask the Minister to take a deep breath and keep going.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: Lord, don't tempt me! There was a huge amount of rain last night. There were cloudbursts in that area. Within a built-up area which is largely concrete, sometimes that happens. I will go and check the specific details. I hope that the question is accurate because we have had a bout of inaccurate questions from the Opposition recently.

The Hon. Walt Secord: Point of order: The Minister made reference to my claims maybe being inaccurate. I seek leave to provide photographic evidence from last night and to table the documents.

The PRESIDENT: Order! It is not appropriate for the member to seek leave to table documents during a point of order. If the member wishes to seek leave to table the documents later he may do so. However, it is clearly out of order for him to try to do so at this stage.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: As I indicated, we will do our research to verify whether that was the case and where it happened, if it happened, and come back to the House with a detailed answer.

COMMUNITY HARMONY

The Hon. LOU AMATO (14:41): My question is addressed to the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Multiculturalism. Can the Minister update the House on recent findings on social attitudes in Australia?

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Multiculturalism) (14:41): I thank the honourable member for his question. Yesterday it was my great pleasure to officially launch the results of the Scanlon Foundation's latest survey of 10,000 Australians at the Mint building in Sydney. I would recommend that each and every member have a very close look at the results of that survey. This is an unprecedented online survey that Australia conducted in English and 19 different community languages late last year. I was pleased that my department was able to assist by translating the survey into the different

languages. Professor Andrew Markus of Monash University led the survey, which also conducted 51 focus group discussions with 285 participants.

As Minister for Multiculturalism, my remit is to make New South Wales a happy, safe and harmonious place for people to live and work—a place where we feel safe to practice our religious beliefs, to feel proud of our different cultural heritage and to unite behind our common ideals. The Government continues to invest in this regard, working with communities in the non-government sector to safeguard our harmonious way of life and welcome with open arms those who come to our country for a better life. This is reflected in the Scanlon report. A high proportion—82 per cent of those who have taken up Australian citizenship—report satisfaction with life in Australia. The survey notes a range of positive indicators for community harmony and social cohesion, such as a high level of optimism among recent arrivals.

Among Muslim respondents to the survey, 72 per cent said they had a great or moderate sense of belonging in Australia while 75 per cent said that they were satisfied with their lives here. One focus of the survey was to ask people about their levels of happiness in Australia. Among migrants who arrived within the last 15 years, just 13 per cent indicated they were unhappy or very unhappy. The majority of our recent arrivals are optimistic about the future, with 94 per cent agreeing that Australia is a land of opportunity where hard work brings a better life in the long run. The uptake of citizenship is a key indicator of commitment to Australia, and the survey indicates that 82 per cent of those who have been here for 15 to 19 years have become Australian citizens. I believe this is the largest survey of people from sub-Saharan Africa, with nearly 500 responses received. Of the South Sudanese who came here fleeing from the civil war, 76 per cent indicated they were satisfied with life in Australia, although unemployment rates remain high, with 23 per cent of South Sudanese saying they were jobless.

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: What are you doing about that?

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: I am glad that the honourable member asked that question. The New South Wales Government is helping to address the problems of migrants finding suitable work through the SkillME program administered by Metro Assist in partnership with Multicultural NSW. This is designed to assist new migrants understand what training and retraining options are available, how they can gain recognition for their qualification and how the Australian workforce operates. Of concern were levels of substance abuse, crime, dissemination and personal safety. Focus group discussions indicated that what makes the difference is local initiatives such as community involvement, volunteering and good school programs.

The Government continues to work in these areas by funding programs such as Youth Frontiers, COMPACT, the Youth Opportunities Program and the release of the second NSW Volunteering Strategy of 2016-2020. This report is even more significant, as I believe it is the first time that social attitudes have been measured on such a scale among speakers of languages other than English. Languages included Arabic, Cantonese, Dari and Vietnamese, to name but a few. The research helps policymakers and service providers.

PACIFIC HIGHWAY LISMORE SIGNAGE

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM (14:45): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Will the New South Wales Government respond to Lismore City Council and community demands and commit to changing the Roads and Maritime signage on the Ewingsdale Road exit of the Pacific Highway southbound so that Lismore is no longer ignored?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (14:46): I thank the honourable member for his question—

[Interruption]

The PRESIDENT: Order! Mr Jeremy Buckingham should not respond to interjections from the Government's back bench. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I congratulate the new leader of The Greens on his partisan support of The Greens councillor who is campaigning to be elected to the council up there on the provision of a sign. Partisan politics for The Greens is de rigueur.

Mr Jeremy Buckingham: Point of order: Relevance. The Minister is nearly a minute into his answer and he has not directed any of his time to the important point I raised, which was: Will he commit to changing the sign for Lismore?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Quite a bit of the Minister's time has been taken up by members of the Government back bench interjecting, making noise and preventing him from answering. The Minister barely had

an opportunity to make any comments, frankly, because of the level of noise in the Chamber. It is quite premature for the member to take such a point of order on the Minister at this time.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: There are many, varied and sometimes conflicting views in the community about where signs should be placed and which routes should be identified for various destinations. A temporary yellow and black tourist sign was installed at the southbound approach to Ewingsdale interchange to advise of the alternate tourist route 24 via Bangalow and Lismore to Woodburn. As part of this, Roads and Maritime Services is currently carrying out traffic counts following the opening of the Tintenbar to Ewingsdale upgrade to better understand the travel patterns of local motorists, as previously arranged and discussed. Roads and Maritime Services has met with Lismore City Council and Byron Shire Council to further discuss the issue of signposting Lismore at Ewingsdale and is actively working to find solutions.

Mr Jeremy Buckingham: Just a sign will do!

The PRESIDENT: Order! Mr Jeremy Buckingham has asked his question. He should give the Minister the courtesy of listening to the answer.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: The key part of the member's question asked whether the Government will respond to correspondence. Of course it will.

COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

The Hon. MICK VEITCH (14:49): I direct my question to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. Is the Minister confident that all probity audits and probity checks have been conducted and that conflicts of interest are being managed appropriately for those involved in the sensitive restructure of the New South Wales commercial fishing industry?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (14:49): I did not hear the first part of the member's question relating to the checks.

The Hon. Mick Veitch: I referred to probity audits and probity checks.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: The member asked whether all the checks have been done. The reform is ongoing and other checks will be conducted as we go through the process. As I stated clearly yesterday, although the Government announced in May that the reform process would go ahead and that it would provide the linkages, it has not hit the stop button; it has not said that it is done. The Government has not approached this reform process with a set-and-forget mentality. Other issues must be considered. I referred yesterday to the report that the Government commissioned Neil MacDonald to produce, and I will respond to the issues he identifies. It is common practice to undertake the required probity checks when trading process commences. That occurs whenever the Government deals with markets and the associated trading, and it will occur in this case when the trading time frame is announced.

Many reviews have been undertaken, many reports have been produced, and consultation will be ongoing during this reform process. Have all the checks been done? This is an ongoing process and the Government is still talking with the fishers. I made a commitment yesterday that the Government would continue to work with the industry to ensure that it has as much information as possible and that uncertainty is minimised. We may not have all the answers about how the market behaves, but we are continuing to meet with fishers to work through some of the issues. I reiterate: Many people in the sector have already engaged with this process, and applications for more than \$2 million worth of low-interest loans have been lodged with the department. Many businesses have also already decided to take up the business buyback option, and hundreds of fishers have decided to register for the share-trading component of the reform process.

Fishers will continue to be eligible to receive \$1,000 cheques to allow them to access independent financial advice, and fishing cooperatives will continue to be able to access funds to undertake business planning. Fishing cooperatives on Crown land will also be eligible to access a rent-free period on that land. This is a very complicated reform process that members opposite were not willing to undertake when they were in government. To be honest, it is something to which they contributed given the way they managed the sector. This is difficult, this is complex, and it is ongoing. It is also something on which the Government will continue to work it until it gets it right. I have met many people whose families have been involved in the fishing industry for generations. The Government wants to complete this reform process so that those families have confidence that future generations will be able to continue that involvement in the fishing industry, and it will do that by working with the industry.

The Hon. MICK VEITCH (14:53): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate his answer with regard to the probity checks that occurred prior to the process commencing?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (14:54): As the member said, this process has been going on for decades, and many reports have been produced. The Government will undertake all the necessary probity checks when it gets to the share-trading stage of the process. However, leading up to that it has liaised with the industry and commissioned reports, including the Stevens and the Structural Adjustment Review Committee reports. This process has been based on the best available information and the best fisheries management science. As I said, the necessary probity checks will be undertaken when the share-trading stage is reached.

To date, the Government has offered cheques to those who wish to sell their fishing business and to those who need to get independent advice. The share trading happening at the moment is happening within the industry as it has done for many years. Businesses constantly sell shares to willing buyers, and that is what is happening at the moment. All the necessary probity checks will be carried out when we reach the point at which the Government has control. At the moment, the market is operating as it operated when the Labor Government was in office, and as it operates with regard to any other business.

FORESTRY INDUSTRY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Hon. RICK COLLESS (14:56): I address my question to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is supporting the State's forestry sector?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (14:56): I thank the Parliamentary Secretary for his question, and for the incredible job he has done as the chair of my Forest Industries Taskforce. This morning representatives from the New South Wales timber industry gathered at Parliament House for the launch of a new vision and strategic plan for the State's forestry sector entitled the "NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap". The roadmap is a strategic action plan designed to build a stronger, more competitive and sustainable forestry industry. We are fortunate in this State to have a vibrant and sustainable forestry industry that supplies pine for new homes, paper produced from plantations at Tumut or Oberon, and beautiful hardwood timber floorboards sourced from renewable native forests at Lismore and Eden. Demand for wood is healthy and it is growing. Our \$2.4 billion forestry industry provides critical jobs in our regions and is embedded in New South Wales's social fabric, culture and economy.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members who wish to have private conversations will do so outside the Chamber.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: However, the industry faces a complex operating environment that was created by previous government policies, including inappropriate investment or underinvestment, regulatory uncertainty, cheaper imports from overseas, and resource insecurity. I am committed to getting our local forestry industry back on track and prioritising our beautiful and sustainable timber products over cheaper imports that are often produced to inferior environmental standards. The release of the industry roadmap marks the beginning of the transformation process. At the heart of this whole-of-government plan is the importance of a triple-bottom-line approach, balancing the legitimate range of economic, social and environmental considerations.

It provides a vehicle to deal with legacy issues of the past while also supporting industry to invest in research and development, and technologies and improvements to develop innovative new products and to capitalise on new commercial opportunities. The roadmap includes strategic actions around four key pillars: regulatory modernisation, balancing supply and demand, improving community understanding and confidence, and industry innovation and new markets. The Government's vision is for a sustainably managed forest estate underpinning a dynamic, economically efficient forest industry that continues to support regional economies and delivers social and environmental benefits.

The road map will help ensure future forest policy decisions are guided by six whole-of-government principles. It will balance long-term sustainable timber supply with environmental values and encourage the industry to participate in transformative new markets, including engineered wood products and the carbon economy. The New South Wales forestry industry has operated for more than 100 years and, including wood and paper manufacturing, employs more than 22,000 people. It is worth \$2.4 billion, with the softwood plantation sector valued at \$1.9 billion and the native forestry sector valued at \$465 million. The road map will help the New South Wales Government and the industry continue this proud history while meeting demand in a sustainable and ecologically responsible way. This is the most positive whole-of-government policy platform the New South Wales Government has released in decades. I note a media release issued by Timber NSW today in which its president, Andrew Hurford, said:

The Roadmap provides us with the regulatory certainty we've been seeking. It will give the NSW timber industry the confidence to move forward, innovate and attract investment over the long term.

Our forestry industry is renewable, sustainable and vibrant and a critically important contributor to regional economies. I look forward to seeing it deliver growth for the industry and benefits for New South Wales. [*Time expired.*]

BROKEN HILL WATER SUPPLY

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM (15:00): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Lands and Water. Will the Government give a commitment to the people of Broken Hill that it will make a submission to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal that they should not be hit with any increase in their water rates due to the ongoing running costs and maintenance of the proposed Wentworth to Broken Hill pipeline?

The PRESIDENT: Order! I call the Hon. Daniel Mookhey to order for the first time.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:01): I thank the member for his question. I acknowledge his new role. I know leadership has many burdens but he was unable to attend question time yesterday to hear me and the Hon. Daniel Mookhey talk on this issue. He was too busy taking the stickers off his old office and moving into the leader's office to be able to come here for question time. As I said, I congratulate him on his elevation to the leadership of The Greens, and on his relocation to a new office. I also acknowledge the wonderful effort of the Department of Parliamentary Services. They have been up there with the heat gun taking all the stickers off the walls of his old office and putting them on the walls of the new leader's office.

The Hon. Mick Veitch: Acetone.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Acetone. Santiago and the rest of the team have been up there working day and night to get the leader's office looking just the way the leader wants it. Had Mr Jeremy Buckingham been here yesterday, rather than setting a new course for his party and looking at how to continue the dwindling success it has had to date, he would have known that this issue was raised yesterday. The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal [IPART] determination for the water pricing of Broken Hill is some way off. I encourage the member to make a submission to IPART. The Government and I, as the Minister, regularly participate by making submissions to IPART. It is up to IPART to make that determination.

I hope Mr Jeremy Buckingham is not tempted to use the water issue as a bit of a political football now that he is the leader and to get up one of his councillors in Broken Hill. I do not know whether The Greens run tickets out there; the mayoral election is a hot issue and people use the water pricing issue as a political football. Far be it from me to get in the way of those political campaigns, but I will not allow misinformation to be spread on an issue as important as the water supply to Broken Hill or for this issue to be used as a political football.

As I explained yesterday, IPART, when determining the pricing of water, takes a number of factors into account. It takes into account the socio-economic factors of a community and any issues that would pose a challenge for that community. This Government brought the long-term solution to Broken Hill, which those opposite stood against. One of the reasons we did that was the lead issues in Broken Hill, and water plays a vital role in dust suppression for that community. To use water as a political football sets a very dangerous precedent. I say to the member to go back, think about his leadership strategy and take this issue off the list. The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal has a process to go through. Its final determination is some time away but I am sure IPART will take all the issues into consideration.

CROWN LAND SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ (15:05): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. Given that under the Crown Lands Act 1989 Crown lands are managed for the benefit of the people of New South Wales, will he inform the House how many Sport and Recreation camps are on Crown land and why the Baird Government no longer plans to manage Sport and Recreation camps for the benefit of New South Wales?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:05): I thank the Hon. Lynda Voltz for her question. I will take that part of her question that asks how many camps are on Crown land and come back to the member. Sport and Recreation camps are not part of my portfolio so the management of those camps—

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: Crown lands are.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Hang on a minute, I am explaining the difference between the two components of the question. I said that I will take on notice the component that relates to my portfolio, which is

how many camps are on Crown land, and come back to the member. The other part of the question should be directed to the Minister responsible for Sport and Recreation camps.

WAYNE O'MALLY BRIDGE

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (15:06): My question is addressed to the Leader of the Government and Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Will the Minister update the House on the naming of the Wayne O'Mally Bridge, crossing the Bogan River?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:06): Last month I had the great pleasure to stand alongside my colleague the member for Barwon, Kevin Humphries, and Bourke Shire Council Mayor Andrew Lewis to officially name the bridge crossing the Bogan River after the former Mayor of Bourke, Wayne O'Mally. Wayne O'Mally died in tragic circumstances in April 2012 when his plane crashed on his property while he was mustering cattle. He was a great mate of mine and a great mate of many people from both sides of the Chamber in this Parliament. I am not sure where his politics lay. They were probably closer to this side than the other side—I see a nod from the other side. But he was respected by all because he was a decent man who did the right thing.

The naming of the bridge, which was completed in 2012, is a tribute to Wayne's tireless efforts as a husband, father, grandfather, grazier and local councillor. The new \$7.9 million bridge is made up of three spans and super T-girders. It is an engineering feat, stretching 70 metres from end to end, and is a fitting honour to this great man. Freight transporting livestock and grain from paddock to port in the area is now benefiting from this new crossing, which is a safer and wider crossing and improves travel times for motorists and vehicles. Last month's commemoration was an appropriate celebration to honour Wayne, who led Bourke Shire Council for nearly nine years and served on council for 13 years in all. Wayne was well respected across north-western New South Wales and was known for being a great champion for the local community. His years as mayor coincided with what was probably the most challenging time in decades for that community.

At that time Bourke was facing the drought that affected the western region and the economic decline that crippled most of the State. Wayne O'Mally's positivity and unwavering stamina ensured that once the rains fell again in the north-west of the State the community of Bourke got back on its feet a lot quicker than it would have if a person like him was not at the head. He was also a State council member and chair of the Bourke Rural Lands Protection Board. He was a quiet and strong leader whose commitment to the community of Bourke, and indeed to the whole of western New South Wales, was without question.

The bridge, which is located on the Kamilaroi Highway, stands strong, as does the memory of Wayne and the legacy he left in western New South Wales. The moment I took away from that commemoration, which I attended with his wife, sons, daughter and grandchildren, was his grandchildren unveiling the plaque. There was nothing more fitting to honour Wayne than to see his grandchildren taking part in his commemoration.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT NOISE MANAGEMENT

The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK (15:10): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, representing the Minister for Transport. As this is Hearing Awareness Week, is the Minister for Transport aware that whistles in use on railway platforms can exceed 100 decibels? What research has the Minister's department conducted into the level of sound produced by those whistles and how is the Government protecting transport staff and commuters from long-term hearing loss?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:11): I thank the Hon. Robert Borsak for his question. One of my colleagues said it was a good question, and I agree. I will take it on notice in its entirety and pass it on to my colleague the Minister for Transport. Yesterday the Hon. John Ajaka was talking about playing touch football in recognition of deafness.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: Point of order: The Minister was asked an important question that was directly relevant to the Transport portfolio, which he said he will take on notice. He is now taking up the time of the House with information that I believe to be outside the relevance of the question. I ask you to bring him back to order.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is no point of order. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I will not comment on the point of order. Many members, including me, have had careers in other industries and have worked with industrial equipment before we came here. I have trouble hearing the Opposition sometimes. It is not always because I am trying to ignore their rubbish; it is because I once operated heavy equipment. I note from the nods of members on both sides of the House that they also have been affected.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: You have taken the question on notice.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: It is great to hear the care and concern shown from the left wing of the ALP.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister will ignore interjections.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I am sure anyone who is listening to the debate would be wholly—

The Hon. Mick Veitch: Horrified.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: —horrified with the lack of caring from the left wing of the Australian Labor Party.

PACIFIC HIGHWAY UPGRADE AND KOALA HABITAT

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (15:14): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Given the Minister's answer yesterday relating to the koala habitat along the Blackall Range, will he confirm whether he or his office made representations to any of his Federal colleagues to fast-track the approvals process?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:14): I thank the member for the question. The question is an acknowledgement that the answer I gave yesterday was accurate, which is what I always do.

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Try to do.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I always try to do and, in trying, I am sure I always accomplish it. The Hon. Penny Sharpe is going for a political hit, which is why she did not want to hear about industrial deafness across the State. Finally we know why she was in a hurry: she wanted to wedge in a political hit on the issue of koalas on the Pacific Highway. I was asked had I contacted the Minister for the Environment and Energy and my accurate and true full answer was no. Have I put pressure on other Ministers? Yes, I have. We went through the proper process to address the issues and it was left in limbo during the caretaker mode of the Federal election. I am responsible for delivering this road and the jobs involved. The fact is that we had addressed all the issues that needed to be addressed and we had ticked off that what we had put in place was appropriate. I would be failing in my responsibility as a Minister of this State had I not followed up on that.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (15:16): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate his answer and inform the House which of his Federal colleagues he contacted to fast-track this process?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:16): I think the answer would be any of them that I ran into. I spoke to the Deputy Prime Minister when I ran into him. He is a great bloke and he is doing a good job. To the best of my memory, I also had a conversation with the former environment Minister and with the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Mr Chester.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN SPORT

The Hon. MATTHEW MASON-COX (15:17): My question is addressed to the Minister for Multiculturalism. Will the Minister update the House on what the Government is doing to facilitate greater cultural understanding through sport?

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Ageing, and Minister for Multiculturalism) (15:17): I thank the Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox for his question. It was my great pleasure to launch the Toyota AFL Multicultural Round in July 2016. I am proud that the New South Wales Government assisted in ensuring the Multicultural Round was held in Sydney for the first time this year. Australians love their sport. It brings us together and it is one of the best ways to promote harmony and community participation for people of all ages and backgrounds. The event highlighted the contributions made by different communities to Australian football and showcases the extraordinary power of sport to unify people from all backgrounds.

At the launch event there was a Q and A session with Sydney Swans player Aliir Aliir and Greater Western Sydney [GWS] Giants player Stephen Coniglio, hosted by Robert DiPierdomenico. I was delighted to take part in the panel discussion where I conveyed that it is fantastic to see the Australian Football League [AFL] has strong connections with multicultural communities. New South Wales is one of the most successful multicultural States in the world and it is important for us to celebrate our rich diversity. Migrants and refugees have contributed significantly since the post-war years to our State's current position as the best-performing State in Australia. We have a long and proud history of successfully resettling refugees and humanitarian entrants. Sport has the ability to draw people together and give them a sense of belonging in the community. It is particularly encouraging that the AFL is engaging with communities across Sydney to bring together people from diverse backgrounds.

Players like Aliir and Stephen take the time to visit young people across some of Sydney's more disadvantaged suburbs to inspire them, to encourage them to get involved, and to build team spirit. The AFL named them as two of the code's 18 multicultural ambassadors as part of its outreach program, and they take this role very seriously. Aliir's story is inspirational. Born in a Kenyan refugee camp, he escaped civil war to come with his Sudanese parents to Brisbane and then to Perth. The Sydney Swans picked up this talented young player as a defender in 2013, and since then Aliir has worked hard to encourage young refugees in Western Sydney to use sport as a sound basis for their life choices. Stephen also works hard on behalf of the GWS Giants to reach out to younger players. In fact, the cricket field was his first love before he took up Australian rules football. He said it was great to see people new to the game progressing and getting involved in the AFL and within their communities. I commend the AFL for its outstanding efforts to celebrate cultural diversity and to gain new followers.

I particularly thank Joseph La Posta, State Manager, Australian Football League, and Nickie Flambouras, Multicultural Programs Manager, Australian Football League, for all their hard work. The AFL has brought together new teams of multicultural players, including young women, in an inspiring story of unity and strength. For example, the GWS Giants and their fans truly reflect the great diversity of Western Sydney. With nearly half our population born overseas or with at least one parent born overseas, we are proud to have the world represented on our doorstep. Western Sydney, in particular, is one of the most diverse areas in Australia, with 38 per cent of the population speaking a language other than English at home. In some suburbs that percentage can double to more than 50 per cent of residents speaking another language. This cultural and linguistic diversity gives us an economic, social and cultural advantage that is the envy of the world. The New South Wales Government will continue to work hard to engage, enrich and enable all communities within the State of New South Wales.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (15:21): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. Is the Minister aware that there is an enormous demand for the export of niche agricultural produce from New South Wales—including cherries, avocados, blueberries and macadamias—to our regional neighbours, such as Indonesia and China? How is the New South Wales Government supporting these industries to meet the demands in the face of dire rural labour shortages?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:22): I am aware of the challenges with respect to skills shortages in some of those areas, particularly for horticulturalists. In many cases, commodities in the primary industries sector rely upon unskilled labour, particularly for the hand-picking of fruit and so on. The challenge in some of our regional communities and at certain times of the year is that there is an unusual employment problem. The problem is not unemployment; it is a shortage of people to fill job vacancies, particularly in some seasonal harvesting positions.

The Department of Primary Industries is working on innovation. In many ways, this is not necessarily good news for the labour market, but the department has been working with research institutes to resolve some of the issues, such as getting the fruit off the trees and vines and into packages. That research has been stimulated partly by the lack of labour. Our Federal counterparts have created various types of visas, particularly for our Pacific neighbours, so that workers can come into Australia to perform work such as fruit picking. That has been a popular option in areas like the Riverina. Another thing we do is promote the opportunities that are available within primary industries. One of the ways we are doing that is by upskilling people in these areas. I attended AgQuip a few weeks ago, and I had the opportunity to travel with one of my newest staff members. She is attending question time for the first time today, on her birthday. Happy birthday, Lucy Brennan.

The Hon. Mick Veitch: And you brought her to question time?

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: The best present you could give.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: It is a gift that we can give over and over again. At AgQuip I looked at some of the innovations that can be applied on farms and I spent some time with staff from Tocal College who were there to promote training courses that are available to upskill people who wish to move into the primary industries sector. Only yesterday I was reading about that on social media.

The Hon. Mick Veitch: You can read.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: It was on my phone so I was probably wasting time. It was an important article in relation to engaging our returned service personnel in the farming sector.

The Hon. John Ajaka: That is not a waste of time.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: It is not a waste of time. There are programs to attract returned service personnel and there are campaigns on social media, such as one that promotes 22 push-ups for 22 days, to raise

awareness of the plight of our returned servicemen and servicewomen. Encouraging them into agriculture and primary industries is a very worthy exercise. It is a fantastic initiative of Tocal College, through the Department of Primary Industries, to help with upskilling. I am happy to find out about other activities that are happening within the departments in my portfolio and to come back to the member with a more detailed answer. Training, promotion and innovation will certainly assist in the matter that the member has raised.

WENTWORTH PARK ADMINISTRATION

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY (15:26): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. Given that by now the Minister has decided the management arrangement for Wentworth Park, will he now inform the House whether as from Saturday it will be managed by an administrator, UrbanGrowth or a community trust?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:26): As I stated clearly yesterday, we know that the end of term of the current administrator is looming. It is very near. The steps to determine what happens after that are going through the Cabinet process. That is where we were up to at the moment. Because of the looming date, I am sure it will not be too many more sleeps before the member knows what is happening. I can say that the future use of Wentworth Park will be absolutely consistent with the commitment made by the Premier today about the facility, its current uses as listed under the Crown Lands Act, as gazetted, and current management activities. We must remember that the term of the current administrator was short.

The Hon. Adam Searle: We know.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Let us talk about why that is the case. The term of the trust had expired. Many of the members of the trust did not want to be reappointed. We appointed an administrator for a short period because the McHugh report had not been delivered. I mentioned that during question time in this House last week. The member will not have too long to wait before he knows exactly what is happening.

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY (15:28): I ask a supplementary question. Precisely how many sleeps do we have to wait until we get the answer?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:29): I will take that on notice.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: It is with great sadness I state that the time for questions for the week has expired. If members have further questions, I suggest they place them on notice.

PARRAMATTA ROAD, CAMPERDOWN, FLOODING

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:30): Earlier today during question time the Hon. Walt Secord asked me a question relating to Parramatta Road near the University of Sydney. I am informed that a drain on Parramatta Road at its intersection with Missenden Road will be repaired in coming weeks. During yesterday's very heavy rain, it partially collapsed. The incident occurred at approximately 11.30 a.m. One of the three westbound lanes was closed due to flooding. At approximately 6.30 p.m., two lanes were closed until 1.18 a.m. while temporary repair work was carried out, which included pumping out water and clearing the drain. Emergency vehicles were at the location for the duration of the incident and guided traffic safely around the flooding.

The defect is no longer impacting upon traffic and is being monitored by maintenance crews ahead of the scheduled permanent repairs, which will be carried out very soon. We should congratulate the Roads and Maritime Services [RMS] staff on their prompt response. As confirmed by photographs, RMS staff were out there in the rain and took remedial action. The RMS not only had emergency and safety vehicles, variable message signs and emergency lights but also had to contend with the appearance of the Hon. Walt Secord in his dressing gown, jammies and slippies taking photographs. It must have been a sight that I am sure RMS staff are not paid enough to witness!

The Hon. WALT SECORD (15:31): By leave: Under Standing Order 54 (4) I table three photographs to prove that the flooding incident occurred. I do so because the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight questioned the veracity of my claims.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with that standing order, I point out that the document is available for inspection by members of the House only.

Document tabled.

*Documents***TABLING OF PAPERS**

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:32:3): I table the following report:

Police Act 1990—Report on the Review of the Police Act

I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

*Motions***FAIRFIELD YOUTH OFF THE STREETS**

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN (15:32): It is with pleasure that I join in debate on the wonderful motion moved by the Hon. Lou Amato. The motion states:

- (1) That this House notes the important work conducted by Fairfield's Youth Off The Streets program, which helps young people to find their footing in the community and equips them with essential skills to overcome any challenges they may face in the future.
- (2) That this House acknowledges:
 - (a) the dedication of youth workers Mr Tommy Poto and Ms Sonia Giwargis who regularly devote their time towards developing a rapport with local Fairfield youths, offering much-needed support, assistance, and even free food; and
 - (b) the success of Bonnyrigg resident Ms Jessika Wrage, who at 20 years of age has been able to overcome a range of challenges in her life, is now studying nursing, as well as being an invaluable asset to the volunteer team at Fairfield's Youth Off The Streets, and has recently adopted a role in the organisation's Youth Advisory Committee, which aims to identify and help address challenges for local youth.
- (3) That this House acknowledges the importance of youth outreach programs across our State and the enormous impact they have upon helping the next generation of community members to be safe, productive and fulfilled.

I note the presence in the House of the Hon. Lou Amato, and I congratulate him on the motion. He is a silent achiever who is always there and is ever thoughtful in contributions he makes to debates. The aim of the motion is to recognise the vital work done by Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets program, particularly in the outreach program in Fairfield. Father Chris Riley officially founded the Youth Off The Streets program in 1991 and has taken the organisation from a single food van that delivered meals to young homeless people on the streets of Kings Cross to a major youth-specific agency that provides a wide range of services—such as crisis accommodation, independent schools, residential treatment programs, centres for youth, Aboriginal programs, and early intervention and prevention programs—in troubled suburbs through an outreach service.

The aims of Youth Off The Streets are to create safety, support growth and open up options. Youth Off The Streets endeavours to ensure that education, safe accommodation and drug and alcohol rehabilitation are available to everyone; to help young people discover their potential, dream big, and provide programs to encourage young people to achieve their goals; and to help young people gain the skills and confidence to make changes not just in their own lives, but in the lives of their families and communities. The Youth Off The Streets Fairfield outreach program, which was established in March 2014, is committed to connecting disadvantaged young people with community, education and employment. The program includes barbecues, movie nights and music workshops or sporting events, and gives young people the chance to meet youth workers. It provides an opportunity to access help. The outreach program also can support young people if they are in trouble and put them in touch with the services they may need. I join the Hon. Lou Amato in congratulating Mr Tommy Poto and Ms Sonia Giwargis on the work they do. Although I do not know them personally, I am pleased to acknowledge the support and assistance they offered to Fairfield's youth.

Some time ago a gentleman who was in my local church worked with Youth Off The Streets and offered firsthand insight into the programs run by Father Chris Riley. The testimonies he gave not only were amazing but also showed the unique approach of Youth Off The Streets. A lot of youth support programs tend to use what is described as the pool method, which is the gathering of hundreds of thousands of young people, putting them in a particular situation and then attempting to meet their needs. For 10 years before I entered politics, I was a youth pastor in Nowra. After completing my bible college studies, my first role was to give pastoral care to young people of 10 or 11 years of age. I am pleased to inform the House that the children I met then are now 30 years of age and are running outreach programs at the local skate park, which was delivered by Shoalhaven City Council. I was

able to link many years of experience as a youth pastor and chair of the youth advisory committee to my roles as councillor and mayor of the council.

After I became the Mayor of Shoalhaven, one of the first actions I took was to change the menu of tea, coffee and sandwiches of youth advisory committee meetings to pizza and Coca-Cola. It was a balanced diet—50 per cent good and 50 per cent bad! I could not believe the menu later became the subject of some of the greatest debates at council meetings. That just showed the level of debate: Instead of providing the youth advisory committee with a voice in the council, the debate focused on arguments about the dietary habits of the youth advisory committee. It tells us what many youth advisory councillors thought about the youth when they asked me what I was doing serving pizza and coke. There were two strategic reasons for doing so. The first was to encourage the youth to turn up because serving coffee or tea and sandwiches was not really a drawcard. We had a full room when we served Coke and pizza. That meant more voices around the table were telling the council the needs of the youth. Also, many youth networks ministered to those who attended, heard their concerns and talked to their stakeholders about matters that were raised. That meant we were doing a better job of meeting the needs of youth in our community.

We are fortunate that most young people are well adjusted and have a roof over their heads and a meal on the table. But many of the kids whom Father Riley deals with have challenges in their lives. One of the greatest challenges, and a scourge of our nation, is homelessness. Quite a large proportion of homeless people—I think 40,000 of the estimated 100,000 people across the nation—are young people. One definition of homelessness is couch surfing, which is the reality for many young people. These kids are not always taken into account in statistics for rough sleepers because they are not sleeping on the streets. To find somewhere to sleep these young people move from home to home, which means there is no stability for them and no-one sees to their day-to-day needs because they are not in one spot long enough to get the care and love they need. That is why it is important for us to address youth homelessness in New South Wales and the nation.

I put 10 years of my life into running wacky and wonderful programs to draw in at-risk kids from the Shoalhaven. Any leader who understands good leadership knows that when you have had power and influence and are no longer in that role, you can look back at the people you invested in who are coming up the ladder to take your place. I find that encouraging. In the media young people tend to get a bad rap, whereas many of them are doing good things. But unless they are the Young Australian of the Year or a young sportsman they do not get any media coverage. Most of the time the media report on young people ripping someone off or doing something wrong. Only a small proportion of young people do the wrong thing when they are trying to make sense of the world and their relationships. Sadly, many of these relationships are broken, a product of where we are at as a community and the choices we have made. It is an unstable world.

When I reflect on my time as a youth minister, I find it really beautiful that many of those kids are at the local skate park reaching out to other kids. It dawned on me now that my baby daughter told me recently she was going to the skate park to reach out to some of those kids to show them love and acceptance. Long after my legacy, a youth group in my area is reaching out to kids the schools cannot reach. They are reaching out to kids with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder [ADHD]. Schools do not know how to deal with these kids because they are not resourced to do so. Mannahouse Youth and other organisations in Shoalhaven are giving these kids one-on-one attention, which these kids do not often get, in a model similar to the one used by Father Chris Riley. These kids are told, "You are valuable. I do not reject where you are at, but I can tell you that you can go so much further. Let us go on the journey together and I will support you. You do not have to live where things are going wrong. You can look forward and make something of your life. You have God-given gifts and talents. Let us see how far you can go."

These programs have developed youth leaders from broken homes, broken communities, broken relationships. Their world has been turned upside down but many have come out on top, rather like the outcomes of Father Chris Riley's program. The kids' lives are being mended and they are finding purpose and value in their lives. It is wonderful that many good people are investing their time and effort into offering these programs. May Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets continue to minister to these kids. I know I have a Christian world view but I think there is no greater value than giving people a reason to stay alive and get past the most difficult times of their lives. Youth suicide is devastating, and we need kids to stay alive to see there is light at the end of the tunnel. Sometimes when they are weathering a storm in their lives we need to lift them up so they can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

[Business interrupted.]

*Business of the House***ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: I move:

That the time for debate be extended by 15 minutes.

Motion agreed to.

*Motions***FAIRFIELD YOUTH OFF THE STREETS**

[*Business resumed.*]

The Hon. PAUL GREEN (15:47): I quote Deuteronomy 16:17:

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.

I encourage people to give what they can, whether it be a lot or a little, to the youth of our State.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK (15:48): I will speak very briefly on this motion. I am very familiar with Youth Off The Streets and I take this opportunity to praise Father Chris Riley, a man who has no time whatsoever for red tape, bureaucracy and administration. I think he also has very little time for the political class and bureaucrats in his church. He is a man of the people—very much the people's priest. He is about getting down and getting things done. I think the history of his service is well known to those who have attended his events and visited his facilities. The story began with his trying to assist a young person who was homeless. He realised this young person did not fit into any program and he was in immediate need of care. Father Chris Riley decided to bundle up this kid and look after him and he tried to develop a service. He came up against bureaucratic walls in the way programs were delivered. He was unable to fit into any funding service and was told he needed to change his service to fit existing programs. His message to all of us as legislators is that we need to change the way we operate these programs on behalf of the people of the State to fit the needs of vulnerable people. In this particular case, it is young people who have fallen on hard times.

My greatest revelation as a parent was to realise how much natural good humour and curiosity come with the package. If I ever meet an adult who lacks a sense of humour and a sense of curiosity, I will have met a person who has had that crushed out of them as a child. I think that is a travesty and a great unfairness, because we all—particularly Liberals—believe in the rights of individuals to flourish and achieve their potential. The kids that Father Chris Riley is assisting have been dealt impossible cards in life. He is ministering to what have become very complex needs because the physical catastrophe of actually being homeless—which is a terrible thing for any person, but particularly for a young person—is like the end symptom of a number of other complex symptoms. This is why I believe Father Chris Riley is a most extraordinary, admirable and Christlike human being. I cannot think of a clergyman who more effectively mirrors the example of Jesus—in terms of having a suspicion of bureaucracy and the elites and being there for the ordinary person—than Father Chris Riley.

I know that the Fairfield service is one of his relatively new services, and it puts him in contact with refugees. He advocates very powerfully for people of the Muslim faith who he says talk about feeling unsafe and unwanted. They are not just dealing with family and societal situations; they are dealing with a sense of alienation from everybody. Then this beautiful person, Father Chris Riley, comes into their lives and helps them find a path through all of this. The group that I have had a particularly longstanding interest in is probably the most unpopular group of young people in our society: juvenile sex offenders. Some children are in a very small category of people—it is estimated at 1 per cent to 2 per cent of our population—who are pathological sex offenders, almost genetically destined to be so, and cannot be assisted. But there is another much larger group of young people who, generally speaking, have been victims of sexual assault and sexual abuse themselves and cross the barrier from victim to perpetrator. There is a small window of opportunity to turn that behaviour around. The research is very clear that if intervention does not occur when they are young, that behaviour becomes more entrenched, so at a certain age it is impossible to change and they will be lifelong sex offenders with hundreds if not thousands of victims.

This is a really unpopular problem. Nobody wants to put money into a sex offenders program. It is an area where Father Chris Riley—and I admire him so much—has stepped up and created a program, one of the only programs that exist in this country, in the Southern Highlands. He is an absolute blessing: He is working to change and give hope to those young people. When the family of a juvenile sex offender approaches the Department of Family and Community Services and wants help, other children in the family are instantly deemed as being at risk and the department will intervene not to help the child whose behaviours are causing the problem but to ostracise them. Often families end up having to split into different households. There is no money or access

to counselling or assistance. The only person who can help someone in that situation is Father Chris Riley. He is saving not just young people but families as well. When a juvenile has been sentenced in court and assessed as having prospects of rehabilitation, Father Chris Riley is the one who opens his arms. I cannot speak highly enough of this man.

I praise the Hon. Lou Amato for bringing forward this motion, because in so many ways he is in that mould. We all know he is no fan of bureaucracy, frustration and excuses. He is a man of action, a man who likes to join the dots and get things done. It should be no surprise that his recognition of and connection with Father Chris Riley should bring about this private member's motion. We have very few opportunities to move these motions, and the Hon. Lou Amato has chosen this cause. I thank him very much for bringing this forward. I thank him for what he does and what he brings to this Parliament. I thank Father Chris Riley: For all his disdain of the political class, he makes us better and he changes lives. What a fantastic legacy he is leaving for our community.

The Hon. LOU AMATO (15:55): In reply: I thank my fellow members for their support of the Youth Off The Streets motion and the recognition of the terrible plight of those who are homeless. I particularly thank the Minister, the Hon. John Ajaka, for his contribution to this motion and his ongoing commitment to provide Government support to the disadvantaged in our community. I know that the Hon. John Ajaka has a genuine, heartfelt compassion for the disadvantaged in our community. I thank Mr Scot MacDonald, the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, the Hon. Scott Farlow, the Hon. Shayne Mallard, Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor, the Hon. Ben Franklin, the Hon. Paul Green and the Hon. Catherine Cusack. I appreciate their contributions and their gracious support. If I have missed anyone, I apologise.

We should never forget that we are privileged to stand in this place and that those who are homeless are the poorest and some of the worst affected in our community. Each and every one of us should make a contribution in whatever capacity we can to help alleviate the terrible suffering of youth and adult homelessness. There are many charitable organisations that we can assist—and that many of us do assist—that provide support to the most unfortunate in our community, the most disadvantaged in our community and the most vulnerable in our community. A homeless person who wants to better themselves and enter mainstream society does not have the opportunities or the sustenance to make such a change without the help of others. The increase in homelessness is alarming and in the past five years has increased at double Australia's population growth. Many of the causes are known to us, such as drug addiction, particularly the drug ice, and family breakdowns, which have been recognised as the major causes of youth homelessness. Sadly, many homeless people suffer mental illness and some are the victims of domestic violence. I thank the Hon. Pru Goward for her ongoing commitment in addressing domestic violence.

On 22 June 2017 the St Vincent de Paul Society will run the annual CEO Sleepout, which encourages chief executive officers, executives and people just like us to participate in the event. The event raises awareness of the tragedies associated with homelessness and gives people like us an idea of how hard it must be to sleep on the street. I encourage all of us here today to consider participating in the event to get an idea of what it might be like to be homeless. Our presence would certainly make a difference. Let us all stand together and do whatever we can to address the terrible plight of the homeless. Finally, I thank all the organisations and charitable workers such as Father Chris Riley who give their time and resources to help those in need. We should thank God that we have such wonderful people who are willing to help others less fortunate than themselves. I commend the motion to the House.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Committees

COMMITTEE ON THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Membership

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard): I report receipt of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:

MR PRESIDENT

The Legislative Assembly informs the Legislative Council that it has this day agreed to the following resolution:

That:

- (1) Paul Gerard Lynch be appointed to serve on the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption in place of Kathleen Smith, discharged; and

(2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly
25 August 2016

SHELLEY HANCOCK
Speaker

Adjournment Debate

ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

HEARING AWARENESS WEEK

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (16:00): I draw the attention of members to the two essential tools of trade that each and every one of us in this place needs—indeed, everyone in the broader society needs them—and that is hearing and speech. This week is Hearing Awareness Week, which runs from 21 to 27 August. Like me, many members in this House are hard of hearing. They are especially so when Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party members speak about firearms issues. Given that, they should heed what I have to say. Effective hearing is essential for everyone to participate and function effectively in society, but we all too often take it for granted. Hearing loss is the second most prevalent health problem in Australia, and more than one-third of acquired hearing loss is due to excessive noise exposure that is entirely preventable. A good example of that is when there is too much noise in the House and members cannot be heard. The impact of preventable hearing loss in Australia is enormous in both financial and social terms. One in six Australians has some form of hearing impairment—that is more than 3.5 million people—and the number experiencing deafness is expected to increase to one in four by 2050.

My own experience with hearing impairment comes from a lifetime of working in noisy industries, such as shipbuilding, and being in plant rooms with high-speed chillers running. Therefore, like firearm owners throughout this State, I am appalled at the absurdity that firearm suppressors—incorrectly and commonly known as "silencers"—are deemed prohibited weapons in New South Wales. Rather than limiting access to firearm suppressors because of some imagined threat, the NSW Police Force should recognise that they are not sinister, despite the way in which they are portrayed in movies. In fact, they truly are necessary to protect the hearing of hunters.

A scientific paper produced by Dr Matthew Branch and published in 2011 indicates that modern muzzle-level firearm suppression is vastly superior to ear-level protection provided by earmuffs or earplugs, which cannot be used by hunters in the bush. Because of their use at the source of the noise, suppressors are much more effective at reducing noise than earplugs or earmuffs. They also facilitate communication and situational awareness that can improve safety, and can reduce public nuisance. We know that permits for firearm suppressors are readily issued to government agencies such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Local Land Services. Why then are they not made readily available to hunters and target shooters? The legislation allows for them to be used, but internal NSW Police Force "administrative rules" indicate otherwise. Instead of restricting access to suppressors, I call on the Minister for Police to encourage the Firearms Registry to embrace an enlightened view of firearm suppressors and to recognise their many acknowledged benefits during Hearing Awareness Week.

Furthermore, I support the call by leading academics and researchers, including Associate Professor Catherine McMahon and Professor David McAlpine at the Australian Hearing Hub at Macquarie University, to have hearing declared a national health priority. The Australian Hearing Hub unites researchers, educators, clinicians and innovators with expertise in linguistics, audiology, speech pathology, cognitive and language sciences, psychology, nanofabrication and engineering sciences. These talented researchers are undoubtedly leaders in their field and are undertaking world-class research here in Australia, and that should be recognised. During Hearing Awareness Week, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party urges the Government to support making noise-induced hearing loss a national health priority, and to remove the current policies that impede access to firearm suppressors for sporting and recreational use.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (16:05): No community is immune from domestic and family violence; it cuts across socio-economic status, ethnicity and religion. We know that domestic and family violence cost the New South Wales economy more than \$4.5 billion every year. We also know that one in four women has experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner. The Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has reported that in the 12 months to December 2015 there were just over 29,000 incidents of domestic violence-related assault in this State. It is also estimated that reports to the police account for only half of all

domestic violence related assaults. The evidence also indicates that it is rarely a one-off incident; rather, it is a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour.

We must break the cycle for both the victims and the perpetrators to help improve people's lives. Terrific inroads have been made as a result of philanthropy and the business community tackling domestic and family violence. That is a significant achievement, but it needs to continue. Domestic violence has always been a crime, but it has not always been seen as such. Much progress has been made in shining a light on what was once regarded as a private, hidden and concealed crime, and we are now more willing to talk about it. The Coalition Government is leading the nation in tackling domestic violence. Last year a new \$60 million package targeting domestic violence was offered to improve support for victims. The New South Wales Government is serious about targeting perpetrators to change their behaviour and will continue to keep them firmly in focus. In an Australian first, the Government has invested \$2.9 million over four years to trial a GPS tracking system to improve victim safety.

The NSW Police Force plays a vital role in holding perpetrators to account, and I commend it for its continued efforts in targeting perpetrators and keeping families safe. The Premier has also made it a priority to reduce the rate of domestic violence perpetrators reoffending within 12 months by 5 per cent by 2019. The \$60 million package will provide for the establishment of the new police domestic violence high-risk offender teams that will target perpetrators and reduce the rate of reoffending. The introduction of domestic violence suspect target management plans will also allow the police to target, to watch and to deal with serious recidivist domestic violence offenders. These plans were extended throughout the State in February following a successful four-month trial in southern Sydney. The package also allows for \$19.5 million to be spent on mandated perpetrator behaviour change programs to provide treatment for perpetrators and to make them accountable for their actions, attitudes and behaviours.

Housing supports are critical for women and children escaping domestic violence. The Government is providing housing support through the Start Safely program, and a budget allocation of \$100 million over four years will provide private rental subsidies for people escaping domestic violence. Funding has been doubled and now includes the provision of \$43 million over four years in base funding and \$57 million over four years under the Future Directions reform of social housing. As I said, the NSW Police Force plays a vital role in dealing with domestic violence, and the budget also provides \$22 million over four years to roll out police high-risk offender teams. The first two specialised teams will be launched in the northern region and the central metropolitan region this year.

In addition, \$2.9 million has been allocated over four years to fast-track the appointment of 24 police domestic violence liaison officers. Six officers were appointed following the announcement in September 2015, and a further 18 will be on the ground by December 2016. The Government has also announced the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, which was launched in four police local area commands last month: Sutherland, Oxley, Shoalhaven and St George. This scheme is about preventing people from being kept in the dark about a partner's violent past and giving them the support to make informed decisions about their relationship. The package includes \$2.3 million over two years for police-non-government organisation partnerships to provide NGO-led early intervention support and crisis responses to applicants of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

The New South Wales Government is serious about holding perpetrators to account and providing the assistance needed for them to change their behaviour. It has therefore invested \$5.28 million over three years to pilot new, community-based men's behaviour change programs. The New South Wales Government is also updating the mandatory New South Wales years 7 to 10 personal development, health and physical education syllabus from the start of term one this year to include domestic violence prevention. This is an important step to enable children and young people to understand what is and what is not domestic violence, what they can do about it and the impacts that domestic violence has on them and their family. The New South Wales Government is committed to eradicating domestic violence. Whether it is through the rollout of the NSW Police Suspect Targeting Management Plan, mandated behaviour change programs, the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, domestic violence education in our schools or crisis accommodation, I am proud to be part of the Government that is tackling this issue.

BATTLE OF FROMELLES CENTENARY

BATTLE OF LONG TAN FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. LYNDA VOLTZ (16:10): This year marks two important events in Australia's military history and our story as a nation: the centenary of the Battle of Fromelles and the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. These two battles stand at inverse points and are almost the antitheses of each other. The first was the greatest tragic loss of life for Australia in any 24-hour period, and Long Tan was the calm and courageous stand against an overwhelming force that could have so easily fallen to panic and confusion. Whilst in Fromelles

terrain, artillery and confusion worked against the Australian forces who bravely fought on, in Long Tan it was terrain, artillery and calm resolve that proved crucial for Australian forces. Invariably, both also involved overwhelming force numbers, heavy losses and courage not only on the Australian side but also from the forces who opposed them.

Fromelles, of course, is Australia's greatest tragedy. An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Australian and British troops fought against an estimated 30,000 soldiers of the 6th Bavarian Reserve Division who had long been placed and were well entrenched into the line south-west of Lille between Grenier Wood and Aubers. On the night of 19 July 1916 the Australians suffered 5,533 casualties and the British 1,547, whilst German losses are recorded as 1,000. It is difficult to imagine who would have been more terrified—the Australian waves of soldiers stumbling over the bodies of those waves who attacked before them or the German soldiers faced with the onslaught from the Australian troops. Sun Tzu in *The Art of War* noted:

There are some roads not to follow; some troops not to strike; some cities not to assault; and some ground which should not be contested.

If there was a piece of ground that should not have been contested it was the flat sweep of waterlogged meadow, 400 yards wide, across which Australian troops advanced to attack Sugar Loaf. On 19 July under the sun of a bright summer afternoon the Australian forces' intentions were easily discernible and an enemy barrage was released upon them with deadly intent. Charles Bean noted of one part of the battle:

... when they were two-thirds of the way across No Man's Land, there was opened from the salient a fire of machine guns so severe that the line was shattered and the men dazed ... The two companies of the 58th which made the attack were practically annihilated.

To imagine the scene one only has to listen to the accounts of those who survived. Corporal Knyvett noted:

If you had gathered the stock of a thousand butcher-shops, cut it into small pieces and strewn it about, it would give you a faint conception ...

Private Downing recalled:

It was the Charge of the Light Brigade once more, but more terrible, more hopeless—magnificent, but not war—a valley of death filled by somebody's blunder.

The German heavy artillery had a profound effect on the Australians. One soldier's description a few days later at Pozieres sums it up. He said:

All day long the ground rocked and swayed backwards and forwards from the concussion ... Men were driven stark staring mad ... any amount of them could be seen crying and sobbing like children, their nerves completely gone ...

Likewise in Vietnam, terrain and artillery proved crucial. On 18 August 1966, D Company entered the rubber plantation of Long Tan. The Australians came under machine gun and small arms fire from Vietcong forces. It was only the quick response of a New Zealand artillery battery to desperate calls for support that saved D Company from annihilation. Terrible weather and the rubber plantation reduced visibility to 100 metres and meant the Australians could not tell the size of the attacking force. Likewise, Vietcong forces estimated to be 1,000 strong were also hampered by the terrain and peppered with pinpoint accurate artillery. The Vietcong believed they had engaged a battalion-sized force rather than that of the 108 soldiers of D Company.

It was artillery—which had proved so disastrous in Fromelles—that proved so successful in this battle. Alongside the calm resolve of D Company under their leader, Harry Smith, who could have so easily panicked in these conditions, it was the accurate artillery fire from New Zealand's 161 Field Battery as well as the Australian 103 and 105 field batteries and a United States battery that turned this battle. These two battles stand as important points in Australia's history of nationhood. Regardless of the personal reasons these soldiers went to war—a sense of adventure or a sense of duty—there is one truth that binds them together. They went to war at the request of their democratically elected Government on behalf of the Australian people. They did it willingly, they did it courageously and many of them did not return home.

THE GREENS

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM (16:15): I am ambitious for The Greens. I love the people, policies and principles of my party and I want us to be a success. I want The Greens to be involved in government and to help shape a thriving and diverse society. It is vital for the climate, for equality and for a fair and caring society that we are a success. The Greens need to be successful in order to foil reactionary and divisive parties, such as Pauline Hanson's One Nation. The Greens must give a viable progressive choice to all those who have lost from and are disillusioned with predator capitalism and the farce of trickle-down economics—the working poor, renters, the regions and the unemployed. I would like to emulate the success of the European Greens, who are doing just this.

In Germany there are hundreds of Greens members of Parliament. For example, in one of the largest and most prosperous states of Germany, Baden-Württemberg—a state of 10 million people and the heart of German manufacturing—they have a majority Green government and have had a progressive Green president, Winifried Kretschmann, since 2011. In our agreement with the Gillard minority Government, The Greens secured many fine achievements including the carbon price, and none more important than the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. In the Australian Capital Territory, supporting a minority Labor government, Greens Minister Shane Rattenbury has achieved outcomes in schools, health, housing, public transport, gay rights and energy. The Greens in New South Wales should seek to expand our numbers and influence in this Parliament and participate in government. I hope that in the future The Greens will work with Labor to oust the conservative and arrogant Baird Government. I look to New Zealand where the Greens and Labour have an agreement on how they will work collaboratively to advance progressive politics.

Every large organisation faces internal challenges and this is particularly true of political parties. The Greens as an organisation has grown considerably. We now have eight members in this Parliament and a Senator in the Federal Parliament. There are approximately 4,500 members of The Greens NSW. To avoid the impacts of factionalism, group think and patronage and to ensure diversity, organisations need to implement mechanisms to facilitate participatory democracy. The Greens NSW should consider the following reforms to strengthen our internal democracy and ensure The Greens are an effective and successful party. Key office-bearers and the committee of management should be elected directly by the membership for two-year terms. Online voting has increased the convenience and reduced the cost of holding membership-wide votes.

With its more substantial mandate, the committee of management should be expanded in its numbers to ensure diversity of representation. It should also expand its delegation to take on more administrative decisions and replace the parliamentary liaison committee as a place to discuss urgent issues that were not resolvable in the party room. Committee of management decisions should be made available to the membership contemporaneously. We should make use of technology to take more important and difficult issues directly to the membership through plebiscites. Our party office needs to work more closely with members of Parliament on their campaigns. A greater outward focus and resourcing of public outreach in conjunction with members' campaigns could amplify the power of our campaigns.

We should facilitate greater participation at our bi-monthly State delegates council meetings by holding them at one location in Sydney rather than at a different location around the State each time. Perhaps paradoxically it is much easier for regionally based members to travel to Sydney than to other regional areas. We should harness technology to enable members to participate via teleconferencing. The Greens NSW should actively seek to expand membership. While we have grown, I know that across New South Wales there are many progressive people sick to death of visionless, populist politics who could become valuable members of our party. I invite them here and now to join our party.

The Greens NSW should have a parliamentary leader or perhaps co-leaders. With eight members and more in the future, we should have a leader. We need the strategic focus and accountability that a parliamentary leader could provide. Without a formal leader, de facto leadership can form without proper accountability mechanisms or the benefits of a formal leadership role. Lastly, any successful political party needs to deal maturely with differences of opinion and not only tolerate a diversity of views but also harness that diversity for the benefit of the party. The Greens are of enormous importance in the Australian political system. It is essential that we are successful. That means it is important we continually look for ways to facilitate participatory democracy and ensure we succeed in shaping a prosperous, happy, fairer and more sustainable world.

CIVIL AVIATION

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (16:19): Last year approximately 40 million commercial airline passenger and cargo flights took place worldwide. Each day more than 100,000 airline flights carrying many millions of passengers take place successfully. It is a credit to those who participate in the civil aviation industry and those who regulate it that the level of loss of life, injury or other disaster is so low. This admirable position exists despite the escalating upsurge in the number of airline flights, passenger volumes and, in recent years, the increasing threat posed by international terrorism. The foundation for the civil aviation sector working so effectively is the worldwide network of civil aviation authorities and at its apex is the International Civil Aviation Organisation [ICAO]. In essence, ICAO works to gain consensus on international civil aviation standards, practices and policies to support a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector.

ICAO was founded as the United Nations specialised agency in 1947 with an initial membership of 55 nations. Today it encompasses 191 member states from the smallest, which is Nauru with a population of 10,000 and a geographical size of a few square kilometres, to larger nations with populations of a billion or more and a geographical size of millions of square kilometres. Even nations such as North Korea and South Korea, still technically in a state of hostilities with each other, find it in their own interests to work for the common good as

part of ICAO. In addition, numerous government and non-government international organisations are included as part of ICAO's wide consultative process. Overall, the policy of ICAO is one of inclusiveness. Thus, in 2013 ICAO invited Taiwan—which is not one of its members because of the political situation between Taiwan and China—to send the director general of its Civil Aeronautics Administration as a guest to its thirty-eighth international assembly under the name Chinese Taipei CAA.

This invitation was issued with the concurrence of the member states of ICAO, including China. It was an enlightened and sensible decision made in the best interests of civil aviation and the safety and wellbeing of many millions of air travellers. Taiwan has a population greater than the majority of member nations of ICAO and, with the world's seventeenth largest economy and third largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, it has a vibrant and major civil aviation sector. In 2015, more than 1.5 million airline flights carrying 58 million passengers transited through the flight region under its control. In 2014, Taiwan was ranked eleventh in respect of airline passengers carried and fifth in respect of air cargo volumes. In addition, air traffic between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland has skyrocketed with 700 weekly commercial flights between Taiwan and mainland China, and visitors from the mainland accounted for all visitors to Taiwan in 2014.

Clearly Taiwan is a significant component of international aviation. Its reputation is further enhanced by its technological know-how and its information technology expertise. It is in the interests of international civil aviation that Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration is represented at the thirty-ninth assembly of ICAO, which is to be held at Montreal in a few weeks, as it was in 2013. The issue is more pressing with the rise of airline terrorism. We recall with horror the destruction of a Russian Airbus by a terrorist bomb in October 2015, resulting in the loss of all 224 passengers and crew. We remember that in May this year an Egyptian Airbus was lost with its 66 passengers and crew from a suspected terrorist attack.

The issue of airline terrorism is particularly important for Australia because of our geographical isolation and reliance on safe and secure air routes. A number of Australians have already been the victims of terrorist attacks on overseas flights. Australia maintains good economic and other relations with China and Taiwan, with many thousands of Australians travelling on Chinese and Taiwanese airlines while many others transit through airspace under the control and jurisdiction of Taiwan. The case for a Taiwanese presence on ICAO is an overwhelming one and it is hoped that common sense will prevail at its thirty-ninth assembly in a few weeks time, as it did at its thirty-eighth assembly in 2013.

RACIAL VILIFICATION LEGISLATION

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE (16:24): Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott and his Attorney-General sought to make changes to the Racial Discrimination Act, specifically to repeal section 18C. Section 18C states that we cannot offend, assault, humiliate or intimidate any other person or a group of people because of their race, colour, national or ethnic origin. The Abbott Government wanted to get rid of this section by arguing that it restricts "free speech". Attorney-General George Brandis went further by stating that "People have a right to be bigots." We have a new Federal Government, a new Senate and, alarmingly, a cohort of Senators who are intent on revisiting this issue. Rather than showing leadership, the response of Prime Minister Turnbull was astonishing, describing the call to repeal section 18C as having "worthy arguments" in favour of softening the Racial Discrimination Act but that the issue is not a current "priority" for his Government. This is nothing less than outrageous.

Adopting the proposed changes to section 18C would be a disaster for us as a nation and more so for religious minorities. In fact, the Racial Discrimination Act and Anti-Discrimination Act in New South Wales fails to address the sufferings that religious minorities face on a daily basis. There are more than 500,000 people in the Australian Islamic community and they need the protection of the law against persistent religious abuse. The abuse is so prevalent that it has become persecution on a collective scale. This collective punishment of the Australian Islamic community must stop. According to a 2015 human rights report, Muslim Australians experience discrimination, vilification and abuse on a daily basis. In an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 5 November 2015, Judith Ireland and Beau Donnelly stated:

During consultations with more than 130 community, legal, university and government groups this year, discrimination against Muslims was "consistently raised as a significant concern. Many participants labelled anti-Muslim discrimination a daily or regular occurrence"...

In an article entitled "Religion and the Racial Discrimination Act: Don't Muslims Also Deserve Protection?", Mariam Veiszadeh noted:

A decade-long national study conducted by the University of Western Sydney found that nearly half of Australians describe themselves as having anti-Muslim attitudes.

Legal protections would only apply to an Australian Muslim, for example, if one was abused as—excuse my language—an "effing Lebanese Muslim", because their race is identified. Whereas to be abused as an effing

Muslim, which is attacking a person because of his faith, will provide no protection. It has been said on many occasions that the Racial Discrimination Act has a limited ability to protect Muslim Australians. I say it has no ability because it covers only discrimination or vilification based on race, colour, ethnicity, national origin or immigrant status—not religion. Muslims are not a race of people but followers of a faith across the racial and language divide. It is therefore critical to add religious vilification offences in the Racial Discrimination Act and Anti-Discrimination Act. I urge the Government to introduce a bill to amend the Anti-Discrimination Act to address the pain of the community.

In her article entitled "We need to call out the double standards in Australia's Anti-Discrimination Laws", Mariam Veiszadeh highlights the inadequacies in the Racial Discrimination Act and notes that women across the country have been assaulted, spat on, had their prams kicked, have been punched from behind, have had abuse hurled at them, have had hot coffee thrown in their face, have been told to leave an entertainment venue, have been assaulted and thrown off trains, have been verbally intimidated, have had their cars vandalised, and have been forced to restrict their public movements out of fear. This cannot go on without action.

I ask the following questions. Why are Australian Muslims still not afforded adequate protection under the State and Federal vilification laws? Why are Muslims in New South Wales, which has the largest proportion of Muslims, left without protection? Why do the States of Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory cover religious discrimination in their legislation but New South Wales does not? Is it because Muslims do not have a lobby group or the power of big business from which to lobby governments, or is it because they do not have a powerful voice in mainstream media? Do Muslims not deserve protection? I urge all members not to sit in silence in the face of continued religious vilification against our fellow citizens. We must amend the law to provide Australian Muslims with the protections they need.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard): The question is that this House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 16:29 until Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 14:30.