



New South Wales

Legislative Council

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament
First Session**

Thursday, 10 November 2016

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 10 November 2016

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

The PRESIDENT read the prayers.

Bills

REGULATORY AND OTHER LEGISLATION (AMENDMENTS AND REPEALS) BILL 2016

Returned

The PRESIDENT: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly returning the abovementioned bill without amendment.

Announcements

PHOTOGRAPHS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: I inform members that a staff member of the Legislative Council will be present in the gallery today to take photographs for use in official publications.

Motions

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (10:01): I move:

- (1) That this House notes the 120 year anniversary of the National Council of Women of New South Wales and congratulates it on promoting the advancement of women and children in New South Wales.
- (2) That this House congratulates the recipients of the National Council of Women of New South Wales Recognition Award, including:
 - (a) Patricia Banister, on her longstanding service and outstanding contributions to the Catholic Women's League Australia;
 - (b) Margaret Mary Burke, on her longstanding service to the community by assisting the elderly and delivering Meals on Wheels;
 - (c) Barbara Edney, on her exemplary service to her local Quota club leading volunteers on humanitarian visits and as a TAFE teacher;
 - (d) Lorraine Ada Perry, on her longstanding service as a Justice of the Peace and advancing the status and careers of women;
 - (e) Merle Kay Thompson, in her 50 years of service to the Australian Federation of Graduate Women and advocating for Polio NSW; and
 - (f) Judith Townsend, on assisting over 400 women across Sydney over 20 years to advance their qualifications through education, teaching in hospitals and universities.

Motion agreed to.

COMBINED PENSIONERS AND SUPERANNUANTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:03): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Tuesday and Wednesday 25 to 26 October 2016 the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of New South Wales Inc. held its annual conference at the Salvation Army Congress Hall, Sydney, attended by delegates representing its branches throughout New South Wales including from Cessnock, Dubbo, Griffith, Port Macquarie and Taree;
 - (b) those who attended as special guests included:
 - (i) Dr John Falzon, CEO, of the National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society;
 - (ii) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, representing the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism;
 - (iii) Mr Rodney Lewis, a lawyer specialising in the law as it relates to older people; and
 - (iv) Mr Christopher Zinn, a consumer campaigner with the FiftyUp Club.

- (c) receiving life membership awards from the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of New South Wales Inc. were:
 - (i) Mrs Beverley Long, member of its Miller branch, for more than 20 years of active service to the Association; and
 - (ii) Mr George Ray, Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee until 25 November 2015 and member of the New Millennium Seniors Mount Druitt branch and St Mary's branch, for more than 10 years of active service to the Association.
 - (d) this year marks the eighty-fifth anniversary of the association's formation in 1931, originally as the Old Age and Invalid Pensioners Association, and that the association has gained a well-deserved reputation as a strong advocate for the interests of pensioners; superannuants and low-income retirees.
- (2) That this House:
- (a) congratulates the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of New South Wales Inc., its members and particularly its hardworking and dedicated executive and administrative staff comprising:
 - (i) Mrs Grace Selway, OAM, President;
 - (ii) Mr Bill Holland, Senior Vice-President and Assistant Treasurer;
 - (iii) Mrs Sue Latimer, Vice-President and former Assistant Secretary [to 4 November 2015];
 - (iv) Mr Bob Jay, Secretary;
 - (v) Mr Stuart Carter, Assistant Secretary [from 4 November 2015] and Executive Committee;
 - (vi) Mrs Betty Chamberlain, Treasurer [to 20 September 2015];
 - (vii) Mr George Ray, Treasurer [from 25 November 2015] and former Executive Committee [until 25 November 2015];
 - (viii) Mrs Shirley Baines, Executive Committee;
 - (ix) Mr Victor Borg, Executive Committee;
 - (x) Mrs Margaret Craven-Scott, Executive Committee;
 - (xi) Mr James Grainda, Executive Committee;
 - (xii) Mr Darcy Vane, Executive Committee [to 1 June 2016];
 - (xiii) Mrs Julie Vane, Executive Committee [to 1 June 2016];
 - (xiv) Mr Terry Watts, Executive Committee [from 28 October 2015];
 - (xv) Mrs Barbara Wright, Executive Committee;
 - (xvi) Ms Megan Lee, General Manager;
 - (xvii) Mr Paul Versteeg, Policy Co-ordinator;
 - (xviii) Ms Ellis Blaikie, Senior Policy Adviser;
 - (xix) Dr Janet McGaw, Administration Assistant; and
 - (xx) Ms Virginia Pidcock, Administration Assistant, on the occasion of the association's successful 2016 annual conference and eighty-fifth anniversary of its formation in 1931.
 - (b) commends the association for its long and continuing advocacy for the interests of pensioners, superannuants and low-income retirees.

Motion agreed to.

EGYPTIAN FESTIVAL OF SYDNEY

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:04): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Sunday 6 November 2016 the sixteenth annual Egyptian Festival of Sydney hosted and organised by the Australian Egyptian Council Forum was held at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour, Sydney, attended by several thousand visitors;
 - (b) those who spoke at the official launch of the festival comprised:
 - (i) His Excellency Mr Youssef Shawky, Consul General for Egypt in Sydney;
 - (ii) Professor Rifaat Ebied, President, Australian Egyptian Council Forum;
 - (iii) Mr Craig Kelly, MP, Federal member for Hughes, representing the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP, Prime Minister of Australia;
 - (iv) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice;

- (v) Mr Robert Ishac, legal adviser to the Coptic Orthodox Church, Diocese of Sydney and Affiliated Regions; and
- (vi) Ms Moira Hey, Director of New South Wales Events and Properties.
- (c) in addition to those who spoke at the launch those who attended the official launch as guests comprised:
 - (i) the Consul for Egypt in Sydney Mr Mohammed Ghazaly;
 - (ii) the Vice-Consul for Egypt in Sydney Mr Mohammed Taher;
 - (iii) Mr Morris Hanna, former Mayor of Marrickville Council and current advisor to the Inner West Council;
 - (iv) Professor Frank Zumbo;
 - (v) Mr Saleh Sakkaf, presenter of Arabic language radio at SBS;
 - (vi) Dr Effat Shetta, representing Aghaby Coptic television; and
 - (vii) representatives of various Egyptian community organisations.
- (2) That this House congratulates and commends the Australian Egyptian Council Forum for organising a successful sixteenth annual Egyptian Festival of Sydney, an event that adds to the cultural life of Sydney and the State of New South Wales, particularly:
 - (a) Professor Rifaat Ebied, President of the Australian Egyptian Council Forum;
 - (b) Dr Heba Khamis, Co-ordinator of the Festival;
 - (c) Mr Victor Bassily, Project Co-ordinator of the Festival; and
 - (d) Mr Amir Salem, Public Affairs Officer.

Motion agreed to.

ZAHLE ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC.

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:05): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Saturday 15 October 2016, the Zahle Association of NSW Inc. held its annual gala dinner for 2016 at the Westella Renaissance Function Centre Lidcombe, attended by over 500 guests;
 - (b) those who attended as guests included:
 - (i) His Eminence Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay, Maronite Catholic Bishop for Australia;
 - (ii) Reverend Father Melhem Haikal, representing His Eminence Bishop Robert Rabbat, Melkite Catholic Bishop for Australia and New Zealand;
 - (iii) His Excellency Mr George Bitar Ghanem, Consul General of Lebanon in Sydney and his wife, Dr Bahia [Betty] Abou Hamad;
 - (iv) Mr George Zakhia, representing the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism;
 - (v) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice;
 - (vi) Mr Jihad Dib, MP, member for Lakemba, shadow Minister for Education, and Mrs Erin Dib;
 - (vii) Mr Glenn Brookes, MP, member for East Hills;
 - (viii) New South Wales Police Area Commanders for Liverpool and Bankstown;
 - (ix) representatives of Lebanese political parties including the Lebanese Forces, the Future Movement, El Marada Movement, the Kataeb Party and the Free Patriotic Movement;
 - (x) representatives of Lebanese Australian religious and community organisations including the Maronite Catholic Society, Bsharri Association, Minieh Association and Mina Association; and
 - (xi) representatives of other community organisations including the Vietnamese Community of Australia New South Wales.
 - (c) the Zahle Association of New South Wales Inc. was founded in 1969 to represent those members of the Lebanese Australian community whose family ancestry emanates from Zahle, Lebanon's third-largest city and a major centre of Christianity in Lebanon; and
 - (d) the association has a proud record of:
 - (i) promoting and supporting communication amongst the community in Australia of Zahle Lebanese ancestry and with their relatives in Zahle; and
 - (ii) engaging in an active program of civic, educational, social, charitable, cultural, professional and sporting activities for its members and the wider community.

- (2) That this House:
- (a) congratulates and commends the Zahle Association of New South Wales Inc., particularly its committee comprising:
 - (i) Dr Michel Diba, President;
 - (ii) Mr Joseph Aoun, Vice-President;
 - (iii) Mr Tony Zoghbi, Secretary;
 - (iv) Dr Naji Freiha, Treasurer;
 - (v) Mr Nassib Maalouf, Public Officer;
 - (vi) Mr George Zakhia, Public Relations and Political Officer; and
 - (vii) Committee members Mrs Arzi Elkerr, Mrs Chafica Gregoire, Mrs Maha Abou Ghanem, Mr Assaad Kassouf, Mr Chad Diba, Mr George Homs, Mr George Nassar, Mr Henri Chehade, Mr Ibrahim Mashaalani, Mr Phillip Mashaalani and Mr Tony Jabarian on their ongoing contributions to the Zahle Association of New South Wales and to the wider Lebanese Australian community.
 - (b) extends greetings and best wishes to all those members of the Lebanese-Australian community whose ancestry emanates from Zahle.

Motion agreed to.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:05): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) on Thursday 20 October 2016 the University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney School of Law held its annual prize giving mass followed by the prize giving ceremony and the Michael O'Dea Oration at St Benedict's Church, Notre Dame University Campus, Broadway;
 - (b) those who attended as special guests included:
 - (i) the Hon. Brian Tamberlin, QC, formerly of the Australian Federal Court, who delivered this year's Michael O'Dea Oration;
 - (ii) Mr Adrian O'Dea, solicitor and partner in Carroll O'Dea Solicitors;
 - (iii) Emeritus Professor Leroy Certoma;
 - (iv) Ms Catherine Osborne, solicitor and partner in Curwoods Lawyers;
 - (v) Mr Gary O'Gorman, solicitor and principal of O'Gorman Lawyers and his wife, Mrs Marie Carney, solicitor; and
 - (vi) the Hon. David Clarke MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice.
 - (c) the prize giving ceremony was presided over by:
 - (i) Professor Michael Quinlan, Dean, School of Law, University of Notre Dame Australia;
 - (ii) Associate Professor Keith Thompson, Associate Dean, School of Law, University of Notre Dame Australia; and
 - (iii) Mr Prasan Ulluwishewa, Assistant Dean, School of Law, University of Notre Dame Australia.
 - (d) those who comprised the prize winners at the prize giving ceremony for the 2015 academic year were:
 - (i) Alana Rafter—the Maurice Blackburn Prize for Advanced Research Project;
 - (ii) Annalise Cincotta—the Levitt Robinson Prize for Human Rights Law;
 - (iii) Daniel Austin—the Addisons Prize for Insolvency;
 - (iv) Fontini Constantopedos—the Colin Biggers and Paisley Prize for Evidence A;
 - (v) Isabella Robinson—the Curwoods Lawyers Prize for Contemporary Legal Issues;
 - (vi) Jacqueline Drewe—the O'Gorman Lawyers Prize for Family Law;
 - (vii) Maya Zahr—the O'Gorman Lawyers Prize for Family Law;
 - (viii) Jennifer De Witte—the Prize for Criminal Law B—Defences;
 - (ix) Jonathan Powys—the Makinson d'Apice Prize for Law and Religion;
 - (x) Juliet Evans—the AMPLA Prize for Mining and Petroleum Law;
 - (xi) Kalinda Doyle—the Colin Biggers and Paisley Prize for Remedies;
 - (xii) Karla Dunbar—the Green Building Council of Australia Prize for Environmental Law;

- (xiii) Konstantin Georgiadis—the Carroll and O'Dea Prize for Employee Relations Law;
- (xiv) Korina Hogan—the Herro Foundation Prize for Property Law A;
- (xv) Lucy Goodin—the Emeritus Professor Leroy Certoma Prize for Legal History;
- (xvi) Madeleine Goodsir—the Curwoods Lawyers Prize for Legal Research and Writing;
- (xvii) Matthew Henry Hodgson—the Janet Coombs Prize for Introduction to Canon Law;
- (xviii) Michael McKenna—the Janet Coombs Prize for Introduction to Canon Law;
- (xix) Melissa Dever—the Carroll and O'Dea Prize for Succession;
- (xx) Mgcini Moyo—the Colin Biggers and Paisley Prize for Construction and Building Contract Law;
- (xxi) Natalie Sinclair—the Colin Biggers and Paisley Prize for Evidence B;
- (xxii) Olivia Vallieres—the Colin Biggers and Paisley Prize for Principles of Equity;
- (xxiii) Paul Oleson—the Carroll and O'Dea Prize for Commercial Law;
- (xxiv) Rachel Dance—the New South Wales Bar Association Prize for Advocacy;
- (xxv) Rikki Borsato—the Colin Biggers and Paisley Prize for Contract Law B;
- (xxvi) Sabrina Mobbs—the Maurice Blackburn Prize for Health Law;
- (xxvii) Sally Page—the Makinson d'Apice Prize for Administrative Law B;
- (xxviii) Tashayla Matia—the Carroll and O'Dea Prize for Corporations and Partnerships;
- (xxix) Tom Wallace—the Colin Biggers and Paisley Prize for Intellectual Property Law;
- (xxx) Alexandra Harvey—the Prize for Criminal Law A—Procedure and the Makinson d'Apice Prize for Legal Process and Statutory Interpretation;
- (xxxi) Caitlin Gallagher—the Hicksons Prize for Competition and Consumer Law and the Maurice Blackburn Prize for Advanced Research Project;
- (xxxii) Catherine Rumsey—the Herro Foundation Prize for Property Law B and the New South Wales Bar Association Prize for The Law of Trusts;
- (xxxiii) Michelle Glennon—the Hicksons Prize for Commercial Drafting and the Curwoods Lawyers Prize for Insurance Law;
- (xxxiv) Patrick Shumack—the Prize for Constitutional Law A and the Prize for Constitutional Law B;
- (xxxv) Samantha Ellison—the Stewart Levitt Prize for Commercial Practice and Ethics and the Hicksons Prize for Commercial Drafting;
- (xxxvi) Antonela Josipovic—the New South Wales Bar Association Prize for Civil Procedure B, the Carroll and O'Dea Prize for Legal Philosophy and the Maurice Blackburn Prize for Advanced Research Project;
- (xxxvii) Nicole Morris—the Makinson d'Apice Prize for Administrative Law A, the Makinson d'Apice Prize for Administrative Law B and the Simpsons Solicitors Prize for Entertainment Law;
- (xxxviii) Rebecca Lennard—the Prize for Introduction to Australian Income Tax, the Prize for Advanced Taxation Law, the Prize for Public International Law, the New South Wales Bar Association Prize for Civil Procedure A and the New South Wales Bar Association Prize for Civil Procedure B;
- (xxxix) Tomas Puentes—the New South Wales Bar Association Prize for Advocacy, the Colin Biggers and Paisley Prize for Contract Law A, the Colin Biggers and Paisley Prize for Contract Law B, the Carroll and O'Dea Prize for Principles of Torts A and the Carroll and O'Dea Prize for Principles of Torts B;
- (xl) Lucy Goodin—the Herro Foundation Scholarship for Highest Achieving student enrolled to undertake Property Law A and B;
- (xli) Samantha Ellison—the Stewart Levitt Prize for Commercial Practice and Ethics;
- (xlii) Jacinta Mitchell—the Colin Biggers and Paisley Scholarship for Academic Achievement, Leadership and Community Service in a First Year Undergraduate Law student;
- (xliii) Juliet Evans—the AMPLA Prize for Mining and Petroleum Law; and
- (xliv) Alexander Carlos—the University of Notre Dame Australia School of Law Leadership Award.

(2) That this House:

- (a) extends congratulations and best wishes to all those who were honoured as prize winners at the awards ceremony for the 2015 academic year of the School of Law, University of Notre Dame Australia; and
- (b) commends the School of Law, University of Notre Dame Australia and its teaching faculty for the occasion of its awards ceremony for the 2015 academic year and for its ongoing contribution to the teaching and practice of law as a profession.

Motion agreed to.**MELKITE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:06): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Sunday 6 November 2016 the Melkite Catholic community in New South Wales under the patronage and presence of His Grace Bishop Robert Rabbat celebrated the Feast of St Michael the Archangel at St Michael the Archangel Cathedral in Darlington attended by members and friends of the Melkite Catholic community;
 - (b) those who attended as invited guests included:
 - (i) the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism, and Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, and Mrs Mary Ajaka;
 - (ii) Mr Jihad Dib, MP, member for Lakemba and shadow Minister for Education, and Mrs Erin Dib;
 - (iii) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice; and
 - (iv) representatives of various Catholic community organisations.
 - (c) the Melkite Catholic community has been present in Australia since 1891, the year the foundation stone was laid for the first Melkite Catholic church in Australia.
- (2) That this House extends greetings and best wishes to His Grace Bishop Robert Rabbat and members of the Melkite Catholic clergy together with members of the Melkite Catholic community in Australia on the occasion of their celebration of the Feast of St Michael the Archangel.

Motion agreed to.*Documents***GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY****Claim of Privilege**

The CLERK: Further to the resolution of the House of 14 September 2016 for an order for papers relating to greyhound welfare, I table correspondence from the administrator of Greyhound Racing NSW attaching supplementary submissions in which the administrator requests that the index returned on 12 October 2016 be treated as privileged and be made available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

Further Return to Order

The CLERK: I table an index of the documents contained in the public and privileged returns from which confidential information has now been redacted.

AUDITOR-GENERAL**Reports**

The CLERK: According to the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of the following reports of the Auditor-General:

- (1) Special Report entitled "Fraud Survey", dated November 2016.
- (2) "Financial Audit Volume 5 2016 Report of Finance, Services and Innovation (Including Insurance)", dated November 2016.

Under the Act the reports have been authorised to be printed.

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

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I move:

That Government Business Notice of Motion No. 2 be postponed until Wednesday 16 November 2016.

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 the business of the House this day.

Motion agreed to.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I move:

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

- (1) Private Members' Business item No. 981 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Shayne Mallard relating to the 2016 Paralympians.
- (2) Private Members' Business item No. 9 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Revd the Hon. Fred Nile relating to the State Senate Bill 2015.
- (3) Private Members' Business item No. 248 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Mr David Shoebridge relating to the Human Tissue Amendment (Trafficking in Human Organs) Bill.
- (4) Private Members' Business item No. 1110 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Lynda Voltz relating to sport and recreation camps.
- (5) Private Members' Business item No. 968 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Bronnie Taylor relating to Dementia Awareness Month.
- (6) Private Members' Business item No. 1012 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Ms Jan Barham relating to the Paris Agreement.

Motion agreed to.

INAUGURAL SPEECH

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I move:

That on Thursday 10 November 2016 proceedings be interrupted at approximately 3.30 p.m., but not so as to interrupt a member speaking, to enable the Hon. John Graham to make his first speech without any question before the Chair.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

PARALYMPIANS

Debate resumed from 22 September 2016.

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (10:19): I make a brief contribution in debate on this motion and thank the Hon. Shayne Mallard for moving it. It is important that we celebrate the achievements of these fantastic athletes. Today I want to talk about Joshua Alford, who was born in Canberra and who is now pursuing a career in swimming at the Australian Institute of Sport. I first met Joshie when he attended preschool with my children in Nimmitabel a long time ago. Josh was a fantastic kid who was always keen to be involved in sport, for which he had a natural ability. He learned to swim when he was three years old, but he did not take it up competitively until 2014. Growing up in Cooma, Josh also developed a passion for snowboarding, and the New South Wales snowfields have become his go-to holiday destination.

Josh developed a love for swimming when he lived in Nimmitabel, where the climate is not conducive at all to swimming, and in a community that has a 25-metre swimming pool that is open for only six months a year. For someone to develop a love for swimming and to have the determination and passion to do it competitively after growing up in a community that does not have much access to swimming facilities is pretty amazing. At the 2014 Australian Swimming Championships in Brisbane, Josh set new personal bests in the 50 metre, 100 metre, 200 metre and 400 metre freestyle events as well as in the 50 metre backstroke event, securing him five finals berths. In the 200 metre freestyle final Josh recorded another personal best that was nearly six seconds under the qualifying time.

Josh made his Australian Swim Team and Commonwealth Games debut at the 2014 Glasgow Games when he was 18 years old. He competed in the 200 metre freestyle S14 heat and, because there were only seven entrants, he progressed to the final and was awarded sixth place. At the 2015 Australian Swimming Championships in Sydney, Josh made waves in the 50 metre freestyle multiclass event when he won gold in 25.25 seconds. He also took home two silver medals and a bronze in the 100 metre, 400 metre and 200 metre freestyle finals. It was a huge improvement for Josh in that year.

In 2015 Josh was selected to swim for Australia at the INAS Global Games in Ecuador, where he was awarded a gold medal in the 100 metre freestyle and a silver medal in the 50 metre freestyle finals. He continued his success at the 2016 Australian Swimming Championships in Adelaide, where he was awarded a silver medal in the 100 metre freestyle and a bronze medal in the 50 metre freestyle multiclass and 200 metre freestyle finals. His impressive performance at the meet led to his selection for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio.

Everybody in Monaro just goes off about Josh—we all love him and we are so proud of him. We are proud that Josh was part of our community and that he has done so well. One of the most amazing things about sport and our athletes who achieve such success, in particular our local athletes who compete at home, is that it is great for the community because everybody has a sense of ownership and pride in that success. Josh's parents, Lorraine and Bob, are amazing people. Bob was our local policeman in Nimmitabel which is how I got to know him. He was a really great policeman and the rural community loved him because he understood everything that was happening in the area and was great to communicate with. He was very fair and disciplined.

Josh's mum, Lorraine, is a tremendous woman and to this day Lorraine and Michelle Thomas, who are very dedicated, still run the Cooma swimming pool. Michelle was one of Josh's first coaches when he started swimming and she also coached my girls. Michelle has won many AUSTSWIM awards. She is a tremendous woman with a passion for swimming. She coaches people not just to excel in the sport but also to learn to swim for health and other reasons. That is what country communities are all about. A very big congratulations go to Josh Alford. We all stand with him and we are very proud of him in southern New South Wales. I again thank the Hon. Shayne Mallard for moving this motion. Some people are humble and modest and do not want to be recognised but it is important to do so and to share in their victory.

The Hon. LOU AMATO (10:25): I thank the Hon. Shayne Mallard for his most important motion. There are many in our community whose lives are challenged with a multitude of afflictions. In times past we called those afflictions disabilities and sometimes wrongly focused on the limitations of the afflicted and, sadly, failed to recognise the wonderful example that these people set for us with their courage and determination to excel. Many who find life particularly challenging have risen far above what we would consider a limitation to amaze us with their incredible ability. When I witness such determination I am truly humbled and I am grateful that I have been able, albeit in a small way, to share in their triumphant achievements through such events as the Paralympics.

The Paralympics is an honourable event that allows all of us to witness greatness and to share in the strength of the human spirit. The Paralympics is a great teacher that highlights courage—one of the great attributes of the human spirit that we so admire. Courage is the beginning of everyone's personal struggle to achieve greatness. For some, greatness comes easy and with minimal effort. However, for those challenged with disability, greatness requires grit and determination superior to that required by a person who is not limited by physical constraint. We are all aware of the challenges that life presents to us all. Each and every person, whether through fate or fortune, is given a task—to do the best they can with their lives within the boundaries of physical, emotional and spiritual limitation. Greatness is not always about being the fastest, the strongest or the best. It is a person's ability to rise above the struggles of life and become the best that they can be no matter what trials may befall them.

The Paralympics provides a platform for individuals to overcome personal struggle and challenges and ultimately to win. Winning does not only mean coming first in a race or event; winning transcends measurable results and is not limited to mere numbers. Winning is the commencement of a journey that involves the acceptance of one's limitations and the lifelong journey to be the best that one can be. Our Paralympians are, for us, a great example of those who, in spite of sometimes insurmountable odds, refuse to let physical disability or illness prevent them from being the best they possibly can be.

We thank all our Paralympians who participated at the 2016 Rio De Janeiro Games for the great example they have been. Whether they achieved a gold, silver or bronze medal, or no medal at all, they have inspired us with their great courage and determination to be the best that they can be. We are inspired by their courage and their true Australian spirit—the defining characteristic that has made our nation great. Their example to us in this place and to all in our nation is that we must never forget that life is a struggle and we must never lose the courage to live it to the best of our ability. I thank paratriathlete Katie Kelly in particular for setting such a fine example. Katie is a true example of the Australian spirit. In spite of her struggles she has shown us all that courage can overcome the most insurmountable odds.

We congratulate Katie on achieving the most coveted of awards—a gold medal. We also congratulate and give our thanks to Michellie Jones who, alongside Katie Kelly, showed the true essence of who we are as a people. Central to the Australian spirit there has always been a defining quality that we call "mateship". Michellie and Katie are true examples of what can be achieved through courage and Australian mateship. Finally, I again thank the Hon. Shayne Mallard and all those who contributed to this wonderful motion.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN (10:29): I speak this morning on the 2016 Paralympics which was hosted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 7 September to 18 September 2016. Our Australian Paralympians joined with the world's best athletes, totalling 4,350 sportspersons, coming from 160 nations and competing across 22 sports. The opening ceremony took place in the world-famous Maracana stadium. The theme for the ceremony was "The heart has no limits—everybody has a heart". The Australian team was led by Brad Ness, our flag-bearer and the

Australian wheelchair basketball captain. Our team of 177 athletes was joined by our Australian Paralympic team officials, headed by chef de mission, Kate McLoughlin. The Australian team was also supported by Australia's Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, and Lady Cosgrove who watched the opening ceremony in the stands alongside other dignitaries. The International Paralympic Committee [IPC] President, Sir Philip Craven, welcomed all the elite athletes with disability from around the world. Sir Philip reflected in his welcoming address:

You will witness how Paralympic sport has the ability to inspire an individual, and the outstanding capacity to transform communities, countries and continents.

Proud Paralympians, you are role models for what the world wants to see in today's sporting heroes. You see obstacles as opportunities, you fight for your rights and here in Rio you have a unique opportunity to make for a more equitable world. Your values tell people what you stand for and most importantly who you are.

Our athletes participated in archery, athletics, boccia, cycling, equestrian events, paracanoeing, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, paratriathlon events, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis. Our Paralympians did us proud, winning a total of 81 medals—22 gold, 30 silver and 29 bronze. This placed Australia in the top five countries of the medal tally. I congratulate all athletes on this fantastic achievement. I note that the Australian Paralympic team broke four world records. My congratulations go to Lakeisha Patterson for shaving 0.11 seconds off the world record in the women's 400 metres freestyle, S8 category.

I congratulate Maddison Elliott, who broke the 50 metre freestyle, S8 category world record, bettering her own world record by almost half a second and stopping the clock at 29.73 seconds. I also congratulate Ellie Cole, who smashed the S9 world record for the 50 metre freestyle, winning in 28.75 seconds. The fourth world record was broken by Ellie Cole, Lakeisha Patterson, Maddison Elliott and Ashleigh McConnell in the women's 34 point freestyle relay, in a time of 4.16.83 seconds—more than three seconds better than Australia's world record set in London. The closing ceremony was a loud, dynamic and colourful celebration of the athletes and their achievements. The Australian team was led by Rio gold medallist in paracanoe, Curtis McGrath, who proudly held our flag high. He was chosen for his determination and dedication and as the embodiment of true Australian spirit. Chef de mission Kate McLoughlin commented that all our athletes:

... deserved the best celebration possible and Rio definitely put it on for them. Athletes, both old and new, won medals and achieved their best at these games and the closing ceremony was the perfect way to celebrate their achievements.

Sir Phillip Craven delivered a passionate speech in which he addressed the Paralympians with joy:

You defied expectations, rewrote the record books and turned ill-found pity into pride. You are now heroes and role models for a new generation of sports fans from all over the world.

I wholeheartedly congratulate all our Australian Paralympians and we look forward to seeing many more of them in action over the coming years, as many prepare for the Tokyo Paralympics, just four years away. As mayor of Shoalhaven I had the pleasure of hosting the athletes of the Special Olympics. It was supported by the NSW Police Force who escorted the athletes in a parade around the Shoalhaven. It was a wonderful sight and a great experience for our city to embrace that and to be a part of that. I encourage local governments in New South Wales that may be looking for an event that will lift the heart of their community—whether it be a local government area that has gone through adversity or one that has been blessed with wealth—to support the Special Olympics through sponsorship. For the Shoalhaven, it was a special and memorable event.

My brother Clyde has been challenged with intellectual difficulties and blindness after, at a young age, suffering from meningitis that raided his brain and turned his abilities around to a place of disadvantage. When I think about the Special Olympics and the achievements of these people, I come back to a place where I play a game of pool with Clyde. I can play that game with full sight, full understanding and full skill but he plays it with a quarter of the gifts and abilities that I bring to the game. It is a joy to see the smile on his face and the pleasure he takes in sinking just one ball. The people who have met Clyde and played a game of pool with him know that he plays to win—but he plays with a great skills handicap. He has won more games than he knows when one compares his ability with that of his competitors. We welcome this motion and I thank the honourable member for bringing it to the House. It is important that this House be well-rounded and holistic in its approach to issues of concern to this State. I commend the motion to the House.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (10:38): In reply: I thank all those who have spoken on this motion: the Hon. Lynda Voltz, the Hon. John Ajaka, the Hon. Niall Blair, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, the Hon. Ben Franklin, the Hon. Scott Farlow, the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor, the Hon. Lou Amato and the Hon. Paul Green.

This debate is timely. The debate began on the day the Paralympians arrived in Sydney. It was nice to hear how closely members had followed the games and those whose success they admired, which was diverse. To recap, the Australian Paralympic team did amazing things in Rio 2016 and every Australian should be proud. As

the Hon. Lynda Voltz stated, 53 of the 177 athletes were from New South Wales and more than half of the New South Wales delegation were female athletes.

I concur with the comments of the Hon. Sarah Mitchell concerning the coverage by Channel 7 of the Paralympic Games. There was a powerful trailer stating "We are superhuman". It is emotionally powerful. I spoke of the superhuman nature of the Paralympians. The Hon. John Ajaka spoke of the positive measures the Government is taking to enable and empower people with disabilities to live their lives as they choose and to have control of their lives. The Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Niall Blair, spoke of his interest in the wheelchair rugby, known as murderball. I note the Minister is in the Chamber. I have heard the Minister is ruthless on the able bodied touch football field; I have a staffer with a dislocated shoulder.

The Hon. Niall Blair: He slipped, I did not mean it!

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: Perhaps the Minister will consider a career playing murderball. Our oldest Paralympian, Libby Kosmala, participated at the age of 73 in her twelfth Paralympics and won nine gold medals. I concur with the Hon. Scott Farlow's comment that Ms Kosmala is an amazing competitor for the air rifle team. It is impressive that athletes seek out sports that cater for their specific disabilities. The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones spoke of Daniel Michael. He is the first Australian to compete in boccia at a Paralympic games. Daniel was born with spinal muscular atrophy type 2 and found it difficult to participate in sport until he discovered boccia.

The Hon. Ben Franklin gave members an overview of the unique history of the Paralympics. It was first intended to provide a form of athletic therapy for people in wheelchairs in the aftermath of World War I and World War II. The Hon. Bronnie Taylor spoke of Josh Alford, a resident of Cooma, in the region she represents so strongly. He is an inspiring Paralympian swimmer. He has had amazing success. The member drew our attention to the role of devoted parents and communities who support these athletes. The Hon. Lou Amato reminded the House of the courage that every Paralympian demonstrates. In his contribution the Hon. Paul Green reminded us of the success of the team in finishing in the top five of medal tallies in the world and breaking four world records, which is an incredible feat for the athletes. Both the opening and closing ceremonies were emotional.

Many of us have personal connections to people with disabilities and the Paralympians bring to our attention the importance of role models and success for people with disabilities. The current crop of Paralympians have taken the games far beyond therapy to a point where they are doing things on a superhuman scale. To that end I congratulate the superhuman feats of Katy Kelly and Michellie Jones and all of the Paralympians who have done our State and country proud in Rio. I will collate the speeches of the members and send them to the Paralympian Association as a tribute from the House. The future of the Paralympics is bright and Australia will run faster and jump further in the Paralympics to come. I commend the motion to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bills

STATE SENATE BILL 2015

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 13 August 2015.

The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS (10:44): The bill before us today takes us on a journey, a journey back to the hills of ancient Rome where a Senate was established by the free peoples. Let us overlook for one moment the fact that the Senate of Rome was not elected but was appointed by consuls in contradistinction to this place. Let us overlook the fact that the Senate of Rome was the only body that could appropriate funds for the empire, in contradistinction to this body which has every power other than the appropriation of funds for this State. The bill before us seeks to do something which not even the most egocentric would seek to do. It seeks to turn us from Legislative Councillors into senators, something which we have never been and hopefully we will never be.

Friends, New South Welshmen, countrymen, lend me your ears;

I come to bury this bill, not to praise it.

The evil that men do lives after them; such as this bill;

The good is oft interred with their bones;

So let it be with this bill. The noble Reverend

Hath told you this bill is important,

But self-importance is a grievous fault,

and grievously hath I answer'd it.

Here, under leave of Reverend Nile and the rest—
 for Reverend Nile is an honourable man;
 So are they all, all honourable men—
 Come I to speak at this bill's funeral.
 The Council is my friend, faithful and just to me:
 But Reverend Nile says it lacks importance;
 And Reverend Nile is an honourable man.
 This Council hath brought many legal decisions
 whose glories Lovelock and Evans it doth fill;
 Did this in Council lack importance?
 When the people have cried, this Council hath wept:
 Ambition should be made of sterner stuff.
 Yet Reverend Nile says we lack acknowledgement;
 and Reverend Nile is an honourable man.
 You all did see that in Egan's cases
 Where twice presented with a thorny crown,
 Which we did twice litigate: did this lack importance?
 Yet Reverend Nile says we lack importance;
 And, sure, he is an honourable man.
 I speak not to disprove what Reverend Nile spoke,
 But here I am to speak what I do know.
 You all doth love this Council, not without cause:
 What cause withholds you then, to mourn for its loss?
 Oh judgment! Thou hast fled to brutish beasts,
 And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;
 Do not plunge the dagger into the name of Council
 And we must pause, lest we take leave of our senses.

Mr Deputy President, this bill could only be improved and could only be supported by me, if further additions were made to its content. The bill would be improved, if it is to proceed, with the addition of the wearing of togas by members of this place—specifically purple fringed togas in line with Senate practice, accompanied by purple fringed tunics to fit underneath—lest we fall into a pattern of indecency in this place. Members should be required to use a significant amount of Latin in every speech. Latin would bring the appropriate level of decorum to this place, which has long been missing. That is obviously what this bill seeks to direct.

The standing orders may need to be changed to allow for speeches in languages other than English. However, I am sure that the honourable reverend would be happy to mandate that a portion of every speech should be made in Latin. As members can see I do not take this bill particularly seriously. I consider it to be a waste of time for this House and an unnecessary extravagance on the part of the member who has proposed it. I am interested to see if any members of this place are foolish enough to support this bill. I will strongly argue against the bill and will certainly vote against it when it comes to that point.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD (10:49): On behalf of The Greens I speak in debate on the State Senate Bill 2015, introduced in this House by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile. The Greens have discussed this matter. As a new member of this place I have found it a matter of much discussion when someone asks me what I do. When I say I am a member of the Legislative Council of the New South Wales Parliament, it is surprising how many people do not know what that means. By way of explanation I inevitably say that it is like the State Senate. People understand what that means.

The Hon. Adam Searle: You are not supporting this, are you?

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: Yes, we are. The previous speaker in the debate, the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps, asked whether anyone would speak in support of this legislation. I am doing that right now. It makes sense.

The Hon. Adam Searle: You are kidding, right?

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: No. They are serious. They do not like "honourable" but they want to be "senator".

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! The member is entitled to speak and should not be the subject of overlapping discussion, and certainly not derision.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD: It is not that anyone wants to be known as "senator". I have asked that I be known in this place as Mr Justin Field and I would be happy for that to continue, should this bill pass the Parliament. But

I think the legislation makes sense. People should know what we do in this place. Being referred to in that way makes it clearer to people what we are doing in this place. I thank Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile for introducing this bill. The Greens support it. I ask that we all reflect on what it means to be a member of the Legislative Council or of the Senate, the House of review.

It is difficult for us to review the matters that come before us when legislation is brought into this place at a moment's notice and immediately debated before members have read it. That has happened. Matters are declared urgent that are not urgent and we are forced to debate them without fully understanding what is before us. The role of a senate or a legislative council is to properly scrutinise the business at hand. We should do that. We should reflect on the role of this place. The proposal in this bill, to become the State Senate, may make us reflect on the role that we play in this Parliament. I look forward to voting in support of this bill.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (10:52): I am pleased to speak in debate on the State Senate Bill 2015, brought before the House by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile.

Mr Scot MacDonald: Senator Mallard.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: Mr MacDonald, I note that. Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile has been a member of this Chamber for 38 years or so and should be treated with respect. He would like to bring to our attention what he feels is the evolution of the Chamber. This Chamber has evolved over many years. The Legislative Council, a great and honourable title for our Chamber, is derived from the colonial system that was replicated around the world. Hong Kong also has a Legislative Council, albeit in a different form. Initially, landed gentry were appointed to this House. That was the case until the Wran Government and subsequent governments democratised this House. The title "honourable" indicates that the Legislative Council was seen as a colonial House of Lords, doing the bidding of the Crown and the landed gentry back in England. The rise of democracy in the colonies gave rise to the democratisation of this Chamber and the Legislative Assembly.

The proposal by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile is modest. It gives members the option to use the title of "senator". In my view, it is an interesting proposal in the evolution of democracy in this Chamber. It is not to be ridiculed, as one of the earlier speakers chose to do. I respect the fact that the member has brought the bill forward. Members should not be intimidated about speaking in the debate. As the saying goes in local government, there is never a good time to build a new town hall. There is never a good time for us to talk about ourselves. There are much more important things in the community for us to talk about. We were here until 4.00 a.m. the other day talking about very important things.

We spend a lot of time in this Chamber talking about important things, so today we are taking a few minutes to talk about the Chamber and our role. It is a privilege to serve in the oldest Parliament in Australia. I am a new member, and I still get a thrill when I walk into the Parliament to represent the people of New South Wales. It is an honour to be a member of Parliament. This House has survived several attempts to abolish it. There were attempts to abolish the upper House during the Lang Government and in the 1960s.

Mr David Shoebridge: That has worked very badly in Queensland.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: Indeed. I will come to that. Lovelock and Evans wrote a magnificent book on the Legislative Council, which sits on the President's desk. I sometimes delve into it when debates are taking place. It suggests that there is unlikely to be another attempt to abolish the New South Wales upper House because of the democratisation of the House. The attempts in the Lang era and in the early 1960s were driven by the fact that the House was not democratic. They were driven by Labor, which considered the Chamber to be unrepresentative. The democratisation of the New South Wales upper House has put to bed any attempt to abolish it. Some of our lower House colleagues who have less than the greatest respect for the upper House might still like to see it abolished. As Mr David Shoebridge pointed out in his interjection, that has not served the people of Queensland. It has not been in their best interests. A legislative council curbs the excesses of any government and creates a better outcome for the community. We have seen that happen time and again in this Chamber. I will talk about the modernisation of the House and the fact that there is diversity in the Legislative Council.

Mr Scot MacDonald: Unless you are a woman.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: It is not as bad as in other parliaments. We are in a unique period in the history of this Chamber. The Chamber faces a more modern and diverse future. While we may not proportionally reflect modern multicultural Australia we are slowly heading towards that. We should move more quickly. I say that as a seventh generation Anglo-Saxon Australian. Just over 20 per cent of our number are women. Obviously that number should be at least half. Around 15 per cent of us grew up in homes where English was not the first language of our parents. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey was the first member to swear his oath on the *Bhagavad Gita*. The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane is the first Muslim member of this place. It is notable that the first Muslim member in this place preceded the first Muslim member in the other place by a full five years.

That shows that while this House may sometimes slow the path of legislation it does not slow the path of progress. We also have the honour of the first Muslim woman elected to the New South Wales Parliament, Dr Mehreen Faruqi. I am not saying that that is good enough, but it shows that we are making progress.

With greater diversity in Parliament and greater diversity in our State there is a greater diversity of meanings of what Parliament is. There is no doubt that this is a great thing. The vibrant mix of cultures and languages positions New South Wales at the forefront of the Asia-Pacific region. Around one-quarter of the population in New South Wales, about 1.8 million people, were born overseas, according to the latest census figures. That brings with it new challenges. How do we as a State ensure that our population takes an active interest in participating in democracy?

How do we avoid a situation where new Australians are left behind and excluded from the democratic process simply because they do not understand how it works? This bill goes to the relevance of the House in modern New South Wales. The fact is that there are entire communities outside this place for whom the term Legislative Council means very little or nothing. The use of the colonial title "honourable" means even less to many of them. I note many members in this House have chosen not to adopt the term "honourable" in their title and prefer to be referred to as Mr, Mrs or Dr and we in this Chamber respect that. But I also note the legislation that Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile proposes—

Mr Scot MacDonald: Senator the honourable.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: No, indeed not. If you read the legislation you will know that is not the case. The proposal is that members will opt in or opt out. Mr Scot MacDonald who chose not to use "the honourable" could choose to be State Senator Scot Macdonald, and refer to himself as being a member of the State Senate. The legislation does not propose changing the name of the Chamber because that would require a referendum. I think one of the trade-offs in the proposal of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile is that members can retire the term "honourable", which is derived from the Latin word "honorabilis" which means "procures honour". In the United Kingdom the term is used for all sons and daughters of viscounts and barons, and the youngest sons of earls are styled with the prefix.

In Australia the style is generally used for the administrator of a territory, government Ministers, members of most State legislative councils, upper houses, judges of superior courts and indeed ambassadors. Towards the end of her reign, Queen Victoria conferred the title "honourable" on legislative councillors in New South Wales. If we go back to that period, members were representatives of the landed gentry and the elite, un-elected, appointed by London to rule on their property interests in the colony of New South Wales. It is an anachronism for the current era.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: Appointments after the 1850s were all done by her.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: Thank you for that. The term "honourable" can be interchanged and members are not compelled to abandon the term "honourable", although I think that is an evolution.

Mr David Shoebridge: It will not be Senator the Hon.?

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: No, it will not be Senator the Hon. In fact, Ministers in Canberra are called Senator. The proposal of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, whilst I do not think it has the support of the House today, will be part of continuing—

Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile: Like Donald Trump.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: I do not want to compare it to Donald Trump, but it is continuing a momentum of evolution and of modernising of the House.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: You are also wrong about the Senate. It is Senator the Hon. Minister, if you are a Minister in the Senate.

The Hon. Walt Secord: Come on, let's get rid of this.

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: They only get it when they are a Minister.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: It is interesting that the Labor Party is suddenly so hostile to this proposal after I was talking about Jack Lang and the evolution of the House. The Labor Party has tried to abolish this House on three occasions.

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: There are more important things to talk about.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: I spoke about that when the Hon. Lynda Voltz was not in the Chamber. She might want to refer to the *Hansard*. I also looked up the term "senator" and how it has evolved over

time. I noticed that the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps had some mirth in relation to that. The Roman Senate was a political institution in ancient Rome. The word "Senate" derives from the Latin word "Senex", which means "old man", therefore, "Senate" literally means "a board of old men".

The Hon. Niall Blair: Point of order: In order for a debate to occur members should be heard in silence. It is absolutely impossible for Hansard to cope with four or five different conversations and interjections occurring at the same time. I ask that the member be heard and all sides of the Chamber stop interjecting.

The Hon. Walt Secord: To the point of order: This is an absolutely ridiculous debate. Let us just get it off the agenda. This is a silly proposal. Let's just end it now. This is ridiculous. We have more important things to do in New South Wales than to debate whether we are called senators. We have cuts to education and to health.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! I call the Hon. Walt Secord to order for the first time.

Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile: It is Labor Party policy.

The Hon. Walt Secord: It is not Labor Party policy. This is a ridiculous debate.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! The Hon. Walt Secord has already been called to order once. The member may proceed. I encourage the Hon. Shayne Mallard to address his remarks through the Chair and to proceed. He is partly responsible for the descent of the debate into chaos.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: I respect the right of the grandfather of the House to bring forward legislation when we can—

Mr David Shoebridge: Point of order: It is contrary to the standing orders to address someone other than by their correct title.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): I do not think that is an appropriate point of order.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: That is actually a Westminster term, not a term of derision. I think it might be father of the House. Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile has a right, like any member, to bring forward business to this House whether we agree with it or not. We need to treat it with respect, which was not happening a minute ago.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): I ask the Hon. Shayne Mallard to look at me and not at those sitting opposite him. He is engaging in a conversation with them. He will address his remarks to me. He is talking about the history of this place, which includes members addressing their remarks through the Chair. He is encouraging those opposite him to engage with him.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: I will not debate you, Mr Deputy President.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): No, you will not.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: I was actually looking at the Chair. As I said, the Roman Senate was a board of old men, which of course many members here would say is the alarming problem we have in this place at times. But it was one of the most enduring institutions in Roman history, being established in the first stage of the city. The purpose of the Roman Senate was the Perpetual Council of the Republic, which initially consisted of only 100 senators who were chosen from the Patricians. The chief privilege of senators was having a particular place at public spectacles called the orchestra. It was next to the stage of the theatre or next to the arena or open space in the amphitheatre at the Roman Colosseum.

In order to qualify for the role of senator one had to meet certain criteria. Senators had to be rich and they had to have served in some form of magistracy in the Commonwealth, and no person under the age of 30 years could become a senator. I assume from what I have heard that no women could become senators in the Roman Republic. The power of the Roman senators eventually evolved to encompass religion, finances, new appointments, honours and enemies, and crime and punishment. With those observations I am speaking to crossbenchers on this in the sense that I respect the history of this Chamber. I respect the historical titles that exist in this place. I also tried to draw to the attention of members that this House has evolved.

What has been proposed by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile may never happen or it may happen in another decade, but it is an evolution of the Chamber to reflect our contemporary modern society. I tried to draw parallels with Australia's multicultural society and how disconnected the title "honourable" has become. "Legislative Council" is not connecting with a significant portion of our population in view of its multicultural nature. All of us attend functions and nearly always have to explain what is the Legislative Council or who is a member of the Legislative Council. Like many members I have attended events and have been introduced as "honourable

councillor", which is not correct but it is understood. This is an evolution. The House has evolved. Based on the contributions of previous speakers we would not have had democratisation of the House. I congratulate Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile on bringing forward the motion. I think it is appropriate that occasionally we debate how we work as a Chamber and members.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN (11:09): It could rarely be said that one is forced to speak in debate because of a contribution made by a member of one's own side of politics. But after that last contribution by the Hon. Shayne Mallard I am absolutely compelled to say something. Let me say that substance is always more important than form. Both the bill before the House and that last contribution demonstrate that. I have looked at the bills on the *Notice Paper*. It does not matter whether I agree with them or not, but some of them are of real significance. They deal with matters that go to the heart of how our society operates and are extremely important to individuals.

The bills on the *Notice Paper* range from alcohol advertising to the right of women to terminate a pregnancy, and a variety of other issues. Those are the things that will determine whether people think we are of substance and making a contribution to democracy in this place. Questions about what somebody calls me or anyone in this Chamber do not make any difference as to whether we are making a significant contribution to the people of New South Wales, which is our job. Our job is to make a significant contribution to the democratic process to make the lives of the people of New South Wales better. It is not about whether we can get in front of a crowd and have them say, "We know he is a State senator."

Is this really where we have come to? Are we at a point where our appearance or title determines our significance to ourselves and the people? Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile has been involved in some very significant lawmaking in this State. Only this week a trial in New South Wales resulted in a killer again being acquitted of murder because of provocation. He got off because the law that Reverend Nile was involved in changing did not apply to him as the killing occurred before our law came into effect. The fact that a person who in truth is a murderer has only been convicted of manslaughter is a terrible event. It is a further demonstration that the killing of women, their lovers and homosexual men has been treated as a less than significant event in our society. Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile was involved in changing that law, which is a demonstration of his significance.

What does not make any difference to Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile's significance is whether he is called a senator or a member of the Legislative Council. The essence of Reverend Nile's significance is what he does, not what he is called. That is what we should take away from this debate rather than this bill, which I cannot agree with. At the end of the day we should be doing serious stuff. When we are finally laid in that hole or turned into ashes people should be able to say, "He did something worthwhile", not, "He was a senator of New South Wales." I oppose this bill.

Debate adjourned.

HUMAN TISSUE AMENDMENT (TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN ORGANS) BILL 2015

First Reading

Bill introduced, and read a first time and ordered to be printed on motion by Mr David Shoebridge.

Second Reading

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (11:14): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am extremely pleased to introduce the Human Tissue Amendment (Trafficking in Human Organs) Bill 2016. This bill would make it a crime for citizens of New South Wales to receive organs sourced by illegal and unethical means, even when that occurred overseas. It includes organ harvesting where organs are removed from people without their consent and organ trafficking where often poor and vulnerable people are taken advantage of and have their organs sold, frequently resulting in lifelong medical complications. This is a serious matter. That is why the maximum penalty of 25 years imprisonment would apply in circumstances where the removal of the organs could reasonably have been expected to have killed the person from whom they were removed.

By adopting this law, New South Wales would be moving into what is increasingly becoming a mainstream approach to organ harvesting around the world. Action similar to this has already been taken in Spain, Taiwan and Israel. The extraterritorial operation of this law is essential for it to be effective. It is rare, but not unheard of, for New South Wales laws to govern the actions of our citizens and residents wherever they are on the planet. Most recently this Parliament moved to apply the operation of Australia's surrogacy laws to residents of New South Wales whether they were in or out of the State. We have similar laws that apply in relation to child sexual exploitation, wherever it happens on the planet. The model used in this bill to apply the operation of its

provisions to make it a crime to engage in the illegal or unethical trade of organs anywhere on the planet is modelled on the extraterritorial operation of those Acts.

This bill is the result of a lengthy consultation process that started in 2013 and included community members, law reform groups, medical professionals, legal sector representatives and academics, among many others. We have received input from literally thousands of stakeholders and members of the community that collectively has helped shape the form of the bill that I present today. The response from the community has been overwhelming. Indeed, petitions signed by a near record 294,745 members of the community have been tabled in this House supporting the provisions of this bill and legislation. Why have people done that? The global organ trade is growing and with it comes the temptation for residents of this State to travel overseas and buy an organ that is sourced by unethical means. As a legislative Chamber we must send a strong message that we do not tolerate such behaviour from residents in this State and we will not accept them engaging in it overseas. We must not support a world where someone overseas is quite literally killed to provide an organ to prolong the life of someone in this State.

Of all the interactions that strengthen my resolve to introduce this bill, the most compelling was a discussion I had with New South Wales transplant surgeon Jeremy Chapman. He has taken a sometimes criticised and sometimes supported role in trying to address the illegal and unethical trade of organs around the planet. He recalled a conversation he had with a colleague who contacted him because she had an ethical dilemma. She was a renal surgeon. A patient had called to say that she would not be attending for dialysis on the Monday because she was going to China—they were just about to shoot her donor. We must not allow that to become an ordinary practice in this State.

The benefits of this becoming law will go beyond the actual terms and the prescriptive criminal elements of the bill; it will serve a stronger social and educational function. It will raise awareness among medical practitioners and the communities around this State, and hopefully around Australia, about the practice of organ harvesting and the illegal trade in human tissue that, sadly, is a growing problem on this planet. It will also put those involved in organ trafficking, and those potentially wanting to engage in this deeply unethical trade, on notice that the citizens and residents of New South Wales will no longer be able to participate in this inhuman trade. We have an opportunity to set an example to other Parliaments, within Australia and globally, about the use of our legislative powers and use our collective strength to send a strong message condemning unethical organ harvesting and trafficking no matter where it occurs on the planet.

It will also serve to direct attention to the need to improve organ donation rates in Australia and in New South Wales—we lag woefully behind some of the better performing jurisdictions in this country. In this regard I specifically note the arrangements that operate in Spain, which has an opt-out provision for organ donations. I strongly support those arrangements. Clearly one of the reasons why people in this State turn to the organ black market is that the waiting lists in Australia to access an organ are so long and many people literally die waiting for an organ—that cannot be sustained. I am an organ donor. Those who think it is simply enough to have a notation on their driver licence are wrong because over the past 10 years the system has changed.

I strongly encourage people to take the further step of actively noting that they are a willing organ donor. Indeed, I encourage all members to get online and register to be a donor in the event of their death. Just as New South Wales should act to stop organ trafficking globally, in this place we have a responsibility to do what we can on a personal and professional level. To do so, members need to go to www.donatelive.gov.au and, provided they have their Medicare card, in a matter of five minutes they can actively register on the Australian Organ Donor Register. I also urge members to advise their family members of their willingness to become a donor so that they are not taken by surprise and resist any request if your organs are needed. We not only have a joint obligation to fix donation rates here but also to prevent our citizens from engaging in this unethical trade overseas.

I turn now to the objects of the bill, which are to increase the penalty for commercial trading in human organs and other human tissue; to create offences relating to the use of an organ or another tissue taken from people without their consent; and to impose a duty on registered health practitioners to report any reasonable suspicion they have that a patient or other person has received an organ tissue that was commercially traded or taken without appropriate consent. The offence of trading in tissue or organs has a prescribed maximum penalty of 40 penalty units or imprisonment for six months or both. Where the amount of tissue taken would reasonably be expected to kill the person, or where a vital organ is removed, the maximum penalty is set at 25 years imprisonment. The removal of tissue without consent from a living or dead person has a maximum penalty of 40 penalty points or six months imprisonment. Again, where the organ removed is a vital organ the maximum penalty is set at 25 years imprisonment. Using tissue removed without consent, or receiving for transplantation tissues or organs so acquired, carries matching penalties. The bill also contains exclusions for blood products, hair and semen.

The bill introduces mandatory reporting for registered health practitioners who have reasonable grounds to suspect that a patient or other person has been transplanted with or received tissue that was either trafficked or removed without consent. The bill specifies that failure to comply with mandatory reporting requirements is considered "unsatisfactory professional conduct". This can result, depending on the discretion of the oversight body, in suspension of the medical practitioner from practising medicine or, in the most extreme case, the removal of the practitioner's name from the register. Under the existing law in New South Wales, trading in tissue within the State is prohibited, but that law does not extend to transplants that may occur overseas. There is anecdotal evidence from medical professionals that residents of New South Wales have engaged in unethical organ transplants overseas, having received organs or tissues that were either purchased on the black market or taken from people without their consent. This was confirmed by the Minister for Health in correspondence received as early as January 2013, and I quote:

NSW clinicians involved in the care of patients who may benefit from transplantation actively inform them of the risks of travelling overseas for the procedure. Anecdotally, a very small number of individuals in NSW requiring transplantation travel overseas to access organs.

The numbers from the national register are now clearer. We know that dozens of people from Australia have travelled overseas to acquire organs, and the ethical restraints on those organs is simply not considered by Australian authorities. Two forces have acted together to make the trade in trafficked organs so lucrative. First, medical advances have made organ transplantation more widespread, more affordable and more successful. Indeed, Australia and New South Wales have played a proud part in developing the skills and the capacity to allow for organ transplantation. Some of our largest teaching hospitals and finest universities have honed the skills and the talents for organ transplantation and, in part, this has created a problem.

Places such as the University of Sydney, my alma mater, has trained transplant surgeons who are now core players in the illegal unethical trade in China. Topping that list is Mr Huang Jiefu, who was shamefully given honorary professorship from that university notwithstanding the fact that he has openly admitted to engaging in the transplantation of livers from hundreds and hundreds of executed prisoners in China. Secondly, across the globe organ donation rates remain low and, despite the occasional success such as we see in Spain, remain low across the planet. This means that many people who are waiting for transplants will never receive a matching organ. This can, and does, present an incentive for some governments and organisations to forcibly, or at the very least unethically, obtain organs from their citizens, especially from vulnerable people such as prisoners and minority ethnic groups like the Uighur people and religious groups such as House Christians and Falun Gong in China.

While most countries have laws expressly prohibiting both the sale and forced removal of human organs, compelling evidence suggests that the practice continues to be widespread in a number of countries around the globe. We know organ harvesting is a problem in our region in countries such as China. We also know that organ trafficking is a real and recognised problem in countries including Brazil Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Haiti, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia and the United States of America. Recently troubling evidence has emerged that Egypt is increasingly a source for the unethical trade in organs and the profits are being diverted to terror links within the Middle East. We should be clear about the financial incentive available for a government, organisation or criminal gang to have somebody killed to order for their organs.

Conservative estimates suggest that the value of a person's organs sold at open market and distributed to unethical recipients who are willing to pay exceeds \$US250,000. There are many people on this planet who governments and criminal organisations see as more valuable for their spare parts than as whole humans. In a number of countries organ sales are disguised as donations with few, if any, records being kept to prove consent to donate organs. This suggests that actual informed consent is, at best, unlikely. There are also no requirements for ongoing cover of the medical expenses of so-called donors, and many of those selling organs may be unaware of the ongoing medical issues they can face as a result. Case after case has been documented in countries in our region such as in the Philippines, as well as in India, where impoverished people are given the equivalent of \$AUS200, \$AUS300, \$AUS400 or \$AUS500 to have a kidney removed in brutal, unsanitary conditions and are then left with the lifelong consequences of a botched operation. We cannot allow residents of New South Wales to be a part of that problem.

The World Health Organization has identified organ trafficking as something that is "likely to take unfair advantage of the poorest and most vulnerable groups, undermines altruistic donation and leads to profiteering and human trafficking". Globally, there is strong evidence that it is a multibillion dollar industry and it continues to grow. I note the support this bill has had from members of the community, including those who are in the gallery today, and I thank them for attending, and also from organisations such as Australian Lawyers for Human Rights. We have representations in support of the bill from the Human Rights Relief Foundation, whose chairman says:

We believe that the passing of this legislation is:

- (a) a positive and important step for Australia to keep abreast of legislative responses in other jurisdictions around the world; and
- (b) is important to raise awareness among legal practitioners and the wider community about the practice of organ harvesting and the illegal trade in human tissue.

We have support from the Vietnamese Australian Lawyers' Association, which says:

The legislation will ensure that the most vulnerable are protected from the unconscionable conduct for financial advantage.

We have support from QT Lawyers and Associates. We also have support from the Australian Council for Human Rights Education Incorporated, whose president, Dr Ozdowski, says, in part:

We believe that the passing of this legislation is especially important to stop the practice of organ harvesting in a number of countries including China, where there is a history of selling organs from executed prisoners and prisoners of conscience. As you would know, there is evidence that residents of NSW have purchased illegally obtained organs for transplantation. Legislative initiatives such as this contribute to addressing the problem of global organ trafficking and forced organ harvesting.

We have support from Wendy Rogers of Macquarie University, who is Professor of Clinical Ethics, Department of Philosophy and Department of Clinical Medicine, and Deputy Director of the Macquarie University Research Centre for Agency, Values and Ethics. Amongst other things, Professor Rogers says:

While the actual numbers of NSW residents who travel to receive illegal trafficked organs may be small, this proposed amendment sends a strong message that the NSW government cares about the plight of those from whom trafficked organs are sourced, no matter where in the world they reside. Organ trafficking, in its most extreme forms, amounts to a crime against humanity. In China prisoners of conscience are routinely killed on demand for their organs. We should do anything that is in our power to prevent abuses such as this. By passing this amendment, the NSW government will send a strong message that it does not tolerate abuses of human rights, and in particular, that it does not tolerate NSW residents seeking to further their own health interests at the cost of disadvantaged and abused citizens of other countries.

I have spoken with a number of transplant doctors who are in broad support of aspects of the proposed amendment, including a judicial process to determine guilt.

Professor Rogers goes on to note that there are ongoing conversations within the medical profession about the provisions in the bill that deal with unsatisfactory professional conduct. I look forward to contributions from other members of the House that deal with those difficult issues for medical practitioners. We accept that it is a difficult balancing act to protect human rights and ensure the maintenance of the doctor-patient relationship remains strong in this State. We also have support from the *Sunrise Daily*, the first and only Vietnamese daily newspaper in Australia, as well as support from the Vietnamese Community in Australia NSW Chapter, whose president, Dr Peter Thang Ha, says:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia (NSW Chapter). I am aware of the above mentioned Draft Bill and on behalf of our constituents, I wish to advise our support for the passing of the Bill.

On behalf of the Vietnamese Australians in Australia, many of whom have experienced oppression and denial of human rights in the past and during the Vietnam war, I believe that it is important for us to support Bills such as this which will assist to protect human rights on a global scale.

We believe that this Bill is important as it sends a strong message to the international community that Australia is willing to support international human rights.

This bill is timely and necessary. The passage of this bill would make New South Wales a global citizen and would make a firm statement that we believe human life is precious and that nobody's life can be bought and sold to save another life. I thank the members of the community who have supported this bill. I look forward to ongoing discussions with members of the House on the passage of this bill. It is time for New South Wales to act. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Motions

CROWN LAND SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ (11:36): I move:

- (1) That this House expresses its concern that the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stuart Ayres, MP, has confirmed that he has undertaken market testing of all 11 sport and recreation camps run by the Office of Sport.
- (2) That this House notes that:
 - (a) these sport and recreation camps are located at:
 - (i) Berry in the electorate of Shoalhaven;
 - (ii) Borambola in the electorate of Wagga Wagga;
 - (iii) Broken Bay in the electorate of Gosford;

- (iv) Jindabyne in the electorate of Monaro;
 - (v) Lake Ainsworth in the electorate of Ballina;
 - (vi) Lake Burrendong in the electorate of Dubbo;
 - (vii) Lake Keepit in the electorate of Tamworth;
 - (viii) Milson Island in the electorate of Hornsby;
 - (ix) Myuna Bay in the electorate of Lake Macquarie;
 - (x) Point Wolstoncroft in the electorate of Swansea; and
 - (xi) Sydney Academy, Narrabeen, in the electorate of Wakehurst.
- (b) last year 191,000 participants attended sport and recreation camps at a net cost to the Baird Government of \$2.6 million;
 - (c) these participants largely consisted of school camps but also included people with disabilities;
 - (d) according to the Baird Government's own documents, the camps located at Myuna Bay, Point Wolstoncroft, Broken Bay, Lake Ainsworth, Milson Island, and the Sydney Academy all make a surplus, while regional camps such as Berry, Borambola, Lake Burrendong, Lake Keepit and Jindabyne all rely on cross profits from other camps due to their location and access to population densities;
 - (e) any privatisation of sport and recreation camps poses a significant risk, particularly for regional centres; and
 - (f) sport and recreation camps form an important part of the education curriculum and should be delivered through the control and operation of the Office of Sport and their specialist staff.
- (3) That this House calls on the Baird Government to immediately cease its plans to privatise any sport and recreation camp and guarantee that their operation and control remains in public hands.

This motion relates to the Baird Government's decision to privatise sport and recreation camps. This move by the Government comes as a shock to the Opposition. Sport and recreation camps have been an important part of the education curriculum system in New South Wales for 50 years. Indeed, of the 2,200 public schools in New South Wales we know that more than 1,000 schools attend sport and recreation camps every year. Sport and recreation camps are not an homogenous grouping—for example, Sydney Academy in Narrabeen is a very different facility from the sport and recreation camp at Borambola—and this lies at the heart of the problem with the Government's decision to privatise the camps.

We know from the Government's own documents—not that the Government released them but we managed to get our hands on them—that some camps do not make a profit. We know that the camps at Borambola, Lake Keepit and Lake Burrendong do not make a profit. That should not come as a surprise to anybody because anyone who knows those regions well would be aware that Lake Keepit relies on schools from the Gunnedah, Tamworth and Armidale region in particular, which does not have the same concentration of schools that are found on Milson Island or at Myuna Bay. They are not profitable and they rely on cross-subsidisation from the other sport and recreation camps around the State. That is what keeps them going. Only 150 staff run these 11 sport and recreation camps across the State, the largest number of those being employed at the Sydney Academy in Narrabeen. In places such as Lake Burrendong, although only a small number of staff are employed there, those jobs are important to the local communities. Lake Burrendong buys its milk from local suppliers adding \$150,000 a year to the local economy through a government agency.

The Hon. Walt Secord: Three jobs.

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ: Yes, three jobs—I note the interjection of the Hon. Walt Secord. Those jobs will not necessarily be replicated if private contractors are brought in to lease or own those sport and recreation camps. Last year 191,000 participants attended sport and recreation camps at a net cost of \$2.6 million. When a school takes a child to a sport and recreation camp for a week, it costs the Government only \$14 per child. We have not seen the annual report of the Office of Sport and Recreation but the net operating cost for sport and recreation this financial year is \$17 million. It costs the Government under \$9 for children from organisations such as Westmead Hospital, the Schizophrenia Fellowship or Camp Quality to attend a sport and recreation camp—less than the train fare to Parramatta and back. It is peanuts when compared with what this Government spends. The Government just spent \$200 million buying out the lease of Sydney Olympic Park Stadium—without a business case as to why that lease should be bought.

The \$200 million paid for that lease is the equivalent of funding our sport and recreation camps for the next century—the equivalent of up to 200,000 of our school children, people with disability and people under the care of our hospitals, attending sport and recreation camps for the next 100 years. It is a small cost. The Government says that the largest expense is the 65 per cent labour cost but only 150 people are running 11 camps for nearly 200,000 people across the State. The Government has already started speaking to organisations about privatising the camps. We know this from meetings that the Government has had with organisations such as

PGL Adventure Camps, the YMCA, Belgravia Health and Leisure, the Outdoor Adventure Company, Jack Newton Junior Golf, Lutanda and Crusaders. PGL Adventure Camps is run by PGL Travel Limited which also employs adventure travel staff. PGL's website reveals that it is advertising jobs in Australia. It states:

If you are thinking about the next step in your outdoor career and want a new challenge, then working with PGL in Australia could be the opportunity you have been waiting for. PGL Australia provides an exciting opportunity for you to take your PGL experience and explore a new country.

PGL's Australian centres are developing fast and this is your chance to be part of PGL Australia during an exciting period of growth.

PGL is advertising in England for staff to come to Australia during its period of growth. Under the Government's privatisation proposal 150 staff in New South Wales will lose their jobs and they will be replaced by staff that the company is recruiting from England. Crusaders camps, a Christian organisation, states on its website:

Each CRU Camp is run by a leadership team of committed Christians who are eager to use their gifts to share both the Gospel and their lives with the young people under their care.

Essentially it relies on volunteers to run its camps, not employed staff, which would suit the Government as it will reduce labour costs. However, if one wants to work for Crusaders camps the prerequisite is that one is a Christian and is part of its Christian leadership. Junior assistant leaders have to be between 16 and 18 years of age. I am not completely convinced that people aged 16 to 18 should be running and working in our recreation camps. The Crusaders camp website states that anyone who gets a job can:

Experience Christian leadership first hand with support from senior leaders.

Director—use your God-given networks and gifts to oversee exceptional camps so kids and leaders grow in faith.

I do not have a problem with Christian camps or with the teaching of scripture in schools, but I do have a problem—and I know that other parents also have a problem—sending my child to a sport and recreation camp that is run by a Christian organisation. In the past my children have attended Christian holiday camps and they have come back absolutely furious about the things that were said to them at these camps. They were told that reading Harry Potter books was a sin and that tsunamis and earthquakes occurred as a result of single mothers.

The Hon. Walt Secord: What camps were you sending them to? Why didn't you do due diligence?

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ: Obviously my daughter, who was very young at the time, did not go back to that camp. I twigged to this when my daughter came home crying. I said, "What are you crying about?" and she said, "God is only going to let Christians in and you are not one of them." I said, "It is all right darling. If he is a kind God he will let us all in." Parents are concerned about inappropriate organisations that are running sport and recreation camps. I do not have a problem with those people and their beliefs. They do whatever makes them happy and gets them through the day, which is fair enough. In life people should adopt whatever principles they want to adopt; it is a personal thing. However, it is not a system that our public education groups should be working through.

The Government has given one overriding reason for wanting to privatise sport and recreation camps. The Government does not have a problem with the way in which camps are being run or with who is running them, and it does not believe they are an inefficient use of money, unlike the money spent on teachers, doctors or nurses. The Government's documentation clearly reveals that it wants a return to government. Originally the Government intended to privatise seven of the 11 sport and recreation camps—leaving out the really profitable ones such as Lake Ainsworth and Point Wolstoncraft. However, the Government has now decided to privatise those camps as well. I will deal with that issue later. Instead of the \$1.7 million net cost—under \$9 per student—the Government wants a \$1 million return in 2017-2018 and a \$1.8 million return in 2035-36. And that is before we take into account the profitable camps of Narrabeen, Lake Ainsworth and Point Wolstoncraft.

The Government will expect a far greater return from those camps as Narrabeen sport and recreation camp already has a half million dollar profit above net operating cost. If the Government expects camps such as Lake Burrendong—which does not make a profit because of the concentration of schools around it—to provide it with \$88,000 a year for the privilege of leasing it out and running the camp, which has always been the Government's job and which has been part of our education curriculum system, imagine the amount of money the Government is expecting to get from places such as Narrabeen or Lake Ainsworth where \$10 million has been invested to build an elite ski jumping and waterskiing facility.

The Hon. Walt Secord: The best in Australia.

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ: It is one of only a few in the Southern Hemisphere that is expected to attract people from all over the world. Point Wolstoncraft, which is located on Australia's largest saltwater lake, is the heart of the Sydney Olympic sailing program—an important spot for Australian sport, and sport and recreation camps. It is a highly profitable camp. As I said earlier, the Government wants a \$1 million return in

2017-2018 and a \$1.8 million return in 2035-36. The Government wants a return from sport and recreation camps, but that is not its job. Its job is to provide services to the people of New South Wales; it is not a merchant bank.

The Hon. Catherine Cusack: How do you pay for those services?

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ: I acknowledge the Hon. Catherine Cusack's interjection. The Government pays for those services just as we pay for the services of teachers and doctors. That is what the people of New South Wales expect us to do. The Government's job is not to cost shift on anything that is not nailed down or to pull up the rivets so that it can be sold. The Government has decided to make money rather than offer services. The Government has not gone to the people of New South Wales and told them of the decision to privatise the sport and recreation camps and it was not mentioned during the election campaign. It holds secret meetings and undertakes conversations with private providers. It will be presented to members over the Christmas period as a fait accompli in the hope that nobody will notice.

It does not require legislative changes and it does not require the Government to justify its decision in this Chamber. There would have been an announcement about the privatisation and the staff lay-offs. The NSW Institute of Sport elite sports program, Surf Life Saving learn to swim groups, Camp Quality, Canteen, (RED), Sunnyfield and Schizophrenia Fellowship will all have to enter into commercial negotiations. The problem is that there are very few places in which people with mental illness can be accommodated. Sport and recreation camps are one of the few places that are suitable, affordable and safe for people with disabilities and their carers. Very few members who grew up in New South Wales would not have spent time at a sport and recreation camp. I religiously attended these camps each school holiday when I was not with my grandmother.

The Hon. Catherine Cusack: Not religiously.

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ: My mother worked and there was no-one to look after me during the week. Sport and recreation camps are one of the few places where a child can go for a week and their parents do not have to worry. In reality recreation leave does not cover all the school holidays. During the school holidays 66,000 school kids attended these programs but that does not include the 120,000 school kids who have participated in programs. For some children attending these camps is the first time that they are able to experience water sports. Many kids from Aboriginal communities attend the surf school at Lake Ainsworth and they learn to surf and are taught surf lifesaving skills.

Lake Burrendong and Borambola sport and recreation centres are important to agricultural communities. Running a farm means that families are not able to leave their farming operations and take their kids on holidays. These camps give school kids a break while their parents are working on the farm. I urge every member to support this motion as sport and recreation centres are important. My motion calls on the Government to abandon its privatisation plans for sport and recreation camps as these camps play an important role in the community and are part of our cultural lifestyle. The Minister for Sport shows scant regard for sport and recreation centres and their importance to our communities.

Mr SCOT MacDONALD (11:54): I speak in debate on the motion moved by the Hon. Lynda Voltz and state at the outset that I oppose the motion. Every time there is a policy vacuum Opposition members trot out the word "privatisation". If their argument lacks substance but they want to scare the community they include the word "privatisation" in a motion concerning education, health, sports, or whatever. I will note points of agreement with the Hon. Lynda Voltz. Sport and recreation camps are an important part of the social fabric of this State. They have a long and proud history. I agree with the Hon. Lynda Voltz that people who do not usually have access to sports or recreational pursuits are afforded an opportunity to visit the coast and experience the beaches.

The Hon. Lynda Voltz said that farming families often do not have an opportunity to participate in team sports or interact with their peer groups. During school holiday periods sport and recreation centres provide children with a safe place when parents and carers are not able to supervise them. I agree with the member on many aspects; sport and recreation centres play an important role in our children's lives. When my children went to Lake Ainsworth and Lake Keepit sport and recreation centres they always returned with a smile on their faces. I do not know what they got up to and I worried about that but these camps are good institutions.

I received representations from members of the community on the Central Coast and in the Hunter asking whether these sport and recreation centres will be sold to the highest bidder. The Labor Party is accusing the Government of privatising. As I take my role seriously I respond to that by ratcheting down the rhetoric. As I said earlier, if there is a policy vacuum Opposition members trot out the word "privatisation". Let me respond with the facts. The Minister said that no decision has been made regarding New South Wales sport and recreation centres. These centres will continue to provide high quality outdoor programs for schools and sporting groups as well as key facilities for use by other community groups.

The Office of Sport is determining how best to maximise this outcome whilst ensuring that these centres remain sustainable. Initial market testing confirmed there is interest from not-for-profit and other non-government partners to enhance the services offered at these centres. I advise members that no sport and recreation centres will be sold. Opposition members who have difficulty hearing might want to amend their press release. It appears as though the Hon. Lynda Voltz is using her iPad to amend the press release. I repeat that no sport and recreation centres will be sold. This Government has worked hard to improve the performance of these centres, unlike those opposite who closed Little Wobby Sport and Recreation Centre.

I listened to the speech made by the Hon. Lynda Voltz. I did not interject. I did not talk over the top of her. I would appreciate the same courtesy. This is an important issue in the community and both sides of the argument need to be heard. Notwithstanding their good work in achieving reductions in net cost of service, the centres currently operate at a loss and are underused. The Opposition is using selective figures that do not include all the costs of running and maintaining these centres. The total net cost to the Government of service for all centres was \$8.2 million in 2015-16, which includes all revenue, costs and maintenance expenditure.

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: Point of order: The member is quoting figures that he says he has been provided with, but he should not mislead the House. The Office of Sport and Recreation puts out an annual report—

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): There is no point of order. The Hon. Scot MacDonald is entitled to proceed. He is entitled to be heard in silence. The Hon. Lynda Voltz has attempted to engage Mr Scot Macdonald in banter. It has been inappropriate. The Hon. Lynda Voltz will not interrupt him by taking frivolous points of order. The member may proceed.

Mr SCOT MacDONALD: In addition to this, there is \$6 million for capital works expenditure. If no changes are made to the current service delivery model, the centres will continue to run at a significant cost to Government. Reducing the net cost of service of the centres allows for funding to be redirected to the New South Wales Government's other sport and active recreation priorities. The centres are also constrained by the natural commercial limitations of government operation, which has led to lower use of the centres. In New South Wales students are not required to attend camp or outdoor education programs, and centres face competition from other sources—for example, other school excursion experiences—as well as other outdoor education providers.

Leasing sport and recreation centres to a service provider has precedence in other Australian jurisdictions. Both Victoria and Queensland have leased the operation of their centres in an effort to improve use, enhance community outcomes and promote financial sustainability. The Victorian Government's five centres were leased to a third-party service provider in 2005. The YMCA was awarded the lease to the centres for a 15 year period. The YMCA is responsible for all maintenance and property related expenditure. However, Sport and Recreation Victoria prescribes service levels and approves changes to fees. The YMCA provides a return to the Victorian Government as a percentage of turnover, which the Victorian Government uses to invest in innovation in the sports sector and to increase service standards.

The lease and service level agreements with the YMCA specify service level standards and the maintenance of existing agreements to minimise the impact on the community of leasing the centres. The Victorian Government also uses its service level agreements to increase access to the centres for disadvantaged groups and to enhance the level of service provided to the community. The Queensland Government currently owns six centres. It retains the operation of two centres on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, while three centres are leased to third-party service providers. Service providers are responsible for all ongoing centre maintenance and capital investment and maintain full control over centre operations.

The New South Wales Government is also considering the role of high-performance sport at centres. Lake Ainsworth has been identified as a location for high-performance facilities, and the New South Wales Government has invested \$5.9 million in the Lake Ainsworth international water jump facility. Collaboration between the State and Federal governments will allow the \$10.9 million multipurpose facility to be partially funded to the amount of \$5 million by the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Olympic Committee, through the Olympic Winter Institute of Australia. Lake Ainsworth is a beautiful place in winter.

The multipurpose facility will be wholly owned by the New South Wales Government. The facility will comprise an international Olympic size swimming pool and a water jump ramp to accommodate a variety of users, including local and international athletes, casual and recreational users, families and tourists. The multipurpose facility will be assigned Olympic training centre status and therefore may use the Olympic rings in its marketing. The facility will be a major attraction at the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre, as well as creating new jobs in construction, retail, accommodation and tourism for the wider Lennox Head and Ballina Shire region.

The facility will attract international interest due to the limited availability of suitable training facilities in the Northern and Southern hemispheres. The opportunity to commercialise reciprocal training arrangements

can be an additional source of revenue for both the Government and the local community. The facility will be the first of its type to include a lift, allowing Australian athletes to perform a greater number of practice jumps in a session, which will provide a significant competitive advantage over athletes from other nations.

The decision, when made by the Government, will support the Premier's priorities for the State by: tackling childhood obesity by promoting greater levels of participation in sporting and recreational activities for children of all ages who attend the centres; improving education results, with school age children able to access world-class facilities that promote a positive environment for participation in programs; and improving government services with modern facilities and programs.

We are in furious agreement with the Hon. Lynda Voltz, the mover of the motion, that these centres are important. They play an important role in the community and in the development of our children through their involvement in sport. They play a role in our children's socialisation and provide an opportunity for them to see parts of the State that they might not normally see. I strongly agree with the Hon. Lynda Voltz on that. It is entirely appropriate that the Government review the best way to undertake service delivery. The previous Government allowed commercial activities at sport and recreation centres. The previous Government allowed weddings to be held at Broken Bay and earned revenue from that. Corporate bodies also use some of the venues for training and bonding exercises. Commercial activity already takes place at many of the centres. That is a good thing. It brings in income and exposes the centres to a wider range of users. It is an incentive to keep the facilities up to date.

The Minister values these centres. It is entirely appropriate for the Minister to look at how best to support them, upgrade the facilities and fund them into the future. That review process is underway but no decisions have been made. I strongly urge the local member to take the politics out of the issue. It is not necessary to talk about privatisation in debate about the future of these centres. Labor introduced facets of privatisation to the facilities when it was in government, through reform allowing access by other users. We all look forward to the same outcome. The Government does not support this motion.

The Hon. WALT SECORD (12:07): As shadow Minister for the North Coast I support the motion moved by shadow Minister for Sport the Hon. Lynda Voltz. I congratulate the Hon. Lynda Voltz for drawing this important matter to the attention of the House. The motion acknowledges the vital services provided by the 11 sport and recreational camps and how they are treasured by their communities. In short, they are an Australian institution. They have been used and loved by generations of young Australians. I wish that as a little boy in rural Canada I had had access to such wonderful recreation camps.

The motion recognises how highly successful camps like Lake Ainsworth on the North Coast, near Lennox Head, cross-subsidise smaller, specialist ones like those at Lake Keepit in the New England region and Jindabyne in the Snowy Mountains. The motion calls on the Baird Government to immediately scrap its plans to privatise the 11 sport and recreation camps in New South Wales and to guarantee that their operation and control remains in public hands. I am particularly concerned about the fate of Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre near Lennox Head.

Make no mistake it is one of the most successful and popular ones in the entire State. I formally associate myself with the spirit and aims of the motion. In her introductory remarks, the Hon. Lynda Voltz drew the attention of the House to the decision of the State Liberal-Nationals Government earlier this year to undertake so-called "market testing" of the 11 sport and recreation camps in New South Wales run by the Office of Sport. We all know what an ex-merchant banker from the big end of town like Mike Baird means when he talks about "market testing". We all know the Baird Government would not "market test" if it was not planning to privatise or sell. In late August, leaked documents obtained in her forensic manner by the Hon. Lynda Voltz show that the Minister for Sport, Stuart Ayres, was not going to sell the camps, but instead follow a "delivery model road map" with a view to "leasing" as providing "the most favourable long-term return to government". If it smells like a privatisation, it is a privatisation.

The Hon. Duncan Gay: You want to be careful with that long bow, you'll be in another universe.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Be careful when you are talking about bows and arrows. The memo also confirmed that officials from the Office of Sport had met with private sector operators to discuss how they could pursue the option of leasing the 11 centres. But this is not about "leasing" in the way that most Australians understand it. This is not about a lease of a car, or renting a house. We are talking about 99 year leases. And given that that is beyond the lifetime of the average Australian, the average Australian considers such leases to be as good as sold or privatised. Leasing is a euphemism the Baird Government uses for these effective sales, like it undertook for the electricity network and ports. The sale of 11 sport and recreation camps was never discussed at the 2011 State election or the 2015 State election. This another case of saying one thing before an election and doing another afterwards.

Unfortunately, in New South Wales it is a matter of another day, another privatisation. Whether it is Bondi Pavilion, the electricity network, Maitland, Bowral, Wyong and Shellharbour hospitals, Sydney and Newcastle public transport, the land registry, HomeCare, regional TAFE campuses, land on Beech Road at Suffolk Park near Byron, or our wonderful Sport and Recreation camps, it seems that the Baird Government has a price tag on every aspect of life in New South Wales. In short, nothing is safe from the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government. There is not a single piece of the family silverware that Mike Baird will not put on eBay or flog off. Whether it is at the State, Federal or local level, the Liberals and The Nationals want to privatise our State assets. The community has had a gutful of the Liberals and The Nationals privatising everything in the State. That is why it must stop here. Today, we are calling on the Premier to hit the "stop" button and stop the sell-off of our sport and recreation camps.

The Hon. Duncan Gay: You can't stop it: it's not happening.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Is that a commitment from you, Duncan? The Premier must keep his hands off the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreational Centre. Sport and recreation camps are part of our society. What is more integral to the Australian way of life than sport? What is more socially vital to our regional communities than their sporting teams and clubs? The sport and recreation camps in New South Wales have been around for more than 50 years and their usage continues to grow. Last year alone, more than 191,000 people participated in sport and recreation camps and associated programs at 11 separate locations. About 60 per cent of participants are primary and secondary school students. We know that of the 2,220 public schools in New South Wales more than 1,000 used the 11 facilities last year.

They are very well used and they are also very cost efficient. They also provide a safe and affordable place for children to take part in school camps and activities. For many of them, these activities would be out of reach if they were not provided by the State Government and the New South Wales taxpayer. Premier Mike Baird cannot pretend that the community support these clubs offer would continue under a for-profit operator. Any privatisation would see an increase in fees, putting these camps out of reach of many families. Last year, their net cost to the taxpayer was \$2.6 million. That is very good value. That translates to between \$9 and \$14 a kid to attend a New South Wales sport and recreation camp.

As well as being used for school camps, they provide a valuable service to people with disabilities wanting to engage in physical activity. Dozens of groups use the facilities. They include: Family and Community Services, TAFE for outdoor education, the NSW Institute of Sport for elite sports, surf lifesaving and learn-to-swim groups, Camp Quality, Canteen, Westmead Children's Brain Injury Unit, Family Respite, various wheelchair sport groups, the Haemophilia Association, Camp Willing and Able, Southern Cross University, a diverse range of cultural groups and many, many more. In addition, programs can be "tailor made" by professional staff to meet their specific needs.

I will now focus my comments on the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre on the North Coast at Lennox Head. It is set on 118 hectares of coastal land near Lennox Head in the electorate of Ballina. Just one hour south of the Gold Coast, it provides a range of services, facilities and accommodation options for school camps, family camps, kids' camps, sporting events, weddings, weekend getaways and community programs. It also has tennis courts, a swimming pool and beach access. I know that Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre at Lennox Head is the site where hundreds of Aboriginal kids from western New South Wales have learned to swim and surf. On many occasions it is actually the first time an Aboriginal kid from far western remote New South Wales has actually visited the sea. As shadow Minister for the North Coast, I note the strong pride the North Coast community takes in the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre. Local Richmond Labor Federal member of Parliament Justine Elliot said:

Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre has and continues to be a vital asset to the Lennox Head community in my electorate of Richmond. For many years it has provided a fun and safe place for recreation, camps and excursions for many groups; mostly schools.

If you speak to people in my electorate, they will share their fond memories with their children or as kids themselves around Lake Ainsworth and at this centre. It would be a cruel and shameful decision by the Baird Liberal National Government to rob children of this great facility through their plans to privatise sport and recreational camps across NSW.

Lake Ainsworth is absolutely valued by the North Coast community and any move to privatise the facility will be fought by the community, and fought hard. The Baird Government has underestimated the strength of North Coast communities before; for example, their views on coal seam gas and unconventional gas exploration or the Baird Government's unnecessary delay on shark nets at Ballina. Maybe the Government should remember that before embarking on another battle. Rather than selling the facilities, the Baird Government should be supporting these sport and recreation centres.

On a final note, I find a recent decision by the Minister for Sports and member for Penrith, Stuart Ayres absolutely mindboggling. This was the Baird Government budget promise in June 2016 that it would build a more

than \$10 million winter sport facility at the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre. Upon completion it would be one of the best in Australia, perhaps in the Southern Hemisphere. This is absolutely welcomed, but it is strange that they would invest in a facility and try to create a world-class winter sport training facility and then on the other hand privatise it. It is absolutely mindboggling.

Under the plan, the Baird Government promised to build a world-class international ski jump ramp and high performance centre to train future Olympians and international competitors. The Baird Government billed it as a site to train and it would replace an antiquated facility in Victoria. But it is clearly a case of fattening the goose for a future sale. And it is scandalous that, rather than seek investment from the private sector, this Government wants to spend taxpayer funds to build assets which it plans to hand over on completion to private profit. I commend the motion to the House and thank the Hon. Lynda Voltz for her diligence and work in the area of sport and recreation. I also stand by those who value Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre near Lennox Head. I thank the House for its consideration.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD (12:12): As The Greens spokesperson on sport in this Chamber, I thank the Hon. Lynda Voltz for moving this motion. The Greens are concerned by the Minister's confirmation that the Government is undertaking market testing. There has been some quibbling with words in the Chamber today. The idea that this is not a form of privatisation is a bit absurd in reality. Members speaking on behalf of the Government have said that there has been no decision. Of course, the inference is that there is consideration. The consideration is not for a sale but for a lease. We can all acknowledge what is going on. Market testing is occurring. Not-for-profit providers and others—that is, for-profit providers—are considering how they can best make use of these sport and recreation facilities. It is fair to say that the Government is considering privatising these facilities and private operators will probably service the needs of organisations other than those who currently use them.

I agree with the Government that we should use these facilities in the best way possible and maximise their effectiveness. We should do that because they serve an important purpose, particularly for primary and secondary school students, other community groups and up-and-coming as well as perhaps high-performance sportspeople. It is absurd to think that the Government could not improve these facilities, put in place high-performance infrastructure and open them up in the best way possible to maximise the money gained from operating them. However, the Government should ensure that as many people as possible can access these facilities to have the experiences that so many people enjoy.

I did not grow up in New South Wales. As a kid I remember going to the sport and recreation centre next to the beach at Yeppoon just north of where I lived in Gladstone. I remember learning how to shoot a bow and arrow at the centre and walking down the sandy bush track from the cabins to the beach. I also remember leadership training about group dynamics and having to get through obstacle courses. Those are all important things. One sport and recreation camp at risk of privatisation by this Government is at Berry next to Seven Mile Beach in the Shoalhaven. It is a beautiful place for primary and high school students and community groups to camp just near the beach. Children can see some of the last remnant bangalay sand forest as part of a school excursion. They can learn about how much of those wonderful wetlands are being destroyed by sandmining and why it is important to protect them. The centre also has rowing facilities.

A future leaders program is coming up this year at the Berry camp, which provides primary school students from years 4 to 6 with the chance to learn and develop leadership skills. It is a wonderful thing for sport and recreation centres to run leadership programs for senior primary school students. It would be a real shame if as a result of leasing out these facilities the cost of those sorts of programs increased and a family with a promising child could not afford to give their child the opportunity to attend. That is really what we are talking about here.

I have spoken to people who know what is at risk by privatising these facilities. I understand that the centre managers have incredible discretion to decide how much to charge a particular group or school for a particular service based on the socio-economic realities of that group or school. That is a wonderful thing they can do. It would be a real shame if that ability was lost because the Government simply became a property manager with a service agreement and decided the cost based on its negotiations with either a for-profit or not-for-profit private provider. The discretion of centres to ensure that as many young people as possible can access these services at a very small cost could be lost. That is a very real concern.

I agree with concerns that the mover of the motion expressed in interjections. Some conflicting numbers have been thrown around. The first thing I did when I became a member of this place was to sit in the budget estimates hearing for the Minister and ask questions along with the Hon. Lynda Voltz. The net cost of delivery of service as per the annual report and as agreed I think by the Minister is \$2.6 million. I appreciate there is some cost shifting because some centres are more profitable than others. There is a reason that we would want to pay to keep some unprofitable centres running: They may be the places that disadvantaged and regional students have access to. We must keep that in mind. It costs between \$9 and \$14 per person to attend a centre for a week-long camp. That is a miniscule cost to the Government for the value that students get out of it.

Most people who go to camp remember the experience. If they come from a family that cannot afford regular holidays it might be their first experience with nature. It might be the first time they walked through a forest or spent time away from home and learned what that is like. Young people also build meaningful relationships and might have a special relationship during school camp, which is certainly a memorable thing. It would be a real shame if kids could not experience those things because the Government decided to lease out the camp and the cost went up. The Greens support the motion. We call on the Baird Government to immediately cease its plans for privatisation through the selling or leasing of sport and recreation camps and to guarantee that their operation and control will remain in public hands. I again highlight my concern as a South Coast local for the Berry camp and its future leadership program later this year. I commend the motion to the House.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN (12:26): The motion moved by the Hon. Lynda Voltz is in the following terms:

- (1) That this House expresses its concern that the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stuart Ayres, MP, has confirmed that he has undertaken market testing of all 11 sport and recreation camps run by the Office of Sport.
- (2) That this House notes that:
 - (a) these sport and recreation camps are located at:
 - (i) Berry in the electorate of Shoalhaven;
 - (ii) Borambola in the electorate of Wagga Wagga;
 - (iii) Broken Bay in the electorate of Gosford;
 - (iv) Jindabyne in the electorate of Monaro;
 - (v) Lake Ainsworth in the electorate of Ballina;
 - (vi) Lake Burrendong in the electorate of Dubbo;
 - (vii) Lake Keepit in the electorate of Tamworth;
 - (viii) Milson Island in the electorate of Hornsby;
 - (ix) Myuna Bay in the electorate of Lake Macquarie;
 - (x) Point Wolstoncroft in the electorate of Swansea; and
 - (xi) Sydney Academy Narrabeen in the electorate of Wakehurst.
 - (b) last year 191,000 participants attended sport and recreation camps at a net cost to the Baird Government of \$2.6 million;

I do not believe it is a cost. Rather, it is an investment. I will talk more about that in a moment. The motion continues:

- (c) these participants largely consisted of school camps but also included people with disabilities;
 - (d) according to the Baird Government's own documents, the camps located at Myuna Bay, Point Wolstoncroft, Broken Bay, Lake Ainsworth, Milson Island, and the Sydney Academy all make a surplus, while regional camps such as Berry, Borambola, Lake Burrendong, Lake Keepit and Jindabyne all rely on cross profits from other camps due to their location and access to population densities;
 - (e) any privatisation of sport and recreation camps poses a significant risk, particularly for regional centres; and
 - (f) sport and recreation camps form an important part of the education curriculum and should be delivered through the control and operation of the Office of Sport and their specialist staff.
- (3) This House calls on the Baird Government to immediately cease its plans to privatise any sport and recreation camp and guarantee that their operation and control remains in public hands. On behalf of the Christian Democratic Party I speak in particular on the market testing of sport and recreation camps operated by the Office of Sport. The website of the Office of Sport states that kids benefit in lots of ways at sport and recreation camps at the junior level. They learn to challenge themselves while growing in confidence and independence, having fun and making new friends along the way. Older kids get to engage in a healthy and active lifestyle that promotes team building, problem solving and leadership, while enhancing their social skills, personal growth and self-esteem. The Office of Sport holds day camps, overnight camps and residential camps for up to five days. All camps are run by fully qualified staff and cater for special diets, medical conditions and allergies. The costs include all meals and available activities, as well as dormitory accommodation for overnight camps, and supervised transport to and from the residential camps is available for most programs. James Robertson, in an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, stated:

For up to 70 years, the "sport and rec" camps have been an integral initiation into NSW schools and the outdoors. Bushwalking, orienteering, archery, abseiling and evading so many spiders who inhabited cabin walls.

Critics argue that public health and outdoor activity is a public good that requires expenditure at time of high investment in elite sports and when children are spending an increasing amount of time watching screens. When I was at school we used to go to Bonny Hills for our orienteering, pillow fights, mini food fights and practical jokes. I became a master practical joker but it was not appreciated by—

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: A bit of short-sheeting was going on.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: Yes, and since being in nursing I have learnt a few other tricks. Short-sheeting, shaving foam in shoes and other more complicated ones.

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: We will not talk about Glad wrap on the toilet seat.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: Glad wrap, vegemite and they just keep going. I note the glint in the eye of the Hon. Lynda Voltz. She was probably the queen of practical jokes at her camps. That must be why we share a kindred spirit in this motion. In 2002 Jan Payne, Sandra Capra and Ingrid wrote a paper entitled, "Residential camps as a setting for nutrition education of Australian girls." They found that developing programs to improve the nutrition of children to prevent the development and progression of obesity is a public priority. They also said, and I quote:

Camp settings have also been used in Canada and the United States for health promotion in children with chronic diseases for many years. Programs implemented throughout the last decade publicise the success of this style of program for nutrition education in children with chronic diseases such as cystic fibrosis, asthma and kidney disease.

Earlier, in the Jubilee Room, some of us heard about the great work Tour de Cure is doing in raising funds for world-leading cancer research. We learnt about its hopes and dreams for kids across Australia to learn what it is to have a healthy, fun and loving lifestyle in order to try to reduce the incidence of cancer. To date it has raised about \$27.5 million and, importantly, there have been 18 breakthroughs in the more than 250 different cancer research programs. Both the Hon. Lynda Voltz and I agree that healthy children are those who play outside—

The Hon. Robert Brown: Hear, hear!

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: —not locked inside on their Xbox or PlayStation 4 playing Warcraft.

The Hon. Robert Brown: You know a lot about this.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: I have six children. They are always into cyberworld entertainment, but they always have to shut down their computers and have some time outside. For a while the family would come together at the end of the day and play cricket. Of late we have been playing handball, but I must admit I am losing my edge.

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: So they are beating you?

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: In fact, rather than my losing, they might be better off doing cyber stuff. Sport and recreational camps play a significant role in reducing obesity among young people. They promote and facilitate implementation of best practice, healthy eating, and physical activity initiatives in structured programs and environments. Young kids and families learn to be active, to use their minds and bodies, and to work together. The Hon. Lynda Voltz has expressed great concern about any privatisation of school camps, particularly rural community camps. Her motion says that they play an important part in the education curriculum and should only be operated by the Office of Sport and their specialised staff. The Public Service Association of NSW has also expressed concern. It said that many groups in the community utilise the facilities and services of sport and recreational centres in New South Wales, including primary and secondary schools, disability services and many other community groups. It said further that sport and recreation camps play a vital role in delivering the outdoor education curriculum.

During the school holidays some parents use these camps as cost-effective holiday care. The programs offer important life skills to students who otherwise may not have the opportunity to participate in these character-building experiences. The youth group at my local church fundraise to go to summer camp. A lot of them, including the leaders, wash cars and sell chocolates, but they also ask the church to sponsor some extra positions for kids who cannot afford it or who would never have the opportunity. We need to find ways to make sure that the most disadvantaged kids—whether that be from financial disadvantage, family breakdown or their mental health—are not hindered from attending these and other programs across New South Wales. As a nurse, I believe in holistic care but we are moving away from talking about the spiritual side. I know the Hon. Lynda Voltz did mention it—

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: I have no problem with the spiritual side.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: I understand that. Most of us probably have a problem with our kids coming home telling us that we are going to hell. I do not think that is a very compassionate or merciful conversation, but we should not throw the baby out with the bathwater. My kids go to a public school. They are told a lot of things that do not fit my world view so we have to have those discussions. It goes both ways. There has to be give and take.

Ms Jan Barham: You are so balanced.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: That is right. In the end it is up to the parents to have that discussion. But at these camps a lot of kids find out about different dynamics from talking to other kids—their parents are not together, or they have three brothers from one family and two sisters from another. The kids come home fully versed in all these things they have learnt. This helps them to process the world in which they live and to move to the next level. It does not all happen in a school room or in the playground; it quite often happens at these camps when kids confide in other kids. They find out that they have the same challenges or they maybe lonely and talking about suicide. These are important things for our kids to download to make sense of their world.

There will always be different world views, but we must not throw the baby out with the bathwater because we do not agree. We need to have the conversation. Most kids come home and have a conversation with their parents, who should then mentor them in how to process the information in the current world and go forward. Sport and recreation camps are an incredibly important part of the education curriculum for our kids. The four pillars of life are to be spiritual, physical, psychological and social, and without that holistic approach we cannot have a healthy wellbeing.

The Government has advised that it does not have plans to privatise any of the school camps run by the Office of Sport. The Government has advised that it is performing market testing to seek out potential leases, as Victoria does with the YMCA, and Queensland. My main concern about the leasing to private organisations is the cost to families. Prices will go up because it is competitive—it is inevitable. Even if the organisations are not for profit, the cost will still go up for families because the camps were previously subsidised by the Government. As I say, when something is subsidised by the Government I do not see it as a cost. It is like a local swimming pool that is subsidised by the local council—it is an investment.

The Hon. Robert Brown: It is a community service obligation.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: I acknowledge the interjection from the Hon. Robert Brown: It is a community service obligation. For instance, libraries are free, so why not the local swimming pool? People can go into libraries and get intellectual exercise, but if they go to the local pool they have to pay for that, even though swimming pools help the wellbeing of individuals. Why do we not charge people to go to libraries? People could put in a couple of bucks and go through a turnstile. That scares a lot of people. But I do not err on that side, and this is where I separate from that view. I err on the other side and say that, no, libraries are free and the local pool should be too.

Ms Jan Barham: If we recognise the social capital.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: If we recognise that it is social capital.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): Order! I remind members that this is not a conversation.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: We realise that sport and recreation camps add to the social capital. They add to the physical wellbeing of a child, they add to the social wellbeing of a child and they add to the psychosocial, physical and spiritual wellbeing of a child—they provide a holistic approach to a child's wellbeing. I would love to speak on this further, but I will conclude my remarks. We know that the American health care system is in tatters—the rich can afford it, the poor cannot. We do not want to go down the path where our students and the most disadvantaged cannot afford to go to sport and recreation camps because someone has profited, even if it is a not-for-profit organisation. We need to ensure that whatever we do we make it affordable for our kids for the betterment of their full holistic health care.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): I understand that the Hon. Robert Brown will make a brief contribution. I then intend to give the call to the Hon. Catherine Cusack because she has been waiting for some time. Subject to the availability of time, I will then give the call to a Labor member.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (12:41): Yes, I will be brief.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): I am not discouraging you from speaking for a longer time.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN: I did ask the Hon. Catherine Cusack if she would allow me to speak before her and she graciously agreed. I will keep my word and I will be very brief. I look at the motion and I read down the list of sport and recreation camps. I have been to every one of them, but not as a school student. They are also called family camps. When I first got married, I was just a tradesman. We did not have a lot of money and I had a Mini Minor that had cost me 30 bucks. My wife and I, and our two small children spent school holidays in tiny youth hostels all around the State and in sport and recreation family camps.

We did that for two reasons. First, nowhere else can you get the variety of experiences for children that you can get in these family camps. There are some dangerous activities, such as boomerang making, because after boomerang making comes boomerang testing. You have to have a very tuned ear because when you hear the sound of a boomerang slicing through the air you have to duck. My two boys, who are in their 40s now, learned how to make boomerangs, they learned how to shoot a bow and arrow, they learned how to paddle a kayak, they learned how to handle a sailing craft, they learned how to surf and they learned how to look after themselves. They also learned how to cooperate and how to be part of the kitchen roster. The instruction was provided by young people—I am not sure whether they were employees of the Department of Sport and Recreation or whatever it was called—

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: Yes, they are.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN: —who were, I will call them, experts in these various fields. We have all seen the television shows over the decades about American summer camps. That is what these camps were like. The second reason we used to go to sport and recreation camps was that they were cost effective—we could afford to go. Over the past 50 years I have noticed caravan parks and camping grounds in New South Wales moving away from community-based facilities operated by councils to pay-as-you-go facilities. I am grateful to whatever government has dreamed up these camps in the past, and my family is grateful. I will be supporting the motion because of nostalgia and because I agree with the Hon. Paul Green. All the points the Hon. Paul Green raised about the health of families and the health of our young people were spot on.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK (12:45): I add my name to the long list of members who have visited these sport and recreation centres, and I completely endorse the words of the Hon. Robert Brown that it is not only about school activities because many of these centres are known as family camps. My family has certainly very much enjoyed the same experiences, particularly at Lake Keepit. Members who have not visited Lake Keepit may not be aware that it has virtually a fully operating caravan park with a very large number of permanent caravans.

Ms Jan Barham: Where is it?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: It is near Gunnedah. The park is popular for waterskiing. At the time we visited there was very little water in the dam, but I have no doubt that the dam would be much fuller now. We stayed in a couple of cabins and then we headed out west to the outback. The New South Wales Government and Crown Lands have a vast number of public accommodation facilities available to be booked, whether national parks, Crown-owned holiday parks or sport and recreation facilities. I think Sydney Water also has buildings that are available for rent. The Baird-Grant Government is doing a fantastic job in reviewing the condition of these facilities, ensuring that they are being properly maintained and that access is expanded, and reforming the Government's arrangements. Through the Government's whole approach to infrastructure funding, improving these taxpayer-owned assets and ensuring that they are used for the enjoyment for all, a variety of new methods of looking at how these facilities can be most efficiently administered and how infrastructure can be funded have been undertaken.

Members will be aware that New South Wales is currently experiencing an infrastructure boom as a result of a government that has the imagination, the creativity, the vision and the discipline to source funds from many, many different methods—the leasing of electricity assets has been one method, and that was a tough decision, and asset recycling was another. We now have in Sydney something in the order of 269 cranes on our skyline, we have work going on aboveground and underground, and we have a long overdue injection of funds that is causing our economy to be number one in Australia in growth and employment. There is now real excitement about the future for Sydney. This has been the approach that we have taken across all portfolios. In relation to sport and recreation camps, the Minister has talked about market testing the administration of 11 sport and recreation camps that are currently being run by the Office of Sport—a bureaucracy.

These holiday camps, and sport and recreation facilities are currently being run by public servants. From this the Labor Party has taken the enormous leap in logic that all these facilities will be privatised. They are the Labor Party's words grabbed out of the air for the purposes of a self-serving scare campaign. The Opposition is telling the communities that host and love these facilities—without a shred of evidence—that because the Minister is market testing the administration of these facilities the Government is therefore looking at selling, for example, more than 100 hectares of prime coastal land at Lennox Head. Those opposite ignore the fact that the Minister has just announced public funding of \$5.9 million for a new ski facility at that camp. It is illogical, self-serving nonsense.

When Opposition members had their chance in government, they allowed these facilities to run down dramatically. As a mum of two little boys in Lennox Head, we would have loved to have been able to access the Lake Ainsworth facility, but it was completely shut off from the local community. The relationship between the

facility and the local community was dysfunctional and one of deep resentment. The staff at the facility locked themselves away in the office and kept the boom gate down. Even during school holidays our access to that facility was restricted. There were signs everywhere saying, "Do not enter". No money spent on maintaining the road access to the facility and Lake Ainsworth now has a big erosion problem on the banks—

Ms Jan Barham: And the algal bloom.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: The algal bloom is caused by a different issue. The water flows towards the ocean, not away from the ocean and the algal bloom is coming from a different direction. But the road to the Lake Ainsworth camp is in desperate need of maintenance. Under the Labor Government the dredging program for the lake ceased. Dredging ensured that there was a sandy beach, but now the beach has gone. There has been no partnership with council or the community to look after that. As members have mentioned, these facilities have been operating for some 70 years; they need money to keep them modern and safe. We do not want parts of the facility to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance. We do not want restoration and refurbishment of the facilities to be hindered because there is a lack of money. Some 11 facilities are attempting to cater for 191,000 kids each year on a \$6 million capital budget, which is insufficient to maintain all of those facilities. So the operators—legitimately—have to close off that part of the facility until eventually they come to the top of the long queue for funds and it can be refurbished.

The relationships that some members have described with these facilities began in 2011 when a breath of fresh air blew through the bureaucracies that were administering these highly valued facilities. Jason, the General Manager at Lake Ainsworth, is a joy to deal with. As members have said, many of these facilities are used intensively during the holidays, but they are sitting there 365 days a year. Jason has worked with the community and the Government to find ways in which we can make those facilities more accessible, to bring an income to the sport and recreation centre that can be reinvested in maintaining, improving and enhancing the facilities.

Eighteen months ago I visited the camp at Lake Keepit, which is sorely in need of a facelift and money to maintain its road. Members opposite speak about money being used to subsidise children's visits as though the Government has a vision of privatising the recreation camps and now suddenly poor children cannot attend. The purpose of these facilities is to be accessible to all and the Government is trying to find ways to make them more accessible to more children and their families. That is the approach Minister Stuart Ayres has taken to his portfolio. How does it help children if several million dollars is absorbed in resurfacing a road? This is what most of the money gets sunk into, but the Government wants to continue providing subsidies for children to attend camps.

Minister for Education Hon Adrian Piccoli is a strong supporter of these programs. Nobody has been more active than my National Party colleagues in attracting more children to these facilities, to give them a country experience and to link those visits with other rural experiences. We are trying to find out how we can configure the administration better and how we can maximise different sources of funding to achieve that. At this point no announcement has been made. The Minister has said he is looking at how these goals can be achieved and that is what we have Ministers for. It would be irresponsible and unethical to say, "I will leave these places to rot in the ground until they become so unsafe and so boring—"

The Hon. John Ajaka: Like they did.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Like those opposite did—shut them off from the local community because that is cheaper. We had access to one school holiday program. The charge was about \$15 a day, for which your child got to attend the facility and basically ride bikes. Those camps were shut down, except to private organisations that were making bookings, because the facility had no money. We must change how the model works. During my time as shadow Minister for the Environment, I spent a lot of time trying to work out how we could get children to rural areas—particularly those from western Sydney, many of whom come from multicultural backgrounds. Some children who were born overseas have experienced only Sydney. I wanted to find ways to encourage, educate and inform families from overseas to jump in their car and drive a couple of hours across the mountains where amazing experiences await them. They are affordable and accessible, and it is not that difficult but many such families find that task daunting.

The Western Plains Zoo is a jewel in the crown of publicly owned assets in New South Wales, and although it is full at holiday times it was underutilised during school terms. We designed a small program that used spare train capacity so that children could go to the zoo and spend a few nights in the wonderful camping facilities established there. The first school to undertake that program came from a primary school in the Mulgoa electorate of Tanya Davies. Children fell asleep to the sounds of animals, birds and zoo noises. The experience linked into educational activities for the rest of the term. It was good for Dubbo and good for the zoo, and it was

sensational for the children. I hope that it will plant the idea that people can get into their cars and cross the mountains, which, for many people, are a psychological barrier.

Under Labor, holiday parks were contracted out to private sector managers—a model that might be worthy of exploring for some of our sport and recreation centres. The website and booking system has been reformed and the availability of information about and accessibility to the parks has meant that they are being booked out and there is a massive surge in participation. That is our goal for sport and recreation centres. The Hon. Stuart Ayres wishes to replicate that good governance and good management in opening up facilities and freeing up resources by ensuring that they are run as efficiently as possible.

Public servants are brilliant at undertaking certain activities. However running booking systems and operating maintenance systems can be done well by the private sector and by small business. I support giving people who are passionate about such facilities a role in their management and operation. No decisions have been made, but we should all welcome the fact that best practice is being investigated by the Minister. For the Labor Party to leap to a conclusion about privatisation and to try to create a scare campaign in communities that sensitive vegetation will be sold off is irresponsible rubbish. There is not even a splinter of truth to back up what those opposite allege in this motion. [*Time expired.*]

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan): I will now leave the Chair. The House will resume at 2.30 p.m.

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

Questions Without Notice

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (14:30): My question is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. With yesterday's election of Donald Trump as the next President of the United States, who has given a public commitment to scrap the Trans-Pacific Partnership, has the Government assessed the impact that this would have on New South Wales dairy and beef farmers?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (14:31): I thank the member for his question. The issue affects many jurisdictions, not just that of the New South Wales Government. The Federal Government has responsibility for the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. The New South Wales Government ensures that the primary industry sector in this State is able to withstand challenges from many different areas. Access to international markets is one of those challenges. The variability in commodity prices is another challenge. There are other challenges for the primary industry sector brought about by climate variability and natural resources.

This Government has committed to ensuring that primary producers in New South Wales are able to meet those challenges. That is why we have an industry action plan to make the primary industry sector in New South Wales as resilient as possible. That is why we have a target to increase the productivity of the primary industry sector by 30 per cent by 2020. That is why we have gone to the next level and rolled out plans for individual sectors to try to meet the target. One of those, which I launched, was the industry action plan for the dairy sector.

We have outstanding primary producers in this State. We have abundant natural resources and different climatic and growing conditions, but we know that there are also challenges. The Government is very conscious to advocate for and promote the competitive advantages that we have in New South Wales. I have said it before and I will say it again: Our biggest competitive advantages are in biosecurity and food safety. We may not always be able to compete on price but we can compete on quality. In biosecurity and food safety we have a competitive advantage over our trading partners. It does not matter what happens in the United States, Asia or Europe; we will continue to make our primary industries resilient. We will make sure that the sector is the best that it can be. It is supported by a government that is investing in innovation and research. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the people in that industry, ready to weather any storm they may face in the future. We are removing some of the risk in that sector by making sure that it is front and centre—

The Hon. Walt Secord: The Winston Churchill of agriculture!

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Absolutely. I am absolutely committed to this sector. We will stand on the shores, we will stand on the beaches and we will make sure that our primary producers can face any challenge. That is what this Government will do. While I have this portfolio, I will be the strongest advocate for the sector. I will ensure that the sector has the resilience to meet every challenge. That is my commitment and I will continue it.

WESTCONNEX AND M4-M5 LINK

The Hon. LOU AMATO (14:35): My question is addressed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Would the Minister update the House on the new design features of the M4-M5 link section of WestConnex?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (14:36): Earlier today I released more good news: details of improved design features for the most critical section of WestConnex, the M4-M5 link. Past Labor governments focused purely on upgrading the M4 and M5 and constantly overlooked the critical need to link the two. The former Minister for Transport ruled it out. Labor's current policy is to be critical of something it ruled out. Labor wanted the roads to end in Haberfield and St Peters, never to be joined.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: The whole justification for—

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: The Hon. Penny Sharpe ruled it out and the current shadow Minister for Transport is doing the same. Because of that short-sighted approach, past concepts have not been feasible from either a traffic flow perspective or a financial perspective. They were certainly not acceptable to the communities who would have been affected by them. The \$7 billion M4-M5 link is the spine of Sydney's future motorway network. It will provide connections to the proposed western harbour tunnel and the future F6. When WestConnex is completed, heavy traffic from the M4 will not spill onto Parramatta Road. Likewise, heavy traffic from the M5 East, including trucks hauling cargo containers to and from Port Botany, will not spill onto inner city residential streets.

Put simply, two motorways will be joined to allow a constant flow of traffic. That is the key feature of the WestConnex project, which is often lost on its opponents. The worst traffic scenario for the inner west is for the last stage of WestConnex, the M4-M5 link that the Government announced today, not to be built. That is the Labor Party's policy. That is why Labor members are quiet on the Opposition benches. Not one of them is proud of their policy. They know it is a bad policy. They know it was a political move to get Penny Sharpe elected to a seat in the inner west. That worked well, did it not? Welcome back, Pen.

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Point of order: The way in which the Minister, who is experienced, referred to a member of the Opposition is inappropriate. I ask that he be reminded of the way in which members should be addressed.

The PRESIDENT: Order! All members should remember to refer to members of this House by their proper title. Remarks should be directed through the Chair. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: As a result of some great engineering there is now the potential for the twin tunnels between Haberfield and St Peters to be open to motorists in 2022 earlier than previously expected because the tunnels will be able to be built as a standalone project and initially operate separately from the Rozelle interchange and the Iron Cove link. They will increase from three to four lanes in each direction which will help future proof Sydney's road network as it links to other major road projects. People in this House would remember that the M5 East was obsolete before it was opened. That will not happen with this Government. We are future proofing the city. We need three lanes but we are building four lanes for the future. How good is that? Under the plan of the Hon. Penny Sharpe the Opposition was going to stop the project so that she could win an inner west seat.

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Point of order: The Minister is reflecting on a member. I ask that he be directed to withdraw it.

The Hon. Lynda Voltz: To the point of order: The Minister is also making imputations about the motives of the member. I ask you to bring him back to order.

The PRESIDENT: Order! While I did not hear all the Minister's remarks as I was distracted, I nevertheless remind the Minister and all members that it is disorderly to make imputations of improper motives or to reflect on members. I ask all members to bear that in mind.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I would not use a prop but I see that the *Sydney Morning Herald*—

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Point of order: The Minister is flaunting the traditions of this House. He is holding up a piece of paper and saying that he would not use a prop. He is about to do that. The Minister is a disgrace. He should know better.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Greg Donnelly should sit down and not make remarks about members while purporting to take a point of order.

The Hon. John Ajaka: To the point of order: The standing orders allow a member to read passages from a document. Clearly that is what the Minister was about to do.

The PRESIDENT: I do not have time to find them, but previous Presidents' rulings say that quoting from a newspaper article, even though the piece of paper might be a prop if waived around and not quoted from, is in order. The Minister, in the three remaining seconds, may wish to do so.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I would not use this as a prop but I am certainly going to read from it. [*Time expired.*]

The Hon. LOU AMATO (14:42): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate his answer about the connection of the M4 and M5?

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Point of order: That is not a supplementary question and should be ruled out of order.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: To the point of order: The member was clearly seeking an elaboration on the connection of the M4 and M5, which was raised in the Minister's answer.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The interpretation of the Standing Orders and rulings made by previous Presidents require specifically an elucidation of an aspect of the Minister's answer. There was no doubt that that was a matter touched upon by the Minister and that the Hon. Lou Amato asked for an elucidation of an aspect. However, it was a close run thing, given that the original question was very similar to the supplementary question. On this occasion I will allow it. To merely restate the original question is not seeking an elucidation of an aspect of the Minister's answer, but I will allow it on this occasion.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (14:44): I can understand why the Opposition is concerned about what I was about to read. Jake Saulwick, that well-known and excellent scribe from the respected journal the *Sydney Morning Herald*, wrote an article entitled "Labor backs half of WestConnex but not the middle" which makes about as much sense as the policy of the Labor Party.

The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane: Point of order: The Minister is addressing the crowd behind him, not the chair.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There have been Presidents' rulings that have clearly indicated that while remarks must be addressed through the Chair, the speaker is not required to face the Chair while he is addressing those remarks through the Chair.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: It is clear that Opposition members are embarrassed as we have caught them out. Opposition members have no ideas and no policy. They were not able to deliver infrastructure when they were in office and they are not able to devise infrastructure policies in opposition. Today we announced the linking of the M4 and the M5, which will be delivered 12 months ahead of time. In addition, we are building four lanes each way. We are also moving half a kilometre west away from the proposed route as that is the optimum route, which will allay the concerns of people at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. There will not be an exit onto Parramatta Road. Thousands of people were letterboxed by one of the class action legal companies—shame on that unnamed class action legal company for creating such concern. It is just as bad as The Greens. We doorknocked those people today to let them know that they should no longer be concerned. This is the biggest win for this city for a long time, especially for Newtown. [*Time expired.*]

MOSQUITO CONTROL

The Hon. WALT SECORD (14:47): I direct my question to the Minister for Primary Industries, who has responsibility for insect pests. In order to protect animals and the community, has the Minister or his department enacted a management plan to monitor and effectively control the mosquito outbreak in central western New South Wales due to recent heavy floods and rain?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (14:48): I am responsible for any mosquito outbreak and the impact that such an outbreak might have on livestock.

The Hon. Walt Secord: I said that in my question.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: If the member does not want an answer I am happy to sit down. If he would like me to continue to provide the House with an answer I am also more than happy. If he wants to interject I can run the clock down and play that game as well. Agencies such as Local Land Services and the Department of Primary Industries [DPI] have the ability to provide advice and information to landholders on the impact that any type of insect might have on livestock. I discussed this topic when I was in Forbes and met with a number of

agencies about our response to the Central West floods. The meeting included representatives from Local Land Services, the Department of Primary Industries and NSW Health. If the member had ever ventured west of the Great Divide he would know that many issues—

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Point of order: The Minister is reflecting on a member.

The Hon. Duncan Gay: To the point of order: Stating the obvious that the Hon. Walt Secord has never been to regional New South Wales is hardly a slight.

The PRESIDENT: It has been a long week. The Minister knows that debating points are not points of order. The original point of order stretched a very long bow. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Agencies such as Local Land Services, through its extension services and the research and advisory teams in DPI, are well and truly capable of providing information in relation to the impact of pests, including insects, on our primary production. We know that in some parts of New South Wales we are facing some challenging conditions heading into the summer. That will include increased mosquito populations because of the amount of water that is around. This issue has been discussed during the meetings I have had. Before I was interrupted by the point of order I was about to say that those of us who either grew up or live in regional New South Wales understand the challenges of increased populations of pests, whether they are locusts, mice or mosquitoes. This is not new to us. NSW Health also takes the issue seriously because increased insect numbers have impacts on human health through diseases such as Ross River fever.

In answer to the question about what the Government does in relation to pests and insects, those matters are the responsibility of agencies on a local level. That is why we have the model of Local Land Services with 11 different regions to deliver a localised response and provide localised information and advice to primary producers in their areas. This Government brought in that model so that we would not have a one-size-fits-all approach. We are able to look at the challenges of particular communities at particular times and respond to them. This is another one of those challenges and it is in the hands of the agencies responsible.

The Hon. WALT SECORD (14:53): I ask a supplementary question. In his answer the Minister referred to visiting Forbes. Will the Minister elucidate his answer in regard to whether he will recommend the use of aerial spraying in Forbes?

The PRESIDENT: The Minister may answer the supplementary question.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (14:54): Aerial spraying is used in a range of areas in primary production. I am not responsible for providing aerial surveillance for public health benefits. If the member wants me to commit to aerial spraying for mosquitoes more broadly—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister has the call.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: My portfolio responsibility is for insects and pests as they affect the primary industries sector. If the member wants the Government to commit to the aerial spraying of mosquitoes for public health reasons he should direct those questions to other Ministers. If local farmers have any questions or concerns about pests, particularly coming into the summer months, they should speak to the relevant agencies such as Local Land Services to work out how to address those issues.

RECREATIONAL LINE FISHING IN SANCTUARY ZONES

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM (14:55): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries. When is the Government anticipating it will conclude the Ocean Beaches and Headlands Assessment and Hawkesbury Shelf Marine Bioregion Assessment?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (14:55): I thank the leader of The Greens for his question and congratulate him on rolling the newest member of his party on his portfolio matters. I guess if he is the leader he can jump into the portfolio matters of any of his colleagues. His colleague Mr Field has had an interest in this issue. It must be that he has either escalated it to the leadership because it is such an important matter for The Greens or Mr Field is doing such a bad job that the leader has had to roll him from his portfolio area.

The New South Wales Government undertook a robust and rigorous approach to the assessment of recreational line fishing from ocean beaches and headlands within sanctuary zones. The Government introduced an amnesty on recreational line fishing from ocean beaches and headlands within sanctuary zones while the independent Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel undertook a comprehensive risk assessment process.

The panel used a threat and risk assessment based approach to assess a range of economic, social and environmental factors relating to the impact of recreational line fishing at 30 sites on ocean beaches and headlands. The panel's assessment plus the advice of the Marine Estate Management Authority provided key inputs to the Government's interim decision on the amnesty in December 2014 when the Government announced the immediate removal of the amnesty from 20 sites and proposed that the remaining 10 sites be changed from sanctuary zones to habitat protection zones to allow for the continuation of shore-based recreational line fishing. Rezoning the 10 sites requires an amendment to the management rules for four of the affected marine parks.

The Government invited submissions on the draft management rules from 1 September to 13 November 2015. There were more than 6,500 submissions and it is encouraging to see that the community cares about the management of our precious marine estate. I am disappointed by the misinformation from the Nature Conservation Council of NSW quoted in the media on this matter. A media release of 6 June 2016 says that "up to 50 per cent of coastal marine sanctuaries will be lost under NSW Government rezoning plan". This misinformation relates to the length of the beaches and headlands affected within the four marine parks and not to the area of sanctuary zones themselves.

In fact only 0.6 per cent of the existing sanctuary zones are subject to the rezoning proposal. The New South Wales Government is currently considering the submissions and will announce the outcome in due course. The big difference between us and those opposite is that we are taking a risk-based approach to issues such as this. Rather than drawing lines on maps and locking people out of certain areas, we have relied upon the science and the advice of experts who have looked at a risk-based approach. And we will continue to be on the right side of these sorts of decisions because we are listening to those who are affected, as well as the experts, and taking a proper risk-based approach.

WORKPLACE CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (14:59): My question is addressed to the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism. Will the Minister inform the House about how the New South Wales Government is helping organisations to maximise the benefits of cultural diversity in the workplace?

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA (Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism) (15:01): I thank the member for his question. Last week it was my great pleasure to join Michael Ebeid, Managing Director of SBS; Chris Evason, Managing Director of International Education Services; and the chief executive and staff from my agency, Multicultural NSW, to launch the Cultural Competence Program. The Baird Government has a strong record of harnessing new technologies to drive its policy agenda, and my Multiculturalism portfolio is no different.

The Cultural Competence Program is a mobile app and online training tool created to help organisations navigate and maximise the benefits of cultural diversity in the workplace. The program explores topics, including cross-cultural communication, addressing stereotypes, unconscious bias, diversity in the workplace, and enhancing understanding about the benefits of multiculturalism. It is made up of eight easy-to-use multimedia learning modules, which include animations, engaging activities and video interviews that feature real stories and workplace experiences. This innovative multimedia learning tool delivers content in an engaging and informative way, combining online learning in a one-stop shop.

As the app can be accessed on mobile devices or online, this program provides flexibility for employees to complete the course whenever and wherever they want. The program showcases real stories of people in the workplace. The New South Wales Government acknowledges and values our diversity as one of our greatest strengths and assets. People in this State come from more than 225 birthplaces—

The Hon. Walt Secord: They are?

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: Canada is one. We speak more than 200 languages and follow more than 100 religious beliefs. New South Wales is one of the most multicultural states in the world and it is only fitting that this remarkable cultural diversity is reflected in our workplaces. Our cultural and linguistic diversity drives trade across nations through people-to-people links and it gives us a social, economic and cultural advantage that is the envy of the world. Today all businesses must be committed to recruiting, training and promoting the brightest talent from all cultural backgrounds to stay competitive. A better understanding of cultural diversity and how different cultures communicate will also make everyday interactions in the workforce more efficient and productive, and this will ultimately lead to better service delivery.

The Cultural Competence Program will contribute to maintaining and developing a socially cohesive and harmonious multicultural society—that is the core of my remit as Minister for Multiculturalism. We must continue diversity. Indeed, I have lived with this issue, no doubt like many in this Chamber and others in our community.

The launch was a roaring success and there was clear interest from the business sector. I firmly believe that completing the program will build mutual respect and intercultural understanding, as well as promote effective, healthy and diverse workplaces. Every organisation should consider the program to improve their workplace. I hope to see all employers in New South Wales complete this fantastic program.

NORTHCONNEX BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS

Dr MEHREEN FARUQI (15:03): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Has the NorthConnex project fully secured all the biodiversity offsets required under its development approval, including for the critically endangered blue gum high forest and the endangered Sydney turpentine ironbark forest?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:04): I thank the member for her question and I acknowledge the importance of this issue to her. It is my understanding that NorthConnex is acting appropriately. Certain offset details were included in the environmental impact statement, and they had to be adhered to in order for us to go ahead with this absolutely outstanding project. However, when someone has a jaundiced view about a project like NorthConnex, they are always looking for ways in which to discredit it. It is my belief, because we have to adhere to the undertakings we have made, that all of those undertakings have either been complied with or will be complied with within the timetable.

COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

The Hon. MICK VEITCH (15:05): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. Has the Minister received any briefings from his department or his office on the McKoy and Stokes review of the current New South Wales resource assessment framework and the performance of the arrangements employed to assess NSW Fisheries? If so, how has this review informed the implementation of the Government's Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program?

The Hon. NIAL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:06): I thank the member for his question. We are more than halfway through question time and we are finally being asked some questions, rather than points of order being taken.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I invite Opposition members to cease performing for the gallery.

The Hon. NIAL BLAIR: With all due respect to the people seated in the gallery, I am sure they are not here to see the Hon. Greg Donnelly. As members know, I receive a lot of different briefings on the many studies that are being conducted. Indeed, as the Minister responsible for fisheries I am regularly updated on different resource assessments that affect not only commercial but also recreational areas. This question requires details about specific reports and impacts and, because the Government wants to get this serious issue right, I will take the question on notice and come back to the member with a detailed response.

CHAFFEY DAM UPGRADE

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (15:07): My question is addressed to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. Will the Minister update the House on the upgrade of Chaffey Dam and the benefits it has brought to the region?

The Hon. NIAL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:08): I thank the member for his question. I am pleased to inform the House about improved water security for farmers and towns in the Tamworth region as a result of the augmentation of Chaffey Dam. The \$50 million Chaffey Dam safety upgrade and augmentation project, delivered by WaterNSW, was formally unveiled at a completion ceremony that I attended in May with the New South Wales Nationals member for Tamworth, Mr Kevin Anderson, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Federal member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, and Mayor Col Murray. The recent rainfall has seen Chaffey Dam reach a record supply level as it continues to capture much-needed water.

The storage is now more than 100 per cent full and is holding 103,000 megalitres. This is an additional 40,000 megalitres of storage from its previous capacity. Before the upgrade this water would have flowed downstream and would not be able to be put to good use in the Peel Valley. Now that the dam has reached its new capacity it is already delivering improved reliability for Tamworth residents and Peel Valley irrigators and businesses. The project was jointly funded by the New South Wales Government, the Australian Government's National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns, and Tamworth Regional Council.

This crucial infrastructure project commenced in October 2014 and increases the dam's total storage capacity from its previous 62,000 megalitres. The works also ensure extreme weather events and major floods can

be handled safely by the dam, protecting downstream communities, private property and crops. The additional 38,000 megalitres of storage was created by raising the dam wall by eight metres. I am pleased to say that WaterNSW delivered this important project on time, to scope and within budget. Since its completion, the Chaffey Dam augmentation and safety upgrade project has received industry recognition for excellence, winning the regional award at the 2016 Australian Engineering Excellence Awards, Newcastle Division, ceremony.

Delivering this type of infrastructure is important for growing populations like Tamworth because the additional water security brings investment into the community. With a secure source of water, the 50,000 residents and businesses of Tamworth will continue to prosper and grow well into the future. It is also great to see water allocations continuing to improve right across the State following the persistent and widespread rainfall over autumn and winter. In the Peel Valley, allocations have shot up since about July and are now at 100 per cent. With this amount of water in the bank, growers in the Tamworth region can move ahead with confidence to a number of successful years.

In the nearby Gwydir Valley general security allocations are nearing 70 per cent and continue to improve. In New South Wales our irrigators and regional communities are busy readying crops, and I am proud to be able to deliver the infrastructure they need to do that. Our commitment to water security is not limited to the north of the State. In the Lachlan Valley, WaterNSW is looking into options to build a new dam on the Belubula River. Just like the upgraded Chaffey Dam, this new storage would underpin the prosperity of the Central West for generations to come—

The PRESIDENT: Order! I call the Hon. Penny Sharpe to order for the first time.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: —provided the next stage of the feasibility study finds that issues can be managed. This Government is committed to delivering water security for regional New South Wales.

LYME DISEASE

The Hon. PAUL GREEN (15:12): My question is directed to the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism, representing the Minister for Health. Will the Minister update the House on what approach the Government is undertaking to address the hideous disease known as Lyme disease and, more particularly, what funding is committed and what research is taking place?

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA (Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism) (15:12): I thank the member for his question. As the member knows, our budget, particularly in the area of health, is a record and there is a record spend by the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner. I note that the member is seeking some specifics in relation to the question. I will refer the question to the Minister and come back with an answer.

CENTENNIAL PARK, MOORE PARK AND PARRAMATTA PARK

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ (15:13): My question is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. With the passing of the Crown Land Management Bill 2016, will the Minister confirm that Centennial Park, Moore Park and Parramatta Park are now captured within the purview of that bill?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:13): I thank the member for her question. As the member knows, the reforms in Crown land will not come into effect until next year. We said during the debate in this House that we will be introducing a complementary bill. We will not see both those bills assented to as Acts until next year.

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ (15:14): I ask the Minister a supplementary question. Could the Minister elucidate whether, when those bills come into effect, they will capture Centennial Park, Moore Park and Parramatta Park?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:14): As I said, the bills will come into effect next year. The second bill obviously has not even been introduced into the Parliament. Once we know what is in the second bill we will have a better idea as to what is covered in the package of reforms.

REGIONAL ROAD AND FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK (15:15): My question is addressed to the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. Will the Minister update the House on the New South Wales Government's historic infrastructure program in country New South Wales?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:16): Nothing would give me more pleasure. Since coming to office the New South Wales

Liberals and Nationals Government has spent, on average, \$4 billion each year on road and freight projects in regional New South Wales, and didn't they need it? This historic spend represents a 67 per cent increase on what was spent by past Labor governments. Under this Government, in country New South Wales there are currently thousands of projects under construction, and one only has to look at our historic investment in regional highways.

Currently this Government is spending \$1.4 billion to upgrade the Princes Highway—a highway a former Labor Minister used to call the Princess Highway; that is how often he went down there. If one compares the last six years of the Labor Government to the six years of this Government, that represents a 125 per cent increase, and most of the spending is in Labor electorates. This is what a good government does. A government has to govern for everyone in the State and for all of the regions. Those Labor voters have never had it so good since they got us for a government. The former mayor of Shoalhaven, the Hon. Paul Green, knows that.

We are also spending \$1.4 billion to upgrade the New England Highway, which is a 110 per cent increase on Labor's spending. All those Labor electorates in the Hunter Valley have benefited from this Government and the work that we are doing. We are spending \$754 million to upgrade the Great Western Highway, which is a 45 per cent increase on Labor's spending—right up through the area where the Leader of the Opposition lives. Thank you, Duncan. Thank you, a benevolent Government that is doing a good job to fix the Great Western Highway. We are spending more than \$400 million to upgrade the Newell Highway, as well as committing \$500 million from part of the lease of the poles and wires. For the upgrade of the Newell Highway—through the backbone of New South Wales and integral to this State—how much do members think that increase in funding is? It is a beautiful set of numbers: it is 177 per cent.

Anthony Albanese said in Orange that we had done nothing. Apart from stopping the fixing of the traffic congestion to protect his seat in the inner west, Anthony Albanese was the one who stopped the funding on the Pacific Highway. When he was the Federal Minister it stopped dead. We had to have a change in the Federal Government to get that funding flowing again. And the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who was part of the former Government, was the key man in the background. He knew that there was extra money coming in when Anthony Albanese was the Federal Minister when those opposite were in government, but as soon as we came to government, instead of it being 80:20, it became 50:50. The families of the people who lost their lives on that road will remember what those opposite did. They will remember that forever. *[Time expired.]*

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP AND STATE TRADE POLICIES

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (15:19): My question is directed to the Leader of the House, the Hon. Duncan Gay, representing the Premier, a question without notice. Will the surprise election of the President Elect, Donald Trump require a review of New South Wales United States of America trade policies and the Australia, New Zealand, United States Security Treaty [ANZUS]? In view of the close relationship between Australia and the United States, will the Premier invite President Elect Trump to visit New South Wales as soon as it is convenient?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:20): Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile always thinks outside the sphere. He is a man who is not only interested in the State but in the whole of the Commonwealth and world affairs. I think his comments are appropriate. It does not matter who you backed, who you wanted to win or who you voted for, we have an important trading partner, one that we have had alliances with for a number of generations. Not to extend hospitality and respect would be just silly.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Minister has the call.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: This is a serious matter. This is one of our major trading partners, one of our major defence partners and we should accept the decision that they make within their country. Whether we like it or not, that is their decision because we would not be happy if they were interfering in our decisions. There have been some pretty ordinary governments in Canberra during the time of those opposite that, frankly, we could have done without and they have stayed neutral on that.

The Hon. Peter Primrose: Point of order: The Minister is debating the question and its validity, rather than seeking to answer it.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I have often encouraged the Minister not to do this. He was responding to interjections, rather than answering the question. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I am reminded that this is question time and if members of the Opposition want to take spurious points of order, it is not the Government that loses out, it is their fellow members who lose out. I believe it is a serious question and certainly I have answered it in a serious manner. But I do have to say that

there is one of our members who should be more careful than most, and that is Mr Jeremy Buckingham, because no-one else in this House has moved a motion against an incoming President of the United States.

CROWN LAND STOCKTAKE

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (15:23): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water. In light of the dispute surrounding the lessee of the Menindee Animal Sanctuary site, what steps has the Minister taken to ensure that a proper stocktake of all Crown land has occurred? Will the Minister create a publicly accessible register?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:24): I thank the member for his question. We have discussed the tenure at Menindee previously. It might have been on WaterNSW land in relation to that facility. One thing that we discussed during the debate on the Crown Land Management Bill was that, for the first time, we will have a stocktake of different types of Crown land in New South Wales to look at whether that land is State or local land. That is something we have been looking at.

As I said earlier to the Hon. Lynda Voltz, there is another bill that needs to come before this House to complete the reforms that we have spoken about with Crown lands and that is something we will debate next year. Obviously, when we look at issues in western New South Wales, there was some opportunistic use of structures on land adjacent to the Menindee Lakes, land that is administered by WaterNSW and currently under lease. I am advised that the leaseholder is aware of the use and has taken action to assert its right. The leaseholder has advised WaterNSW that the matter is before the Supreme Court and the leaseholder will provide details in due course.

We have been through the first part of that reform this week in the House. I think that some of the excitement we had in question time today is probably coming off the back of that debate. It captured a lot of the attention and time of members earlier in the week. It was a good opportunity to discuss the issues and the debate went well into the early hours of the morning. This House is renowned for its rigorous debate. As I said during the debate, one of the things we will be considering is undertaking a stocktake of land throughout the different parts of the State and looking at what is State land and what is local land. This Government will ensure that decisions on those matters are made with the input of the community. That is what the Community Engagement Strategy that was put into that legislation related to. There was criticism as to community engagement on decisions relating to Crown land in the past. Our Community Engagement Strategy is a cornerstone of the legislation and something of which we are proud and to which the Government is committed.

EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Mr SCOT MacDONALD (15:27): My question is addressed to the Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism. Will the Minister please update the House on how the Government is supporting employment of people with disability?

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA (Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Multiculturalism) (15:28): I thank the honourable member for his question. Noting the time, I will say a few things now, but I will leave much that needs to be said for another occasion. Members are aware of this Government's commitment to improving employment outcomes for people with disability. Every member is aware of the great benefits of employment, but for people with disability barriers to employment exist and these barriers to employment can cause people to feel excluded from society. For people with disability that can be an everyday reality.

I recall meeting a young man who was undertaking a Transition to Work experience. I asked him what was the one thing he most wanted. His reply was, "I want to be in a position to pay income tax". The reason he wanted to pay income tax was so that he would be like his brothers and sisters, and his parents. He wanted to be part of the community. He wanted to make a contribution to society, he wanted to feel independent and to live his life his way. This Government is actively developing employment opportunities for people of disability and it would take some time to list them for the House. I will leave that to another time. This Government will take all appropriate action to increase employment opportunities for people with a disability.

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: It is with regret that I say that the time for questions is over. It is not total regret, because we will hear the inaugural contribution of the Hon. John Graham. I suggest that if members have further questions, they place them on notice.

CENTENNIAL PARK, MOORE PARK AND PARRAMATTA PARK

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, and Minister for Lands and Water) (15:30): Earlier in question time the Hon. Lynda Voltz asked me a question in relation to Centennial Park, Parramatta Park and Moore Park. I can advise the House that Parramatta Park is managed under the Parramatta

Park Trust Act 2001. Section 9 of that Act states that the trust may not sell, mortgage or dispose of these lands. I advise the House that Centennial Park and Moore Park are managed under a separate Act, the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust Act 1983. Section 10 of that Act prohibits the sale, mortgage, demise or disposal of any of the original lands. These lands are not managed under the Crown Lands (Amendment) Act.

Bills

LAND ACQUISITION (JUST TERMS COMPENSATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2016

Returned

The PRESIDENT: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly returning the abovementioned bill without amendment.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS

Further Return to Order

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY (Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:31): I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to allow a motion to be moved forthwith relating to the indexes to the greyhound welfare further order, notice of which was given this day.

It is an important matter that we need to act on with alacrity. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his consideration, support and wise counsel to all of us during this matter.

Motion agreed to.

Documents

GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY

Further Return to Order

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on 14 September 2016, the House agreed to an order for the production of documents in which the House called on the Minister for Racing to require Racing NSW to produce certain documents regarding greyhound welfare;
 - (b) on 12 October 2016, the Clerk tabled correspondence received that day from the Deputy Secretary, Cabinet and Legal, Department of Premier and Cabinet, advising that the documents referred to in the resolution of 14 September 2016 would be produced by Greyhound Racing NSW and returned directly to the Legislative Council;
 - (c) on 12 October 2016, the Clerk tabled:
 - (i) documents received on 12 October 2016 from the Administrator of Greyhound Racing NSW, together with an indexed list of documents; and
 - (ii) a return identifying documents received on 12 October 2016 from the Administrator of Greyhound Racing NSW for which privilege is claimed and are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.
 - (d) the return received on 12 October 2016 sought to claim privilege over the index accompanying the documents however, in accordance with the terms of standing order 52 and practice and precedents of the Legislative Council, the indexes were tabled and subsequently made public; and
 - (e) on 10 November 2016, the Clerk tabled:
 - (i) correspondence from the Administrator of Greyhound Racing NSW attaching supplementary submissions in which the Administrator requested that the index be treated as privileged and made available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only; and
 - (ii) an index of the documents contained in the public and privileged returns provided on 12 October 2016 from which confidential information had been redacted, which would be made public.
- (2) That this House notes that:
 - (a) the supplementary submission provided by Greyhound Racing NSW states that publication of the index provided on 12 October 2016 poses serious concerns regarding the personal safety of persons named therein; and
 - (b) the release of information on the publication of the index can be attributed to the manner in which Greyhound Racing NSW has formulated the description of documents in the index, as the index makes extensive

reference to the names of individuals, notwithstanding that Standing Order 52 (5) (a) requires only that the author of a document be named.

- (3) That, notwithstanding no provision is made for claims of privilege over an index or a claim of privilege under Standing Order 52 (3), given the personal safety considerations articulated by the Administrator of Greyhound Racing NSW and the will of the House to protect the personal safety of any person:
- (a) the index from the Administrator and tabled by the Clerk on 12 October 2016 be made available to members of the Legislative Council only, and
 - (b) the redacted index tabled by the Clerk on 10 November 2016 be published on the Parliament's website.

Motion agreed to.

Visitors

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: Before the Hon. John Graham commences his inaugural speech I welcome to the public gallery my distinguished predecessor, the seventeenth President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Meredith Bergmann, former Premier Nathan Rees, former members of the other place Paul McLeay and Verity Firth, and former Australian Senator Bruce Childs. Welcome to the Legislative Council for this great occasion.

Members

INAUGURAL SPEECH

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM (15:33): I acknowledge that we meet on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and pay respect to their Elders past and present. I was interested in politics from an early age, it is true. We listened to Parliament on the radio in the kitchen as I grew up. It could have been a passing interest, but we moved to government housing at the back of Albury when I was 10 years old. Springdale Heights was a flat suburb and baking hot in summer. It had a well-resourced school with a brutal playground. Seeing the contrast between living there and elsewhere, the life choices for my friends living there and elsewhere, has drawn me back to politics—that gulf and the hope of closing it.

Politics was still an unlikely path. I did not know anyone in politics. Like most families, we concentrated on getting by. You might have quite literally passed us beetling along the Hume Highway in the white family Volkswagen. The Volkswagen beetle is a reliable car, but we are all reasonably tall and you would not call it a huge car for a family of six. Getting the family in or out of the car had all the characteristics of a circus clown act. It felt a long way from the levers of power. I was pleased to find a way into politics and I am genuinely honoured to have a chance to serve here in the nation's oldest parliamentary chamber, created in 1823.

I support three traditions, each of which is older than this Chamber. First, the parliamentary tradition. I love that we can trace the heritage of this Chamber to the Palace of Westminster and perhaps back to the early Roman Senate. I note that earlier today that was the subject of heated debate in the House. I value that parliamentary tradition. Secondly, the public service tradition. Both mum and dad were public servants. Mum was a sound reporter in the courts and dad was a probation and parole officer. They were servants of the public. It is an old idea that needs reviving. Jack Kennedy said it best:

... let every man and woman who works in any area of our national government, in any branch, at any level, be able to say with pride and with honour in future years: "I served the United States Government in that hour of our nation's need".

I do see public service as a calling. I see politics as a public service. I will be a defender of that tradition.

Finally, I come from the progressive Labor movement tradition. Bruce Childs is in the gallery today. As he did, we have argued for peace. We have argued for love, like Tom Uren. We have argued for dignity, like trade union activists everywhere. Peace, love and dignity as part of a radical international social movement fighting for social justice, equality and democracy. Mr President, I do not mean to alarm you, but I am also part of that tradition, the parliamentary tradition, public service and progressive Labor traditions, all of which I intend to draw on during my time in this House.

I was also traditional Labor. As a school kid, now settled in Newcastle, I had a copy of LF Crisp's book tucked under one arm. It was a gripping political thriller titled *Ben Chifley*. It was the age of Hawke and Keating, but the Labor I was joining was the party of Chifley and Curtin. I admired their personal modesty, ambition for the country and focus on economic justice for ordinary citizens. It's an agenda that still matters today.

As have other members, I served an apprenticeship. It has had some vivid moments, but two of them stand out. I have had the pleasure of serving as Deputy Chief of Staff to Premier Nathan Rees. I acknowledge his presence in the gallery today. Eleven days on the job, the first week back to Parliament, had its pressures. But we were

watching another crisis 16,000 kilometres away. Lehman Bros had collapsed, catapulting the world and New South Wales into financial crisis. It was a rollercoaster apprenticeship in economic management. New South Wales improved its triple-A rating during the financial crisis. Still, New South Wales citizens suffered. Some lost their jobs and some lost their homes because of lending and rating decisions made in middle America and New York. Those are firms we cannot regulate, risks we cannot control and consequences we cannot stop. It is a reminder to every New South Wales Government of the continuing need for economic vigilance.

That was not the only crisis—try serving as Labor's Assistant General Secretary in 2011. As a party official I suspended or expelled more than a dozen individuals, including seven for life. I never took it lightly. I personally presented one case against a prominent member. The lawyers' threats were flying thick and fast. Uncomfortably at the time, we had few of the powers we needed as a party. Without revealing our legal advice, as I sat in the tribunal meeting I knew that if I proceeded I was exposed and the Labor Party was exposed, but I chose to press ahead. Thankfully, Labor has since been able to strengthen those powers. We were facing in our ranks a malign group disloyal to the labour movement. Taking action was the right thing to do and, despite the threats, I would do it all again. Labor is stronger as a result. We need strong political parties in New South Wales because we need strong governments in New South Wales.

The first test for any New South Wales Government is the economic security of its citizens. We need to invest in our economy. Keating argued two years ago that the key economic levers now lie in State, rather than national, hands. The things that fascinate me about the New South Wales economy are our ports, our rail, our roads, and our airports but also our stock and futures exchanges, our teaching hospitals, our universities and the national broadband network. That is where the action is. Each of these is a gateway through which our State and our cities touch the international economy. They create wealth, share understanding and allow us to rapidly adapt to a changing world.

Put aside for a minute our country's history of inventing things. What interests me is our record as a country of fast, and first, adopters, our ability to rapidly translate the latest technology, the latest health care and ways of living to improve the lives of people in New South Wales communities. These institutions are where that happens. Some operate publicly, some privately, but they should all receive the support of an active government sector. An active government tackles inequality and recognises our rights as New South Wales citizens, each born equal, irrespective of our wealth. An active government formally measures our social, environmental and economic wellbeing alongside our gross state product in its annual budgeting process. Six weeks ago I returned from travelling in the United Kingdom, a country in turmoil after Brexit, a country where wages are lower now than they were in 2008. Events there and in the United States remind us that we ignore economic insecurity and economic inequality at our peril.

We also need to invest in our people. I am a great lover of books and libraries. During a childhood spent in libraries, I learnt a real lesson in the power of government to change lives. Many of the books in our local library were stamped inside with these dates: 1973, 1974 and 1975. Many of the books I read, I later realised, were a product of the Whitlam Government pouring Federal money into local libraries, using the power of government to support local libraries. Libraries deserve our support. It is not enough to support those who can already read. Reading was always important. In the information age it is a human right. Without it, filling in forms, reading the news, using social media and reading a map are all difficult or impossible. Some people still struggle with reading. That is why I support the introduction of a new New South Wales Government principle: the right to read. I support a massive lift in our literacy effort, with stronger programs in schools and TAFE, and an outreach program in our public libraries. I support the enshrining of the right for all New South Wales citizens to learn to read, with State support, at whatever age they choose to do so. It will be one of my priorities.

I take the time to recognise what I consider to be the most unheralded microeconomic reform in my lifetime. It is a past act that deserves greater recognition. At my high school people did not stay until year 12 or even year 10. Often, the day they turned 15 they were out the school gate. No-one told us that the world was changing. No-one told us that modern work would require more education. My friends walking out the school gate at 15 thought they were stepping into the world of adult work, not stepping out of the modern economy. The Hawke and Keating governments changed all that, increasing the school completion rate from 40 per cent to more than 70 per cent. It was a massive boost to human capital, to our national wealth, and it changed lives in the community. I applaud them for it.

Still, I believe New South Wales could do better in education. In most areas of State Government activity, the share of total Government expenditure has been remarkably stable over time. There is one exception, and that is education. New South Wales education expenditure as a share of total expenditure has fallen from around 28 per cent in 1989-90 to 26 per cent in 2002-03 to just 21.5 per cent this year. It has fallen despite the growing importance of human capital. It has fallen as other countries spend more. It is crucial for New South Wales that we reverse that trend. I call on this Government and future governments to do so. Books, libraries and learning

are three of the passions I will bring to the job. I have already acknowledged country, but I also want to acknowledge the challenges we face. In 1965 in Alabama Martin Luther King said:

... the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience.

Fifty-one years later, I am not sure Australia would meet that challenge. An act of recognition is overdue, but we could also listen more carefully to the world's oldest continuing culture. It is an urgent task for this generation, not the next, to engage with this oral tradition and to keep the languages. I recognise that this Government has built on the early work in this area. Together, we have much to give to the world.

I will speak briefly to some of the other issues in which I intend to take an interest. As a walker I love our parks and the landscape of New South Wales. As an environmentalist I believe that our citizens demand clean air, water and safe food. Where companies do not follow the law, I believe we should be tougher in enforcing it. Ecological costs do not fall equally; they are usually borne by the least powerful. As a man I will be committed to the full equality of women. My mum's example meant that I have always expected women to be treated equally in this world. As an arts lover I never accepted that the arts were for the upper class. They are for all of us.

As a founder of Labor Loves Live Music, I do not like these lockout laws. As an economist I am appalled by them. There has to be a less heavy-handed regulatory tool than closing down economic activity at night in our international city. A ban should be a last resort. As a citizen I support an open data agenda for New South Wales. We can produce both a more responsive government sector and a more competitive private sector by giving citizens control over their own data. One way that this Chamber could be more responsive—and some traditions have to change—would be to adopt the change to its standing orders that the Australian Senate has recently adopted to allow photography in the House. I support that change and encourage the House to do so.

It is impossible to thank everyone who deserves it. Politics and social change are collective enterprises, so there are many more people I would like to thank. Thanks, first, to those friends, relatives and colleagues present here today. I deeply appreciate your coming. Thanks also to my colleagues with whom I worked most closely in my last role: Mark Boyd, Tim Ayres, Linda Burney and now Assistant General Secretary Rose Jackson. Thanks also to my fellow party officers, including General Secretary Kaila Murnain. I recognise Don and Alma, mum and my brothers and sister, and an old friend who travelled to be here, Brendan Wynter. To my wife, Jenny, and our two sons, all of whom I love dearly, I say thanks. Dad could not be here. He died five years ago. I wish he were here.

I look forward to working with members in this House and in the other place. I extend fraternal greetings to each of them. I make only one exception, that is, the member for East Hills, because he knows what he has done. I have loved serving in politics and the labour movement. I never saw it as inevitable that I would serve in Parliament. It never seemed further away than on 5 December 2009. I was working for Nathan Rees. The Labor caucus met that day to vote on the premiership. I headed to work that morning in Governor Macquarie Tower knowing that, by the end of the day, I would be out of a job. In the hour that caucus met, I packed my office. I walked out of the Premier's office and out of politics, possibly for good. So I feel lucky to be here. I have kept coming back in no small part because of dad's example.

All my life my father remained an optimist. After a lifetime of working with criminals he could always see the best in a person. I cannot think of a better role model for someone entering New South Wales politics. Moving out the back of Albury also taught me that often communities that rely most on government feel the least engaged by politics. The day after the shock result in the United States of America election seems an appropriate time for all of us to reflect on that. I look forward to working with you and with others in this Chamber as we face that challenge together.

Members stood in their places and applauded.

Motions

CROWN LAND SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ (15:54): In reply: This is an important motion. The protection of our sport and recreation camps is important and fundamental to the Labor Party, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, the Christian Democratic Party and The Greens. I note the comments of the Hon. Catherine Cusack and Mr Scot MacDonald that the Government has no plans to privatise sport and recreation centres. They should read the Horizon report which has two market options—the Minister was specific about market options—to lease or to sell. The costings on selling was \$35 million. The Government said clearly that its leasing arrangement would return \$1 million to the Government this year and \$1.8 million in the future. I commend this motion to the House.

The PRESIDENT: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes18
 Noes20
 Majority.....2

AYES

Barham, Ms J
 Donnelly, Mr G (teller)
 Graham, Mr J
 Moselmane, Mr S
 (teller)
 Searle, Mr A
 Shoebridge, Mr D

Brown, Mr R
 Faruqi, Dr M
 Houssos, Ms C
 Pearson, Mr M

 Secord, Mr W
 Veitch, Mr M

Buckingham, Mr J
 Field, Mr J
 Mookhey, Mr D
 Primrose, Mr P

 Sharpe, Ms P
 Voltz, Ms L

NOES

Ajaka, Mr J
 Clarke, Mr D
 Farlow, Mr S
 Green, Mr P
 Maclaren-Jones, Ms N
 (teller)
 Mitchell, Ms S
 Phelps, Dr P

Amato, Mr L
 Colless, Mr R
 Franklin, Mr B (teller)
 Khan, Mr T
 Mallard, Mr S

 Nile, Reverend F
 Taylor, Ms B

Blair, Mr N
 Cusack, Ms C
 Gallacher, Mr M
 MacDonald, Mr S
 Mason-Cox, Mr M

 Pearce, Mr G

PAIRS

Wong, Mr E

Gay, Mr D

Motion negatived.*Adjournment Debate***ADJOURNMENT**

The Hon. JOHN AJAKA: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

RECREATIONAL FISHING

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (16:03): I am sure members will not be surprised to learn that I enjoy a good day's fishing. On 16 October I joined hundreds of thousands of people across Australia who enjoy wetting a line on national Gone Fishing Day. I note too that primary industries Minister, the Hon. Niall Blair, was out on the harbour. He had a little more luck on the day than me, I suspect. The Hon. Rick Colless also attended in order to defend his two-year running title of champion fisher. He bombed out. Like many other recreational fishers and families across New South Wales, I love our ocean and our waterways. I have known them all my life. We all want them to be clean and healthy and filled with diverse and abundant marine life. I can say that with some passion because I was brought up adjacent to Morrison Bay. I remember dye running down one factory's walls into the harbour until each time that a Maritime Services boat came for an inspection. Everybody knew the factory workers had a cockatoo in the maritime department who used to tell them when to turn off the valves.

Make no mistake, recreational fishers and families who enjoy wetting a line on a weekend continue to face the real threat of being locked out of hundreds of popular and easily accessible fishing spots. I am referring to safe spots that the elderly, the young, the disabled, people who use public transport, those from culturally diverse backgrounds and those from the lower socio-economic end of town can easily access and derive the health and wellbeing benefits of catching a fish and—if they are in a safe area east of the Harbour Bridge—having a feed of fish. Whilst the Nature Conservation Council of NSW harps on about making Sydney Harbour a marine park, the loss of safe and easily accessible spots in the harbour is occurring on a daily basis and impacting fishers. Only a few days ago the Recreational Fishing Alliance of New South Wales alerted us that another safe and popular fishing wharf had some new "no fishing" signs placed on it. Coupled with the loss of access to the well-heeled

arts patrons of the Walsh Bay precinct, as well as the loss of access around Barangaroo, it seems that members of the Liberal Party are hell-bent on restricting recreational fishing. Shame on them.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party is opposed to lock-outs at recreational fishing spots. We support groups like the Recreational Fishing Alliance who advocate improved management strategies, rather than drawing a line on a map and banning fishing—like the stupid marine parks. It is simply implausible to argue that a mum and dad going fishing with their children present a threat to our marine ecology. If we lose our Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural right to fish in New South Wales it will be gone forever. If our fish stocks are in trouble I am sure that recreational fishers will continue to support adaptive changes in the Fisheries Management Act, as they have done for years. But they will not tolerate these continued attacks on their access. That is a warning. We can all work together to maintain our fish stocks and prime fishing spots for years to come.

Where there are bag limits, gear restrictions, minimum legal lengths or any other limits to be instituted they must be based on sound scientific evidence with regular reviews as situations change or improve. Too often I have stood in this place and watched recreational fishers get a raw deal at the hands of coalitions of Labor and The Greens and the Liberal Party and The Nationals. Just like with licensed firearms owners, governments believe that people who enjoy fishing are too disorganised as a lobby and too scattered and will not mount a vocal opposition to threats to their culture and precious freedoms. I have news for them. I leave a stern warning on the record for any present or future governments considering attacking recreational fishing: They will find strong opponents in me, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party and strong advocate bodies such as the State's Recreational Fishing Alliance. We will not take proposals for any more lock-outs from fishing areas lying down.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (16:07): Remembrance Day is a sacred day for our country as we honour the sacrifice of our service men and women and, importantly, their families. It is a time for us all to remember the extraordinary deeds of the thousands of Australian men and women who ensured our nation's security and the freedom that each and every one of us enjoys in this great country. We pay our respects and honour their legacy with immense pride and a great sense of gratitude. Remembrance Day for me, like so many Australians, is a day full of emotion. It is a day for us to be thankful for what they have done and continue to do by putting our country first during difficult times and enduring the best and worst of humanity. We are thankful to those who have given their all in the defence of our freedoms and the values we stand for as Australians that we are obliged to protect and preserve for future generations.

At the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month we commemorate the signing of the Armistice by King George V in 1918 that brought an end to the Great War, the First World War, in which Australia grew and identified itself as a nation. As part of the main commemorative ceremony on the first anniversary at the new Cenotaph in London two minutes silence was proposed by Australian journalist Edward Honey, who was then working in Fleet Street. A similar proposal was put to the British Cabinet. King George V personally requested the people of the British Empire to suspend normal activities for two minutes on the hour to acknowledge the carnage of the four preceding years and mark the victory of right and freedom. This was rightly adopted and has become a central feature of commemorations.

After the end of the World War II the Australian and British governments changed the name to Remembrance Day, as Armistice Day was no longer an appropriate title for a day on which to commemorate those who have died in war. I remember as a school child that every person would stop as the clock struck 11.00 a.m. to remember the sacrifice of so many brave Australians. I vividly remember the suddenness of that, and it has made a deep impression on me. More than 416,000 Australians volunteered for service in World War I, from a population of five million, and of these 324,000 served overseas. Our thoughts go to the 60,000 men killed and the further 156,000 who were wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. We commemorate these brave soldiers. Their stories are told through photographs, medals and letters brought back to families and loved ones. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Australian War Memorial and to our war historians who have researched the facts and revealed the experiences of our soldiers. These stories are a source of courage, inspiration and support; they have helped to shape our national identity.

Wearing a red poppy, the flower of remembrance, allows us to stop and reflect on its significance to our nation and to freedoms we enjoy, which are sometimes taken for granted. Indeed, when we wear a red poppy on Remembrance Day we hold in our hearts all those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts. Australia has deep admiration, respect and affection for our veterans, and this is evidenced by the ever growing attendance at remembrance ceremonies and also on Anzac Day each year. The sacrifice of so many Australians has allowed me to grow up in a country that is free and to be able to run and be elected to Parliament as a woman, which so many others throughout the world cannot do. I also acknowledge all the volunteers who provide support to veterans. I honour our service men and women and thank them for what they have given, and continue to give, to our country. Lest we forget.

KOREAN WAR

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ (16:11): Yesterday, as the shadow Minister for Veteran's Affairs, I had the pleasure of attending a reception for Korean War veterans, which was held by the Consul General of Korea, Yoon Sangoo, in the Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton on the Park. The people of the Republic of Korea hold the Korean War veterans in Australia very close to their hearts. It is warming to see that the Korean Consul General is holding these events and organising for former veterans, war widows and their families to visit Korea, in particular, the burial sites of fallen Australian soldiers. Australia was involved in Korea from 1950 until 1957 as part of the United Nations Command forces. We fought alongside the United States, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Turkey. Although Australia's involvement lasted until 1957, the war ended with the signing of an armistice on 27 July 1953—three years and one month after the war began—and, according to historians at the Australian War Memorial, the ending was so sudden that some soldiers had to be convinced that it was really over.

The Korean War stands alongside World War I and World War II as one of the bloodiest wars of that century. Nearly four million Koreans and Chinese were killed—more than half the dead were Korean civilians. Australian casualties numbered more than 1,500, including 340 dead. United Nations losses amounted to more than 36,000—most were servicemen from the United States of America. This year also marks the sixty-fifth anniversary battle of Kapyong, one of the battle honours of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment [3 RAR]. The 3rd Battalion primarily represented Australia in Korea. The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment [1 RAR] and the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment [2 RAR] joined the war later, each on a one-year tour of duty. The Battle of Kapyong began in April 1951 when the Chinese launched their spring offensive with the aim of retaking the city of Seoul. They quickly overran South Korean forces, defending one of the major approach routes—the valley of the Kapyong River. Some 30 kilometres further south the 27th British Commonwealth Brigade hastily occupied defensive positions in an attempt to halt the Chinese advance.

On 23 April the 3 RAR and Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry occupied prominent hills on either side of the seven-kilometre-wide valley, where a small tributary joined the Kapyong River. Early in the evening, retreating South Koreans streamed past the Commonwealth position, with Chinese forces closely intermingled. Soon afterwards a platoon of American tanks that was supporting the 3 RAR was overrun. The Kapyong Valley was too large an area to defend with the forces available. Throughout the night the Chinese repeatedly pressed the Australian positions, attacking in waves over their own dead and wounded. At dawn, under the command of Major Bernard "Ben" O'Dowd, A Company found that the Chinese had infiltrated its position but a counterattack was able to eject them. Meanwhile B Company discovered Chinese occupying some old bunkers on a small knoll. Hand-to-hand fighting ensued with grenades and bayonets. Thirty-two Australians were killed and 53 were wounded for their part in stalling the Chinese advance and preventing Seoul from falling into enemy hands.

The recognition of our Korean War veterans is important, but Australia has been somewhat slow to act, particularly for those who served there between the signing of the Armistice and 1957. It was not until 2007, under the Rudd Government, that the Post-Armistice Korean Service Review recommendations were implemented to ensure that veterans received military recognition and that those who died would be remembered on the rolls at the Australian War Memorial. Korea is known as the forgotten war; it should not be. We have the memory of our service personnel who served there and the impacts of that war are still relevant today. Despite the Armistice in 1953, no peace treaty has been signed and tensions remain high; and, despite the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, North Korea continues its nuclear program. The election of a new Administration in the United States has also changed the dynamics in the region. This bloody war in Korea, in which Australians fought 65 years ago, is a reminder of the devastation that war wrought in the past century and of the ever-present dangers in the current one.

SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (16:15): Today I speak once again on what I refer to as the unsafe Safe Schools Coalition course in New South Wales and other State schools. The Australian Christian Lobby and the Christian Democratic Party have again called for the immediate withdrawal of Federal funding for the Safe Schools Coalition course following fresh revelations that the controversial program was breaching directives from the Federal Minister for Education and Training Minister, Simon Birmingham. Premier Daniel Andrews has also announced that the Victorian Government will not only provide the funding but also make the course mandatory for every schoolchild in Victoria if the Federal Government withdraws funding. So Premier Andrews is following what I refer to as strong child abuse programs and he has also scrapped scripture classes in that State. The Australian Christian Lobby spokesman for children, Wendy Francis, said it was clear that the Safe Schools Coalition had been caught out by its own comments to pre-service teachers, which confirms it is operating in defiance of the Federal Government's funding requirements. She said, and I quote:

The admission by Safe Schools project officers that they were operating outside Federal Government requirements has left Minister Birmingham with little choice but to cut funding to the program.

That funding was to expire in 2017 but it should be cancelled now. She also said:

Parents would be disturbed to hear that Safe Schools project officers, by their own admission, continue to operate in pre-primary and primary schools more than seven months after the Federal Government directed it only be made available in high schools—

We also oppose it in high schools. She continued:

It is also disturbing that Safe Schools project officers are encouraging teachers not to inform or seek the consent from parents before subjecting children to the program.

Earlier, Minister Birmingham made reassurances that children will not be exposed to Safe Schools Coalition material without parents consent. How will parents know whether teachers are telling their children not to tell their parents? Ms Francis said further:

This is not the first time that Safe Schools has fallen foul of the Federal Government's directives.

Following questioning at Senate estimates by The Nationals Senator John Williams, Minister Birmingham ordered the removal of material that promoted Minus 18 from the education department's student wellbeing hub, which houses the Safe Schools Coalition material. Minus 18 is an organisation that provides instruction to children on so-called penis tucking for boys and chest binding for girls, and it teaches that gender is fluid. The research underpinning the Safe Schools Coalition was recently discredited in a report by Sydney University Professor Patrick Parkinson, who warned that it was flawed and misleading. I urge members to read that research. A new report from the Australian Christian Lobby reveals how the Safe Schools Coalition program is resulting in bullying at schools.

But we are discovering that bullying is happening in schools with children who do not follow the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex agenda, such as when girls are told to wear purple and some of the female students do not wish to—and that is their right in a democracy. They are then harangued and bullied by other children in the school. Parents should be aware that Safe Schools encourages teachers not to use the pronouns "he" or "she" when speaking to the children and encourages schools to change their uniform and toilet policies to accommodate students identifying as the opposite gender. Sadly, the Safe Schools Coalition material remains captured by this gender ideology. Currently, parents are able to push back against the radical ideology underpinning the Safe Schools program, but everything will change if same-sex marriage is legalised, and that is another challenge we face in the future. Promoting cross-dressing, the use of genderless toilets and whole-school participation in same-sex marriage rallies is not what parents expect from a program in their school and from the so-called anti-bullying program.

PAKISTAN BLASPHEMY LAWS

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (16:20): Today I place on record the plight of a Pakistani Christian woman, Asia Bibi, who has for the past seven years been on death row in Pakistan for having been convicted of breaching that country's blasphemy laws, which provide for death by hanging. She is currently one of 14 people on death row for blasphemy, with another 19 serving life sentences for the same offence. Her cause has been taken up around the world, with millions having signed petitions for her release and numerous human rights organisations having protested at her treatment.

The facts surrounding Asia Bibi's case are relatively straightforward. She offered water to two Muslim fellow workers from a well from which she had consumed water and they refused, citing that as a Christian she was ceremonially unclean. An argument ensued in which, in defending her Christian faith, she is alleged to have blasphemed by referring to the name of Islam's founder, Muhammad. A local Islamic cleric reported her to the local police. She was then arrested, was subsequently convicted of blasphemy and has been on death row ever since. The case has had a chequered history. Sentenced to death in November 2010, her conviction and sentence was upheld four years later in the Lahore High Court. Having lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court, she is still waiting for it to be heard. At least Asia Bibi is still clinging to her life, even if it is in jail.

The stand-out question is: How on earth is it possible in the twenty-first century that someone can be sentenced to jail, let alone death, for the offence of blasphemy? One would expect this to happen in territory under the control of the Taliban or ISIS or in Boko Haram-held parts of Africa, but how can this be happening in a major country like Pakistan, which prides itself on observing civilised standards, the rule of law and personal freedoms? Article 2 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights protects the right to religious belief. Article 18 reaffirms that right to religious belief and adds the right to change one's religion. Additionally, the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights protects the right to hold opinions without interference, and the right to freedom of expression. Yet Pakistan, a member of the United Nations since 1947, has laws that jail or execute people for blasphemy.

Despite such blasphemy laws being entrenched in its statute books, Pakistan has the further problem of a significant Islamist extremist presence in many areas of Pakistani life. Frequently we read of judges, politicians and senior administrative officials being murdered for advocating the repeal or liberalisation of blasphemy laws and for greater religious freedom. One such case was that of the Governor of the Punjab, who was murdered for speaking out in support of Asia Bibi. The mix of statute-entrenched blasphemy laws and Islamist mob violence is a toxic one because such laws are invariably used as an excuse to kill those from minority religious groups, particularly Christians.

For example, in 2014 a Christian couple, the wife pregnant with their fifth child, was burned alive in a brick kiln by an Islamist mob because of an alleged affront to blasphemy laws. In other recent cases in Pakistan, mobs rampaged through a Christian neighbourhood, burning down 100 homes; and 80 Christians were murdered at a church, as were 15 Christians at a Catholic church, with another 80 injured. Then there was the case of twin suicide bombings at two churches at Youhanabad, where 127 died and 250 were injured. In each case it was Pakistan's blasphemy laws that ignited the violence. Thousands of Christians have already fled Pakistan as a result, with other minorities such as Hindus and Muslims from the Ahmadi, Shiite and Ismaili communities also targeted.

The recent worldwide publicity generated by the ongoing scandal of the Asia Bibi case has focused attention on the plight of religious minorities in Pakistan. One organisation putting a searchlight on the toxic mix of blasphemy laws and mob violence in Pakistan has been the British Pakistani Christian Association, whose chairman, Mr Wilson Chowdhry, recently toured Australia, giving media interviews and briefing members of Parliament throughout Australia on the pernicious effect of blasphemy laws on minority religious groups in Pakistan. I was pleased to meet Mr Chowdhry and to commend him for his work in promoting religious liberty, particularly in areas of the world where it is under extreme threat. I am also pleased to have learned that an organisation, the Pakistan Minority Alliance in Australia, consisting of members of religious minorities in Pakistan, is working to actively seek justice for Asia Bibi and others who find themselves facing the same dangers. I join other members of Parliament throughout Australia in seeking justice for Asia Bibi.

FAMILY PLANNING NSW

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (16:25): With a big shout-out to hip-hop artists Salt-N-Pepa, tonight I want to talk about sex—and I pay tribute to the organisations and individuals that talk about sex every day. In particular, I pay tribute to an organisation that this year will celebrate 90 years of talking about sex, educating about sex and providing training to doctors and nurses about sex and human sexuality—an organisation that has talked openly, without shame and with accuracy, about all the good things and the bad things sex may be; and an organisation that understands the role of relationships in human wellbeing and the empowerment that comes from knowledge about sex, especially for women. I congratulate and acknowledge the work that has been undertaken by the volunteers, the staff, the doctors, the nurses and all who have worked for Family Planning NSW over the past 90 years.

Family Planning started out under very different circumstances as the Racial Hygiene Association. It provided sex education and certificates for women that said that they were free of genetic diseases and free of venereal disease. Uncomfortably, it was part of the eugenics movement at the time. In 2016 our society rightly rejects eugenics, but this history tells us a lot about a time in Australia when eugenics was more accepted than the idea of family planning or women having access to birth control. In 1933 the first birth control clinic opened in Sydney. Since then, Family Planning NSW has been there with information and services about sex that too often too many in our community do not wish to talk about.

When women were told it was unsafe to have any more children, they turned to Family Planning, often against the will of their families, their faith and their community. When parents have been unable or unwilling to talk about sex with their children, many have turned to the Family Planning bookshop for resources they can leave around the house for their teenagers to pick up and read. When a young woman has started to have sex with her partner, she has been able to go to Family Planning and seek confidential advice about options for contraception and for protecting herself from sexually transmitted diseases. When a general practitioner, a nurse or a community worker has come across people who need this advice they have been able to refer people to Family Planning NSW for help. When the education of doctors and nurses failed to include information about how to insert diaphragms or intrauterine devices, or to perform pap smears, Family Planning has provided the training necessary for medical professionals to provide these services.

Whether it is services, information or advice about contraception, pregnancy options, sexually transmissible infections, sexuality, sexual function, periods, menopause, vaginas, breasts, pap tests or fertility, Family Planning NSW has been there to provide non-judgemental, factual advice. In more recent years Family Planning NSW has expanded work with nurses, midwives and other women to support sexual and reproductive health programs in the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and other Pacific Island nations. This is important work that is saving women's lives. In the era of the internet, their information is freely

available so that women can find the factual and trusted information they need to take control of their own fertility and sexuality.

Family Planning NSW has always been prepared to advocate for better support for education, services and information when it comes to sexual and reproductive health. It has been prepared to promote the very basic idea that as a woman it is a human right to choose when and whether to have children. Family Planning NSW has supported law reform that has made contraception such as the pill more freely available without judgement, without shame and without conditions such as having to be married. It has been there to advocate, argue and make the case for women's bodily autonomy. It has been there to speak up for the right of people with disabilities to have access to information and to enjoy sex. It supported the campaign for RU486 to be made available and affordable.

Family Planning NSW supports the need for abortion to be taken out of the Crimes Act. Family Planning NSW's history tells us so much about the history of women in New South Wales as we continue to fight for the right to control our own bodies and to make our own decisions when it comes to sex and reproduction—rights well worth fighting for. Congratulations on 90 years of amazing history. May we see you continue to provide these vital services for many years to come. I stand with you as, in the words of Salt-N-Pepa, you shout, "Come on all the ladies, let's talk about sex."

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY IMMIGRATION POLICY

The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS (16:29): Yesterday evening during the adjournment debate we were treated—and I use the word "treated" lightly—to a display of chutzpah by the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, talking about the problems of the Coalition's immigration policy. Let us go through a little of the history. In 1992 mandatory detention was introduced by the Federal Labor Government for all boat arrivals. In 1996 the Australian Labor Party opposed a clampdown by the Howard Government on family arrivals and in 1999 it opposed temporary protection visas. In 2001, when offshore processing was instituted by the Federal Coalition Government, Labor opposed that—so much so that by 2006 Chris Bowen had the temerity to suggest that the facility on Christmas Island was a "white elephant". However, by 2007 Kevin Rudd, as the then Leader of the Opposition, said he would turn back the boats. But by 2008 he had destroyed the Pacific Solution and abolished temporary protection visas.

By 2010, however, Julia Gillard was in power and she reinstated the Pacific Solution and by 2011 asylum seekers were to be transferred under an agreement with Malaysia. That same year the Manus Island agreement with Papua New Guinea came in as part of a new Pacific Solution, which Labor had previously opposed and then supported. In 2012 a memorandum of understanding with Nauru and Papua New Guinea was introduced and in 2012 the first asylum seekers arrived on Nauru. Also in 2012, it was announced that there would be a no-advantage principle whereby anyone who arrived by boat would not have precedence over those who were seeking asylum from overseas camps. By 2013 the Labor Government sought the exclusion of the mainland and Christmas Island from the zone of Australia. However, by 2013 Kevin Rudd was back and indicated that no refugee who came by boat would be settled in Australia; they would be returned home or held indefinitely in Papua New Guinea. However, 2013 brought Tony Abbott to power and he reintroduced turn-backs and temporary protection visas, both of which were then opposed by the Labor Opposition.

Labor's asylum seeker policy has been nothing more than a cavalcade of hypocrisy, flip-flopping and factional shenanigans, based on whether it was in power at the time—in which case it had to deal with the practical realities of an asylum seeker flood—or alternatively, it was out of power and it let the left wing of the party go on with the ideological campaign of opening the borders to whoever wanted to come along at whatever time and for whatever reason. For Labor, in this place, to criticise the Coalition policy on immigration as it stands today when we have been consistent, all the way through from 1992 to the present day, is nothing less than the height of cheek on the part of Labor members.

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

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 16:32 until Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 14:30.