



New South Wales

Legislative Council

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament
First Session**

Thursday, 23 November 2017

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Documents	1577
Tabling of Papers	1577
Committees	1577
Selection of Bills Committee	1577
Establishment	1577
Regulation Committee	1578
Establishment	1578
Motions	1580
Republic of Korea National Foundation Day	1580
Institute of Chartered Accounts of India International Conference	1580
Australia-Korea Politics and Business Forum	1581
Airds-Bradbury Men's Shed	1581
Battle of Beersheba Light Horse Brigade	1581
War Widows' Guild Walk and Picnic	1582
Polish Independence Day	1582
Newcastle Solution Liquor Law Review	1584
Tribute to Dr Mohamed "madgi" El Hossiny	1584
Committees	1586
Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment	1586
Reference	1586
Motions	1586
Mullumbimby Music Festival	1586
Aasha Australia Foundation Ageing Forum	1586
Autism Awareness Photo Exhibition	1587
Lebanese Forces Australia Dinner	1587
HMAS Sydney II Seventy-Sixth Anniversary	1588
Lebanese Independence Movement Gala Dinner	1589
Hunternet Future Leaders Awards	1590
Real Futures Foundation Awards Ceremony	1591
Institute of Public Works Engineering Excellence Awards	1591
Tribute to Mr Donald Mackay	1592
Documents	1593
Tabling of Papers	1593
Auditor-General	1594
Reports	1594
Committees	1594
Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Legal Affairs	1594
Reference	1594
Special Adjournment	1594
Special Adjournment	1594

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Business of the House	1595
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders: Order of Business	1595
Order of Business	1595
Sessional Orders	1595
Debate on Private Members' Motions	1595
Presentation of Petitions	1596
Bills	1596
Smoke-free Environment Amendment (E-cigarettes) Bill 2017	1596
First Reading	1596
Second Reading Speech	1596
Business of the House	1598
Postponement of Business	1598
Bills	1598
Combat Sports Amendment (Referee's Duty to Stop Contest) Bill 2017	1598
First Reading	1598
Second Reading Speech	1598
Motions	1600
Tribute to the Hon. Duncan Gay	1600
Bills	1615
Building Products (Safety) Bill 2017	1615
Messages	1615
Documents	1615
Tabling of Papers	1615
Bills	1616
State Senate Bill 2015	1616
Second Reading Debate	1616
Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Waste Incinerator Facilities—Residential Exclusion Zones) Bill 2017	1618
First Reading	1618
Second Reading Speech	1618
Members	1620
Representation of Ministers Absent During Questions	1620
Questions Without Notice	1620
Broken Hill Water Pipeline	1620
Primary Industries Production	1621
South Coast Water Fluoridation	1621
Forest Residue Bioenergy	1622
Local Land Services	1623
Firearms Ownership	1624
Broken Hill Water Pipeline	1624
Western Sydney Jobs	1625
Registered Nurses Employment	1626

TABLE OF CONTENTS—*continuing*

Water Management and Compliance.....	1626
Commercial Fishing Industry	1627
Murray-Darling Basin Authority Northern Basin Review.....	1628
Water Management and Compliance.....	1629
Deferred Answers	1629
Priority Precincts.....	1629
Industrial Noise Policy.....	1629
Australian Open Golf Tournament	1629
Members	1630
Deputy Government Whip.....	1630
Business of the House.....	1630
Precedence of Business.....	1630
Committees	1630
Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General.....	1630
Membership	1630
Legislation Review Committee.....	1630
Membership	1630
Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission	1630
Membership	1630
Documents	1631
Tabling of Papers	1631
Motions	1632
Seasonal Felicitations.....	1632
Visitors.....	1638
Visitors.....	1638
Motions	1638
Seasonal Felicitations.....	1638
Committees	1640
Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission	1640
Membership	1640
Adjournment Debate.....	1640
Adjournment	1640
Mervyn Ambrose Leslie Flanagan Shooting	1640
White Ribbon Day	1641
Rural Local Area Command Amalgamations.....	1641
Environmental Utopia.....	1642
Project O Cooma.....	1643
Tribute to Dr Stavros Kyrimis	1644

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 23 November 2017

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. John George Ajaka) took the chair at 10:00.

The PRESIDENT read the prayers.

Documents

TABLING OF PAPERS

The PRESIDENT: I table the following papers:

- (1) Annual report of the Department of the Legislative Council for year ended 30 June 2017
- (2) Annual report of the Department of Parliamentary Services for year ended 30 June 2017
- (3) Parliament of New South Wales—Financial Performance 2016-2017.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Committees

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Establishment

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I move:

- (1) That this House notes that on 28 November 2016 the Select Committee on the Legislative Council Committee System tabled its final report which:
 - (a) identified a general consensus among inquiry participants that Legislative Council committees should play a greater role in scrutinising bills; and
 - (b) recommended the establishment of a Selection of Bills Committee, on a trial basis, which would identify which bills should be referred to a committee for inquiry and report.
- (2) That this House notes that the Government provided its response to the report on 26 May 2017 indicating that consideration of the committee's recommendations is a matter for the Legislative Council, which has the power to implement the recommendations should it see fit to do so.
- (3) That, in accordance with recommendation 2 of the Select Committee on the Legislative Council Committee System, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the standing or sessional orders, this House adopt the following resolution:

Appointment

- (1) A Selection of Bills Committee be appointed, on a trial basis, to commence on the first sitting day in 2018 and conclude on the last sitting day in November 2018.

Functions

- (2) The Selection of Bills Committee is to consider all bills introduced into either House and to report on whether any bill should be referred to either the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, Standing Committee on Social Issues or Standing Committee on State Development for inquiry and report, and in particular:
 - (a) the committee to which the bill should be referred;
 - (b) the stage in the consideration of the bill at which it should be referred to the committee; and
 - (c) the reporting date.
- (3) The Selection of Bills Committee cannot consider bills which contain no provisions other than provisions appropriating revenue or moneys.

Motion to implement the recommendations of the report

- (4) (1) On the tabling of a report by the Selection of Bills Committee, the Chair of the committee, or a member of the committee on behalf of the Chair, may move without notice a motion to agree to the recommendations of the report, including:
 - (a) the standing committee to which the bill is to be referred;

- (b) the stage in the consideration of the bill at which it is to be referred to the committee; and
 - (c) the reporting date.
- (2) Amendments may be moved to a motion moved under paragraph 4 (1), including amendments to refer other bills to a standing committee.
 - (3) A member shall not speak for more than 5 minutes on the motion, and at the expiration of 30 minutes, if the debate is not sooner concluded, the President shall put the question on the motion and any amendments.
 - (4) A motion to take note of a report under Standing Order 232 may not be moved to a report of the Selection of Bills Committee.
 - (5) A bill referred to a committee under this resolution may not be further considered by the House until the committee has reported.

Further consideration of the bill by the House

- (6) On the tabling of the report by the specified standing committee, a motion may be moved without notice that the bill be restored to the *Notice Paper* at the stage it had reached prior to referral.

Membership

- (7) The Selection of Bills Committee is to consist of the following members:
 - (a) three Government members, one of which is the Government Whip;
 - (b) two Opposition members; and
 - (c) one member from each crossbench party.

Chair

- (8) The Government Whip is to be the Chair.

Quorum

- (9) The quorum of the Selection of Bills Committee is three members, of whom two must be Government members and one non-Government member.

Committee may sit while the House is sitting

- (10) The Selection of Bills Committee may sit while the House is sitting.

Substitute members

- (11)
 - (1) Members may be appointed to the Selection of Bills Committee as substitute members for any matter before the committee, by notice in writing to the Committee Clerk.
 - (2) Nominations for substitute Government or Opposition members are to be made by the Leader of the Government, Leader of the Opposition, Government or Opposition Whip or Deputy Whip, as applicable.
 - (3) Nominations for substitute crossbench members are to be made by the substantive member or another crossbench member.

Evaluation

- (12) The Selection of Bills Committee is to table a report evaluating the effectiveness of the trial by the last sitting day in November 2018.

Motion agreed to.

REGULATION COMMITTEE

Establishment

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I move:

- (1) That this House notes that on 28 November 2016 the Select Committee on the Legislative Council Committee System tabled its final report which:
 - (a) identified a general consensus among inquiry participants that Legislative Council committees should play a greater role in scrutinising delegated legislation; and
 - (b) recommended the establishment of a regulation committee, on a trial basis, which would inquire into and report on specific regulations as well as trends that relate to regulations.
- (2) That this House notes that the Government provided its response to the report on 26 May 2017, indicating that consideration of the committee's recommendations is a matter for the Legislative Council, which has the power to implement the recommendations should it see fit to do so.
- (3) That, in accordance with recommendation 3 of the Select Committee on the Legislative Council Committee System, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the standing orders, this House adopt the following resolution:

Appointment

- (1) A regulation committee be appointed, on a trial basis, to commence on the first sitting day in 2018 and conclude on the last sitting day in November 2018.

Functions

- (2) The committee may inquire into and report on:
- (a) any regulation, including the policy or substantive content of a regulation; and
 - (b) trends or issues that relate to regulations.

Referral of inquiries

- (3) (1) The committee is to inquire into and report on any matter relevant to the functions of the committee which is referred to the committee by resolution of the House.
- (2) Where a regulation referred to the committee is the subject of a notice of motion or order of the day for the disallowance of the regulation:
- (a) the notice or order stand postponed until the tabling of the committee report;
 - (b) unless otherwise ordered, the committee must table its report within six weeks;
 - (c) on tabling of the committee report, the Clerk is to place the notice of motion or order of the day on the *Notice Paper* at the stage it had reached prior to the regulation being referred.

Powers

- (4) A committee has power to make visits of inspection within New South Wales and, with the approval of the President, elsewhere in Australia and outside Australia.

Membership

- (5) The committee is to consist of eight members, comprising:
- (a) four Government members;
 - (b) two Opposition members; and
 - (c) two crossbench members.

Chair

- (6) The Leader of the Government is to nominate in writing to the Clerk of the House the Chair of the committee.

Quorum

- (7) The quorum of a committee is three members, of whom two must be Government members and one a non-Government member.

Sub-committees

- (8) The committee has the power to appoint sub-committees.

Substitute members

- (9) (1) Members may be appointed to the committee as substitute members for any matter before the committee, by notice in writing to the Committee Clerk.
- (2) Nominations for substitute Government or Opposition members are to be made by the Leader of the Government, Leader of the Opposition; Government or Opposition Whip or Deputy Whip, as applicable.
- (3) Nominations for substitute crossbench members are to be made by the substantive member or another crossbench member.

Electronic participation in deliberative meetings

- (10) (1) A committee member who is unable to attend a deliberative meeting in person may participate by electronic communication and may move any motion and be counted for the purpose of any quorum or division, provided that:
- (a) the Chair is present in the meeting room; and
 - (b) all members are able to speak to and hear each other at all times.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph 10 (1), a member may not participate by electronic communication in a meeting to consider a draft report.

Conduct of committee proceedings

- (11) Unless the committee decides otherwise:

- (a) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration;
- (b) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement;
- (c) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published;
- (d) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within seven calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness; and
- (e) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration.

Evaluation of trial

- (12) The Regulation Committee is to table a report evaluating the effectiveness of the trial by the last sitting day in November 2018.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

REPUBLIC OF KOREA NATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:03): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Tuesday 3 October 2017 the Korean community of New South Wales celebrated the Republic of Korea National Foundation Day;
 - (b) Korean National Day was marked with a celebration in New South Wales on 28 September 2017 which was attended by the Korean Consul General Sangsoo Yoon; Premier the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP; the Minister for Multiculturalism, the Hon. Ray Williams, MP; the Minister for Finance, the Hon. Victor Dominello, MP; the member for Epping, Mr Damien Tudehope, MP; the member for Strathfield, Ms Jodi McKay, MP; the Hon. David Clarke, MLC; and the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC; and
 - (c) on this day, known as Gaecheonjeol, the Korean community commemorates the establishment of the Choson Kingdom in 2333 BC by Tagun, the legendary son of a god and a bear.
- (2) That this House acknowledges:
 - (a) the invaluable contribution of the Australian-Korean community and the longstanding friendship between Australia and Korea, dating back to the Korean War;
 - (b) the many Koreans who call Australia home, with more than 100,000 people in New South Wales from South Korea; and
 - (c) that South Korea is New South Wales' third-largest export market, and the local Korean community is the State's best asset in strengthening this relationship through people-to-people ties.

Motion agreed to.

INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTS OF INDIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:04): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Friday 3 November 2017 the Australian Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India [ICAI] held the sixth international conference in Sydney;
 - (b) the conference was attended by Mr Madan Jangra, Mr Yateender Gupta, Ms Pallavi Sinha, Mr Raman Bhalla, and the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC; and
 - (c) that ICAI is the second largest accounting body in the world.
- (2) That this House acknowledges:
 - (a) the opportunities for New South Wales and India in working together in professions such as accounting;
 - (b) ICAI members are essential in facilitating relationships both in New South Wales and in India;
 - (c) that India is on track to become the third largest economy in the world and the relationship with New South Wales is growing stronger every day; and
 - (d) 143,000 people of Indian ancestry call New South Wales home and exports to India are valued at nearly \$1.9 billion.

- (3) That this House congratulates the devoted organisers, mentors and chairs of ICAI, and accountants who give up so much of their time to strengthen and grow the connections that New South Wales shares with India.

Motion agreed to.

AUSTRALIA-KOREA POLITICS AND BUSINESS FORUM

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:05): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) on Wednesday 8 November 2017 the fourth Australia-Korea Politics and Business Forum and Gala Dinner was for the first time held in Seoul; and
 - (b) the conference was attended by over 850 people, including the Chairman of the AKPB Forum, Mr Sang Ok; Advisory Board Members, Mr Whie Jin Lee, Mr William Seung; Mr David Min; Deputy Chairman's Mr Ok Soo Park, Mr Soon Hong, Mr Seong Min Park and Yoo Shin Kim; Head of Branch, Mr Kyung Ha Park, Ms Hannah Sohn, Mr Jeong Hoon Hwang, and Mr Young Ok Park, Professor Woo Sang Kim, Dr Sang Mok Suh; masters of ceremony, Soon Hong, Eun Kyong Ok, Mr Moon Soo Kim and the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC.
- (2) That this House acknowledges:
- (a) the 123,017 Australians who have Korean ancestry, of which 66,613 call New South Wales home;
 - (b) the important trade and investment relationship between Korea and New South Wales; with Korea as the third largest export market;
 - (c) the importance of the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement [KAFTA]; and
 - (d) the aim of the Australia-Korea Politics and Business Forum and Gala Dinner is to further build and strengthen economic, trade, political, cultural, and social ties between Australia and Korea and take advantage of the Free Trade Agreement in place.
- (3) That this House congratulates the organisers of the Australia-Korea Politics and Business Forum and Gala Dinner, notably Chairman Sang Ok and Chairman Sung Woo Wang, on providing a platform for discussing Australia-Korean economic matters and forging important relationships.

Motion agreed to.

AIRDS-BRADBURY MEN'S SHED

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:05): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) the Airds-Bradbury Men's Shed has contributed significantly to the local Campbelltown-Macarthur community due to the tireless efforts of over 85 members of the shed;
 - (b) the extensive and hardworking contribution of Andrew McGlinchy and Brad Simpson has enabled a vibrant and warm community to form and grow; and
 - (c) on 1 November 2017 the Hon. Lou Amato, MLC, and the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC, visited the Airds-Bradbury Men's Shed.
- (2) That this House recognises:
- (a) the men's shed program offers a vital support network for men to connect and engage with members of the community and realise their talents;
 - (b) many of the activities that the members of the Airds-Bradbury Men's Shed partake in are therapeutic and offer a vital support environment for those struggling with a host of issues, with the setting allowing men's mental health and physical wellbeing to be addressed in a casual and comfortable manner;
 - (c) the men often involve themselves in activities such as community gardening, which has introduced the promotion of healthy eating at the shed, woodworking, mechanical servicing, as well as leather and metal work;
 - (d) the vital counselling services offered by volunteers on site have enabled men struggling with mental health problems to engage with those vital services; and
 - (e) the importance of the work done at men's sheds all across New South Wales and the need to continue supporting organisations such as these in order to ensure the future wellbeing and health of people all across New South Wales.
- (3) That this House thanks the diligent and hard work that volunteers and workers are doing at the men's shed in Bradbury and across New South Wales and acknowledges the need for programs and organisations such as these.

Motion agreed to.

BATTLE OF BEERSHEBA LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:06): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:

- (a) on 31 October 2017 a commemoration was held to mark the centenary of the Australian Light Horse charge on Beersheba at the Anzac Memorial, in Hyde Park;
 - (b) more than 500 Australians were involved in the charge, 35 made the ultimate sacrifice and 39 were wounded along with 70 horses lost in the charge;
 - (c) the 4th Light Horse Brigade made a significant contribution during the war which enabled a wider Allied offensive to break through the Ottoman Line and on to victory; and
 - (d) the event was attended by the Deputy NSW Mental Health Commissioner Allan Sparkes, CV, OAM, VA; Professor the Hon. Dame Marie Bashir, AD, CVO; Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, MLC; alongside the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC.
- (2) That this House recognises that:
- (a) the Battle of Beersheba was a turning point in the war and was arguably one of the founding stones of the State of Israel;
 - (b) the vital support that the Light Horse Brigade offered to the Allied British troops in their advance to Giza was essential in breaking the Ottoman Lines during the 1917 campaign; and
 - (c) the importance of service to our nation is significantly and prominently displayed by each member of serving members' families who honour the Light Horse and their efforts during the Great War, and that society must acknowledge the service to country before self which leads to the ultimate sacrifice being made.
- (3) That this House acknowledges the sacrifice and immense challenge that faced many of the young men and horses of the Australian Army's 4th Light Horse Brigade in Beersheba and recognises that without such a sacrifice the Australian way of life relating to mateship, a fair go and mutual respect would be vastly different if not for the actions of the brigade.

Motion agreed to.

WAR WIDOWS' GUILD WALK AND PICNIC

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:06): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) on 26 October 2017 the War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW held its annual Walk and Picnic at Kokoda Park, Concord;
 - (b) the War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW was founded in 1945 by Jessie Mary Vasey, wife of Major General George Alan Vasey, who died in a plane crash on the way to conflict in New Guinea; and
 - (c) the walk and picnic was organised by State President Ms Rhondda Vanzella, OAM, Ms Mary Wilson, and many dedicated volunteers, and was attended by the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC.
- (2) That this House recognises:
- (a) the many wives of servicemen who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the country and the continued need for support of organisations such as the War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW;
 - (b) that the War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW makes a significant contribution in the support of widows of war which has meant that a number of women have been able to find comfort and support from women in similar situations;
 - (c) events such as the walk and picnic are fantastic initiatives that aid women who have lost their loved ones to war to be brought together;
 - (d) that the widows have demonstrated their support and strength for one another through events such as the walk and picnic that aim to strengthen and bring together women in similar situations; and
 - (e) that every widow has demonstrated the servitude and courage for our nation, for we as a society must acknowledge the service to country before self.
- (3) That this House acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the members of the War Widows' Guild of Australia NSW for their dedication to continuing the work of this organisation.

Motion agreed to.

POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:07): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) on Friday 10 November 2017 a commemoration of Polish Independence Day hosted by the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Sydney, Mrs Regina Jurkowska, was held at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, attended by approximately a thousand members and friends of the Polish-Australian community;
 - (b) the event included an organ recital performed by Mr Witold Zalewski, Chief Organist of the Royal Archcathedral on Wawel Hill in Krakow;

- (c) following the commemoration of Poland's Independence Day, a farewell reception for the Consul General, Mrs Regina Jurkowska, who will soon be departing Australia for a new posting, was held in the Cathedral's Chapter House;
- (d) those who attended the commemoration and the farewell reception as special guests included:
- (i) Mrs Regina Jurkowska, Poland's Consul General in Sydney, host of the commemoration and special guest at the farewell reception;
 - (ii) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, representing the Hon. Ray Williams, MP, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Disability Services;
 - (iii) the Hon. Robert Borsak, MLC, and Mrs Cheryl Borsak;
 - (iv) Mr Adam Gajkowski, member of the Advisory Council of the Polish Senate for the Polish Diaspora;
 - (v) Dr Ryszard Adams-Dzierzba, President of the Federation of Polish Organisations in New South Wales, and Mrs Bernadette Adams-Dzierzba;
 - (vi) Mrs Malgorzata Kwiatkowska, President of the Polish Community Council of Australia;
 - (vii) Mrs Valerie Fowler, Consul General of the United States and Captain Charles Fowler III, United States Navy—retired;
 - (viii) Mr Sergey Shipilov, Consul General for the Russian Federation, and Mrs Shipilov;
 - (ix) Mr Nives Frohlich, Consul for Croatia;
 - (x) Mr Klaus Steitz, Deputy Consul General for Germany;
 - (xi) Dr Stavros Kyrimis, Consul General for Greece;
 - (xii) His Excellency Mr Attila Gruber, Ambassador for Hungary;
 - (xiii) Dr Gabor Lukacs, Hungarian Embassy;
 - (xiv) Dr Diana Haszonics, Consul for Hungary;
 - (xv) Ms Jane Connolly, Consul General for Ireland;
 - (xvi) Mr Arturo Arcano, Consul General for Italy;
 - (xvii) Mr Salvino Giusti, Consul General for Malta, and Mrs Clair Giusti;
 - (xviii) Mr Ricardo Salamanca, Deputy Consul General for Peru, and Mrs Paola Salamanca;
 - (xix) Mr Paulo Domingues, Consul General for Portugal;
 - (xx) Mr Iulian Nitu, Consul General for Romania;
 - (xxi) Mr Fonoti Ioane, Consul General for Samoa, and Mrs Ioana;
 - (xxii) Mr Branko Radosevic, Consul General for Serbia;
 - (xxiii) Mr Mark Stariha, Honorary Vice Consul for Slovenia;
 - (xxiv) Mr Juan Manuel Molina, Consul General for Spain;
 - (xxv) Mrs Bernadette Hunkeler Brown, Consul General for Switzerland;
 - (xxvi) Mr Nathapol Khantahiran, Consul General for Thailand;
 - (xxvii) Mr Frank Alafaci, Fundraising/Partnerships, United Nations Association of Australia Peace Program, and Mrs Sylvia Alafaci;
 - (xxviii) Mr Tim Gouliau, Director, Policy and Networks at European Australian Business Council;
 - (xxix) Mr Andrew Havas, Chairman, Courage to Care, and Mrs Havas;
 - (xxx) Mrs Virginia Judge and Dr Patrick Tooth;
 - (xxxi) Ms Jozefa Sobski, Chair, New South Wales Community Language Schools Board;
 - (xxxii) Ms Marianna Lacek, Polish Languages Schools; and
 - (xxxiii) representatives of numerous Polish cultural, religious and social organisations.
- (e) the Independence Day of Poland falls on 11 November each year and marks the anniversary of the restoration of Poland's sovereignty as the Second Polish Republic in 1918 from the German, Austrian and Russian Empires; and
- (f) Mrs Regina Jurkowska, Poland's Consul General in Sydney:
- (i) is a graduate from ELTE University Budapest, and has studied at the Academy of National Defence in Warsaw Poland;
 - (ii) has worked at the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Hungarian Institute of Culture in Warsaw; and

- (iii) since 1998 has been attached to the Polish Foreign Service, was formerly Consul in Uruguay and Deputy Director of the Department of Co-operation for the Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad, and has been Consul General for Poland in Sydney since August 2013.
- (2) That this House:
 - (a) extends greetings and best wishes to the people of Poland and to the Polish-Australian community on the commemoration of Poland's Independence Day 2017; and
 - (b) congratulates Mrs Regina Jurkowska on her successful period as Poland's Consul General in Sydney and wishes her continuing success in her next appointment.

Motion agreed to.

NEWCASTLE SOLUTION LIQUOR LAW REVIEW

Mr JUSTIN FIELD (10:07): I seek leave to amend Private Members' Business item No. 1843 outside the Order of Precedence standing in my name by omitting paragraph (1) (e) and by omitting paragraph (2) and inserting instead:

- (2) That this House requests the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority consider extending the deadline for public submissions to 22 February 2018 or thereabouts.

Leave granted.

Accordingly, I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on 21 November 2017 the NSW Liquor and Gaming Authority announced a review into what is known as the "suite of liquor-licensing and related measures implemented in the Newcastle CBD and surrounding areas since 2008";
 - (b) the authority has acknowledged that the review has been called as a result of a submission by the Australian Hotels Association;
 - (c) Mr Jonathan Horton, QC, has been appointed to conduct the review;
 - (d) the terms of reference announced by the authority indicate that public submissions will close on 13 December 2017 and Mr Horton, QC, is to report to the authority just nine days later on 22 December 2017; and
- (2) That this House requests the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority consider extending the deadline for public submissions to 22 February 2018 or thereabouts.

Motion agreed to.

TRIBUTE TO DR MOHAMED "MADGI" EL HOSSINY

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:08): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Wednesday 15 November 2017 the Association for the Development of Arabic Folk Poetry in Australia and the Arab World Inc. [ADAFPAAW] organised a function to honour the musical virtuoso Dr Mohamed (Magdi) El Hossiny at Parliament House Sydney, which was attended by many friends and admirers of Arabic folkloric poetry and music;
 - (b) those who attended as guests included:
 - (i) Dr Abderhmane Najjarine, representing His Excellency Mr Nabil Lakhal, Ambassador of Tunisia to Australia;
 - (ii) Dr Bahia Abou-Hamad, representing His Excellency Mr Najeeb Albader, Ambassador of Kuwait to Australia;
 - (iii) Mr Bassam Chehade, representing His Excellency Mr George Bitar Ghanem, Consul General for Lebanon in Sydney;
 - (iv) Mr Youssef Shawki, Consul General of Egypt in Sydney, and Mrs Dalia Farouk Zaki;
 - (v) Mr Ali Witwit, Consul of Iraq in Sydney, representing Ms Anwar Aleissi, Deputy Consul General for Iraq in Sydney;
 - (vi) Mr Mohamed Farghali, Consul of Egypt in Sydney and Mrs Batoul Chahine;
 - (vii) Mr Maher Dabbagh, Honourary Consul for Syria in Sydney;
 - (viii) Mr Issa Alchawish, representing Mr Izzat Abdulhadi, Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific;
 - (ix) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice;
 - (x) Mr Jihad Dib, shadow Minister for Education;

- (xi) Ms Julia Finn, MP, member for Granville;
 - (xii) Dr Mohamed (Magdi) El Hossiny, musical virtuoso—piano and organ;
 - (xiii) Mr Hossam El Hossiny, film producer and singer;
 - (xiv) Mr Magdi Fouad Boulos, musical virtuoso—pianist and cellist; and
 - (xv) representatives of numerous Arabic speaking community groups.
- (c) the life and achievements of Dr Mohamed (Magdi) El Hossiny are many including:
- (i) born in the town of Assiut, Egypt;
 - (ii) at the age of four started to play the piano;
 - (iii) at the age of six was recognised as a child musical prodigy in Egypt;
 - (iv) at the age of 17 played in the orchestra of the great Arabic singer Umm Kolthum;
 - (v) played for and with many of the famous singers and musicians of the Arabic speaking world including Mohammad Abdel Wahab, Farid El Atrash, Abdel Halim Hafez, Faiza Ahmad, Warda, Najat and Shadia;
 - (vi) between 1970 and 2008 wrote the musical scores of 55 films and 70 television series;
 - (vii) in 2011 was recognised by the *Guinness Book of World Records* for being one of the fastest pianists and organists in the world;
 - (viii) received various awards throughout the Middle East including Egypt (Cairo), Jordan (Jerash), Morocco, Lebanon and Syria;
 - (ix) has been recognised with awards from Europe—Amsterdam, Berlin, Geneva, London and Paris; as well as North America—Adamstown, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto; and
 - (x) throughout his distinguished musical career has showcased and transmitted the great musical heritage and achievements of traditional Arabic music of the "Golden Era".
- (d) the function was organised by Dr Bahia (Betty) Abou-Hamad who in May 2013 founded ADAFPAAW Inc. and whose objectives are to:
- (i) develop and promote Arabic folk poetry in Australia and the Arab world;
 - (ii) organise seminars, lectures and poetry events relating to Arabic folk poetry in Australia, the Arab world and the Arabic diaspora;
 - (iii) publish academic studies and research regarding Arabic language folk poets and poetry; and
 - (iv) encourage young poets to enhance their talents.
- (e) during the function, the following persons were recognised for the achievements and contributions they have made to the community:
- (i) Dr Magdi El Hossiny, achievements in music—pianist and organist;
 - (ii) Professor Abd Elmsih Malak, achievements in health administration and mental health;
 - (iii) Dr Yehia Saleh, achievements in medicine—gynaecology and surgery;
 - (iv) Dr Medhat Guirgis, achievements in medicine—orthopaedic surgery;
 - (v) Emad Nosair, achievement in music—violinist;
 - (vi) Binyamin Haddad, achievements in writing—author;
 - (vii) Hedar Abbadi, achievements in the arts;
 - (viii) Dr Ramzi Barnouti, achievements in medicine—urology and journalism;
 - (ix) Susan Aoun, achievements in poetry;
 - (x) Youssef Gebrine, achievements in poetry; and
 - (xi) Fouad Alwahrani, achievements in the arts, painting and sculpture.
- (2) That this House:
- (a) congratulates award recipients on their achievements and contributions to the cultural, social and professional life of New South Wales; and
 - (b) commends Dr Bahia (Betty) Abou-Hamad and ADAFPAAW Inc. for their ongoing activities in promoting Arabic folkloric culture and music in Australia.

Motion agreed to.

*Committees***PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT****Reference**

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM (10:09): I move:

That Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment inquire into and report on the night-time economy in New South Wales, and in particular:

- (a) progress on the implementation of the Government response to the New South Wales Night-Time Economy Roundtable Action Plan;
- (b) policies to support a diverse and vibrant music and arts culture across New South Wales;
- (c) policies to support the establishment and sustainability of permanent and temporary venue spaces for music and for the arts;
- (d) night-time economy policy and legislation in other jurisdictions, and options for New South Wales including red tape reduction and funding options; and
- (e) any other related matter.

Motion agreed to.

*Motions***MULLUMBIMBY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (10:09): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) the Mullumbimby Music Festival was held from Thursday 16 November to Sunday 19 November 2017;
 - (b) 2017 marked the tenth anniversary of the music festival;
 - (c) this is a unique music festival where artists and performers mingle and where shows are held in halls, clubs, and pubs rather than tents; and
 - (d) over the past decade over 600 world-class artists have performed at the festival and thousands of people have enjoyed the live music, making it one of the most successful boutique festivals in the country.
- (2) That this House congratulates festival director Glenn Wright on organising a popular and successful event in 2017.

AASHA AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION AGEING FORUM

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

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Saturday 4 November 2017 the Aasha Australia Foundation hosted a community information forum at Pennant Hills Community Centre on the subject "Everyone Deserves Respect—Ageing and Human Rights", which was attended by over 200 participants;
 - (b) the word "Aasha" has its origins in the ancient Sanskrit word meaning "hope" and the Aasha Australia Foundation works with seniors from South-East Asian culturally and linguistically diverse communities to bridge the gap between them and Australian government health services and aged care providers;
 - (c) those who attended the forum as special guests included:
 - (i) Mr B. Vanlalvawna, Consul General for India in Sydney;
 - (ii) the Hon. Matt Kean, MP, Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation;
 - (iii) the Hon. Philip Ruddock, Councillor and Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council;
 - (iv) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice;
 - (v) Ms Sophie Cotsis, MP, shadow Minister for Women, Ageing, Multiculturalism and Disability Services;
 - (vi) Dr Proful Valanju;
 - (vii) Nalika Padmasena, Solicitor, Seniors Rights Service;
 - (viii) Christine Matthey, Elder Abuse Hotline;
 - (ix) Senior Constable Jason Roughley, Vulnerable Community Support Officer, The Hills Local Area Command, NSW Police Force;
 - (x) Mehrdad Khoshab, Financial Information Services Officer, Centrelink;
 - (xi) Mr David Robinson, NSW Ethnic Communities Council; and

- (xii) Ms Diana Bernard, Senior Rights Service.
- (d) entertainment was provided by:
 - (i) the Bollywood Dance Group;
 - (ii) the Matka Chatka Dancers;
 - (iii) The Punjabi Dancers; and
 - (iv) Vinodod Rajput and the Seema Singers.
- (2) That this House congratulates the Aasha Australia Foundation, particularly its Director Bijinder Dugal and her committee on their initiative in holding a community information forum on Saturday 4 November 2017 on the issue of ageing and human rights.

Motion agreed to.

AUTISM AWARENESS PHOTO EXHIBITION

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

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Friday 10 November 2017 the "Do you see me?" photo exhibition and forum was held at the Lower Blue Mountains Neighbourhood Centre;
 - (b) this event was part photographic exhibition and part community forum designed to raise awareness about autism and inspire the community to be more inclusive;
 - (c) those who attended included:
 - (i) the Hon. Shayne Mallard, MLC, representing the Hon. Ray Williams, MP, Minister for Disability Services;
 - (ii) the Hon. Emma Husar, MP, Federal member for Lindsay; and
 - (iii) Mark Greenhill, OAM, Mayor of the Blue Mountains City Council.
 - (d) the Government is committed to the inclusion of all people in society.
- (2) That this House congratulates:
 - (a) Christie Green, who captured the portraits of children living with disability and their family and friends, focusing on the invisible disability of autism;
 - (b) Uniting Ability Links;
 - (c) the Lower Blue Mountains Neighbourhood Centre; and
 - (d) Northcott and Blue Mountains City Council for their generous support without which the exhibition would not have taken place.
- (3) That this House calls on the public to be more accepting and inclusive of those on the autism spectrum.

Motion agreed to.

LEBANESE FORCES AUSTRALIA DINNER

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:11): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Wednesday 18 October 2017 the Lebanese Forces Australia hosted a celebratory dinner at Le Montage, Lilyfield, which was attended by 1,500 members and friends of the Lebanese-Australian community to welcome Dr Samir Geagea and his wife, the Hon. Sethrida Geagea, member of Parliament, on the occasion of their first visit to Australia; and
 - (b) those who attended as special guests included:
 - (i) Dr Samir Geagea, President of the Lebanese Forces Party;
 - (ii) the Hon. Sethrida Geagea, MP, member of the Lebanese Parliament;
 - (iii) the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Premier;
 - (iv) Mr Luke Foley, MP, Leader of the Opposition;
 - (v) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, representing the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP, Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Ray Williams, MP, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Disability Services, and the Hon. Michael Sukkar, MP, Assistant Minister to the Federal Treasurer, and Mrs Marisa Clarke;
 - (vi) the Hon. Jason Clare, MP, shadow Federal Minister for Resources, Northern Australia, Trade and Investment, representing the Hon. Bill Shorten, MP, Leader of the Federal Opposition;

- (vii) Mr Robert Assaf, representing Senator the Hon. Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Minister for International Development and the Pacific;
- (viii) Councillor George Zakhia, Canterbury-Bankstown City Council, representing the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, President of the Legislative Council;
- (ix) Mr Jihad Dib, MP, shadow Minister for Education;
- (x) Mr Glenn Brookes, MP, member for East Hills;
- (xi) Mr Damien Tudehope, MP, member for Epping;
- (xii) Ms Julia Finn, MP, member for Granville;
- (xiii) His Lordship Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay, Maronite Catholic Bishop of Australia;
- (xiv) His Grace Bishop Robert Rabbat, Melkite Catholic Bishop of Australia and New Zealand;
- (xv) Reverend Father George Saad, representing Archmandrite Basilious Kodseie Metropolitan and Archbishop of the Antiochian Church of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines;
- (xvi) Monsignor Marcelino Youssef, Vicar-General of the Maronite Eparchy of Australia;
- (xvii) representatives of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family;
- (xviii) His Excellency Mr George Bitar Ghanem, Consul General for Lebanon in Sydney;
- (xix) Mr Tony Obeid, President of the Lebanese Forces Australia;
- (xx) Mr Jihad Dagher, President of the Lebanese Forces Sydney;
- (xxi) Mr Stephen Stanton, barrister and international adviser to Dr Samir Geagea, and Mrs Stanton;
- (xxii) Councillor Khal Asfour, Mayor of Canterbury-Bankstown City Council;
- (xxiii) Councillor John Faker, Mayor of Burwood Municipal Council;
- (xxiv) Councillor Bilal El-Hayek, Canterbury-Bankstown City Council;
- (xxv) Councillor Rachelle Harika, Canterbury-Bankstown City Council;
- (xxvi) Councillor Joseph Rahme, Cumberland Council;
- (xxvii) Councillor Charlie Ishac, Canterbury-Bankstown City Council;
- (xxviii) Councillor Anita Kazi, Fairfield City Council;
- (xxix) Councillor Charbel Saliba, Fairfield City Council;
- (xxx) representatives of various Lebanese political parties;
- (xxxi) representatives of various Arabic speaking media; and
- (xxxii) representatives of numerous Lebanese-Australian organisations.

(2) That this House:

- (a) welcomes Dr Samir Geagea and his wife, the Hon. Sethrida Geagea, member of Parliament, on the occasion of their first visit to Australia;
- (b) extends greetings to the Lebanese Forces Australia on the occasion of its celebratory dinner in honour of Dr Geagea and his wife, the Hon. Sethrida Geagea, MP; and
- (c) commends the Lebanese Forces Australia for its ongoing contribution to interfaith harmony in Australia.

Motion agreed to.

HMAS SYDNEY II SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:11): I move:

(1) That this House notes that:

- (a) a ceremony was held on 19 November 2017 to commemorate the seventy-sixth anniversary of the sinking of HMAS *Sydney II* at the Cenotaph, Martin Place;
- (b) 645 sailors and airmen lost their lives at sea on 19 November 1941, which remains Australia's greatest naval tragedy and accounted for 37 per cent of casualties on Royal Australian Navy Ships during World War II; and
- (c) the ceremony was attended by relatives and descendants of those lost at sea as well as the master of ceremonies, Mr Maurice Green, APM, Senator Jenny McAllister, Senator Deb O'Neill, the Hon. Lynda Voltz, MLC, Rear Admiral Andrew Robertson, AO, DSC, RAN Ret'd, Co Patron of the HMAS Sydney Association, Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, AO, CSC, and BAR RAN, Commander Australian Fleet, Ms Ann Lewis, Inspector David El-Badawi, Chaplain Andrew Watters, RAN, and the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC, representing the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Premier.

- (2) That this House recognises:
- (a) that HMAS *Sydney II* played a pivotal role in the Western Desert Campaign of World War II ensuring the safe passage of cargo, trade and human life on the high seas;
 - (b) the immense courage and sacrifice that each crew member exemplified during their tenure on the HMAS *Sydney II*, demonstrating the core values of Australian mateship, honour and looking after one another;
 - (c) HMAS *Sydney II*'s immense battles involving the sinking of the Italian destroyer *Espero* on 28 June 1940 and the cruiser *Bartolomeo Colleoni* in Crete which significantly weakened the Italian Naval capabilities during World War II; and
 - (d) the career-ending battle between HMAS *Sydney II* and German raider KMS *Kormoran* off the west Australian coast in 1941 tragically costing the ship and its crew.
- (3) That this House thanks the diligent and hard work that members of the HMAS Sydney Association Inc. do in organising important ceremonies to mark occasions such as these, and in particular Mr Maurice Green, APM; Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, AO, CSC, and BAR RAN, and Chaplain Andrew Watters, RAN.

Motion agreed to.

LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT GALA DINNER

The Hon. DAVID CLARKE (10:11): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) on Friday 17 November 2017 the Lebanese Independence Movement Australia held its annual gala dinner at the Lemnos By Clarence House Belmore, attended by 800 members and friends of the Lebanese-Australian community;
 - (b) those who attended as special guests included:
 - (i) Mr Michel Moawad, founder and President of the Lebanese Independence Movement;
 - (ii) the Hon. Pierre Raffoul, MP, Lebanese State Minister for Presidency Affairs;
 - (iii) His Lordship Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay, Maronite Catholic Bishop of Australia;
 - (iv) His Grace Bishop Robert Rabbat, Melkite Catholic Bishop of Australia and New Zealand;
 - (v) the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, President of the Legislative Council;
 - (vi) the Hon. David Clarke, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, representing the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Premier, and the Hon. Ray Williams, MP, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Disability Services;
 - (vii) Reverend Father Dr John Karaan, representing Basilios Kodseie Archimandrite Patriarchal Vicar for the Antiochian Orthodox Church, Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines;
 - (viii) Father Superior Louis Ferkh, representing St Charbel's Maronite Monastery Punchbowl;
 - (ix) His Excellency George Bitar Ghanem, Ambassador and current Lebanese Consul General in Sydney;
 - (x) Mr Charbel Maacaroan, future Consul General for Lebanon in Sydney;
 - (xi) Reverend Father Tony Sarkis, Dean of Our Lady of Lebanon Co-Cathedral;
 - (xii) Reverend Father Antoine Tohme, St Charbel Church;
 - (xiii) Dr Jean Tarabay, St Charbel's Maronite Centre for Research and Studies;
 - (xiv) Mr Anwar Harb, OAM, Editor-In-Chief of *An-Nahar* newspaper;
 - (xv) Mr Tony Khattar, President, Maronite Catholic Council of Australia;
 - (xvi) Mr Wally Wehbe, President of the Australian Lebanese Christian Federation;
 - (xvii) Mr Bakhous Georges, President of the Maronite Catholic Society;
 - (xviii) Sister Elham Geagea, representing the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family;
 - (xix) representatives of various Lebanese political parties;
 - (xx) representatives of numerous Lebanese-Australian community organisations; and
 - (xxi) representatives of Arabic speaking media;
 - (c) in 2005, Michel Moawad founded the Lebanese Independence Movement, which began as a grassroots initiative as part of the Cedar Revolution before it evolved into a structured political organisation that aims to defend Lebanese sovereignty, independence, democracy, inter-faith harmony, state institutions and human rights; and
 - (d) Michel Moawad is:

- (i) the son of late President of Lebanon Rene Moawad, who was assassinated on 22 November 1989;
 - (ii) founder and Executive Director of the Rene Moawad Foundation, which is a prominent non-government organisation working in Lebanon to improve health, education, agriculture and governance;
 - (iii) a board member of the "Maronite Foundation in the World", founded by former Maronite Patriarch Cardinal Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir to act as a link between the Lebanese diaspora and Lebanon; and
 - (iv) President of FORAS [Fostering Entrepreneurship and Employment in North Lebanon].
- (2) That this House:
- (a) welcomes Mr Michel Moawad on the occasion of his visit to Australia; and
 - (b) extends greetings to the Lebanese Independence Movement on the holding of its annual gala dinner 2017.

Motion agreed to.

HUNTERNET FUTURE LEADERS AWARDS

Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:12): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) the HunterNet Future Leaders Awards was held on 3 November 2017 at the Marina Views Function Centre;
 - (b) dignitaries at the event included:
 - (i) Scot MacDonald, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, the Central Coast and the Hunter;
 - (ii) Hennie du Plooy, Port Waratah Coal Services;
 - (iii) Jennifer Waterhouse, University of Newcastle;
 - (iv) Geoff Crowe, Port of Newcastle;
 - (v) Jeff Phillips, Varley Group;
 - (vi) Jonathan Vandervoort, ARTC and President Hunter Business Chamber;
 - (vii) Jill Gaynor, Newcastle City Council;
 - (viii) Greg Essex, Newcastle City Council; and
 - (ix) Rebecca Steltenpool, PKF.
 - (c) the Future Leaders inductees were:
 - (i) Aaron Cook, Minitex;
 - (ii) Adam Searle, Banlaw;
 - (iii) Adam Smith, Newcastle City Council;
 - (iv) Allis Strickland, PerformHR;
 - (v) Amber Stewart, Newcastle City Council;
 - (vi) Caitlin McMahon, PerformHR;
 - (vii) David Wheatley, ARTC;
 - (viii) Ellie Langford, PerformHR;
 - (ix) Jacqui Warren, HunterNet;
 - (x) John Coomer, ARTC;
 - (xi) Johnny Santoso, Laing O'Rourke;
 - (xii) Mark Boswell, Strategic Group;
 - (xiii) Marty Corrigan, Port Waratah Coal Services;
 - (xiv) Michael Cecil, Varley Group;
 - (xv) Petr Klima, Bohemia Interactive Australia;
 - (xvi) Ricky McLean, Port Waratah Coal Services;
 - (xvii) Ryan Fox, Rio Tinto;
 - (xviii) Sarah Kelly, Port of Newcastle;
 - (ix) Tim Browne, UMWELT;
 - (xx) Trish Heagney, NAB; and

- (xxi) Tristan Rossiter, ARTC.
 - (d) the inductee mentors were Gavin Foster, Mal Coble, Jacqueline Bessa and Gunilla Burrowes;
 - (e) the inductee judges were Tony Cade, Ian Hedley, Kerry Walker, Peter Cock and Professor Veena Sahajwalla; and
 - (f) the committee members were Steve Tolley, Chairman; Wayne Diemar, Program Director; Tim Blakemore, Rebecca Johnston, Nick Percy, Ian Brown, Tegann Kelly, Ed Riley, Rick Evans, Alumni Committee; and Merran Wiggins, Program Liaison.
- (2) That this House congratulates and commends all inductees to HunterNet Future Leaders, the committee, mentors and judges for their outstanding work in developing and fostering future leaders.

Motion agreed to.

REAL FUTURES FOUNDATION AWARDS CEREMONY

Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:12): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) the Real Futures Foundation held its awards ceremony on 10 November 2017 at the Westpac facility, Port Stephens;
 - (b) dignitaries in attendance included:
 - (i) Mr Scot MacDonald, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, the Central Coast and the Hunter;
 - (ii) WesTrac Team—Mr Greg Graham, Chief Executive New South Wales; Mr Patrick Maher, GM People and Performance; and Mr Michael Murray, Training Manager NSW;
 - (iii) Real Futures Team—Mrs Marian Sampson, Marketing Manager; and Mr Stephen Jennings, Programs Manager Schools;
 - (iv) Mr Paul Baxter—Principal, Irrawang High School;
 - (v) Mr Glenn Sproule—Deputy Principal, Tomaree High School;
 - (vi) Mr Lue Fagan—Community Liaison Officer, Irrawang High School;
 - (vii) Mr Mick Lee—Careers Advisor/VET Co-ordinator, Hunter River High School; and
 - (viii) Dr Tim Petersen—Principal, St Philip's Christian College Salamander Bay.
 - (c) students that received awards were:
 - (i) Sam Byrne from St Philip's;
 - (ii) Nathan James, Trae Grennan and Jack Byrne from Hunter River High School;
 - (iii) Miller Tomlin and Noah Maher from Irrawang High School; and
 - (iv) Liam Blown, Taraq Hall, Bailey Callaghan, Jye Sewell, Oliver Elward and Justin Wallace from Tomaree High School.
- (2) That this House congratulates and commends all awards recipients and the Real Futures Foundation for their work to encourage students to aspire to excellence.

Motion agreed to.

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:13): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia [IPWEA] held its 2017 Engineering Excellence Awards gala dinner on Thursday 9 November 2017 at the Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley;
 - (b) dignitaries in attendance included:
 - (i) Mr Scot MacDonald, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, the Central Coast and the Hunter, representing the Hon. Gabrielle Upton, MP, Minister for Local Government;
 - (ii) the Hon. Peter Primrose, MLC, shadow Minister for Local Government;
 - (iii) Mr Stephen Troughton, Deputy Secretary, Infrastructure and Services, Transport for NSW;
 - (iv) Mr Warren Sharpe, OAM, NSW President, IPWEA;
 - (v) Mr John Roydhouse, NSW CEO, IPWEA;
 - (vi) Mr Jeff McCarthy, Executive Director and Chief Engineer, Roads and Maritime Services;
 - (vii) Mr Rick Jones, Business Development Manager, Boral; and

- (viii) Mr Tim Hurst, Acting CEO, Office of Local Government.
- (c) the awards judges were Geoff Fowler, Henry Wong, John O'Connor and Greg Moran; and
- (d) the winners of the awards were:
 - (i) Public Works Leader of the Year—John Maretich, Assets Section Manager, Port Stephens Council;
 - (ii) Design and/or Construction of a Local Government/Public Works Project (less than \$500,000)—Hilltops Council, Harden Skate Park, Mark Crisp, Engineering Delivery Manager;
 - (iii) Design and/or Construction of a Local Government/Public Works Project (greater than \$500,000 less than \$5 million)—City of Canada Bay, Five Dock Main Street Streetscape Improvements, John Earls, Group Manager City Assets and Stephen Ellul, Group Manager, City Services;
 - (iv) Design and/or Construction of a Local Government/Public Works Project (greater than \$5 million)—Macquarie Hastings Council, Stingray Creek Bridge Replacement, Gary Randall, Group Manager and Peter Jenkins, Senior Works Engineer;
 - (v) New or Improved Techniques—Bega Valley Shire Council, The Network Operation Centre, Jason Deller, Manager Strategy and Asset Services;
 - (vi) Innovation in Water Supply and Wastewater—Eurobodalla Shire Council, Rosedale and Guerilla Bay Pressure Sewerage Scheme, Royce Toohey, Support Services Engineer;
 - (vii) Workplace Health and Safety—Lismore City Council, Civic Pride, Marcus Ellison, Interim Civic Pride Manager and Darren Patch, Manager Civic Pride;
 - (viii) Excellence in Road Safety Engineering—Public Works Advisory, Roads and Maritime Services and Specialised Geo, Bulli Pass Landslide Barrier, Phil Beddoe, Senior Project Mgt [PWA] Rachel Metcalfe, CEO (Spec Geo) and Alex Dunstan, Asset Manager, Southern Region [RMS];
 - (ix) Environmental Enhancement Project or Initiative including Recovering, Recycling and Reusing—Ballina Shire Council—Coastal Recreational Path Project, John Truman, Group Manager City Services;
 - (x) Local Government Excellence in Road Safety—Eurobodalla Shire Council, Kings Highway Safety Initiative, Warren Sharpe, OAM, Director Infrastructure Services;
 - (xi) Multi-Disciplinary Project Management—Randwick City Council, Chifley Sports Reserve, Stage 3, Ryan Zammit, Project Manager and Todd Clarke, Coordinator Projects;
 - (xii) The David Abbott Award—Todd Clarke, Coordinator Projects, Randwick City Council;
 - (xiii) Special Award—Ballina Shire Council, Marine Rescue Tower Project, John Truman, Group Manager Civil Services;
 - (xiv) Special Award—Wollongong City Council, Waste and Recovery Park, Cell Development and Expansion, Mark Roebuck, Manager City Works Services; and
 - (xv) The Minister for Local Government's Award for Innovation in Local Government Engineering—Ku-ring-gai Council, North Turramurra Recreation Area, Parissa Ghanem, Strategic Asset Coordinator, Deborah Silva, Manager Integrated Planning, Property and Assets and Andrew Watson, Director Strategy and Environment.
- (2) That this House congratulates and commends all recipients of the 2017 IPWEA Engineering Excellence Awards.

Motion agreed to.

TRIBUTE TO MR DONALD MACKAY

Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:13): I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) 2017 marks the fortieth anniversary of the murder of Griffith anti-drugs campaigner, Donald Bruce Mackay on 15 July 2017 in Griffith, New South Wales;
 - (b) Donald Mackay was born on 13 September 1933 at Griffith, New South Wales, the third and youngest child of Australian-born parents Lennox William Mackay, house furnisher, and his wife, Phyllis, nee Roberts;
 - (c) the family moved to Sydney in 1943;
 - (d) on leaving Barker College, Hornsby, Mr Mackay worked for furniture companies, studied accountancy and completed national-service training;
 - (e) in 1955, Mr Mackay returned to Griffith to help his brother run the family business;
 - (f) at St Martin's Anglican Church, Killara, on 6 April 1957 Mr Mackay married Barbara Vincent Dearman, a physiotherapist;
 - (g) after 10 years as an external student of the University of New England where he was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in 1969, Mr Mackay began to study law, attended Italian classes and took flying lessons;

- (h) Mr Mackay was a devout Christian, involved in Anglican and then in Methodist church activities;
 - (i) Mr Mackay served as Secretary of the Griffith Pioneer Lodge committee, founded the local branches of the Sub-Normal Children's Welfare Association, later Challenge Foundation, and the Australian Birthright Movement;
 - (j) Mr Mackay was Secretary, President and District Governor of the Apex Club of Griffith;
 - (k) Mr Mackay unsuccessfully contested the State seat of Murrumbidgee as a Liberal Party candidate in the elections of 1973 and 1976;
 - (l) at the 1974 Federal election Mr Mackay stood for the Federal seat of Riverina, where his preferences helped to unseat Labor's A. J. Grassby;
 - (m) while campaigning Mr Mackay became aware of the drug problem at Griffith and was concerned about the effect of marijuana on young users, the corrupting influence of illegal profits, and the capacity of laundered money to undermine fair competition in the economy;
 - (n) as her husband did not want his views on drugs to be seen as an electoral ploy, Barbara Mackay wrote anonymously to the *Area News* in June 1974, questioning the justice of a decision in May when two local farmers received small fines for growing cannabis;
 - (o) another letter, next February, carried Mrs Mackay's signature;
 - (p) meanwhile, Mr Mackay passed information to the Drug Squad in Sydney, thereby precipitating the raid on 10 November 1975 on a cannabis plantation at Coleambally during which the police found the largest single crop discovered in Australia;
 - (q) the case did not come to court until 7 March 1977 when Mr Mackay's covert role may have been revealed;
 - (r) disgusted with the lenient sentence, Mr Mackay launched a public campaign of reform and wrote to the *Area News* on 23 March 1977 and organised a petition, signed by 2,000 people, which was presented to Parliament in May 1977;
 - (s) at about 6.30 p.m. on Friday 15 July 1977 Mr Mackay left the Hotel Griffith and vanished, his bloodstained vehicle was located seven hours later in the hotel car park, three spent .22 cartridges lay nearby;
 - (t) public indignation at the failure of the police to find Mr Mackay's body led Premier Neville Wran to appoint Justice Philip Woodward as royal commissioner to inquire into drug trafficking;
 - (u) Justice Woodward reported in 1979 that Mr Mackay was murdered by a "hit man" on behalf of the Griffith cell of N'Dranghita, "The Honoured Society";
 - (v) in 1984 the Coroner found that Mr Mackay died of "wilfully inflicted gunshot wounds";
 - (w) in 1986 James Frederick Bazley was sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiracy to murder Mr Mackay;
 - (x) the report in 1987 of a special commission of inquiry into the police investigation of the death of Mr Mackay adversely named police officers, politicians and "Society members";
 - (y) the annual Donald Mackay Churchill Fellowship was inaugurated in 1987 with the Churchill Trust awarding a Donald Mackay fellowship annually for journalists and detectives to study methods of investigating and bringing to light organised crime;
 - (z) in 2008 the Rotary Club of Griffith erected a memorial in Banna Avenue, the main street of Griffith, in honour of Mr Mackay;
 - (aa) the statue of Donald Mackay is a white marble bust with a plaque inscribed with "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing";
 - (ab) Mr Mackay was supported throughout his courageous campaigns by his late wife, Barbara, who gave outstanding service to the community of Griffith in a variety of roles; and
 - (ac) in July 2012, 35 years after his disappearance, the New South Wales Police offered a \$200,000 reward for information on the whereabouts of the body of Mr Mackay.
- (2) That this House acknowledges with sadness that 40 years ago the courageous Donald Bruce Mackay was murdered in Griffith due to his selfless endeavours to stop the drug trade and corruption in Griffith, and honours the life of an extraordinary citizen and extends its sympathy to his surviving children.

Motion agreed to.

Documents

TABLING OF PAPERS

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I table the following papers:

- (1) Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985—Reports for year ended 30 June 2017:
 Department of Family and Community Services—volumes 1, 2 and 3
 Department of Industry, incorporating report of Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority
 Department of Planning and Environment.

- (2) Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984—Reports for year ended 30 June 2017:
- Cobar Water Board
 - Dams Safety Committee
 - Greater Sydney Commission
 - Local Land Services
 - Multicultural NSW
 - New South Wales Rural Assistance Authority
 - NSW Food Authority
 - Rice Marketing Board
 - Veterinary Practitioners Board.
- (3) Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984 and Growth Centres (Development Corporations) Act 1974—Reports for year ended 30 June 2017:
- Central Coast Regional Development Corporation
 - Hunter Development Corporation
 - Ministerial Development Corporation.
- (4) Community Services (Complaints, Review and Monitoring) Act 1993—Report of Family and Community Services entitled "Child Deaths 2016 Annual Report: Learning to Improve Services" for year ended 30 June 2017.
- (5) New South Wales-Queensland Border Rivers Act 1947—Report of Dumaresq-Barwon Border Rivers Commission for year ended 30 June 2017.
- (6) State Owned Corporations.

I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.

AUDITOR-GENERAL

Reports

The CLERK: According to the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce the receipt of a special report of the Auditor-General entitled "Report on Agency Compliance with New South Wales Government Travel Policies", dated November 2017, received out of session and authorised to be printed this day.

Committees

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 4 – LEGAL AFFAIRS

Reference

The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK: I inform the House that in accordance with paragraph 2 (6) of the resolution of the House relating to the establishment of committees, Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Legal Affairs resolved on 23 November 2017 to adopt the following reference:

That Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Legal Affairs inquire into and report on the current operations of Parklea Correctional Centre and in particular:

- (a) the adequacy of staff levels and staff safety;
- (b) the inflow of contraband;
- (c) the security at the facility, including access to jail keys;
- (d) corporate governance of the GEO Group and the facility;
- (e) any possible contraventions of the contract between the New South Wales Government and the GEO Group;
- (f) the appropriateness and operation of private prisons in New South Wales; and
- (g) any other related matter.

Special Adjournment

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That this House at its rising today do adjourn until Tuesday 13 February 2018 at 2.30 p.m. unless the President or, if the President is unable to act on account of illness or other causes, the Deputy President prior to that date by communication addressed to each member of the House, fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Motion agreed to.

*Business of the House***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 for today be as follows:

- (1) Private Members' Business item No. 1705 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Walt Secord relating to the Smoke-free Environment Amendment (E-cigarettes) Bill.
- (2) Private Members' Business item No. 1811 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Rick Colless relating to the Hon. Duncan Gay.
- (3) Private Members' Business item No. 9 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile relating to the State Senate Bill 2015.
- (4) Private Members' Business item No. 1411 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Lynda Voltz relating to the Combat Sports Amendment (Referee's Duty to Stop Contest) Bill.
- (5) Private Members' Business item No. 1267 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Mr Jeremy Buckingham relating to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Waste Incinerator Facilities—Residential Exclusion Zones) Bill.
- (6) Private Members' Business item No. 1572 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Paul Green relating to Bravehearts' White Balloon Day.

Motion agreed to.

*Sessional Orders***DEBATE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (10:27): I move:

That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing or sessional orders, during the current session and unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 186 be varied to read as follows:

- (1) An item of private members' business, other than a bill, must not receive more than two hours of debate.
- (2) When an item other than a bill is being considered:
 - (a) the mover of the motion may speak for not more than 20 minutes, and
 - (b) any other member may speak for not more than 15 minutes.
- (3) When an item other than a bill is not earlier disposed of at 10 minutes before the end of the time provided for the consideration of the item, the President is to interrupt proceedings to allow the mover of the motion to speak in reply for not more than 5 minutes. The President will then put every question necessary to dispose of the motion forthwith and successively without further amendment or debate, unless the motion is withdrawn as provided by the standing orders.
- (4) When any item subject to an overall time limit for debate is interrupted to allow the mover of the motion to speak in reply:
 - (a) the mover, or any member who has not already spoken in debate, may move a motion, without notice, to extend the time for the debate and to set time limits for each subsequent speaker in debate, and
 - (b) the question on a motion moved under paragraph (a) is to be decided without debate, but may be amended.

This change to the sessional orders relates to private members' business and time limits. It has been the subject of discussion in the Procedure Committee and was agreed by consensus of all members with all parties present that this was an appropriate way forward. This matter was raised with the Procedure Committee by the procedural staff of the House. It is an appropriate solution for problems that emerged earlier this year and previously.

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

Motion agreed to.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (10:28): I move:

That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing or sessional orders, during the current session and unless otherwise ordered, Standing Order 68 be varied to read as follows:

- (1) A petition may only be presented to the House by a member.
- (2) At the time provided a member may present a petition, including a petition for a private bill, or relating to a private bill before the House, on public or individual grievances, if it relates to a matter over which the House has jurisdiction.
- (3) When presenting a petition, a member may state:
 - (a) the petitioners;
 - (b) the number of signatures;
 - (c) the subject matter of the petition; and
 - (d) the request for action.
- (4) When presenting a petition, a member may move:
 - (a) "That the petition be received"; and
 - (b) "That the petition be read by the Clerk".
- (5) No amendment or debate may be made on questions relating to petitions.
- (6) A member may not present a petition from that member.
- (7) The member presenting a petition must sign it at the top of the first page.
- (8) A petition may not be presented to the House once the House proceeds to the orders of the day, except by leave of the House.
- (9) The Clerk must refer a copy of every petition which is received by the House to the Minister responsible for the administration of the matter the subject of the petition.
- (10) When a petition referred to a Minister under Standing Order 68 contains more than 500 signatures the Minister must table a response within 35 calendar days of the petition being received by the House.
- (11) If at the time the Minister is required to table the response the House is not sitting, the response may be presented to the Clerk.
- (12) A response presented to the Clerk is:
 - (a) on presentation, and for all purposes, deemed to have been laid before the House;
 - (b) to be printed by authority of the Clerk;
 - (c) for all purposes, deemed to be a document published by order or under the authority of the House;
 - (d) to be recorded in the *Minutes of the Proceedings* of the House; and
 - (e) to be forwarded by the Clerk to the member who lodged the petition.
- (13) The President is to inform the House on the next sitting day when any response to a petition has not been received within the 35 calendar day deadline. This procedure is to continue each sitting week until a response is provided.

When we adopted a rule in relation to the presentation of petitions by way of sessional order, we neglected to update some of the rules as we should have. Again, this has emerged as a suggestion from the procedural staff to the Procedure Committee. It was fully canvassed by the Procedure Committee and there was consensus among members of all parties present that this was an appropriate response. Once again, I commend the motion to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

*Bills***SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT AMENDMENT (E-CIGARETTES) BILL 2017****First Reading**

Bill introduced, and read a first time and ordered to be printed on motion by the Hon. Walt Secord.

Second Reading Speech

The Hon. WALT SECORD (10:30): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

As the shadow Minister for Health and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the New South Wales Legislative Council, I am proud to introduce the Smoke-free Environment Amendment (E-cigarettes) Bill 2017. This is a bill for an Act to amend the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 to regulate the use of e-cigarettes in certain public places. It would bring New South Wales into line with Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, which treat e-cigarettes similar to cigarettes. New South Wales is one of the last States in Australia to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in smoke-free public spaces. Again, New South Wales is last in another category on the national league table.

E-cigarettes are battery-powered vaporisers through which liquid is heated, vaporised and inhaled. They also come in non-nicotine varieties. E-cigarettes are designed to mimic the act of smoking tobacco cigarettes without burning tobacco. They were invented in China in 2003 and their use in Australia is growing. The use of e-cigarettes is widespread in North America and Europe. In Australia, it is unlawful to sell e-cigarettes containing nicotine. Indeed, the sale and possession of liquid nicotine is illegal under the New South Wales Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 without the approval of NSW Health. However, flavoured e-cigarettes are becoming very popular in New South Wales, and the community view is clear that e-cigarettes should be subject to the same strict rules and regulations as tobacco is in this State. Alarming, young people in New South Wales are taking up e-cigarettes more than any other age group, with 16 per cent of young smokers in this State using e-cigarettes and one-quarter of this group believe that they are not as bad as cigarettes.

My contribution will be brief because the aims of the bill are common sense and have broad support across a large number of public health groups. I will make some general comments about the calls from the community to regulate this area and the mechanics of the bill itself. Members with sharp memories will recall that in 2015, after much debate in this Chamber, we eventually passed the Public Health (Tobacco) Amendment (E-cigarettes) Bill. Broadly speaking, that bill amended the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008 to regulate the sale, packaging, advertising and display of e-cigarettes, and to prohibit the sale of e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories to persons under the age of 18 years, and for related purposes. It also made it an offence to vape in a car carrying a child and introduced an on-the-spot fine of \$250. In late June 2015, the Governor signed the bill into law and the regulations came into effect on 1 December 2015. Members will recall that the bill had general multi-party support, with the exception of the usual comments from the former Government Whip, the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: Which I stand by.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I acknowledge that interjection. Several amendments were agreed to during the Committee stage. However, one aspect of the bill was not amended. The Liberal-Nationals Government rejected the Opposition's amendments requiring e-cigarettes to be the subject of the restrictions applied to cigarettes, such as vaping in prohibited areas or smoke-free places whether or not they contain nicotine. In other words, in places where cigarettes are currently banned in New South Wales. To provide context, this was during the dark days of then Minister for Health, Mrs Jillian Skinner, who often allowed her personal dislike of groups to override her ability to support sensible proposals. As a result, we ended up with a half-baked approach. Members should make no mistake, we are debating this bill today because the Government refused to do the job properly the first time. But I digress.

Today the Chamber has the opportunity to fix a loophole in the Act that occurred under the previous Minister for Health. At the moment, vaping is banned on both international and domestic flights. However, while it is bizarre and absurd, it is permissible to vape in schools, offices, cafes, shopping centres, restaurants, swimming pools, sporting events and on public transport in New South Wales. At one point during the debate about e-cigarettes several years ago, The Greens Mr Jeremy Buckingham showed that it was possible to vape lawfully in this Chamber.

Clearly that situation needed to be changed, and I hope that the Berejiklian Government will accept the merits of this legislation because it has broad community support and it plugs a loophole in the current laws. This move is backed by about 25 professional bodies and health organisations, including the Heart Foundation, Cancer Council NSW, Australian Medical Association (NSW), Asthma Australia, the George Institute for Global Health, the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand, and the Australian Dental Association. As each day passes, one or two more groups are added to the list. They all want the use of e-cigarettes banned in smoke-free areas and have written to members expressing this view. I will quote two members of that informal coalition who have made representations. Ms Kerry Doyle, the chief executive officer of the Heart Foundation, said:

In NSW, people have not been allowed to smoke in most indoor public areas for over 17 years and even in many outdoor areas for almost eight years.

Smokers have managed for all that time, so it won't be imposing any additional burden on them to consider the best interests of the 85 per cent of the NSW population who don't smoke.

Professor Allan Glanville, president of the Thoracic Society, stated:

We don't fully understand the health impact e-cigarettes will have on individuals yet but there is cause for concern, especially for the lungs of the most vulnerable people in our community—babies, young children, people with medical conditions and the elderly.

We need to take a precautionary approach now to protect the general public while that evidence is being rigorously collected and analysed. Although there is still debate on the effectiveness of e-cigarettes and whether they are a gateway to smoking or move people away from smoking, they are clearly a smoking-related product and should at least have the same restrictions as cigarettes, especially in regard to smoke-free areas. This is also about supporting the hard-fought gains in the fight against tobacco. We have to look at ways to prevent the normalisation of smoking in New South Wales, and this extends to e-cigarettes. The Smoke-free Environment Amendment (E-cigarettes) Bill 2017 is a straightforward and precise bill with three clauses. It is a mere four pages in length. The first clause sets out the name of the bill. The second clause sets out the commencement date, which is the date of assent by the Governor.

The third and final clause amends the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 to include the use, holding of or otherwise having control over an e-cigarette within the definition of "smoke". By extending this definition, the bill provides for the regulation of e-cigarettes in the same way that ignited tobacco products are regulated. This occurs by four minor changes. Section 3 of the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 is amended by inserting the phrase "aerosols or vapours from e-cigarettes" after "other smoke". Section 4 of the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 is amended by inserting "e-cigarette has the same meaning as it has in the Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008". The bill also omits the definition of smoke and instead inserts:

smoke means:

- (a) in relation to tobacco or any other product that is intended to be smoked (except an e-cigarette)—smoke, hold or otherwise have control over, the product when it is ignited, and
- (b) in relation to an e-cigarette—use, hold, or otherwise have control over, the e-cigarette when it is generating or releasing an aerosol or vapour.

Today we have a unique opportunity to do what the previous Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, failed and refused to do. We have the opportunity to properly regulate a substance before it has the chance to proliferate in the same way as tobacco. We have an opportunity to protect lives and protect the community from the dangers of a smoking life, whether it is regular tobacco cigarettes or e-cigarettes. That is why I urge my colleagues in this Chamber to support Labor's comprehensive approach to e-cigarettes and complete the work that should have occurred in 2015. I thank the House for its consideration. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Business of the House

POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: On behalf of the Hon. Rick Colless: I move:

That Private Members' Business item No. 1811 outside the Order of Precedence be postponed until a later hour of the sitting.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: On behalf of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile: I move:

That Private Members' Business item No. 9 outside the Order of Precedence be postponed until a later hour of the sitting.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

COMBAT SPORTS AMENDMENT (REFEREE'S DUTY TO STOP CONTEST) BILL 2017

First Reading

Bill introduced, and read a first time and ordered to be printed on motion by the Hon. Lynda Voltz.

Second Reading Speech

The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ (10:38): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Combat Sports Amendment (Referee's Duty to Stop Contest) Bill 2017 amends the Combat Sports Act 2013 to give the trainer of a combatant the authority to direct the referee to stop the contest. This bill adopts the recommendations made by the Deputy State Coroner, following the death of boxer Davey Browne during a professional boxing contest in September 2015. I pass on the condolences of the entire House to Davey Browne's

family and friends. It was the finding of the Deputy State Coroner that the manner and cause of death was a large acute subdural haematoma, which is a bleeding on the brain, that he sustained as a result of a final blow in round 12 of the fight. Davey Browne's death and the resulting coronial inquest demonstrated the inadequacy of existing laws in protecting combatants. It was evident to many in the audience and during the inquest that after round 11, Davey was concussed and no longer able to defend himself.

During the inquest, a number of questions were asked as to whether and when the fight should have been stopped and by whom. A trainer's power to stop a fight, as recommended by the Deputy Coroner, needs to be included in the Act to reflect the gravity of the responsibility, as well as for the sake of clarity and consistency, given that the corresponding powers of the referee, inspectors and medical practitioners are all codified in the Act. It is also not practical for a trainer's power to stop the fight to be only listed in the rules, rather than in the Act itself. Currently all powers to stop a fight are enshrined in legislation. The failure of the legislation to not include the right of a trainer to stop the fight is errant. Trainers will look to the legislation, not the rules. Rules can be changed at any time by the Combat Sports Authority.

The aim of the combat sports legislative framework should be to make it clear to all those involved and simpler to follow, particularly given that the first objective of the Act is to promote the health and safety of the combat sports contestants. That is why important duties and powers should be explained in the Act first, and further details can be provided in the rules. We should not expect trainers and other officials to comb through the Act, regulations and rules week by week to find out what is expected of them. The Deputy Coroner made a number of recommendations to the Minister, including that "a transcript of this inquest be provided to the next review of the combat sports legislative scheme", that consideration be given to "whether the legislative scheme should be amended to provide a comprehensive set of rules to govern the conduct of all boxing contests in NSW" and to "whether the obligations on an attending medical practitioner to stop a contest should be amended".

The Deputy Coroner also recommended that the Office of Sport consider "a significant number of recommended amendments to the Combat Sports Rules to deal with the role of the attending medical practitioners in monitoring and ensuring the safety of competitors". These recommendations are yet to be acted on by the Minister. I have twice requested that the transcripts of the coronial inquest be made available and have been refused. Indeed, the Office of Sport told me that it has not yet accessed the transcripts, which was a recommendation of the coronial inquest. The Combat Sports Act has not been amended to reflect any of the recommendations of the Deputy Coroner. In fact, only the combat sports rules have been amended to allow a trainer to "throw in the towel" if, in their opinion, the bout should cease. This is completely inadequate.

The power to stop the contest should be in the Act and that is what this amendment does. Evidence given by Davey Browne's family to the Coroner was noted in extensive media coverage during the coronial inquest and showed that the family clearly wanted the fight stopped, and yet none of the officials with the authority to stop the fight took action. Davey's family, trainer and judges all thought that he was unable to carry on, but there was confusion about whose call it was to end the fight. His family described Davey's appearance at the end of the eleventh round in a number of ways. His father, also a former boxer, said his son looked "drunk as a skunk". His wife, Amy, said her husband looked "like a rag doll". His mother said she repeatedly called out "stop the fight", but got no response from anybody. His mother-in-law, an intensive care nurse, described Davey as looking "groggy, debilitated and unable to defend himself". When giving evidence to the coronial inquest, Mr Browne also said:

The referees definitely should have stopped the fight.

The neurosurgeon's report to the Coroner also clearly states that by the end of round 11, Davey was already concussed and "would not have been able to continue in any safe or competitive manner," and that "the fight should have been stopped well before round 12". Yet the fight continued into round 12. Davey's corner employed stalling tactics to try to delay his going in to fight, in order to give him time to recover. The clock was running and the referee resumed the fight, bringing Davey into the centre of the ring to face his opponent. Meanwhile, an international boxing official present at the fight said that he felt that the fight should have been stopped at the end of both round 6 and round 11.

However, he was told by a judge that he had no power to intervene in any way or to stop the fight. Reading the Deputy Coroner's report shows there is significant confusion about who can and should stop a fight. This bill will insert a clause into section 66, "Referee's duty to stop contest", to provide additional protection for the safety of combatants, by granting their trainer the authority to direct a referee to stop the contest. The current provisions for stopping a contest are:

- (1) The referee must stop a combat sport contest:
 - (a) if, in the referee's opinion, a combatant is exhausted or injured to such an extent as to be unable to defend himself or herself or to continue the contest, or

- (b) if a disruption occurs of such a kind as, in the referee's opinion, warrants stopping the contest, or
- (c) in circumstances of a kind specified by the rules or prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section.

In addition, the Act provides for a medical practitioner, Combat Sports Inspector or a police officer present at the fight to also direct the referee to stop the fight, if in their opinion "... a combatant is exhausted or injured to such an extent as to be unable to defend himself or herself or to continue the contest". However, the Act does not currently include provisions for the trainer to direct a referee to stop the contest. This fails to acknowledge the important role and experience of the trainer. A trainer is the person who likely knows the individual fighter's combat sports skills and physical capacity better than any of the other officials. Trainers work closely, often over a long period of time, with fighters. They are likely to be the first person to notice anything unusual in the fighter's demeanour during a contest. A trainer can pick up subtle cues in the fighter's posture, body language, expression or style of combat to indicate that something may be wrong. These signs are likely to be overlooked by someone unfamiliar with the fighter. The bill therefore proposes inserting the following clause into section 66 of the Combat Sports Act:

The referee must stop a combat sport contest:

- (b1) if the trainer of a combatant directs the referee to stop the contest because the combatant is exhausted or injured to such an extent as to be unable to defend himself or herself or continue the contest.

This amendment clarifies the trainer's authority to call for the contest to be stopped and brings it in line with the corresponding powers of the referee, inspector and medical practitioner, which are all within the Act. This amendment enshrines the trainer's power to call off the contest in the Act, where it should be. Most combatants will be prepared to remain in the contest, even when injured or concussed, and at the time may be unaware of the extent of their injuries. This is why it is imperative that those around the fighter, who know them best, such as their trainers, have the power to direct the referee to stop the contest. Medical doctors who attend fights tell me that once they can see the symptoms the damage has already been done. For them the most important people from whom they would take their cues are the trainers. The trainers are well placed, given their knowledge and experience in the industry. The Coroner's report cited the evidence of Professor Owler, a neurosurgeon who watched a recording of Davey Browne's fight, and gave evidence that:

... the boxer themselves will not be in a position to identify whether or not they are concussed, and asking whether they are OK is unlikely to form any reliable guide as to whether or not they are concussed.

The tragedy of Davey Browne's death is that it was preventable. Yet none of the officials present at the fight exercised their duty to stop the contest, and those who wanted the fight stopped were unable to do so. This bill adopts the recommendations of the Deputy State Coroner in making responsibilities of all those involved in combat sports clearer, and ultimately making these sports safer for all participants. However, there is much more to be done to ensure that tragic and preventable deaths such as Davey Browne's do not happen again. This House needs to adopt all the recommendations of the Coroner, including making available to the Office of Sports a transcript of that inquiry. When this House originally passed the Combat Sports Bill 2013 it inserted a clause making the combatants' health and safety the first priority. In a sport as dangerous as this, those who participate in it must be the first consideration of government. To include this amendment in the Act is consistent with the views of the House when the bill was debated in 2013. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Motions

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. DUNCAN GAY

The Hon. RICK COLLESS (10:55): I move:

- (1) That this House notes:
 - (a) the extended and honourable service to this House and the Parliament of New South Wales provided by the Hon. Duncan Gay since the State election on 19 March 1988; and
 - (b) that during his parliamentary service, the Hon. Duncan Gay has served as Chairman of Committees, on parliamentary committees, as a shadow Minister with a number of portfolios, as Leader of The Nationals and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, as Leader of the House in the Legislative Council, as Deputy Leader and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, as Vice-President of the Executive Council and as the Minister for Roads and Ports, the Minister for Roads and Freight, the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, and the Minister for the North Coast.
- (2) Congratulates and thanks the Hon. Duncan Gay, his wife, Katie, and children, Anna and James, on his contribution to the Parliament and the people of New South Wales throughout the last 29 years.

The Hon. Duncan Gay entered this place at the New South Wales State election held on 19 March 1988, and left here on 31 July 2017—29 years, four months and 13 days later. But who was counting? I will come back to that

question a little later! When Duncan Gay entered Parliament, the now youngest member of this House—the Hon. Taylor Martin—was still two years away from being born! Duncan came into the Forty-ninth Parliament of New South Wales, and it is worth noting some of the luminaries who were elected for the first time at that 1988 election: Ian Macdonald, Marlene Goldsmith, Brian Pezzutti, Paul O'Grady, Duncan Gay, Stephen Mutch, Helen Sham-Ho, Elaine Nile and Richard Jones. Most of those people were luminaries—some were lunatics! Duncan Gay was certainly one of the luminaries and is the last of the 1988 cohort to retire from political life from this Chamber.

The Legislative Council was a very different place in 1988 to the place we know today. Duncan's first day at work lasted just one hour and 10 minutes, convening at 10.30 a.m. on 27 April 1988 and rising at 11.40 a.m! The second day was far more arduous, convening at 10.30 a.m. and concluding at 4.30 p.m. after a mini constitutional debate about the presidency of the Hon. Johnno Johnson. For the record, the Hon. Johnno Johnson survived the challenge and retained his position as President of the Legislative Council in the new Coalition Government.

Today, it is normal for new members of this House to make their inaugural speeches as soon as practically possible following their election and swearing in. That has not always been the case. In times long gone, new members were instructed to make their maiden speech at a time their mentors deemed to be right. The group that entered the Legislative Council with the Hon. Duncan Gay started making their first speeches in June 1988, some 12 sitting days after their swearing in, while Duncan made his first speech on 23 August, some 26 sitting days after he was sworn in. This should be compared to the most recently elected member of this Chamber, the Hon. Natalie Ward, who was elected on 16 November 2017, who was sworn in on 21 November and who delivered her inaugural speech yesterday, 22 November 2017. There is certainly a desire in this age to have new members sworn and deliver their inaugural speeches as soon as practically possible in order to have them become fully functional members of the Legislative Council.

One of the objectives of the inaugural speech is to outline one's beliefs and aspirations, and it becomes a benchmark for assessing how successfully one has prosecuted their parliamentary career over the years. Duncan acknowledged this tradition in his maiden speech and pointed out that it is a way of showing us how we may have lost direction while in others it shows how our perspectives may have matured. Duncan described himself in 1988 as an agrarian socialist—a term I have heard him use to describe himself on many occasions during my time working with him. Having so described himself, he did not hold back on others, accusing the conservative side of politics as losing touch with the people nearly as much as those on the other side of politics whom he described as the chardonnay socialists and the Bollinger Bolsheviks.

Duncan spoke about his main areas of interest, which he wished to focus on during his career. He spoke about his concern for social engineering, which had been performed at the expense of many sections of society, and how he was delighted to be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Issues. Duncan did some wonderful work on that committee in the early days of his career, including an inquiry into Drug Abuse Among Youth in 1989. As an agrarian socialist, Duncan was committed, during his parliamentary career, to the collective wellbeing of people and communities in regional areas and it was always a driving force in his decision-making processes—sometimes sitting there like a computer program operating in the background, very often though the main program in bright lights on the main screen.

I have many recollections, particularly in our opposition days, of dropping into Dunc's office to chew the fat over policy ideas and issues to run with, and he always had a mostly gentle, but sometimes very blunt, way of advising the best way forward in a particular circumstance. I digress to share an anecdote. It is worth knowing that Duncan is well known among our party members as "Grumpy" Duncan.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: No! Slander! Defamation! Leave the Chamber!

The Hon. RICK COLLESS: That is reinforced by his grandchildren, who also call him "Grumps".

The PRESIDENT: Order! On that note—I seek the indulgence of the Hon. Rick Colless—I take this opportunity to formally acknowledge in the public gallery the Hon. Duncan Gay and his wife, Katie Gay. I am sure I speak on behalf of everyone when I say how much we appreciate your being here today and giving all honourable members an opportunity to thank you for your service.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: Hear, hear!

The Hon. Mick Veitch: I thought that was a bust.

The Hon. RICK COLLESS: No, the bust will be placed on the wall of this House. Whatever the nature of Dunc's response, though, one could always tell his concern for those people and communities he held in the greatest esteem—those in the regional areas of New South Wales, of course. Duncan's second area of interest was

how governments could better support those regional communities. He spoke about the problems with the traditional approach to decentralisation, preferring to describe it as de-urbanisation. This issue remains a major priority of this Government today about regenerating the interest in making smaller rural communities vibrant and attractive places in which to live, work and play.

The concepts that Duncan spoke about in 1988 to achieve those goals remain relevant today and revolve around providing young people with the right incentives to remain in or return to country communities through better education and work opportunities. Better opportunities for business through equitable energy costs and communication facilities needed to be provided—which is still relevant today—so that we can sell the social positives about living and working in country communities, such as living 10 minutes from work, the better cost of housing and the relaxed lifestyle of country living compared to the hustle and bustle of the major cities. As I said, these issues remain relevant today. It is a tribute to Duncan that he raised these points nearly 30 years ago.

The next area of interest he spoke about probably falls into the category of showing how our perspectives may have matured over the years of parliamentary service. Duncan was a fierce and committed advocate for a very fast train [VFT] between Melbourne and Sydney via Canberra providing travel times of three hours between Sydney and Melbourne with fares substantially less than airfares at that time. Duncan predicted the very fast train would be operational by 1995 or 1996. Dunc, I know your perspective on the VFT matured over the years, but I am sure you are pleased with the recent developments in transport with the go-ahead being given for the Western Sydney airport and the inland rail, which collectively will provide enormous opportunities for regional New South Wales in the future.

But the area on which Duncan Gay really delivered was of course the Roads portfolio. In his first speech he stated that roads were the greatest problem facing the people of rural New South Wales and that the provision of an all-weather road network was essential for the safety and development of this State. Over the years Coalition governments have produced some excellent former Ministers for Roads, including Nationals Ministers Sir Charles Cutler, Tim Bruxner, Wal Murray and of course Duncan Gay. Duncan, you are in great company, and I and many others believe that you will go down in history as the greatest New South Wales roads Minister of all time. You served in that role from 4 April 2011 until 30 January 2017—almost six years—in one of the biggest and most difficult portfolios in the new 2011 Coalition Government. In the same time period during the last six years of the Labor Government, there were a total of six roads Ministers, four of whom failed to last 12 months in the job, which really highlights the parlous state of the Roads portfolio during that period.

As a truly reforming Minister, the Hon. Duncan Gay disbanded the old Roads and Traffic Authority [RTA] and created the Roads and Maritime Service [RMS]. He placed the right people in the right places to take this State's road network forward, both in regional New South Wales and in the more highly urbanised city centres. One of the first reforms he implemented was to reinstate the 110 kilometres per hour speed limit on the Newell Highway. Unfortunately for the motorists of New South Wales, the six previous roads Ministers allowed the bureaucracy within the old RTA free rein to implement whatever programs they thought appropriate, and one of those was to reduce the speed limit on the Newell Highway from 110 kilometres per hour to 100 kilometres per hour under the guise of road safety. That decision infuriated road users and locals in western New South Wales because the lower 100 kilometres per hour speed limit increased danger and created a hazard on that highway.

Of course the Newell is used by many heavy vehicles whose speed is limited to 100 kilometres per hour. Light vehicles travelling at 100 kilometres per hour are unable to pass the heavy vehicles travelling at the same speed on the many straight flat stretches of the Newell. When the heavy vehicles came to the undulating sections, they had to slow down because of the gradient, and the light vehicles accumulated behind them. By reinstating the 110 kilometres per hour limit, it meant that the light vehicles were able to overtake the heavy vehicles on the straight and level sections, reducing the localised congestion and in fact making the road safer. Following the disbandment of the RTA and the creation of the RMS, Duncan was one of the very few Ministers in the new Government to avoid bad publicity and controversy, despite having a large and complex portfolio, some major issues to overcome and some extremely sensitive matters to deal with as the Government set about fixing the roads networks in New South Wales after 16 years of neglect by the Labor Government.

The major focus of fixing the roads was the Pacific Highway. The fact that this highway upgrade is now in its concluding stages is testament to the work that Duncan Gay did, not only by using his effective debating powers within the New South Wales Cabinet to secure funding but also in negotiating a better deal from the Federal Government for funding assistance. The second cousin to the Pacific Highway is the Princes Highway, and while Labor made lots of promises to upgrade this road, it was not until the Hon. Duncan Gay became Minister that the Gerringong, Foxground and Berry bypasses became a reality.

The Bridges for the Bush program has seen many old timber bridges and low-level crossings replaced with new high concrete structures. One very important bridge that comes to mind is the new bridge over the Gwydir River at Bundarra, a small village on the Northern Tablelands where I grew up in the late 1950s and

1960s. The crossing over the Gwydir River at Bundarra was known as "the Emu"—a low-level crossing that was cut by floodwater with a flood level, in fact, only a fresh level, of about one metre. This caused excessive inconvenience to school buses, transport vehicles and local residents as they travelled between Armidale and Bundarra. As a former mayor of Inverell shire, all the local government councils impacted by the Emu crossing had made many submissions to many governments to have this crossing replaced with a high level bridge. Duncan made it happen! I was delighted to attend the opening with Duncan and the member for Northern Tablelands to watch the absolute delight of people from around the region who had come to witness a bridge opening to replace the old Emu crossing.

So many other road improvements have been delivered they are impossible to mention because of the time constraints we have today. Hunter roads, the Great Western Highway upgrade, Bells Line improvements, Newell Highway upgrades, the New England Highway, the Guanna Hill realignment on the Mitchell Highway, Gocup Road, Middle Trundle Road, Silver City Highway and the Cobb Highway. There is still a lot to do on some of these roads, Dunc, but by crikey you made a huge contribution to fixing many of them. Then of course Duncan also had responsibility for the major road upgrades and new connections in the Sydney road network, and these new works, while attracting some opposition, were very capably dealt with by Minister Gay.

The Hon. Duncan Gay has contributed an enormous amount to the people of New South Wales, not only in his role as the best roads Minister New South Wales has ever had or is ever likely to have but also in his role as a senior Cabinet Minister and Leader of the House. Earlier I asked the question about who was counting the days. Those opposite were the ones who were counting the days. During the early days of this Government, Mike Gallacher and Duncan Gay, as leaders of this House, tore shreds off the new Opposition, and Duncan continued to tear shreds off the Opposition for his whole time as a Minister in this place.

Dunc, you were a formidable opponent and there must have been a huge collective sigh of relief from those opposite when they heard you had retired from the Cabinet, and more huge sighs of relief when you announced your retirement from this House. I recall when we were in Opposition, both Mike Gallacher and Duncan Gay were away for a day and I had to sit in the Opposition chair during question time. John Della Bosca, the Leader of the House at the time and one of the nicest people to sit in this Chamber, said to me after question time, "You're not as quick as Duncan but you're much, much nicer!" John Della Bosca is a very decent bloke, as everyone would appreciate, and he held Duncan in high regard for his capacity as a debater and a formidable opponent in this place.

Dunc, there are two sincere apologies from the Chamber today from our Nationals team. The Hon. Sarah Mitchell is of course on maternity leave, and the Hon. Wes Fang is on sick leave following an unfortunate accident earlier this week. To the Hon. Duncan Gay: Please accept the heartiest congratulations from this House on your contribution to the people of New South Wales. And to Katie, James and Anna: Please accept our thanks from this House for giving Duncan the opportunity to make the contribution he has so capably made. I commend the motion to the House.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (11:13): I thank the Hon. Rick Colless for moving this fantastic motion as a tribute to the Hon. Duncan Gay, for giving us the opportunity to reflect on the career of Duncan, and for giving members of The Nationals the opportunity to acknowledge Duncan's contribution not only to this House and our party but also, and more importantly, to the people of New South Wales. I welcome Duncan and Katie, who are in the public gallery, although Duncan has some reservations about listening to these tributes because he is not comfortable having praise being heaped on him, particularly in this formal way. I am grateful that Duncan is willing to listen to our contributions because members of The Nationals want a moment to reflect on his service to this Parliament.

My journey through the New South Wales Parliament and my time in The Nationals are similar to Duncan's journey and experience. At times I have been called "Duncan lite" or "Duncan 2.0", which I take as a compliment. Both of us are from the Southern Highlands of New South Wales—I grew up in Goulburn and Duncan is from Crookwell. We entered this House at a similar age, although decades apart—when Duncan entered this Parliament I was in year 6, which gives us some perspective. Both of us are card-carrying members of the "marrying-up club" as we punched well above our weight in our marriages—Duncan to Katie and me to Melinda.

Our parliamentary careers also have similarities: my first appointment as a committee chair was to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues. The Hon. Rick Colless mentioned Duncan's contribution to this committee and I vividly remember Duncan saying I was to be asked to be its chair after he had seriously reflected on the types of issues the committee investigated during his time as a member of the committee. He told me my chairing the committee would be some of the best work I would do in my time in this Parliament and that he had enjoyed being a part of the committee. Reflecting on the work done while I was chair of the social issues committee I realise Duncan was dead right. I became chair of The Nationals in New South

Wales, and had the honour to work with the Hon. Ben Franklin when he was State director of our party. Duncan Gay is a former chair of The Nationals, the last time a member of Parliament held this position in New South Wales.

The Hon. Rick Colless reflected on Duncan's successful time as Minister for Roads and Freight. I do not share some of Duncan's views on cyclists, because I am a cyclist and he took up some issues concerning cyclists as road users. Duncan is probably the best Minister for Primary Industries this State never had. He was shadow Minister for Primary Industries and I know, as this Government's Minister for Primary Industries, some of this portfolio's successes are a result of the work Duncan did in opposition. He set us along paths for reforms and the policies we took to the 2011 election. As Minister I have benefitted from these initiatives as a result of Duncan's hard work. Those opposite would acknowledge that the hard work was done with very few resources, which is the case when parties are in opposition. Duncan took a leadership role during our party's long period in opposition not only in this House but also in the vitally important Primary Industries portfolio area.

Duncan was able to do that because of his standing throughout regional New South Wales, particularly in the primary industries sector. Although he did not have the resources available to Ministers or a department to support him, he had the relationships and contacts to understand the issues and speak to them with real skin in the game. He also had the background, knowledge and grounding to develop a policy suite and primary industries in this State are thriving because of the work Duncan did, particularly in opposition. He was a fantastic roads Minister and, if given the opportunity, he would have been the best primary industries Minister in this State, if not the nation.

I acknowledge also Duncan's role as mentor to his Nationals colleague. The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, who is on maternity leave, asked me to express her thanks to Duncan, particularly for the role he played in assisting new members and being a mentor. We are all grateful to him for that. When I first became Minister I appreciated having Duncan sitting next to me during question time, particularly when a question was asked by an Opposition member. Duncan would interject and answer it or, more importantly, give new Ministers the hint to "leave it alone". I know that Minister Mitchell also learned a lot from watching how Duncan performed in the House, particularly during question time. Both of us would like to thank him for his leadership and mentoring.

We could not do our job without the support of our family. Although we can talk about the contributions that Duncan has made to the State in his various portfolios, we all know that his greatest legacy and his greatest passion is his family, particularly his wonderful wife, Katie. I thank her too. She has been a fantastic support for Duncan and for our families as well. She has also supported my wife through our journey. Katie supported my transition to Parliament and later when I became a Minister, understanding the pressure that places on families. Katie would know when to sit down with the partners of members—in my case my wife—and have the necessary conversations and I am so grateful to her for that. She is a wonderful person.

We know that Katie and Duncan went through some tough times and we went through some of those tough times with them. Although Duncan's job was to stand in this Chamber and perform on behalf of the Government, we knew that at times his mind was elsewhere because he was worried about Katie. To see her here with Duncan today fills us all with joy because we know how much Duncan loves Katie; it is very special. Duncan does not just love Katie; he loves his entire family. Duncan and Katie's dedication to their family is an example for us all. We know his family is proud of him but it is reciprocated; we know he is proud of his family too. It is difficult in this limited time to say everything but that is okay because our connection with Duncan and Katie does not start and stop with this motion. This is just a small opportunity to say thank you and to reflect on what he has done for each and every one of us. It is daunting to have to fill the gap left by Duncan and I thank each of my Nationals colleagues for taking it easy on me. I may not do things the same way and may miss things but it is an honour to be able to step into his shoes.

Duncan is still dedicated to The Nationals, he is a member of our Central Council and he plays an active role. Although he has left this place he has not left our party. He will continue to be a voice of reason. During State conference, during debate at Central Council on a long-winded issue he will continue to stand up, make his contribution and end the debate quickly because he is the voice of reason. He has done it in many forums and The Nationals are all the better because of Duncan's role. He was a crazy leftie of the Country Party in his early days. He challenged the status quo at the time, particularly social issues that people of my generation cannot understand would have been an issue. Duncan would take on his own party, particularly in areas of social policy. He was seen as bucking the trend. Many social issues that we regard as the norm today were challenged by Duncan Gay back then. I hope there are other forums where people can gain an appreciation of those issues.

I thank Duncan on behalf of Minister Mitchell, who cannot be here today, as I said. We will have many more opportunities to reflect on and discuss what Duncan has contributed. I do not think too many members—I certainly will not—have the same length of service that Duncan has given to this place.

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: That's our plan.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: It is my plan too; I can guarantee that. I look forward to the unveiling of the Gay bust, which will be put in the Chamber at some stage. I congratulate the Hon. Rick Colless on moving the motion. I thank Duncan and Katie. Congratulations on a stellar career. We will continue to chat.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (11:27): I speak on behalf of the official Opposition, the Labor Party in this place, to associate my side of the House with the motion moved by the Hon. Rick Colless, to mark the contribution made in this place and in the politics of this State by the Hon. Duncan Gay. Duncan has had a remarkable and important career. As was said, he was the chairman of his party and chair of a committee in this place. He was the Deputy President of this House, a Leader of this House and a leader of his party for many years in this place as both Deputy Opposition Leader and then Deputy Leader of the Government and ultimately reaching the pinnacle as Leader of the Government in this place.

It is a remarkable achievement for anyone in this place, perhaps underscored by the fact that he represented the junior Coalition partner in the Government. I will return to that issue later. It has been said a number of times that what the general public does not always appreciate is that being in politics and in public life takes a toll on families of members of Parliament. That is magnified for those who are not representing Sydney or the major urban centres of our State, people who come from regional and rural New South Wales, not only from the National Party. Duncan was certainly one of those who represented regional communities in this place. The separation from your family and the dislocation from the daily routines of life does visit an additional burden that we should also recognise.

Duncan held a range of portfolios in opposition and was the Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight in this Government, and held various important roles. When Duncan started in this place I was in my first year of university. It is important to start with a little bit of perspective about the longevity of Duncan's career spanning three decades.

The Hon. Mick Veitch: He was here when they opened the Domain.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I acknowledge that interjection, but I am not sure it is correct. The point is, it is not just important in terms of the offices he held or the various achievements that he and his colleagues would point to, but the sheer longevity of someone in this place in public life is a remarkable achievement, given how difficult and, indeed, cutthroat the world of politics can be. My exposure to Duncan was twofold. I knew Duncan for six years when I was first here as an Opposition staffer and then as a Government staffer. Duncan was emerging as a very important operator in the then Opposition during the Carr years. My second exposure to Duncan was in my six years in this place. In both of those two very different experiences it was very obvious to me that Duncan—how shall I put this politely—was a very crafty and wily operator who knew the ways of this place formally, in term of the rules, and also informally in terms of the personalities and how people were likely to react in different situations.

It should be recognised that Duncan was a vital part of the Government's success in managing this House and its agenda through relationships with the crossbench. It is not always appreciated by my side of politics, but we do recognise it. It is important in public life not to make the mistake of underestimating the skills and attributes of your worthy opponents. I am happy to say I do not think I ever underestimated Duncan. I observed him closely in those two six-year stints and I learnt a little bit about how to work in this environment—if I can put it that way. Dealing with Duncan was not always easy. It is true that sometimes he would get a little scratchy, grumpy even, and we noticed it particularly when he became Leader of the Government during late night sittings. Sometimes the later the night, the more difficult the bill, the longer the list of speakers, the scratchier he would get. We would say, "Just take a pair. Just leave it to others." But Duncan was never one to shirk his responsibilities.

It is important to note that at a difficult time for this Government he became the Leader of the Government in this place. To be a little bit partisan for a moment—I have made this point in this place before—it was a feature of two characteristics. First of all, to be frank, the Liberal Party in this place took a beating with the loss of Greg Pearce and Mike Gallacher and lost a lot of its capability at that time. The Government had to turn to the National Party and to Duncan to carry the load. It not only carried the leadership load, but for a significant period two of the three Ministers in this place were from the National Party.

That leads me to the second point. It is not every political leader who departs the stage with their party in better shape than it was when they found it. I know in what shape the National Party was in this place in 1988, and it was not real flash. But it is safe to say that when Duncan departed this place and today the National Party is in much better shape than it was in when he found it. In the spirit of not underestimating your worthy opponents, that is something that must be acknowledged. The National Party today is not the Country Party I grew up with

on the far North Coast. If it were I think it would have become extinct. Duncan played an important role in modernising his party, and in giving it a different and perhaps more sophisticated outlook.

We disagree with many of its policies and we still think it is a terrible fraud on regional and rural New South Wales, but we note Duncan's important role in modernising his party and sponsoring its regeneration—some of which is on display in the representation of the Government in this place—and in other ways, which I will not go into today. It is important to note that Duncan can rightly take some of the credit for that with his sponsorship and encouragement of people. Those are important things in politics. Often we focus on the cutthroat nature, the fact that your colleagues are always after your job, undermining you at every turn, that kind of thing, which is the popular representation of life in politics. What is often overlooked is the nurturing and encouragement, particularly of the following generation. That is something we should recognise here today.

I always enjoyed my dealings with Duncan because, while they did not always lead a happy outcome for the Opposition, we always learnt something. Like any gambler or poker player, everyone has a tell. After a while I began to realise when Duncan was definitely pulling one on. He would stand at the lectern and have this anodyne, boring script that was designed to lull people. He would start to look up at the corner and it was almost as though he was wondering whether he was going to be found out. On many occasions he was not, but ultimately we began to know the signs to look for. My party and I have always respected Duncan as a worthy opponent. We wish him and his family all the best for the future. I certainly learnt a lot from him. I urge all honourable members to support the motion in the spirit it is put forward to pay tribute to the contribution made in this place by a worthy and honourable member.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (11:37): It is a privilege to support the motion moved by the Hon. Rick Colless, which states:

- (1) That this House notes:
 - (a) the extended and honourable service to this House and the Parliament of New South Wales provided by the Hon. Duncan Gay since his election on 19 March 1988, and
 - (b) that during his parliamentary service, the Hon. Duncan Gay has served as Chairman of Committees, on committees, as a shadow Minister with a number of portfolios, as Leader of The Nationals and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, as Leader of the House in the Legislative Council, as Deputy Leader and Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, as Vice-President of the Executive Council and as the Minister for Roads and Ports, Minister for Roads and Freight, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight and Minister for the North Coast.
- (2) That this House congratulates and thanks the Hon. Duncan Gay, his wife, Katie, and children, Anna and James, on his contribution to the Parliament and the people of New South Wales throughout the last 29 years. I think I am the only member in the House who served with Duncan for those 29 years. I was elected in 1981 and had the privilege of working upfront with Duncan on many occasions, and sometimes quietly in the background. I have always appreciated his trustworthiness and honesty, and the support that he gave to the Christian Democratic Party wherever possible. We were often on the same wavelength because I share his political philosophy and the way in which he applied it to his role. Some members of this place and others in the community may not always have agreed with him, but I appreciated his steadfastness. He never compromised or watered down his position.

I have thought about some of the decisions for which the Hon. Duncan Gay was responsible. One that comes to mind is the removal in 2013 of the rainbow-striped pedestrian crossing on Oxford Street at Taylor Square. I fully supported that decision; in fact, I called for the paint on the crossing to be removed. I also strongly supported his decisions about cycling. I became extremely frustrated with the cycleway on College Street as I was driving to Parliament House. I thought no-one would have the courage to remove it, but one day it was not there. All of a sudden, traffic was flowing freely on College Street. Often there were no cyclists on the cycleway; it was empty. Quarantining that space for cyclists caused great frustration because it was required for motorists. Some may not have agreed with that decision, but I certainly supported it. I also supported his policy requiring cyclists to carry identification. The honourable member had discussions with cycling groups, but whether they agreed with him is another issue. He was certainly on the right track.

As I said, I thank Duncan for having the courage of his convictions. He is to be congratulated on that. The votes of the crossbench members are often important, and it was good from my point of view to have a positive relationship with the Leader of the House during those years. It certainly made my life a lot easier knowing that if the honourable member said something he meant it, and he kept his word. I cannot think of any occasion on which he disappointed me with a later decision or action. Duncan, you made my life a lot happier and pleasant in this place. I miss you and wish you were still here.

The Hon. Adam Searle: Let's not go that far.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: I am speaking personally. The Hon. Adam Searle might not agree, but that is my view. I know that Duncan is enjoying his retirement with his wife and family. God bless you and thank you, Duncan.

The Hon. MATTHEW MASON-COX (11:43): It is wonderful to welcome back the Hon. Duncan Gay and Katie, the fairer part of that wonderful combination. As a member of the Liberal Party, and having spent almost 11 years in this place, it has been an honour to serve alongside Duncan Gay. We have seen some interesting times, and I will tell a few stories about them. I can remember when I first came into this place and Duncan was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. He sat where the Hon. Mick Veitch is now sitting, but he probably did so with a bit more swagger. The Hon. Mike Gallacher was the Leader of the Opposition, and what a team they were.

The success of our Government is based on the foundations that they laid down in opposition. Many members contributed to that success, and I do not for a moment ignore them. However, Duncan and Mike played a pivotal role in those long, hard years in opposition. That is the bedrock on upon which good government has been built. I acknowledge that because I missed the opportunity to speak on the motion paying tribute to the Hon. Mike Gallacher, whom I miss very much.

When I came into this place shortly before the 2007 election, we were hoping for a wave to move us into government. However, we all know what happened. Sadly, the Labor Government's last term in office was something New South Wales could ill afford. I will not go there now. That time in opposition was an opportunity to fine-tune our policies and to build the case for an alternative government. That was made easier because of the situation at the time. Oppositions have a weighty responsibility, and a duty to this place and to the people of New South Wales to ensure that they present a worthy alternative. The work that Duncan did in that regard should not be forgotten.

I also remember the feeling when we walked into this place to take the Government benches. It is a great feeling, and having Duncan and Mike as our leaders made it a very special moment. We all remember the colour of question time. Dunc, I miss a lot of that colour. It is hard to listen to this place sometimes, but we on the Government side do our best. We miss the roar of the bull in the top paddock, so to speak. It always ignited this place and added a lot of colour, movement and amusement.

I remember the early days when we were starting to pull together our legislative agenda. One critical moment in establishing the bona fides of a Coalition Government was the legislation imposing a cap on Government sector employee wages at 2.5 per cent. Members who were here will remember the passion of that debate; members' contributions were weighty and lengthy. The current Leader of the Opposition was interrupted during his contribution by what became known around the place as the "Hammer of Crookwell". That hammer came down on a number of occasions to drive through that important legislation. While we should always have a comprehensive debate, members should not abuse that opportunity. We must adhere to the spirit of this place. That debate was incredibly important in establishing this Government's budgetary foundations. Duncan played a vital role in ensuring that the debate moved on so that we could finalise a critical bill that was part of the Coalition's budget infrastructure.

That debate led to changes in the standing orders to introduce time-limited speeches, which Duncan again oversaw. That has been an enormous success. Members have used their time wisely instead of rambling. I think it was the great John Tingle who observed that if a member cannot say what he wants to say in 10 minutes, it is probably not worth saying. I agree with him. There is the occasional issue about which members will want to speak at length, I acknowledge that, but 20 minutes is sufficient time to make the point. The way that was done with the support of members, and the crossbench in particular, was a tribute to Duncan's ability to get things done.

He has held every position in this place and he has done it all. It is worth noting, as a member of the Liberal Party, his leadership in this Government. It is unusual for the minor party to have leadership of the Government in this place. As the Hon. Adam Searle said, we went through a crisis when we lost Mike Gallacher and when we went through the preceding Independent Commission Against Corruption incident. It was a sad chapter for the Liberal Party on a whole range of levels. We were in a difficult place. At the that time I had the honour to follow Mike, but I could not help but think about what a terrible situation we were in and how we were going to rebuild in the face of an election that was coming at us pretty quickly. Duncan's role in providing leadership, his indefectible nature to drive forward and bring us all with him, and his support of all of us in all of our roles were absolutely critical to our winning that election.

Former Premier Mike Baird relied heavily on Duncan and his instincts. Having been in Cabinet with Duncan, I know that his view was always well considered and was always given great weight, which was absolutely appropriate. I remember those days well and I know the contribution that Duncan has made. As a member of the Liberal Party, I just want to say, Dunc, thank you, mate. You are an absolute legend. I will back the bust. It will go wherever we can find room for it. Other people will compete for that bust but no-one comes within a bull's roar of the contribution you made in this place. It all started when you were a young Liberal and we will claim that. You have matured since then in ways that the National Party would like to claim, but we all know that roots are important. We will always remember that and will always try to claim you, no matter what

the National Party thinks. We are a coalition and I have never met a stronger coalitionist or a stronger person who puts the coalition first and foremost in whatever they do.

As members have said, this place—the game of politics, and this responsibility we all bear—can be a pretty tough ring to fight in from time to time. We all face challenges on the home front and we cannot do it without the support of our family. Katie, I acknowledge your role in that. I remember a special moment I shared with Dunc during a trip out west. We were on a bus to nowhere at the time, running after votes we already had. But I had the pleasure of meeting your granddaughter, who is a very special girl, and I acknowledge the role that you have both played in that. It is very special. I wish you all very well in the future. I am sure it will be magnificent and that you will have a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your family. We will not forget the contribution you have made in this place. I am a better person for it.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (11:52): I did say to the Whip that 45 minutes or an hour would not be anywhere near long enough for the number of people who want to say something about Duncan Gay. I begin by saying "Mate." That is Duncan's legacy. I will be brief. Tingle was right when he said that if it cannot be said in a couple of minutes it should not be said at all. I agree with Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile when he said that crossbenchers need to deal with the Opposition, Government and other crossbenchers, and that unless they can trust in those relationships, they have nothing. When John Tingle was here, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party had a good relationship with the government of the day. He was here on his own and did not have the balance of power. We have dealt with both sides of the House. When it came to dealing with the Coalition, the one thing that allowed us to work together was the ability to work with someone who we knew was straight. That person is sitting in the gallery.

The Hon. Paul Green: A straight shooter.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN: A straight shooter—that is exactly right. Duncan made sure the Government stuck to everything he committed to. I will not talk further about other members in other places that we have had to negotiate with, but Duncan never lied to us. He would give us the "Mate, I'd love to. But, mate, you have to understand," but at least he would tell us face to face. In that respect, he is probably pretty close to a lot of the people we dealt with in the Labor Party. They too had a habit of telling us upfront, "No way. We are not going to do that." Duncan would either tell us yes or no, and if the answer was yes we could sit back and relax. It might take seven years to get the legislation or whatever it was, but if Duncan agreed that our ideas were worthy of support from the Government, we got it. Duncan walked out of this place with his shoulders back and his head held high because he represented what we should all strive to represent: honesty and integrity. That is why he is called the honourable Duncan Gay. I wish you could come back, Dunc.

The Hon. MICK VEITCH (11:55): It would be fair to say that I may spend a little bit of time talking about some of the lighter moments I had with Dunc in the House. Duncan was a formidable opponent. When I came into the Chamber the Hon. Duncan Gay already had a reputation. It was pretty evident to me early on that some of my lessons from the shearing shed would have to be dusted off and reused in the Legislative Council when it came to dealing with Duncan. One of the things about Duncan that struck me was that he knew the forms of the Chamber and how this place works. I was not here when Duncan first arrived, but things around the Chamber have changed a bit with technology. Microphones are now in front of us—they no longer hang from the ceiling—and there are a lot of cameras.

There is not much we can do that is not picked up by the cameras in the Chamber. But Duncan and Mike Gallacher sat at the table here and were very adept at using the microphones to get their continual low-level barrage of interjections on the record. The microphone tended to be on all the time. We kept saying, "Your microphone is on." They would turn it off and then turn it back on and keep going. The interjections were not the loud ones across the Chamber that we are all familiar with. Duncan was good at the low-level interjections across the felt that only the Minister would be able to hear. He was very good at distracting Ministers and putting them off their stride. That is part of the game. Duncan knew how this place works. That is important to note.

I talked about formidable opponents, and I cannot talk about the Hon. Duncan Gay's contribution to this Chamber without talking about the contribution of the Hon. Mike Gallacher. Together, both in Government and Opposition, they were formidable opponents. They were a team. Their loyalty to each other was on show a lot. When Mike was going through a tough time, Dunc was there. That loyalty is not always on display in our game. It is an admirable part of who Duncan is. He is also loyal to the National Party. Minister Blair spoke at length about Duncan's contribution to the National Party and he is loyal to the National Party. There were times when Dunc was not happy with the direction that was being taken, but when he stood up here he backed the position.

Duncan's loyalty is to be admired. He was a passionate advocate in this place for regional New South Wales. I come from regional New South Wales. We may have had our differences about the journey to take to get to resolution of an issue but we had the same destination—we just took different roads via public policy to get

there. It is hard to find members of Parliament who are really passionate about regional New South Wales, but Duncan was really passionate.

One of the things that stick in my mind about his time in this place was his use of the word "cobber". I do not know how many times I heard Duncan say "cobber". I also want to talk about Katie. Just about all of us in this place—particularly those of us who come from regional New South Wales—at some stage will go through a rough trot, those moments when something happens which really tests us and we may even question whether we should be here. The time away from our families is difficult and the support we receive from home is critical in undertaking our duties here. I have been through a couple of tough trots—I had issues with respect to my kids—but Katie set an example for all of our partners. Her actions were quite admirable—I have been using the word "admirable" a lot—and quite special. I think Duncan appreciated having Katie in his corner.

I can remember The Greens Cate Faehrmann offering Duncan the opportunity to join her on a morning bike ride. The thought of Duncan in lycra had us all beside ourselves. I am glad that he did not take up the offer, because I guarantee that Duncan in lycra would not be a good look. Duncan will be interested to know that of late there has been some consternation in this House about formal business. He had a view about trying to tidy it up. In fact, he had a motion on the *Notice Paper* about that. We are now getting to the point where formal business goes on for so long that we have to interrupt it for question time. Maybe we need to dust off the motion that Duncan put on the *Notice Paper* and debate the matter. Perhaps not everyone would agree with that.

There is another thing I would like to say about Duncan Gay, although I would need to sit down with him to get to the bottom of this. He would sit at the table here and Opposition members would diligently bound to the lectern to ask our questions over the noise of the Chamber during question time. Duncan would say, "I didn't hear you. What did you say?", and we would hand over the question. I am certain he was buying time for his advisers to get the answers to him. I am not sure whether he was deaf or it was a ploy, but it was very effective in buying time.

The last thing I want to say—it is a story that is fit for the Chamber; there are others which are not—is that when Duncan first went into Government notes were passed to him to not respond to interjections. He was very good at picking up every interjection and responding to them. That would lose him time for his answers. Hence we now say to Ministers, "Don't respond to interjections". It is okay for Opposition members to make them but Ministers should not respond to them. Duncan was very good at picking up an interjection and smacking it down. Duncan had nicknames for all of us. Mr Jeremy Buckingham was referred to as Corn Cob Joe. I just want to say to Duncan, the time you spent in the Chamber, and you were here for a long time, was not wasted. There are lessons for all sides of politics in the way you conducted yourself in the Chamber and the way you went about the business of the Chamber. Your passion for New South Wales sticks with me. Cobber, thanks mate.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN (12:03): I welcome Duncan Gay back. I know time is somewhat limited so I will be restrained in my remarks. I wrote down three words to describe Dunc, and I will confine myself to those. The first of those words is "leader". Duncan was a leader for all of us. Like the Hon. Mick Veitch, I arrived in this place in 2007. There are few people in this place who warrant the description of "leader". There are people who hold high office in this place whom one would not feed, but Duncan was someone whom I knew I could always follow because he would always take me in a direction that was sound. I saw that in the party room.

People would have a harebrained idea which might sound attractive but Duncan, who sat at the end of the table, would wave his hand and the idea would go out the window. It did not really matter if the idea came from one of the more junior colleagues or a senior colleague, if Dunc waved his hand and made a brief comment that was the end of it. The second term I use to describe him is "moderator". He certainly moderated me from time to time. I do not think he mentored me at any stage but he moderated me, and I will always be grateful for that. At least I survived as a result of his moderation.

The Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox: Who is moderating you now?

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: That might explain some things that have happened. Let me assure the member that it is not over yet. The time for chatting is finished. That moderation—the friendly mentoring in that sense—was invaluable. I saw Dunc take people under his wing—perhaps not me—and I would think, "Why are you bothering?" Still to this day I struggle to see the good that he could see in some of the people he helped along the way. What he did is unfathomable to me, but he has a much nicer side to him than I have. That is reflective of a kind heart, which, as you all know, I do not have.

It is unusual for anybody to have that trait, but particularly anybody in politics—in this profession that can be pretty grubby at times. I am sure that Duncan is the same now as he was when he came in—unaffected by this place. It is extraordinary in so many ways that he was able to stay so grounded. The final term of description is "friend". There are few friends in politics, as we all know—even fewer on your own side—yet you always knew

that Duncan would have your back. If things got tough Dunc could be a friend. He is a friend. There are few who could be put in that category. To be able to say that he is a friend is probably the best thing you can say about somebody in this place. Congratulations, friend, good man.

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (12:08): What a pleasure it is to see Duncan and Katie back in this Chamber today. Duncan Gay gave his first speech in this place on 23 August 1988, knocking up a near 30 years of service in this House. He served continuously for 29 years, four months and 13 days—an extraordinary record. A range of Duncan's roles in this place have been covered by previous speakers, and I will not go into them again. But I want to cover, in brief, some of the things that Duncan achieved as Minister for Roads, because they were critical to the lives of people in regional New South Wales.

Duncan became roads Minister in March 2011, which he described as a dream portfolio where you get to build things and move things around for the sake of our economy and its people. He said, "Every day you get to see the results of your work." After taking up that portfolio he thrived. He started working to improve the roads in our State right from the beginning. And the results are clear to everyone today. Duncan Gay once described his proudest moment as roads Minister was when he secured the 80:20 funding split with the Commonwealth Government to complete duplication of the Pacific Highway by 2020—years earlier than planned. Duncan, because of you and your work, there are people living in this State now who would not otherwise be alive. Thank you on behalf of the people of New South Wales. Obviously, that has made a huge difference to the North Coast.

Duncan ensured that other major highways were upgraded, including the Newell, Great Western, Princes, Mitchell, Cobb and Silver City highways. As Minister, he introduced the Bridges for the Bush program and the Fixing Country Roads program—two programs that today are a pivotal part of maintaining and improving the roads in our regional areas. Bridges for the Bush has been so important for our communities. Duncan highlighted that when he said, "It is amazing how the simple task of replacing an old bridge can instil new energy in a rural community". He oversaw bridges being replaced at Kapooka, Emu Crossing, Grogan, Tarengo, Tulladunna, Bemboka, and Captains Flat, to name just a few places. Duncan was the instigator of the Fixing Country Rail program to upgrade grain branch lines throughout regional New South Wales.

Duncan's focus was not just on regional roads. He worked hard to develop a truly integrated motorway network in Sydney, with WestConnex and NorthConnex forming the basis for the network. He built and upgraded major roads in Western Sydney to meet the needs of the growing populations in places that include Richmond, Schofields, Old Wallgrove, Erskine Park and the Camden Valley Way as well as many more. Most importantly from my focus and perspective on the campaign in Dubbo, he increased the speed limit on the Newell Highway to 110 kilometres an hour, where it had been previously and should have remained. One of the smallest initiatives was one of his proudest achievements. Thanks to Duncan, every school in New South Wales now has flashing lights. The project that people said could not be done not only was done by Duncan but also was completed on time. Thank you, Duncan.

Duncan's achievements have been respected by the community, by the Government, and by commentators. Duncan's achievements within the Government have been touched on by others and are sufficiently impressive. Duncan is a man of such substantial standing that the Government made him the Leader of the Government in this House—something that has happened only one other time for a National Party member of Parliament, Sir John Fuller, who was another lion of the National Party. Duncan is a giant of the party. As he stated in his valedictory speech, he was indeed responsible for inflicting me on the National Party and on this House subsequently as a member. Duncan sat on my selection panel for appointment as State Director of the New South Wales National Party.

I had known Duncan previously, having worked in Parliament and assisted in coaching debating at his daughter's school. When I faced Duncan across the table I thought, "This could go okay". He looked over at me with those kindly eyes he has and that fatherly grin—which I have seen so often ever since. I realised that that could mean one of two things. It could mean that he was warm and generous and wanted me to succeed or that he was about to drive the knife in. Both looks are identical, and he had that look when I was sitting across the table from him. That was 2008 and there was some discussion at the time about whether the National Party should amalgamate with the Liberal Party. He asked me what my thoughts were about that. I said, "Well, no, I don't think so. I think it is important that there is a separate and independent regional party. It is important politically but it is also important philosophically, and in policy terms there must be a strong regional voice in this place." He just smiled at me and he nodded, and I thought then that I had him.

It has always been Duncan's focus to stand up for, to protect, to fight for, and to empower people in regional New South Wales. He did that through the National Party. He served as vice-chairman and chairman of the party and he was made a life member of the party. Since retiring he has become a trustee of the party—one of the highest honours the party can bestow on any individual member. In this House, he was of course the Leader of the National Party. The National Party is a special team. We genuinely are a family and we genuinely look out

for each other, and the reason for that is Duncan Gay. He was the one who created that culture. He was the one who made it thrive.

Duncan has had many achievements. He achieved a great deal during his time in Parliament. But, of course, those achievements are not what define him. What defines him is who he is—his innate decency, his integrity, his compassion, and his genuine concern about all members in this House. I have spoken to a number of people in the Chamber, all of whom have stories about Duncan assisting them when times were tough by being compassionate and lending an ear to hear what they were going through. This man has a heart as big as Crookwell. I know this because I leaned on him; I needed to. Sometimes I needed personal and political advice, and he was always there. I know this because of the extraordinary support that he has shown for his family, particularly his children, Anna and James, and of course his granddaughter. I know this because I have observed the boundless love he has for his extraordinary wife, Katie.

Make no mistake, Duncan and Katie are a true partnership—always have been and always will be. Katie deserves the thanks and appreciation of this Chamber every bit as much as does Duncan. She is his rock, his muse and his best friend. Sometimes the partnership has been tested. The most vulnerable I have ever seen Duncan was when Katie was going through her health issues a few years ago. Although he did his job as professionally as ever, he was a shell of his former self. But now Katie is fully recovered and we thank God for that. The partnership will be stronger than ever for many, many years to come. Thank you, Katie. Duncan, it is impossible to summarise in one speech your towering 29-year career. You have had an extraordinary impact on the lives of so many. I will conclude by quoting a line from your inaugural speech:

... as a child I dreamed how simple it would be to make the world a better place. How easy it seemed then, and how much harder it is now that we are in a position to facilitate change.

My friend, you did that in spades. I thank you; your party thanks you; the Government thanks you; your community thanks you. You have had an incredible career, the likes of which we will never see again.

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (12:16:2): My contribution will be brief compared to those of my colleagues because I am probably one who has the least experience of the Hon. Duncan Gay. I very clearly remember one of my first meetings with Dunc because his reputation well preceded him. I was to have lunch with him at a café in Cooma. I love a chat and I love meeting people, but I was terrified. I sat across from him, he was talking to me, and I just said, "yes" and "no". Duncan has so much gravitas; he is such a force. Having married into a family that is involved in agripolitics, I recall many conversations about Duncan Gay whom I had never met. It was obvious that he was a man of great passion and great intellect and someone you did not want to have an argument with because you probably were going to go down.

For me to now know and have worked with Duncan Gay is such a privilege. He has two main characteristics that strike me. Members have spoken about how amazing he was as a roads Minister and that he is the best we will ever see. Recently I have spent quite a bit of time driving around the Murray and Cootamundra electorates and I have done four windscreens. As I notched up my last one and was up for a couple of hundred dollars, my adviser, Anna O'Brien, said, "You can thank Duncan for that because of all the amazing roadworks that are going on around rural and regional New South Wales." I am cracking a few windscreens, which is a tribute to Duncan, and I am happy to continue to replace them.

The ultimate test in how I see someone is the way they treat others, particularly how they treat the people they love the most. I look at the way that Duncan has always looked at his wife. It is just so very moving and so genuine and so real. I also look at the way he would speak about Katie and his family. He would always say that he would not be where he was if it was not for Katie. I think the real mark of a man is the way he treats the person with whom he chooses to spend the rest of his life. Duncan never forgets to acknowledge his family and demonstrate his gratitude for the role they play in his life. Duncan, that is the mark of the human being you are. Those of us who feel blessed by our relationships enjoy seeing the comfort and strength brought by supportive partners in long-term relationships.

Duncan is a giant of The Nationals. I had the privilege of entering this place when the Coalition took government and I cannot express in words the enormity of his contribution to our being in government. New members like myself should be reminded of his contribution every day, because if it were not for members like Duncan we may not be in government. We owe Duncan a great deal. I love living in country New South Wales, having been fortunate to marry a country boy. I enjoy the sense of community, and I believe the Hon. Duncan Gay is a proud representative of country New South Wales. He loves where he lives, he loves rural and regional people, and he loves our values and what we stand for. He expects all members of The Nationals in this place to continue to fight with passion for our communities and our people.

Duncan, I hope to remember your words to me, which I appreciate because I know you were busy as Leader of the House. I can be a bit needy, Dunc, and I like to have a bit of a chat. You always made time for me

and I could always raise issues with you, including when I was chair of the mighty social issues committee. You played it straight and helped me where you could, but sometimes you would say, "You're going to have to handle this on your own." As an aside, I have adopted your habit of looking over the top of my glasses. Duncan, thank you for being who you are and giving us the opportunity to represent the communities we love in this place. We owe you so much, and rural and regional New South Wales owe you so much more.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (12:21): I felt the need to bookend the contribution of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile to this tribute to the Hon. Duncan Gay. It is wonderful to see Duncan in the public gallery. When I came into this place in 2005 I was told about Duncan by two of his favourite people, the Hon. Jan Burnswoods and the Hon. Amanda Fazio. I am pleased to say I decided to take people as I found them rather than by reputation or I might never have spoken to Duncan. I know that Duncan played an important role in The Nationals looking after members. He was a steadfast defender of The Nationals as well as a loyal member of the Coalition. He did a lot of the heavy lifting in this place for a very long time, because, as we all know, we have to manage each other. Duncan is the master of managing others, which has been acknowledged.

I raise the issue of bikes because I believe as Minister for Roads and Freight Duncan failed on bike policy. I was recently on the bike path in Redfern near Duncan's place—you did not see me although you were standing out the front. As I was riding along I wished that the College Street bikeway existed and that Duncan had not approved the Albert "Tibby" Cotter Walkway, because that is not a good legacy. Duncan, it would have been good if you had got on the bike with Cate Faehrmann, even if you were in lycra. The rainbow crossing in Darlinghurst was excellent and should have stayed, although I know Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile is very happy that it was removed. I miss the rainbow crossing.

I gave Duncan a Gloria award for getting rid of the rainbow crossing. To his credit, Duncan showed us he has a good sense of humour by being one of the few recipients of the Golden Gloria awards who has accepted the award in person from David Marr—and I have a terrific photo to prove it. One of my favourite stories about Duncan is hearing from keen doorknockers in my failed campaign to win the lower House seat of Newtown about their knocking on Katie's door. I am told she was very polite to them. I said they should not have approached Duncan Gay's house. Duncan, may you have a long retirement with Katie and your family. I hope you plan to get a long way from this place to have a lot more fun.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN (12:24): Although my speech notes are on the tiniest piece of paper, I am contributing to a motion in tribute of the Hon. Duncan Gay, a man who achieved so much in this Parliament. I am reminded of what the Bible tells us about the works of Christ: you can read about his works in the books of the annals of time. I dare say that anyone wanting to read about the achievements of the Hon. Duncan Gay in this Chamber only needs to read the *Hansard*, which they would find entertaining. Duncan has been a mentor for me and I endorse what others have said about his honesty and integrity. A man has nothing if he is not good to his word. Duncan can be proud that he is a man of his word and of integrity. Duncan was very handy on regional issues in his time in this place. My family owns a 22-acre property and I have been happy to take advice about installing a pump from the Hon. Duncan Gay and the Hon. Rick Colless, when sitting next to them on the benches during divisions. It is amazing what you can do with a pump on your land—

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: As long as it's not a wind turbine.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN: I am not raising wind turbines. Duncan has given me useful tips. I admire his beautiful homestead at Crookwell. Duncan, if you and Katie ever sell your Crookwell property we may be the first people to bid on it. The 42 members of this place work as a team. When I first came to this place, I had the honour of being a member of the Christian Democratic Party, which held the balance of power. We tried to make things right in regional areas. When seven councils agreed to a proposal for a bridge over Oallen Ford, it was a no-brainer. But the Federal Government knocked it back twice, even though we were told that under the grants system if all the councils agreed on a proposal they would have a good chance of getting a grant. At the time the Labor Party was in government in Canberra, and knocking back this proposal made a mockery of the grants program. This Government had an opportunity to rectify the situation. As roads Minister, the Hon. Duncan Gay made it happen and we now have the Oallen Ford Bridge. The Hon. Duncan Gay showed he was good to his word, and I thank him for that.

Unfortunately, not long after the bridge was opened a gentleman riding a motorcycle lost his life on it. We had worked so hard to get this proposal approved, but about a month after the bridge was finally opened someone lost his life on it. I remember the opening because the Hon. Duncan Gay, a man of great compassion, in his speech acknowledged the death of this man by asking for a minute's silence. It was a thoughtful touch and showed him to be a man who cares for people more than the politics of opening a bridge the community had fought for. Duncan had my name included on the plaque, which never happens for crossbench members. The next time my name will be on a plaque will be on my headstone, so I appreciate that I am alive to see what it looks like on this plaque.

Governments should share the glory of achievements, particularly with the crossbench because New South Wales would not be the number one State if it were not for the crossbench working effectively with the Hon. Duncan Gay when he was Leader of the House and many others. As a team we are making the right decisions for New South Wales and the State is prospering as a result of this constructive relationship. I appreciate that the Hon. Duncan Gay took time out to think about the relationship and showed his respect by including my name on the plaque. This was the first time the name of a crossbench member had appeared on such a plaque. The Hon. Duncan Gay was acknowledging that I deserved the credit for all the hard work done to get approval for the construction of the bridge. I thought that showed the Hon. Duncan Gay's integrity and thoughtfulness. I thank him for this, although there is probably graffiti on the plaque by now.

When first elected we negotiated together. I agree with the comments of the crossbench members, who said that Duncan has been a man of his word. If he agreed to a matter, he would undo whatever had been done to ensure that something was put right. He is a man of integrity. Early on he honoured an agreement to provide \$1 million to commence initial studies into a third bridge for the Shoalhaven. The day after the budget both Shelley Hancock and Gareth Ward had no idea where this \$1 million came from. It came from a man who honoured a promise given to a crossbencher. As Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile acknowledged, we love the Gerringong to Berry upgrade and work on the Princes Highway. Duncan will never fathom just how thankful people are that he has delivered on this commitment, which allows families coming home at night, on weekends and from holidays to travel safely.

I will tell the House a little story. A study was done of 50 people over the age of 90 and asked what they would do if they had their life over again. Their first response was, "If I had my time again, I would reflect more on my life, my marriage and my family. I would just take a little more time to think." The second response was, "I would take more risk. I would just have a go." The third response was, "If I had my life again, I would like to do something that would live long after I have gone." Today we get a chance to acknowledge the Hon. Duncan Gay, Katie, their family and their sacrifice. With everything they have done, they have definitely left something that will live long after they have gone and it will be a blessing for the people of New South Wales. God bless you.

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM (12:30): Mr Deputy President—

The Hon. Niall Blair: Time!

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM: I note the interjection of the Hon. Niall Blair. I start by saying, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." Surprisingly, I have a lot to say. On behalf of The Greens I associate The Greens with the motion of the Hon. Rick Colless because the Hon. Duncan Gay was a well-respected member of this place by all sides of politics and by the community, especially in regional New South Wales. When I was up and coming in politics in Orange in early 2000 Duncan Gay and Mike Gallacher were respected across regional New South Wales for their tireless work to tear down successive Premiers, shonky Labor Ministers and the rest. They did incredible work—tireless, thankless work—slogging it out across the State, on regional television and radio, raising concerns on a range of issues such as safety on highways, and particularly protection of the Liverpool Plains from mining.

Duncan was key in that debate, raising concerns and putting the interests of agriculture before unsustainable mining. I remember talking to people about Duncan Gay. Indeed, I remember John Kaye saying that the Hon. Duncan Gay has a head like a moai—the Easter Island head—but he will persist and is hard to move, just like a moai. He is a titan and has made a monumental contribution—not always in the right way, but he certainly made a contribution. I place on the record that his work on highway upgrades has been incredibly important. Many people think that The Greens members oppose all highways and want to go back to penny-farthings, as the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps would suggest. That is not true. In the area where I live, on the mid North Coast, the Pacific Highway upgrades have saved lives and will continue to save lives into the future. That has been due to the good work of the Hon. Duncan Gay, many other Nationals members and others in raising concerns. We now have a highway, which is the core reason for me moving to the area and The Greens now running Bellingen Shire Council. I thank Duncan Gay for that.

One receives advice in politics. I had been a stonemason prior to being a member of Parliament. When I first came in here I bought my first suit. I was pretty cocky and thought, "I've made it." I remember Duncan and I walking out of the dining room one evening. He said, "Jeremy, it's a long way down." I was being a bit of a rooster and he said, "Just remember, it's a long way down." I will never forget him saying that because people can get a head of steam and think they are better than others. It made me realise that being in here is a privilege; we are elevated by the people of New South Wales to this position and we should never forget that it is a privilege and an honour to be here. We should always remember that we will not always be here. The warning within that comment was always to have integrity, act with honour and remember that it is a privilege to be here.

In Duncan there is a contradiction in that we have a conservative socialist, something a lot of people respected, especially The Greens. He was prepared to advocate for the redistribution of wealth but, on the other hand, he had a conservative attitude on some social issues. We also had a straight Gay, a straight shooter, someone with integrity. If he said he was going to do something, he stuck to the deal, whether or not it was good or bad. We saw that with his attitude to bikes, wind turbines and holding back the development of renewable energy in this State for a decade, but apart from that he is a man of integrity and a man of his word. He is a man whom I described as a Foghorn Leghorn of New South Wales politics. I always enjoyed him calling me Corn Cob and lamenting the fact that he did not get to go on the Ford Country Squire tour of Arkansas, but there is always time, Duncan. I commend the motion to the House.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM (12:36): I support the motion thanking the Hon. Duncan Gay for his public service. I add my personal thanks for the welcome he gave me on becoming a member of this Chamber and for what I describe as the gentle encouragement he has given me over the couple of decades we have worked around each other. It has been appreciated. The Opposition team of Gallacher and Gay has already been referred to by a number of speakers in the debate so far. I watched them very closely during that period. In my mind it was always a good cop, bad cop routine. If Duncan got to play the good cop, it was only because he secretly thought that Mike really wanted to play the bad cop. They were very effective and, as has been said, they were formidable opponents during that period.

I place this in context because I think Duncan joined the National Party back in 1974, except it would not have been called the National Party in those days in New South Wales; it would have been called the Country Party. It changed its name to the National Party in New South Wales in the late 1970s. Even the membership of the Hon. Rick Colless would not have extended back that far, so when Duncan walked out of this Chamber we did not just lose an individual and his service, his humour, knowledge of the forms of the Chamber and everything else talked about in this debate, we also lost the last Country Party member of the Legislative Council. Other people will pull on the boots. However, it is worth reflecting on the fact that it was not just the loss of an individual but the end of an era.

The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS (12:38): I thank Duncan Gay for his encouragement and support during my early years here. Most of the first year consisted of him telling me to stop being a dickhead.

The Hon. Niall Blair: How did that go?

The Hon. Dr PETER PHELPS: It was not exactly successful, but I did appreciate the encouragement. As a country member I travel around the State frequently. I think all members who travel around the State owe a great debt of gratitude to Duncan. I was travelling back from Splendour in the Grass, having missed my flight. As I had to be back in Canberra the following day, I drove all the way from Byron Bay to Queanbeyan. As I was driving down the Pacific Highway, I remembered my other times travelling on the old Pacific Highway in both directions for holidays to Queensland. Every summer I travel to the South Coast and take advantage of the Princes Highway. I can say that there will not be a silent thank you for Duncan for the work that he has done, particularly on those two highways, there will be a noisy one. It will be noisy because it will consist of the laughter and joy from the children of those people who otherwise would have died on those roads without Duncan's direct involvement in their upgrading. I wish Duncan and Katie well in the future. I thank him for his service to this place.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (12:40): I thank Duncan Gay, Katie and their family for everything that they have done for the people of New South Wales. Duncan has had an incredible career in this place, both professionally and personally. The sacrifices and commitments that he has made to make this State a better place are commendable. During my time in this place he has provided much support and guidance, not only to me—particularly when I took on the role as Whip—but also to all members in the Chamber. We have heard a lot of wonderful stories from many members. As a fellow Liberal, it has been fantastic to work with him as a member of the Coalition team.

The Hon. RICK COLLESS (12:41): In reply: I sincerely thank all members who have spoken in favour of the motion thanking Duncan Gay for his service. I particularly thank the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Adam Searle, for his comments. I think they were very appropriate. I will not single anybody else out, but I collectively thank all members for their comments. I refer to some of the comments from the crossbench members, particularly those who were elected by about 5 per cent of the population. Duncan suggested in his maiden speech—as it was known in those days—that they need to remember that although they have been elected by only 5 per cent of the population they have a responsibility to also represent the other 95 per cent of the population who did not elect them.

To my good friends Duncan and Katie, congratulations on a wonderful career in this place. The comments that have been made through this motion this morning have reflected the recognition that you so richly deserve in

the way you conducted your career in this place with the support from your family. I am sure all members of this House wish you well in your retirement and the future work that you will be doing, whatever that may be. May God bless you. You have been great friends. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT: Before I put the question, and with the indulgence of the House, I take this opportunity to thank my boss, the Hon. Duncan Day. I have always referred to him as "my boss". When I came into this place in 2007 he was my first leader. He was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and immediately took me under his wing. During our period in Opposition he was my boss. In 2011, when we were elected to government, I was appointed the Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon. Duncan Gay, and again he was my boss.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: The best Parliamentary Secretary he ever had.

The PRESIDENT: I note that interjection, but I will not call the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps to order. He did refer to me as the best Parliamentary Secretary he had ever had—because I was the only Parliamentary Secretary he had ever had. Sadly, he did not continue that when my successors followed me when I was appointed to Cabinet, which disappointed me enormously. When he became the Leader of the Government and I was the Deputy Leader of the Government, he referred to me as the best Deputy Leader of the Government he had ever had—since I was the only one he had ever had.

To you Duncan, thank you so much for all that you taught me, for the mentoring and for the times you had to kick me into place because you felt I needed a little bit of guidance on the right path. It was greatly appreciated. I wish both Duncan and Katie the very best for their future. As I have said on many occasions, they will not keep the Hon. Duncan Gay down. He will go into retirement and work three times harder than he ever worked before. Again, I wish you the very best.

The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

BUILDING PRODUCTS (SAFETY) BILL 2017

Messages

The PRESIDENT: I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Assembly agreeing to the Legislative Council's amendments to the abovementioned bill.

Documents

TABLING OF PAPERS

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I table the following papers:

- (1) Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985—Reports for year ended 30 June 2017:
Office of Environment and Heritage, incorporating Heritage Council of New South Wales
Office of Local Government.
- (2) Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984—Reports for year ended 30 June 2017:
Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust
Environment Protection Authority, incorporating Regulatory Assurance Statement
Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust
Lord Howe Island Board
NSW Environmental Trust
Parramatta Park Trust
Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust
Western Sydney Parklands Trust
Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales, trading as Taronga Conservation Society Australia.
- (3) Energy and Utilities Administration Act 1987—Report of NSW Climate Change Fund for year ended 30 June 2017.
- (4) Forestry Act 2012—
 - (a) Report of Environment Protection Authority entitled "NSW Forest Agreements and Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals Implementation Report 2013-2014: Upper North East, Lower North East, Eden, Southern, Riverina Red Gum, South Western Cypress, and Brigalow-Nandewar regions", dated September 2017; and
 - (b) Report of Environmental Protection Authority entitled "NSW Forest Report 2014-15: Implementation of NSW Forest Agreements and Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals", dated 2017.
- (5) Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001—Report of Nature Conservation Trust of New South Wales for year ended 30 June 2017.

- (6) Radiation Control Act 1990—Report of Radiation Advisory Council for year ended 30 June 2017.
- (7) Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001—Report of Environment Protection Authority entitled "NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Progress Report 2014-15", dated July 2017.

I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

STATE SENATE BILL 2015

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 12 October 2017.

The Hon. PAUL GREEN (12:46): I continue debate on the State Senate Bill 2015, introduced by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, which seeks to modernise the way that the upper House is addressed and what that means to the community. The bill enables school children to relate to Federal and State politics and understand that there is no difference in the roles played by their respective upper Houses. It is a clear link for education purposes, modernisation of the Parliament and harmonises Federal and State terminology. The Christian Democratic Party seeks to make amendments to the bill. I move:

- (1) That the question be amended by omitting "be now read a second time" and inserting instead "be referred to a select committee for inquiry and report".
- (2) That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, the committee consist of seven members comprising:
 - (a) three Government members;
 - (b) two Opposition members; and
 - (c) two crossbench members, including Mr Green.
- (3) That the chair of the committee be Mr Green.
- (4) That members may be appointed to the committee as substitute members for any matter before the committee by providing notice in writing to the Committee Clerk, with nominations made as follows:
 - (a) nominations for substitute Government or Opposition members are to be made by the Leader of the Government, Leader of the Opposition, Government or Opposition Whip or Deputy Whip, as applicable; and
 - (b) nominations for substitute crossbench members are to be made by the substantive member or another crossbench member.
- (5) That a committee member who is unable to attend a deliberative meeting in person may participate by electronic communication and may move any motion and be counted for the purpose of any quorum or division, provided that:
 - (a) the Chair is present in the meeting room; and
 - (b) all members are able to speak and hear each other at all times; and
 - (c) members may not participate by electronic communication in a meeting to consider a draft report.
- (6) That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
 - (a) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration;
 - (b) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement;
 - (c) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings alternate between opposition, crossbench and government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each;
 - (d) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published;
 - (e) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness; and
 - (f) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration. I believe the amendment has members' support. I commend it to the House.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (12:49): The Opposition does not oppose the amendment. However, let us speak frankly. Unless the Government has changed its position, it does not support this legislation, nor does the Opposition. This is not necessarily a good use of the time of the House or its members, but we should put this bill to bed. If it is the will of the House to refer it to a committee, the Opposition will accept that and will participate in good faith. However, this is not a sensible measure and the Opposition is utterly unpersuaded of its merit. Given that the Government has the same view, this is clearly an early Christmas present for the Christian Democratic Party for its loyal service over the past year. Let us see what the next year brings.

The Hon. NIAL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (12:51): Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile has been passionate about this issue for some time. It is an interesting topic that probably warrants further investigation and consideration. The best way for the House to deal with it is to refer the State Senate Bill 2015 to a committee. For that reason, the Government supports the amendment.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (12:51): In reply: I am happy to put on the record that I support the amendment to my motion to refer the State Senate Bill 2015 to a select committee. I am also happy for the Hon. Paul Green to be the chairman of that committee. I am disappointed that the bill has not been the subject of much parliamentary debate. Even if members do not agree with it, they should put on the record their reasons for rejecting the use of the terms "State Senate" and "State Senators". The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps has spoken on the bill and said that he opposes it. Mr Justin Field from The Greens and my colleague the Hon. Paul Green have also spoken on it, and they support it. The bill is very simple. Clause 3 provides:

3 The State Senate and Senators

- (1) The Legislative Council may also be called the State Senate, and the use of that name has the same effect for all purposes as the use of its other name.
- (2) Accordingly, a Member of the Legislative Council may also be called a State Senator.

I was provoked into introducing this bill because I have been to the United States a number of times as a member of a parliamentary committee and I have found it embarrassing to have to explain my title. Members of State Congresses often ask what is our role, and we tell them that we are members of the New South Wales Legislative Council. They think that we represent a town council or some similar body and do not equate our position with theirs. All American States originally had legislative councils because they were all British colonies and, like us, they all used the British terminology. Hong Kong also still has a Legislative Council. It is part of our British heritage. All American States now have State Senates and all their members are called State Senators. It is frustrating trying to explain this, particularly to Americans.

Some members may think this is a dramatic change. It is not; it simply gives members the right to refer to themselves as a senator if they wish to do so. It is not compulsory. Those who prefer to be called Legislative Councillors can continue to do so. The bill simply gives legislative protection to members who wish to use the term State Senator; if they do, they will not be doing anything wrong or illegal. If the bill is passed, the terms will be approved by the House as alternatives. This will still be the New South Wales Legislative Council and we will still be Legislative Councillors. Nothing will have changed in that regard. This simply gives members the option of using the terms "State Senate" or "State Senator".

A former Clerk of the Parliaments had a big banner installed in the foyer saying "State Senate" without the approval of members. I do not remember anyone objecting to it or criticising it. This issue has been lingering in the background for some time. Obviously it has some support and on that occasion it had the support of the Clerk of the Parliaments. I am pleased that this bill will be referred to a committee. Although there has been some criticism of that proposition, it will give members an opportunity to voice their concerns. I hope the committee will invite submissions from United States representatives. Perhaps we could dovetail the committee's hearings with visits from potential United States witnesses. I am pleased to support the referral to the committee and call on all members to support the motion.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard): Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile has moved that this bill be now read a second time, to which the Hon. Paul Green has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment of the Hon. Paul Green be agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion as amended agreed to.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (WASTE INCINERATOR FACILITIES—RESIDENTIAL EXCLUSION ZONES) BILL 2017**First Reading**

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

Second Reading Speech

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM (12:59): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am quite disappointed that the Legislative Council spent the vast majority of the last sitting day of the parliamentary year considering itself. It is disappointing that a bill as important as this has been relegated—

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: Point of order: I do not wish to interrupt Mr Buckingham, but it appears he is reflecting on a decision of the House, namely the ordering of business for this day. I ask you to remind him that if he is going down that path it would be grossly disorderly.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard): I am sure Mr Buckingham is cognisant of that and will return to the substantive nature of the bill.

The Hon. Niall Blair: We'll go for lunch.

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM: Go for it. I am pleased to introduce this bill on behalf of the people of Minchinbury, Erskine Park, St Clair, Colyton, Mount Druitt, Penrith, Horsley Park and Western Sydney who oppose a big, dirty, polluting garbage incinerator being forced upon their community. Let me be clear, the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Waste Incinerator Facilities—Residential Exclusion Zones) Bill 2017 stops the Eastern Creek garbage incinerator. This is a bill that puts people's health before profit. This is about the elected representatives of the people of New South Wales taking responsibility and not subjecting the people of Western Sydney to the vagaries of the planning system. Whether or not this incinerator goes ahead is a political decision. We can stop this incinerator today. This is a decision for politicians and this bill stops the incinerator in its tracks.

The Government can blather on about an independent, arms-length planning system, but we know that the reality is that the planning system in this State has no red lights and that, with enough money, greased hands and so-called "independent reports", any development will be approved, regardless of the impact on communities or the environment. I note that the proponent of this development is busy in Western Sydney bribing 1,000 residents with new solar panels if they go quietly into the night and accept the toxic waste incinerator in their backyard. I say to Ian Malouf that the people of Western Sydney will not take his bribe. They will not have this toxic waste incinerator in their backyard. The Greens stand with all people in Western Sydney who think this is a dirty, toxic industry. It is a dirty, toxic move to try to bribe those people with baubles, mirrors and beads.

It is important that we build a consensus around this issue. The Greens welcome the fact that Federal Labor is on board, but Labor is not the decision-maker; this Parliament is. This bill will stop the incinerator by preventing any waste incinerator facilities from being built within 15 kilometres of residential zones. The bill does not change the existing provisions for waste-to-energy projects that are currently permissible under the current NSW Energy from Waste Policy Statement. The bill simply bans incinerators such as the Next Generation proposal, which intends to burn plastic and industrial waste within 800 metres of homes and schools. Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of toxic industrial and commercial plastic waste will be burned in the heart of this great city. The Greens think this is absolute madness. If members of this place enjoy clean air, being free of asthma or living in the Sydney Basin then they should take note, support this bill and stop this development.

I am sure members have seen the stories run by Mr Chris O'Keefe at Channel 9 about this crazy proposal and the impacts it will have on people's health and the environment. I thank Channel 9 for standing up for the people of Western Sydney. I thank Mr Chris O'Keefe for paying attention and shining a light on a development that was trying to sneak into an industrial area of Eastern Creek. Without the Fourth Estate paying attention and giving this issue the focus and attention it needs, this development may well have snuck through without the scrutiny that it needs.

The planning system is broken. Not all people were informed. It is only because of the work of the Fourth Estate and The Greens on the ground, such as the Blacktown Greens and other environment groups, observing, paying attention, doorknocking and printing stickers that people know that they are about to be shafted by this Government, Mr Ian Malouf and the Next Generation proposal in the form of a massive, toxic waste incinerator in their backyard. We all know that despite the opposition of the Environment Protection Authority [EPA],

NSW Health and the local council, this development is rolling through the planning system. Now is the time to call for its end. Members should support this bill and stop it in its tracks. It is the job of the Legislative Council to do this. I hope that honourable members will listen to the words of the people of Western Sydney. We have had hundreds of submissions from concerned residents to the ongoing parliamentary inquiry. Mrs Kerry Loveday said:

I don't think that it is fair to the residents of Minchinbury, St Clair and Erskine Park to suffer increased pollution, increased traffic on our already overstretched local roads and financial loss on our homes for the benefit of TNG. Western Sydney should not be treated as a dumping ground and its environment and the health of its residents should be of the utmost importance to all of our Government representatives and should definitely outweigh any financial considerations.

The Greens support Mrs Kerry Loveday. Mrs Kerry Tosswill said:

I have grave concerns regarding the location and impact on the environment and residents living in the surrounding areas. I am also concerned about the lack of infrastructure to support such a development, in particular the local hospitals, which will see increased presentations and admissions with respiratory related conditions.

Mr Derek Ridgley said:

I object to this incinerator being built in my area. I believe it is not in the best interest for the health of the community. I do not see why this type of structure has to be built in residential areas."

Mrs Leanne Stoddart said:

Western Sydney is already inundated with the smell of rotting garbage every night. We are not interested in adding to the already polluted air of this area with the world's largest incinerator. You have already completely ignored the fact that we don't want an airport in our backyard, polluting the sky and our drinking water. If you do put this incinerator within kilometres of primary schools, parks and homes, I can guarantee you will not be in government next election.

If the member for Mulgoa and the member for Penrith want to keep their jobs, they must make sure that this Government supports the bill. Mrs Carmel Bartkiewicz said:

My husband and I have lived in the area for over 50 years and we are disappointed, yet again, that the Government is determined to dump all its problems in Western Sydney. Do the decent thing and stop putting more pollution in an area that is a catch basin for pollution already. Profit comes before people's health. It is time to change. People before greed.

Margaret Flynn said:

With thousands of trucks delivering over a million tonnes of waste to be burnt each year, there is no certainty about what chemicals and particles will come out of the exhaust stacks, which is why the EPA and NSW Health object to this proposal."

Mathew Cini said:

I'm writing to you cause my family and I strongly objects to the go ahead to the incinerator, which is proposed to be built in Eastern Creek. My partner and I have purchased a house in nearby Minchinbury, which was hard enough in the world we live in today. We have the intention on raising a family here but if the incinerator gets built, we will be relocating, which will be a massive disappointment. The incinerator will be very visible from our property, let alone the noise and pollution that will be in the air around our family home. I really hope this rubbish idea gets rejected.

I hope that honourable members in this place are listening to these submissions. Mr Alpeshkumar Patel said:

Because of this incinerator, our kids and local people will get sicker and our water and air quality will get more polluted. Please don't plant this incinerator next to our houses.

Mr Peter Robertson asked:

Why is there so much secrecy about this issue? My Federal member sent a letter regarding this Government inquiry five days before submissions closed. My State member was very quiet on the subject until she came to a community meeting where she was given a very angry reception, and at that same meeting the Federal Member did not utter a single word regarding which side of the fence he and his party stands. "Energy from waste" is such a crock, especially to the residents around this proposed incinerator site at Eastern Creek. No one cares that these rubbish burners are used throughout Europe, Japan and USA, and they have been using them for years. The thing is, they are not building them anymore. What will happen to the toxic fly ash? Where are they going to put it? This proposal should not be allowed to go ahead for the sake of our children. What sort of world are we going to leave them? It's their future that has to be protected. The Greens stand with the community in opposing this toxic, toxic industry. Mr Michael Donohue said:

I am strongly opposed to increasing the pollution in an already over-polluted area and also the massive increase in road traffic which will ensue. The people of Western Sydney already have to deal with horrendous traffic, pollution and the increasing odours emanating from the existing site at Eastern Creek.

Mrs Lisa McKinnon said:

I have lived in Erskine Park for nearly 8 years and we love the area, I have two very young children, and had hoped to keep them in the area for all of their schooling. However if this incinerator goes ahead we will have to make a decision on how we can move from the area for the following reasons:

1. I have asthma and there is a high possibility that my children have inherited this from me, so to stay in an area where the air quality will be diminished is a health risk to us.
2. You may say that it's not that close to residential area but our house when you are in the top level (2 storey home) you can see the construction site, so we are in a directly affected area.

I note that I am getting the wrap-up, so I will conclude by saying that The Greens will continue this fight until this incinerator is stopped. We will continue to fight for the people of Western Sydney because the Next Generation project is an absolute disaster. The air quality of Western Sydney and the health of the people out there will be affected. Millions of people will be breathing toxic, carcinogenic air—those are the proponent's own words; it is the opinion of NSW Health—for a generation if this proposal goes ahead.

We urge the Government to support the bill. We call on the Opposition to support the bill and put the interests of Western Sydney first—put the interests of hundreds of thousands of residents before the interests of Mr Ian Malouf. Support this bill, which will ban these types of facilities in residential areas and create certainty for members of that community. This is impacting their house prices and their wellbeing. It will impact on the health of the people and destroy the amenity of an area that is already over-developed. This is an opportunity for the Government to support the bill and give the people of Western Sydney certainty. Members should back The Greens' bill and send this incinerator packing. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

The PRESIDENT: 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.

Members

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I advise members that during the absence from the Chamber until the conclusion of question time of the Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts, I will answer questions relating to his portfolio. I also advise the House that, due to the absence of Minister Mitchell, I will answer questions relating to the portfolio of the Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education.

Regarding representation in the Legislative Council of Legislative Assembly portfolios, I will answer questions relevant to the Premier; the Deputy Premier, Regional New South Wales, Skills, and Small Business; Treasurer and Industrial Relations; Planning, Housing, and Special Minister of State; Transport and Infrastructure; Health and Medical Research; Education; Attorney General; Police and Emergency Services; Finance, Services and Property; Family and Community Services, Social Housing and Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Lands and Forestry, and Racing; Counter Terrorism, Corrections and Veterans Affairs; Environment, Local Government and Heritage; Western Sydney, WestConnex and Sport; Roads, Maritime and Freight; Innovation and Better Regulation; Tourism and Major Events and Assistant Minister for Skills; Mental Health, Women and Ageing; and Multiculturalism and Disability Services.

Questions Without Notice

BROKEN HILL WATER PIPELINE

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (14:32): My question without notice is directed to the Acting Leader of the Government, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry in his own capacity and, for today, representing the Premier. In light of WaterNSW advising him that, in order to proceed with construction of the Broken Hill pipeline, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal must be directed to include the efficient costs of complying with the direction in determining maximum prices for this service, has the Premier, as the Minister responsible for IPART, given this direction to IPART?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (14:40): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question about the Broken Hill pipeline. It is absolutely fantastic that this monumental infrastructure will be built in western New South Wales because for many years water security has been an issue for the people of Broken Hill and for many governments. The New South Wales Government has put the issue to bed by announcing the construction of the Murray River to Broken Hill pipeline. The Government gave a commitment to ensuring the pipeline would be constructed by using as much Australian steel as is possible. The catchphrase the Government has been using is that we are shifting steel back to the traditional home of BHP.

The Government is proud not only to change the long-term prospects for the people of Broken Hill and surrounding communities but also to consequently increase jobs in the Illawarra. Water pricing has been raised in relation to the pipeline. The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal will undertake a public consultation process based on the National Water Initiative's cost reflectivity principles to determine how the pipeline's costs will be shared. The typical residential bill for consumers in regional New South Wales is \$625, but there is a wide range of prices across the State: from approximately \$400 in Bellingen through to more than \$1,200 in Bourke,

\$1,400 in the Central Darling Shire, and up to \$2,000 in Brewarrina. The typical residential water bill in Broken Hill is approximately \$750, which is just over the State average at present.

IPART will take into account the pricing structure and submissions made by the Government. The Leader of the Opposition asked for information on the Premier's role and interaction with WaterNSW when IPART examines the appropriate breakdown of costs associated with the Broken Hill pipeline and how that may lead to issues in relation to prices for consumers. I will take that part of the question on notice and refer it to the Premier for a response in due course.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES PRODUCTION

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK (14:35): My question is addressed to the Minister for Primary Industries. Will he update the House on how primary industries are booming in 2017?

The Hon. Walt Secord: That question is argumentative!

The Hon. NIAL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (14:36): There is no argument. Primary industries are absolutely booming in this State. I thank the Hon. Catherine Cusack for such an important question because 2017 has been a landmark year for New South Wales primary industries. I hear members ask: How much of a landmark? For the first time the New South Wales primary industries sector recorded a gross value of production of more than \$15 billion, which represents a 32 per cent improvement over the 2013-14 figure. This was a very significant milestone for all of New South Wales, but in particular for rural and regional communities that ride high on the continuing success of our primary industries.

It is a result buoyed by a run of some strong seasonal and economic conditions, and led by continuing improvements in a number of areas including a 54 per cent growth in beef cattle, a 40 per cent growth in wheat, an 8 per cent growth in cotton, a 39 per cent growth in wool, a 33 per cent growth in sheep and goat meat, and an 18 per cent growth in forestry. Our producers, our industries and our local businesses should be congratulated on their hard work, particularly when we reflect on some of the exceptionally harsh conditions that impacted parts of the State in the first part of the year. Bushfires across wide swathes of New South Wales in February and March hit many people and producers very hard and shortly after that communities on the North Coast suffered severe flooding that inundated towns and farms alike.

The favourable conditions that propelled us into 2017 then turned into an unusually dry winter punctuated by damaging frosts, which reduced many crops to stock feed. More recently hailstorms set back fruit production in some areas. Many communities are still recovering from those events. But the New South Wales Government continues its commitment to stand with them in that process. The Department of Primary Industries [DPI] and Local Land Services [LLS] of course continue to play a vital role not only by helping families and communities recover from those challenges but also by building on personal and business resilience, should families and communities face any future events.

This year the DPI delivered reforms to the Biosecurity Act, thereby reducing red tape while providing tough emergency powers and allowing our agencies to take swift action to respond to threats. The DPI investigated nearly 5,000 potential major disease outbreaks and issued more than 1,300 health certificates for individual property export consignments, thus allowing New South Wales primary producers to meet overseas requirements for their products and maintain market access.

Earlier this year we launched the international engagement strategy, which will guide the department's activity with New South Wales agribusiness in trade and investment over the next five years. Our contribution to national export arrangements continues to provide new opportunities for New South Wales producers, such as the recent negotiation of market access for Australian mainland cherries to Vietnam under an irradiation protocol and new access to China for cherries, peaches, plums, apricots and table grapes. This year also saw the launch of the \$6 million Young Farmer Business Program, which will upskill and connect the next generation of producers, and a pilot of the Visit My Farm program, which provides opportunities to diversify into agritourism. It has been a fantastic year and next year this sector will grow beyond our expectations. We on this side of the Chamber back our farmers. As we can see in these results, when we back our farmers they more than deliver.

SOUTH COAST WATER FLUORIDATION

The Hon. WALT SECORD (14:40): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry in his own capacity and representing the Minister for Health. Given Bega Shire Council has recently resolved to defer the introduction of fluoride into the two new local water supply systems, when will the State Government act to require the council to do so and thereby protect the teeth of children on the far South Coast?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (14:40): I know that the topic of fluoridation is regularly debated in many parts of the State, particularly on the North Coast in recent years. Fluoridation of water is a widely used practice in most communities across this State, and this topic needs to be considered by members of communities that are not connected to a potable water supply through a local water utility. I live in a regional community that only has access to tank water. As the members of my household predominantly consume water out of our tanks, my wife and I have looked at a range of options to make sure that our son consumes lots of water to keep him hydrated, rather than sugary drinks. As parents, we felt we must explore the options to protect our son's teeth.

I support the recommendations of the Chief Dental Officer of NSW Health in relation to fluoridation of reticulated drinking water supply and to maintain an optimum fluoride concentration of one milligram per litre. Since 2011, this Government has provided \$366 million to local water utilities throughout New South Wales and this investment will grow off the back of our \$1 billion Safe and Secure Water Program. We are providing new dams and pipeline linkages, sewage treatment plants, drought protection systems and, importantly, new drinking water treatment technology. While the decision to add fluoride to reticulated drinking water supplies ultimately rests with local water utilities, this Government will continue to fund infrastructure projects that improve the health and wellbeing of New South Wales communities—and fluoridated water certainly does that.

I will take at face value the issues raised by the member as happening in communities on the far South Coast of New South Wales. We should encourage communities to debate the important issue of water fluoridation and, during that debate, to look at the recommendations of people like the Chief Dental Officer of NSW Health and other experts, who are best placed to provide the right advice. The Hon. Walt Secord will probably ask me when are we going to force communities to implement water fluoridation because we support it, but we want to ensure that we take communities along with us. Community debates on issues like this have a tendency to flow on to those who are not connected to a local water utility's system and who rely on tank water. These people should be made aware of the importance of water fluoridation as a result of those discussions having occurred in households. This will give them the ability to make choices as to what type of toothpaste they use or whether they use additives or tablets to protect their children's teeth. [*Time expired.*]

The Hon. WALT SECORD (14:44): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate his answer in regard to funding? Will he withdraw funding to councils if they do not provide fluoridated water in projects funded by the State Government?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (14:45): It is interesting that the Hon. Walt Secord has given the default setting of the Labor Opposition, which is to take money away from regional communities. On this side of the Chamber, we are making sure that we provide more money for regional communities, more money for regional water supply programs, and more money for infrastructure that is desperately needed throughout regional New South Wales. We will continue to support and fund infrastructure projects that improve the health and wellbeing of New South Wales communities. That is how we on this side of the Chamber do things. I know those opposite want to take money out of regional New South Wales, but that is not what we are about. We are focused on the regional New South Wales of tomorrow and ensuring that it has the most up-to-date infrastructure based on the most up-to-date information and science. We are backing this with the money that is required.

FOREST RESIDUE BIOENERGY

Ms DAWN WALKER (14:46): My question is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries. Considering the impacts of forestry operations on koala populations and climate change, can the Minister explain why his department is considering burning the forests of the North Coast for electricity?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members will come to order. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (14:47): I thank the member for her question, although I think it should be directed to the Minister for Lands and Forestry. However, as I represent the Minister for Lands and Forestry in this House, I will be happy to answer the question on his behalf. New research released this week by the Department of Primary Industry's [DPI] research scientist Fabiano Ximenes tells a positive story about the potential use of forestry residues from harvesting operations for bioenergy purposes. Let me be clear, this research is about improved utilisation of existing forest residues that otherwise would be wasted, not about additional felling of trees or additional harvesting activity.

The statements of The Greens NSW are misleading and fail to understand the science behind this research. The research suggests that there are enough residues in the North Coast's sustainably managed forests and sawmills to power more than 200,000 local homes per year. The DPI's report found that more than one million

tonnes of forestry residues from harvesting operations could be used for bioenergy, with no adverse environmental impacts. For The Greens NSW to suggest this research has the potential to impact on koala populations is misleading and lacking in any scientific rigour. The North Coast residues report does not suggest any additional felling of trees or any harvesting activity that would impact on koala populations. It is also misleading to suggest that the report makes a direct connection between the use of residues and electricity.

Instead, it outlines a range of potential uses of biomass from native forests, plantations and wood-processing facilities for consideration as part of the managed forest approach. Additional benefits include the removal of residues that would otherwise decay or burn to release greenhouse gases in the forest, replacing fossil fuels and potential support for regional development by the creation of a new industry. It is also worth noting that the DPI's forest science team is continuing research into koala behaviour using sound recordings to better understand the status of koalas in native forests. This will help us to assess forest management practices to provide koala protection whilst maintaining a sustainable forestry industry.

The residue is left over from harvest operations or sawmilling operations from a renewable source. Plenty of work has been done to look at this type of biomass generation in other jurisdictions and we should be listening to our scientists on exactly this sort of thing. We should be making sure that we base our decisions on research done by some of the best scientists in the world in these areas. I thank the Minister for Lands and Forestry not only for his outstanding work but also for his agency's work in conducting the research. I look forward to seeing where it goes from here.

LOCAL LAND SERVICES

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN (14:50): My question is addressed to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry. Will the Minister update the House on the achievements and progress of Local Land Services in 2017?

The Hon. NIAL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (14:51): As members of the House will be aware, Local Land Services [LLS] brings together agricultural production advice, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management into a single organisation. Importantly, Local Land Services, as the title suggests, is local. It is a local service for our regional communities. It has a local focus with local people at its heart. The New South Wales Government knows how important these services are to regional communities and is committed to making sure that LLS has the support needed to service all landholders.

Central to LLS this year has been the implementation and delivery of the New South Wales Government's land management and biodiversity conservation reforms. For too long, thanks to those opposite, farmers were alienated and biodiversity was failing. We know our farmers and we know that they deserve better. The Government's biodiversity reforms are the most significant change to land management and conservation this State has seen in 20 years. Unlike Labor, we wanted to give our farmers the tools and flexibility to manage and protect the land. We wanted to ensure they were supported to actively manage important native vegetation while maintaining and improving productive land use. We listened to our farmers.

Our primary producers are vital to productivity and growth in this State and these reforms will go a long way to ensuring that they are not only supported but also able to thrive into the future. LLS has a unique governance model, and this year steps were taken to make that model more effective. This was done through the passing of the Local Land Services Amendment Bill. The changes to the existing governance structure will see a strategic role taken by the LLS board, with a chief executive officer to manage the operational functions of the agency and better utilise funds for pest management. This year the Soil Conservation Service also joined the LLS ranks. About 175 staff transferred to LLS and in this process brought with them a raft of knowledge and experience. These changes are making a difference. That was acknowledged by feedback at the recent New South Wales Landcare and LLS conference. Many people heralded it as the best forum to date, attracting 344 delegates from across Australia. The following comments say it all:

It was the first time that you could sense a real collaboration, at a state-wide level, between Local Land Services and Landcare.

Another one stated:

... a platform to present the best of LLS and Landcare. It was great to see so many LLS staff, other government officers and Landcarers there, building relationships ...

As I have previously stated in the House, this is the year of the LLS. I know that the passionate, hardworking people who make up LLS will do their best to ensure that our successes this year continue into 2018 and beyond. I thank all the staff who have worked tirelessly to guide these reforms and those working hard on the ground providing important advice and emergency responses. We saw the response of LLS to some of those emergency situations throughout 2017. These staff live and work in regional communities and they are dedicated to the

communities they serve. Through floods and fires, we saw a number of LLS staff having to undertake tasks most of us would not take lightly yet they stepped up to the plate. I commend the leadership, the board, the local boards and everyone in LLS for a great 2017.

FIREARMS OWNERSHIP

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (14:55): My question without notice is directed to the Hon. Niall Blair, representing the Minister for Police. Today The Nationals leader, John Barilaro, announced that he wants a parliamentary committee to examine how to introduce "family and home protection" as a genuine reason to own a firearm following the case of one brave farmer in a marginal rural electorate. If this truly is an issue concerning the Government, why did the Government oppose this same proposal that was contained in the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party amendments to the Firearms and Weapons Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 on 31 May this year?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (14:56): I thank the honourable for the question, which he has asked of me in my capacity representing the Minister for Police in this House. This subject has been looked at in some detail during the recent passage of legislation through this House. I do not want to cast any reflection upon a decision of this House. In his question to the Minister for Police, the member has referred to comments made by the Deputy Premier. I am happy to take the question on notice, refer it to the Minister for Police and come back to the member with a detailed response.

BROKEN HILL WATER PIPELINE

The Hon. MICK VEITCH (14:57): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry in his own capacity and representing the Premier. Will the Minister rule out that the families of Broken Hill and Lower Darling will not be faced with any additional water charges as a result of WaterNSW advising him that the River Murray to Broken Hill Pipeline was not in the best interests of the organisation unless it had guarantees that the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal was directed to "include the efficient costs of complying with the direction in determining maximum prices for this service"?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (14:57): I thank the honourable member for his question and for once again giving me the opportunity to talk about an important piece of infrastructure for western New South Wales. The reason the Government has given the direction to WaterNSW is that the Government believes it is important infrastructure. It is about service to that community. If it were all about making a buck, I am sure the private sector would have jumped in and done it.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. Members are well aware that one Minister is answering all the questions. Interjections are disorderly at all times, even when there are three Ministers to respond. Mr Jeremy Buckingham will have an opportunity to ask his question shortly and will cease interjecting. The Minister is being generally relevant in his answer. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: The Government does not set water prices; they are determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal. The IPART will take into consideration a number of factors when it makes its pricing determination. We have been very clear about that.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I call the Hon. Mick Veitch to order for the first time. The warning I gave to Mr Jeremy Buckingham applies to all members. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: IPART will take into consideration a number of factors when it determines the prices for the people of Broken Hill. One thing the Government can guarantee is that those people will have a water supply into the future. That was in jeopardy through the inaction of those opposite, particularly in 2007 when there was much discussion about ensuring water supply for the people of Broken Hill and the Opposition squibbed it. They walked away from that community. When that community's water supply was in dire straits this Government stepped in and funded the short-term—

The Hon. Scott Farlow: Point of order—

The PRESIDENT: I direct the Clerk to stop the clock.

The Hon. Scott Farlow: The Minister is being not only generally relevant but incredibly relevant to the question asked by the Hon. Mick Veitch. The Hon. Mick Veitch is not allowing the Minister to answer the question and is continually interjecting. Interjections are disorderly at all times. The Hon. Mick Veitch has been called to order once and I ask that he be called to order again.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I will not restart the clock until the House comes to order. I call the Hon. Lynda Voltz to order for the first time. I uphold the point of order. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: We may be seeing a rain delay in the cricket at the moment, but if the Opposition keeps bowling full tosses outside the off stump I will keep putting them away.

The Hon. Mick Veitch: Point of order: The Minister may think this is a frivolous matter but the people of Broken Hill want to know if they are going to pay for the water when they turn on the tap.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is no point of order. I call the Hon. Mick Veitch to order for the second time. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Because of this Government's action they will be able to turn on the tap with confidence for decades to come. Those opposite walked away from that community, and when the Government presented a plan they voted against it. The Opposition had a chance to address the situation in 2007 but it walked away. The Opposition does not even know whether or not it supports the pipeline. The shadow water spokesperson does not know if he and his colleagues will support it. Will they tell us what they are going to do? Are they threatening to tear it up?

The PRESIDENT: Order! I direct the Clerk to stop the clock. I have already given a number of warnings. I remind the Hon. Mick Veitch that he is on two calls to order. I remind all honourable members that, as indicated by President Johnson in 1979, it is not in the interests of members to interject, nor is it in the interests of the member speaking to encourage interjections. It is not for the Minister to put questions to honourable members while they are interjecting. I will give no further warnings. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: The Government is providing the vital infrastructure required for that community. We gave WaterNSW the directive to proceed with this project and now we are building it. Water pricing will be determined by IPART and it will take into consideration a number of factors. Factors that relate to that community are different from those that relate to other communities—for example, the level of lead that is found in the area and the need for reliable water for dust suppression. The IPART investigates a range of issues and will receive a number of submissions. That is how it happens in this State: IPART sets the price of water for those communities. It will look at a range of factors. I can guarantee that it will look at every issue and make an appropriate decision.

WESTERN SYDNEY JOBS

The Hon. LOU AMATO (15:04): My question is addressed to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry. How is the Government supporting jobs in Western Sydney?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:04): By 2036 Western Sydney will be home to more than three million people. Ensuring the growing local workforce of Western Sydney can access the skilled jobs of the future near to where they live is top of mind for the New South Wales Government. That is why we are working with local government and the Commonwealth to make Western Sydney a "30-minute city" where people can work within half an hour's travel from where they live. Western Sydney is set to benefit from the biggest infrastructure rollout in Australia's history, which includes the construction of the new Western Sydney Airport. The New South Wales Government is investing \$22 billion in major transport projects that will reduce congestion for commuters and businesses in the region.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I call Mr Jeremy Buckingham to order for the first time.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: The new airport will be a catalyst for enormous industry development. The New South Wales Government is advancing plans for an adjacent aerospace and defence industry precinct which will generate thousands of skilled technical jobs. I am happy to say that many businesses are already voting with their feet, having recognised the potential that lies in Western Sydney. More than 140,000 new jobs have been created since 2011—almost 40 per cent of all jobs created in New South Wales. On 17 November I joined the Prime Minister at the launch of Vitex Pharmaceuticals' new manufacturing plant for complementary medicines, marking a \$100 million investment in Eastern Creek. Businesses such as Vitex are driving employment growth. They are increasing staff from 80 to 420 in order to meet strong export demand for Australian-made products. It is easy to talk about the 30-minute city or commute, but it is companies such as Vitex Pharmaceuticals that can make that concept a reality.

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

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: This business will become a major generator of jobs in the heart of Western Sydney. Vitex is just one success story of Western Sydney. Our coordinated investment in transport and industry development across this growing region was a key reason behind Singapore-based information technology company AirTrunk choosing Huntingwood, just off the M4 near Blacktown, as the base for one of its new flagship cloud data centres. Its new data centre will create 180 new jobs, with the first stage being completed just months ago. Members may have seen some of the fantastic things that are happening in Penrith. Sun Masamune Sake Brewery is an example of a thriving Western Sydney business.

Last month the Minister for Western Sydney and I visited this outstanding local business, which makes sake so good that 90 per cent of its produce is exported to Japan. As a result of its success in the Japanese market, it has employed 10 more people. Earlier this year major United States defence company Northrop Grumman jumped at the chance to be an anchor tenant at the defence and aerospace precinct, which the New South Wales Government is delivering, with a \$50 million commitment to establish a new defence electronics maintenance operation. These are just a few of the examples of businesses thriving in Western Sydney. The Government will continue to work hard to create the conditions and attract businesses to Western Sydney that will generate sustainable, skilled jobs and industries of the future.

REGISTERED NURSES EMPLOYMENT

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (15:08): My question is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Technology, representing the Minister for Health. I have been contacted personally by a number of qualified registered nurses who are being denied employment by NSW Health facilities, particularly in rural areas, because they have been unable to secure an NSW Health Transition to Practice program position. Given that the Government openly admits there is a shortage of registered nurses, particularly in rural New South Wales, why is NSW Health continuing to block the employment of qualified graduate registered nurses who have unfortunately not been able to complete a NSW Health Transition to Professional Practice program?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:09): I thank the member for his important question. He asked it of me in my capacity representing the Minister for Health. We all enjoy and support the fantastic role that our nurses play in every community in this State. We are blessed to have four former nurses in this House—the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor, the Hon. Paul Green, and the Hon. Mark Pearson. They have all been members of that profession, which we all support.

The Government has a fantastic track record of increasing the number of nurses throughout New South Wales, and it is extremely proud of that. However, every time it does so, people ask for more because we can never have enough nurses. It is a challenge to any government to ensure that it has as many nurses as possible where they required throughout the State. The member mentioned restrictions and retraining. I do not have that level of detail with me, but I am happy to take the question on notice and refer it to the Minister for Health, who I am sure will provide me with a response, which I will then provide to the member in due course.

WATER MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (15:11): I direct my question to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry. It has now been 122 days since *Four Corners* first broadcast allegations of water theft in the Barwon-Darling river system. The Minister claimed last night on *Lateline* that New South Wales had clearly addressed the issue of compliance. Is the Minister confident that the Government has addressed all the compliance issues, and will he guarantee that water theft is not occurring today in New South Wales?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:12): I thank the member for his question on a topic the Government has addressed many times in this House. I am more than happy for members opposite to keep recycling their questions because it gives me an opportunity to reiterate what I have said on this matter on many occasions. The Government was concerned about the allegations about water compliance in New South Wales, and that is why it asked Mr Matthews to investigate them. He came back to the Government with an interim report that contained a number of recommendations. One recommendation was to look at who oversees the compliance functions and who makes decisions about potential breaches and to follow them through to prosecution if necessary. Who should oversee it, what agency should oversee it, and what sort of expertise should be available? Just this week, the Government has put the first piece of legislation through this House—

The Hon. Mick Veitch: That is just one recommendation.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: It is just one recommendation. That is why the Government has clearly said that it needs to do a range of things in this area. The first step was to introduce a bill to set up an independent board to oversee compliance functions in New South Wales. As the *Land* stated today, "Credit where credit is due." Even the Ombudsman said that the step the Government was taking to ensure compliance functions are overseen by the independent board was a step in the right direction. I can assure the House that the compliance decision—

The PRESIDENT: Order! I call the Hon. Penny Sharpe to order for the second time. I call Mr Scot Macdonald to order for the first time. I call the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane to order for the first time.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: As a result of the establishment of the independent regulator, the agency responsible for customer service and delivery is no longer responsible for compliance functions. The member asked what is happening at the moment. The Government has already appointed someone to act as the chief regulatory officer and the regulatory functions are continuing to be performed. We should acknowledge the role that WaterNSW has played, particularly in recent months, to ensure that some of those allegations are put to bed. That is what the Government said it wanted; it wanted to ensure that these matters were examined, and the regulator has played an important part in that process. The Government has also said that an exposure draft on the many issues identified will be produced for public consultation in 2018. The member might be complaining, but the Government is getting on with the job. It is doing it, and it is doing it once and for all to ensure that— [*Time expired.*]

COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

The Hon. NATALIE WARD (15:16): I address my question to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry. Will the Minister outline the important changes that have occurred in commercial fishing over the past year?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:16): I thank the member for her first question, and for addressing it to me. We know that she is a warrior, and I appreciate the fact that she chose to ask me her first question today.

The Hon. Walt Secord: So she is a warrior. Is she throwing down the challenge?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I will back her in any day over the Hon. Walt Secord. The reforms the Government has overseen this year will set up the commercial fishing industry for decades to come. These changes have been long overdue with the industry declining and commercial fishers unable to unlock the real value in their businesses. Not only have the Government's changes allowed them to do that but commercial fishers now also have a tangible stake in a new way of doing business. The Commercial Fisheries Business Adjustment Program has achieved these outcomes against a backdrop of persistent carping and criticism. Through the Government's subsidised share-trading market, exit packages have been offered to those wanting to leave the industry, while others have been able to purchase the shares they need.

We now have 871 commercial fishing businesses up and down the coast, which is comparable to the number of dairy farmers in New South Wales, despite the predictions of doom and gloom in some quarters. Members of this place participated in a parliamentary inquiry last year, and after hearing all sides of the argument, they agreed to urge the Government to implement reforms as quickly as possible. These reforms do not come easily and they are not without their challenges. If it were easy, it would have been done some time ago. During their time in government, members opposite kicked commercial fishing reform down the street. Finally, when this Government acted, their only response was to press pause on the changes.

If we had adopted the approach of those opposite, those businesses would still be in the dark today. We were told that fishers would never embrace the computerised trading platform, but that proved to be a myth. They were supported with a series of practice runs prior to the site going live. By the time of the first round of share trading, commercial fishers had a good understanding of what they needed to do. This Government has also provided them with grants for legal help and financial advice. The most compelling evidence of the success of the new share trading scheme is what happened after the subsidised market came to an end in June. Since then, more than 65,000 shares have been traded, with fishers using the open market exactly as we expected. They are getting prepared ahead of the next big date in commercial fishing, which is 1 December this year, when the new share linkages take effect.

We are right behind our commercial fishing sector and in 2018 we will unveil a new compliance regime to further protect their valuable investment. The Professional Fishermen's Association [PFA] has been working hard not only for its members but also for the whole industry. The PFA recently led a trade mission to China. It is thinking about how the New South Wales fishing industry can capitalise on Chinese demand. This is a forward-thinking industry body that wants to work with the Government to bring about the best outcomes for

commercial fishers. Although the reforms have been challenging, we now have a fishing industry with secure property rights, valuable assets and an industry body that is banking on a bright future ahead. This has been something in which all members of this House have taken a great interest. I thank all members who have been involved in this issue for the way that they have worked. It has been tough but I am optimistic about the future of this sector as a result of these reforms.

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN AUTHORITY NORTHERN BASIN REVIEW

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM (15:20): My question is directed to the Minister for Regional Water. Ian Hunter, the South Australian Minister for Water and the River Murray, has recently written to all Federal senators asking them to support a disallowance of the decision to reduce water meant for the environment from the Northern Basin in Queensland by 70 billion litres. Will Minister Blair do the same on behalf of the New South Wales Government and the community's farmers, recreational fishers and ecosystems, which rely on healthy Murray River and Darling River systems?

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:21): I will not be standing in the way of that readjustment, which is occurring as a result of the Northern Basin Review. The review team went into every one of those communities in New South Wales to look at the impact and to establish whether the water that was returned through that process was taken out of the right areas and valleys. I will not do as Mr Buckingham asks and I will give him the reasons for that. If Mr Buckingham were aware of the results of the review he would know that New South Wales bore the brunt of that review more than any other State, in particular, Queensland. The review team went into each of the communities and was backed by officials in Canberra who looked at the impact in those communities. The review established that it would be harder for New South Wales than it was for Queensland.

I will not support anyone who comes into this Chamber and asks me to say, "Yes, that will be all right. Let us make sure we continue to punish New South Wales and let Queensland off the hook." The member does not understand that both parts of the Murray-Darling Basin fall within New South Wales; we have skin in both games. We understand what happens in the northern part of the basin because it impacts on people in the southern part. If Mr Jeremy Buckingham wants to go in to bat for South Australia he should pack up his bags, grab his mates, join Dr Mehreen Faruqi and go to Canberra. Is that what this is about? Is this the announcement that Jeremy is also running for the Senate? If he needs to go national he should pack up his bags and move to South Australia or Canberra. We are here to look after the northern and southern part of New South Wales. We are also here to look at the impact that this will have on those communities.

Mr Jeremy Buckingham should go up there, stand up in the public halls, call for people to come in and ask them what happened to their communities. This is a sensible amendment to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. The Northern Basin Review assessed the decisions that had been made and determined whether there needed to be an adjustment. We support that review. I hope that those opposite, in particular, those in the Labor Party, ask their Federal counterparts to support it as well. Mr Jeremy Buckingham does not understand that this is not only about numbers; it is also about outcomes. If he wants to talk about fish habitat, we can look at a range of areas and increase the environmental advantages for fish in New South Wales without removing water. More can be done for the fish in our State—

The Hon. Ben Franklin: Point of order: Although I am loath to intrude on the Minister's answer, it is difficult for Hansard to hear. I ask that you call members to order.

The PRESIDENT: I have been more than patient. There will be some members who believe I have been too patient with interjections. This is our last sitting day for the year and as much as I am loathe to expel a member, I will do so if interjections continue.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: This is not an obsession with numbers; it should be about outcomes. If Mr Jeremy Buckingham wants to talk about fish stocks and advantages for recreational fishers, we should talk about getting the carp out of the Murray-Darling Basin—

The PRESIDENT: Order! I call Mr Jeremy Buckingham to order for the second time.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: We should talk about cold water releases out of dams, or environmental flows that kill a lot of fish. We should talk about outcomes. But that does not suit Mr Jeremy Buckingham's agenda. All he wants is a 10-second sound grab. He is not worried about New South Wales or its communities; he is more worried about his political aspirations.

The PRESIDENT: In case members did not hear, I remind Mr Jeremy Buckingham that I have called him to order for the second time.

WATER MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE (13:26): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry, in his capacity and representing the Premier. What assurances will he give New South Wales irrigators following criticism of his handling of the water portfolio by the chief executive of the NSW Irrigators Council, who stated that New South Wales was not delivering the compliant system that farmers pay for and expect? As reported in *The Land* today, the chief executive said, "We pay millions of dollars in annual charges to support a strong system to ensure irrigators abide by their licences. We expect that those taking water illegally will be punished to the full extent of the law."

The Hon. NIAL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:27): That is a good and important question. The Government has been forthcoming in saying that the compliance service that has been delivered to irrigators has been below par. The guarantees that I give will be the same guarantees I have given in this House and to industry. We will not only implement the necessary reforms as we demonstrated this week through the passage of legislation; we will also consult with industry. It is important to ensure that the solutions we implement are practical and long lasting for those who do the right thing. We do not want the knee-jerk reactions we saw from the Federal Labor Government in relation to live export issues. There were issues that needed to be addressed but its swift, knee-jerk reaction penalised a lot of people who were not doing the wrong thing, which resulted in a flow-on effect throughout the primary industry sector. We have identified that there are issues. Mr Matthews identified those issues because we asked him to look at the allegations, and he came back with recommendations.

We will continue to work with those in the sector. The Government will put out an exposure draft bill relating to legislation that will be introduced in this House next year. The Government will consult with industry on that exposure draft bill. The Government wants to ensure that we have a robust system that does not let down those who have done the right thing. The implementation of the legislation has to be practical for producers in this State and it must meet the standards they expect. I am not surprised by the member's comments. Anyone who has read the Matthews report and what the Ombudsman said would not be surprised by those comments. This Government demonstrated this week that it is addressing those issues. We will have more to say on this matter in 2018. I look forward to the support of those opposite, who are obviously concerned. I am willing to engage with them to find solutions.

The time for questions has expired. If members have further questions I suggest they place them on notice.

Deferred Answers

PRIORITY PRECINCTS

In reply to **Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE** (19 October 2017).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts)—The Minister provided the following response:

No.

INDUSTRIAL NOISE POLICY

In reply to **the Hon. PENNY SHARPE** (19 October 2017).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts)—The Minister provided the following response:

I am advised:

The review of the Industrial Noise Policy has concluded and a revised Noise Policy for Industry was released on 27 October 2017.

Research about low frequency noise from the United Kingdom Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not been adopted as environmental noise limits in New South Wales.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

In reply to **the Hon. ERNEST WONG** (19 October 2017).

The Hon. NIAL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry)—The Minister provided the following response:

Sydney has been the home of the Emirates Australian Open [The Open] for the past 13 years (since 2004).

When the New South Wales Government renewed its support until 2023, it was agreed that the event would be held outside of New South Wales for two years. The location would be at Golf Australia's discretion and they have decided to take the event to Victoria in 2020 and 2022, with all other events up to and including 2023 to be played in Sydney.

The Open has attracted thousands of domestic and international visitors to Sydney to see some of the biggest names in world golf, injecting millions of dollars into the New South Wales economy. We look forward to welcoming the world's best to Sydney once again to contest the Stonehaven Cup from 24 to 26 November this year.

Members

DEPUTY GOVERNMENT WHIP

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I inform the House that today the Hon. Wes Fang was elected Deputy Government Whip in the Legislative Council in place of the Hon. Ben Franklin.

Business of the House

PRECEDENCE OF BUSINESS

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I move:

That debate on Government business take precedence over general business for the remainder of this sitting.

Motion agreed to.

Committees

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE VALUER GENERAL

Membership

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: On behalf of the Hon. Don Harwin: I move:

That Ms Ward be appointed as a member of the Joint Committee on the Office of the Valuer-General Committee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr Pearce.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: On behalf of the Hon. Don Harwin: I move:

That a message be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly conveying the terms of the resolution agreed to by the House.

Motion agreed to.

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Membership

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: On behalf of the Hon. Don Harwin: I move:

That Mrs Maclaren-Jones be appointed as a member of the Legislation Review Committee to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr Pearce.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: On behalf of the Hon. Don Harwin: I move:

That a message be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly conveying the terms of the resolution agreed to by the House.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION AND THE CRIME COMMISSION

Membership

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: On behalf of the Hon. Don Harwin: I move:

That Mr Martin be discharged from the Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission and Mr Fang be appointed as a member of the committee.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: On behalf of the Hon. Don Harwin: I move:

That a message be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly conveying the terms of the resolution agreed to by the House.

Motion agreed to.

*Documents***TABLING OF PAPERS**

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: I table the following papers:

- (1) Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985—Reports for year ended 30 June 2017:
Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (2) Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984— Reports for year ended 30 June 2017:
Barangaroo Delivery Authority
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Infrastructure NSW
Long Service Corporation
Natural Resources Commission
New South Wales Electoral Commission
New South Wales Treasury Corporation
Parliamentary Counsel's Office
Public Service Commission
SAS Trustee Corporation, together with financial statements
Trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund.
- (3) Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985 and Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984—Report of the Treasury for year ended 30 June 2017 including reports of:
Alpha Distribution Ministerial Holding Corporation
Electricity Assets Ministerial Holding Corporation
Electricity Transmission Ministerial Holding Corporation
Electricity Retained Interest Corporation Endeavour Energy (ERIC-E) Corporation
Electricity Retained Interest Corporation Ausgrid (ERIC-A) Corporation
Liability Management Ministerial Corporation
Ministerial Holding Corporation
Ports Assets Ministerial Holding Corporation
State Rail Authority Residual Holding Corporation.
- (4) Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984 and Growth Centres (Development Corporations) Act 1974—Report of UrbanGrowth NSW Development Corporation for year ended 30 June 2017.
- (5) Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984 and State Insurance and Care Governance Act 2015 No 19—Report of Insurance and Care NSW for year ended 30 June 2017 together with financial statements.
- (6) Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989—Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal: Annual Report and Determination, dated 31 May 2017.
- (7) Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994—Report of Public Interest Disclosures Steering Committee for year ended 30 June 2017.
- (8) Report of Public Service Commission entitled "Progress: State of the NSW Public Sector Report 2017".
- (9) Snowy Hydro Corporatisation Act 1997—Consolidated Financial Report of Snowy Hydro Limited for the period 1 July 2017.
- (10) State Owned Corporations Act 1989—Reports for year ended 30 June 2017:
Essential Energy
Forestry Corporation
Hunter Water Corporation
Landcom (trading as UrbanGrowth NSW)
Port Authority of New South Wales (comprising Newcastle Port Corporation, Port Kembla Port Corporation and Sydney Ports Corporation)
Sydney Water Corporation (trading as Sydney Water)
Water NSW.
Statements of Corporate Intent for year ending 30 June 2018:
Essential Energy
Forestry Corporation of NSW
Hunter Water Corporation
Landcom (trading as UrbanGrowth NSW)
Port Authority of NSW
Sydney Water Corporation
Water NSW.
- (11) Statutory and Other Officers Remuneration Act 1975—Reports dated 29 August 2017:
 - (a) Reports and determination under section 13:
Court and Related Officers Group: Annual Determination
Governor of New South Wales
Judges and Magistrates Group: Annual Determination
Public Office Holders Group: Annual Determination.

- (b) Report and determination under section 24C—Chief and Senior Executive Service: Annual Determination.
- (c) Report and determination under section 240—Public Service Senior Executive: Annual Determination.

I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

SEASONAL FELICITATIONS

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:33): I move:

That this House notes its thanks to the members and staff of the Parliament and wishes seasonal felicitations to all.

I seek leave to have the contribution of the Hon. Don Harwin incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr President, I would like to commence by thanking the House for giving me leave to incorporate this message in *Hansard*. I cannot be present in the House this afternoon as COAG Energy Council and associated meetings commence at 5.00 p.m. in Hobart.

Mr President, I would like to congratulate you on your outstanding performance in the chair since your election in February as the House's twenty-first President. Can I extend my best wishes to you, Mary and your family for Christmas and the New Year and I hope you continue to enjoy your role as much as I did.

A big thank you to all other occupants of the Chair for the great job they do, particularly, the Hon. Trevor Khan—as patient and effective a chair as I have seen.

Mr President, by now you will truly appreciate how extraordinarily fortunate the House is to be served by the Clerk of the Parliaments, Mr David Blunt. His innate decency and integrity are only matched by his dedication to supporting our work as Members of the House. And the very effective team he has assembled in the Department of the Legislative Council is no doubt inspired by his example. On behalf of Government members, thank you to all of them.

Likewise, a big thank you to the staff of the Department of Parliamentary Services led by Mark Webb. I would particularly like to thank the staff of Hansard, the Parliamentary Library, Building Services, the Clerks, the People and Engagement Branch, Finance, particularly Members Services, and the Special Constables who help keep us safe. A particular mention to Phil Goldsmith, whose careful stewardship of the moveable cultural heritage in the Parliament House collection I have particularly appreciated. And DPS has also done a superb job with the Preston-Stanley, Reid and McKell Rooms. They are great spaces.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Leader of the Government during 2017 and I thank the Premier for the trust she has put in me to lead the Coalition team. I have greatly appreciated the support and advice I have received from the Deputy Leader of the Government, the Hon. Niall Blair. The Government is extremely lucky to have him. I hope that Niall, Melinda, and Lachlan have a well-earned rest and a wonderful summer. A special mention for the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, to whom I am sure the whole House sends their best wishes at this particular time.

I spent eight years as a Whip, so I know how much effort is needed in the job done by the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones and the Hon. Ben Franklin. Their effectiveness has been obvious to me and my colleagues on the Government benches all year. A huge thank you.

The Hon. Ben Franklin has also served as my Parliamentary Secretary, doing a great job on renewable energy. I appreciate the sound advice he has given me and my office. I would also like to acknowledge the role he has played in pointing me in the right direction on regional arts policy earlier this year. He shares the credit for the Government's great initiatives this year that are transforming arts and culture in regional communities.

All of the Parliamentary Secretaries have done a superb job sharing the legislative workload this year during Government Business. Thanks also to the Hon. Scott Farlow for his contribution as Leader of Government Business. We have dealt with 71 Government bills, with over 500 amendments circulated. But I note in passing, that at the end of my nineteenth calendar year in the House, that there probably hasn't been many Leaders of the Government who could get up at the end of the year and note that the Government has not been defeated on a single division on its own legislation all year.

That seems an appropriate point to acknowledge the role of Mark Jones, who advises me on managing the business of the House. He has taken to the role with extraordinary alacrity and I hope all honourable members appreciate the contribution he has made to the smooth functioning of the House. Already, he is drawing comparisons to some of his effective predecessors in that role, such as the late Virginia Knox, Lenda Oshalem, and Susanna Montrone.

Also to Stephen Marriott, Andrew Kirk, Dominic Kelly, George Ober, Sam Tedeschi, Lyndon Gannon, Ben Lathwell, Mitchell Compton, Chris Lawrence, William Verity, Jeremy Hutton, Vivienne Lee, Charles Barden, Hayley Hamilton, Gretel Friend, Kate Walsh, Rachel Imms, Rebecca Baldwin, and George Weissel, thank you to you all. You have all done such great work in the ministerial office. You deserve so much of the credit for everything we've managed to achieve in 2017 across our four portfolios.

Thank you to my Departmental Secretary Carolyn McNally, Deputy Secretaries Kylie Hargreaves, Liz Develin, and Alex O'Mara, Sydney and Hunter Water CEOs Kevin You and Jim Bentley, as well as David Harris, Michael Brand, Louise Herron, Dolla Merrilees, Kim MacKay, John Vallance, Mark Goggin, Michael Brealey, Craig Limkin, Katherine Hole, Prue Gusmerini, Lee Shearer and their many, many staff who work so hard. It has been a pleasure meeting you and I greatly appreciate the professionalism with which you have approached your roles.

As a Liberal Party member for 34 years, almost 19 of which have been spent in this Chamber, I need to say thank you to the party and its members on behalf of the 12 other Liberal members of the Legislative Council. None of us would be here without you. All of the Liberal members have worked to contribute to the work of the Government and the people of New South Wales in the best way we felt we could. My grateful thanks to all of you and I hope the Government's achievements are some reward for your loyalty and efforts.

Many of my best memories when I finally leave this place will include Nationals members of this place. Without exception, I have enjoyed the fellowship of all of them. They are a fantastic bunch of people. We are the strongest coalition of parties in any Australian Parliament and New South Wales has been the better for it.

Finally, may I conclude by wishing all honourable members a merry Christmas and thank them for the consideration that they have shown me and my staff during the year.

It gives me great pleasure to wrap up the parliamentary sittings and to thank everyone who has contributed to the operation of this House and the Parliament as a whole. I commence by thanking the Leader of the Government, the Hon. Don Harwin. It has been an interesting year and I believe that The Nationals and the Liberal Party have worked together well, in particular, in this Chamber. I also make special mention of you, Mr President. One thing that has been noticed by all members of this Chamber is the dedication that you have given to the role of President. You take that role seriously and I believe that debate and the movement of business through this House has been seamless—although bumpy at times—because of the role you have played. I congratulate you and all your staff and wish you all the best in your role.

I also thank Deputy President the Hon. Trevor Khan not only for his role during the Committee stage in this Parliament but also because we get to hear everything he is thinking while he is doing that. We often know when we will be getting the call because he is talking it through and saying, "I will not be giving that person the call; I will be coming over to him." We have had complex moments with the passage of some of the legislation when the Deputy President was in his role as Chair of Committees but also when he was acting for the President. He should be commended.

I also thank the Government Whip, the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, who has been well supported by the Deputy Government Whip, the Hon. Ben Franklin. A Whip's job is difficult at times. The way that the Whips have performed their roles on behalf of the Government is a credit to the House. I thank them for that. I also thank the Leader of Government Business, the Hon. Scott Farlow, who continues to evolve in the role in which he plays a key part. I thank Mark Jones from Minister Harwin's office and Annie Savage from my office. Both have played a role on behalf of the Government in making sure that our jobs are a lot easier. They have been involved in negotiations with the Opposition and crossbench, and I thank them for their dedication to the role throughout the year.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Adam Searle and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Walt Secord. We have certainly had some challenging moments, but it is important for the Government and the Opposition to talk through issues, particularly in areas where there is disagreement. That has been handled in a professional manner. I thank the Opposition Whip the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane and Deputy Opposition Whip the Hon. Greg Donnelly for all the work they have done, particularly in working with the Government.

I thank The Nationals team that I lead in this House. I have mentioned the Hon. Trevor Khan and the Hon. Ben Franklin and their roles in this House, but I also thank them for the contribution they have made in debates and for the roles they have played in our party this year. It has been fantastic. Obviously the Hon. Bronnie Taylor has showed us a different way of approaching issues—coming from another angle—for The Nationals in this House. That has been a credit to her. I also thank her for her tireless efforts which we have seen more recently across southern New South Wales.

The Hon. Rick Colless has provided the steady hand for The Nationals for a long time. We certainly welcome the role he plays. The Hon. Wes Fang has joined our team with a level of enthusiasm for quite some time. I congratulate him on the role he will fulfil next year in this House by looking after members as the Deputy Government Whip. My ministerial colleague the Hon. Sarah Mitchell is quite amazing. Particularly throughout her pregnancy and right up until the last moments of it, she has continued to carry a heavy workload. We may see the newest member of the Mitchell family today. I have been swapping text messages with the Minister throughout today. The Minister may be in hospital.

The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps: She is probably watching the House on the live stream.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: If being in hospital is not enough to induce her, probably watching the upper House would do it. We wish her and Ant all the best. I congratulate her on her role and performance as the Minister and thank her for supporting me in the House. I wish her all the best. This year we have had a few farewells. We have farewelled the Hon. Duncan Gay, the Hon. Greg Pearce and the Hon. Mike Gallacher. When we think back to 2011 when we became the Government when they were on the front bench, we battle to retain composure when

we see those three names on the list of farewells. Their contributions should be acknowledged. There has been plenty of time to talk about that throughout the year.

We have also welcomed new members to the Chamber from all sides of politics. I have mentioned the Hon. Wes Fang. The Hon. Natalie Ward recently joined us. I mention the Hon. Taylor Martin and the Hon. Dawn Walker who joined us in the House this year. There is one new member of this House of whom I make special mention, and that is Master Arthur Houssos. The first time a child has been allowed into the House is worth reflecting upon. It required a lot of discussion at the time but, if we ever wanted someone to go first, we would want the best-behaved baby—and he is the best-behaved baby I have ever come across. The best-behaved person in this House this year has been Arthur Houssos! At times it was the perfect circuit-breaker to have him in the House. It took a little pressure off members and they started to think about what really matters. It has been special to witness all members from all sides of politics playing with him and entertaining him.

I thank all political parties in this House—The Greens, the Christian Democratic Party, the Animal Justice Party, and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party. They have all contributed in their own way to the work of this House. They have all been part of what we do every time the House sits, and that is make history. When we examine the facts, we can see easily that history has been made here. We have passed 71 bills. I would be the first to say that the number of bills passed does not measure the success of a government or a House, but we have passed 71 bills and circulated 471 amendments. We have taken 813 questions without notice, excluding today's questions without notice. I am proud to say that three of those have been answered. No, that is not right!

The Hon. Mick Veitch: None has been answered!

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: No. They all have been answered. The House sat for more than 350 hours. That could not happen if not for the amazing team and support of the Legislative Council team. I begin by thanking the Clerks, David Blunt and Stephen Reynolds, and of course acknowledge Katie Cadell, who supports them. Among the gifts that can be purchased from the Parliament are cufflinks that show wise owls sitting at a table, which reflects the Clerks of the Parliament. I cannot think of a better description than that. All members have sought their counsel on a number of matters. They have been there to provide advice on complex matters. I think they are the best in the business. I thank the Clerks and their team for their guidance throughout the year, which certainly has made a big impact.

I also thank the Chamber support staff—Maurice, Richard, Mike, John and Mark. I thank them for coping with the long hours and for sitting through our debates. All members are very well served by the roles they play during sitting times as well as non-sitting weeks that when they look after members. While we are making the history of this State in this place, it is so important to recognise that it is being reported by the most professional group of people in Hansard. I thank Mr Scott Fuller and his team—Karen, Julie, Bronwyn, Debra, Carol, Iain, Sue, Annemarie, Elaine, Suzanne, Jackie, Sally, Stephanie, Monique, Kerry, Carina, Penny, Erica, Sallyanne, Kathryn, Jan, Melissa, Leah, Matthew and Lisa. I thank them for everything they do. I am still baffled by how Hansard operates—that combination of both sides of the brain listening, interpreting and recording is absolutely fascinating.

The Hon. Robert Brown: That is because you are a bloke.

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: Yes. I find it hard to stand and breathe at the same time, let alone aspire to the role that Hansard plays. Everyone says they make us look good, but the other point to make is that they are also great people. Members of the upper House get to travel with Hansard staff on committee journeys. It is fantastic to sometimes see them laughing at the same things we are laughing at and, when someone in this House makes a faux pas, to know they will fix it without us having to ask. I thank them for that.

I also thank very much the Procedure Office team of Stephen, Madeleine, John, Alex, Velia, Shu-Fang, Christine, Liz and Kerry for all that they do. I know that many in the office need to be involved in serving members so well, particularly with matters that members need to put through the House. I also thank Bev and all the committees team. All members have said that the role of the committees for all sides of politics is not always understood by members of the other place and other people. It is absolutely outstanding to have such a professional team looking after committees.

I thank the Usher of the Black Rod, Susan, and her staff, Andrew and Brett. This year they have had to walk out more members from the Chamber than I can remember in any other years. That is a small part of what they do, but I certainly would not argue with them. I thank them, especially Susan, for the fantastic role they play. The work of this House happens only because of the other support that members receive through the Department of Parliamentary Services. We sometimes forget that we may sit late and change our plans at the last minute. We may think the House will rise at a particular time and then we sit two or three hours longer. While that might seem

to be an inconvenience to us, that inconvenience flows onto the catering staff and puts extra pressure on the cleaning staff. I recognise the work of all of the Department of Parliamentary Services staff.

We have an outstanding building that continues to evolve. Some challenges have been presented by renovations, but that has all been managed professionally. We know a lot of the department's staff by their first name. When members return to Parliament after a break, they are the first to ask: "How are your children? How is your family? What did you get up to during the break?" That is an absolute pleasure. I take this opportunity to thank my staff, especially my Chief of Staff, Sean O'Connell, who is, without doubt, the best in the business—but having been here for so long, he should be pretty good!

I also thank my policy team: Darcy, Holly, Charlie and Miranda. I thank Stuart and Evie in my communications team. I particularly thank Annie Savage and Charis, who looks after the office, including my diary. She is the best gatekeeper I have come across. I thank Nilly, on reception, and my current department liaison officers [DLOs] Columbine, Phil, Teresa and Camila. There have been a lot of DLOs in my office since I became Minister, because my office has shared in the joy of eight staff members having babies—obviously, something is happening but I do not know what it is and my office is certainly adding to the ranks of the next generation. I sincerely thank all of my team for their hard work this year.

I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We all do our job to the best of our ability for the people who elected us to this place. We should not forget that we represent the good people of New South Wales, but at times that representation comes with sacrifice. We all sacrifice family time and have all not been home when we have been needed because of what we do. We do our job because we believe in what we are doing. It was our choice to come to this place and those who love us come along for the ride, sometimes not by choice but to show their support for us. At times our families miss out on seeing us while the people of this great State benefit from our work in this place.

This is the time of year when we must think about our families. Some of us in this place have lost family members during this year. Some have had challenging times and bumpy rides along the way. This is the time to thank those we love when we go home to our families. This is the time for us to remember that we are honoured to be here. We also should pay tribute to and respect those who support us in our roles in this place. I wish everyone a merry Christmas. It has been a good year, and we should all be proud of what we have achieved. I urge members to hug their families. We will be back next year.

The Hon. WALT SECORD (15:51): As Acting Leader of the Opposition in the New South Wales Legislative Council, it is my great pleasure to make a contribution as part of the annual seasonal felicitations motion. I intend to be brief, as the Acting Leader of the Government has already acknowledged many of our parliamentary colleagues. I wish to recognise the hard work and advice of the Clerk, David Blunt, Deputy Clerk, Stephen Reynolds, and all of the other parliamentary Clerks and other staff, as well as the staff of the Procedure Office and committee teams. I commend the Hansard staff, the Chamber staff and the cleaners, including our long-suffering but diligent attendants, who are here before we start and after we finish.

As for Labor staffers, I single out my staff member, Luke Maxfield, and Rob Allen, who works for Opposition leader Adam Searle, for their support over the past 12 months—especially on legislation and preparation for question time. They are a true brains trust. They provide advice and assistance without fear or favour to me and to my colleague the Hon. Adam Searle. Luke Maxfield and Rob Allen are the first to reprimand me when I take things a little too far in the Chamber, but I maintain that rarely happens. And I salute the staff in Café Quorum, who are forced on late-night sittings to watch the proceedings as keenly as the press gallery—unlike the press gallery, they at least nourish us.

On a sad note, I wish to note the passing on 13 November of Prue Jessep at the age of 73. She was a librarian for more than 21 years in the Parliamentary Library. My colleague Adam Searle remarked that he was familiar with her in Opposition in the John Fahey Government, and I remember her from the first days of the fledgling Carr Government in 1995. She was always professional and helpful to all members of Parliament and staff regardless of their political persuasion. On that note, I wish to thank all the Parliamentary Library staff. They meet unreasonable deadlines and unreal expectations without complaint.

My thanks go to the Deputy President, the Hon. Trevor Khan, for mastering the Committee stage of proceedings. I also thank the President, John Ajaka. I wish to sincerely congratulate you on your first year as President. While I may disagree with the occasional ruling, Luke and Rob often remind me, "Walt, I think John was right on that one." As President, it is a position that you clearly relish and take pride in, and you conduct yourself with integrity. As the referee in this Chamber, you recognise the importance of your role as the Chair in the State's House of Review. You know that you are following in great footsteps.

On that note, earlier this year I was pleased to discover that the second President of this Chamber was John Hubert Plunkett, a major colonial figure. It was Plunkett who, against almost universal colonial public sentiment, prosecuted a group of stockmen led by a squatter who rode into Myall Creek Station in northern New South Wales and murdered 28 unarmed Aboriginal men, women and children. Unfortunately, at the time such murders were not unique to the colony. What was unique was that this would be the first time that Europeans were successfully prosecuted for perpetrating atrocities against the Indigenous population.

Eleven of the 12 involved were charged with murder. Initially found not guilty, seven were rearrested and tried again, found guilty and hanged on 18 December 1838. Plunkett believed that the life of an Aboriginal person had as much value as the life of a European. This made him a person well ahead of his time and deeply unpopular in the colony, but history has proved him right. I believe John Plunkett deserves wider recognition. His name adorns the second panel above the visitors' gallery, which records all the previous Presidents of the Chamber—but I digress.

All members in this Chamber are well aware that I engage in political activity in a "take no prisoners" manner—and I will continue to do so. But on a personal note, 2017 has been a time for deep reflection. While I am a very private person, I wish with the indulgence of the House to share with the Chamber that 2017 has been one of the hardest years for me. It would have been even harder if it were not for the support of my partner. She is a very kind person, and whenever colleagues meet her at arts functions, they suggest that she is a very patient and understanding woman, which she is. To ensure that she keeps supporting me, we have one key understanding: She is not permitted to watch me at work in Parliament, especially during question time. It was conservative Prussian statesman Otto Von Bismarck who allegedly said, "To retain respect for sausages and laws, one must not watch them in the making." This is even more important when the people include your partner.

In the last eight months, I have been touched by three significant bereavements. My father passed away in his sleep after a decade-long battle with lung cancer, kidney disease, diabetes and heart disease—all ailments of Indigenous peoples in Australia and Canada. He was buried in his traditional tribal garb and with his personal religious items in a mix of Native American and Christian rituals. His funeral was attended by more than 600 people, as he was a respected elder in the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. Sadly, I was not there: Due to the sheer distance, the timing of his passing and the speed with which Indigenous funerals occur, I was not able to attend.

In March this year, my 14-year-old niece and another girl from our tribe were killed in a head-on collision with a drunk driver in a stolen vehicle on a youth group outing to play paintball. It was a tragic, sudden and completely unpredictable loss. More recently—that is, last Friday morning—we buried my partner's elderly father, Iossif. He survived evacuation and near starvation as a child in World War II as the Nazis advanced on Russia and he migrated twice in his lifetime, once to Germany and then to Australia. I wish to thank Rabbi Mendel Kastel of Jewish House, who works with the victims of domestic violence, the homeless and those affected by substance abuse, regardless of their faith, for conducting a touching service for him at the Jewish burial society, the Chevra Kadisha. Rabbi Kastel conducted part of the eulogy in Yiddish, so that the elderly Russian-born worshippers could follow the proceedings; it was simply beautiful.

I acknowledge Rabbi Kastel and Central Synagogue Chief Minister Rabbi Levi Wolff for helping my partner's Berlin-based brother, Ilya, who flew over at the last minute, to fulfil his Orthodox Jewish religious obligations for his late father on Friday night. This was despite not being a member of the congregation. I have known Rabbi Kastel for more than 25 years. We first met when he was a rabbinical student in Bondi. A number of years ago he observed that I was sad. He asked me what was wrong and whether I needed to talk about anything. I replied quickly, "But I am not Jewish." He said, "Walt, you are a human being", and we had a chat. Earlier this month he was invited to join the board of the Council of Social Service of New South Wales, the main peak body for health and community services in the State, which has operated for more than 80 years. Rabbi Kastel is a true friend and a wonderful human being. To use the Yiddish term, he is a mensch.

As for Parliament, I admit that I am sad to see the retirement of three long-serving parliamentarians and sparring partners—the Hon. Duncan Gay, the Hon. Greg Pearce and the Hon. Michael Gallacher. I fought all three of them very hard as a staffer and later as a member of Parliament. I do not share their views on the provision of government services, but I acknowledge that they were incredibly effective in delivering their policies for their respective political parties and for the people who voted for them. I do not share their world view, but I have to admire their dedication and commitment.

So, yes, 2017 was a challenging year but there were some great moments too. Nationally I am pleased that the country has spoken emphatically on marriage equality. I hope that the Federal Government resolves the matter as quickly as possible. The love that a same-sex couple feels for each other is nothing less than I feel for my partner. We can all predict that next year will be even more intense and hard fought at a political level as we get closer to the March 2019 State election.

In conclusion, the events of the past year have reminded me that we are all on borrowed time—we are mere specks in the universe. We are privileged to be alive at all, let alone to find ourselves members of a fascinating profession such as this. We must remember that New South Wales is a regional Parliament in a middle-sized democratic nation. Globally the citizens of New South Wales comprise far less than 0.1 per cent of the world's entire population. But that is all the more reason to work diligently to try to improve the world and to serve the community as best we can. It is also a time to remind us to reach out to our friends and to keep in close contact with our family, despite our pressing workloads and the demands of public life. I say to our Christian colleagues, "Merry Christmas." I say to my Jewish friends and family, "Happy Chanukah." I say to those who are of other faiths and those who do not consider themselves religious, "Have a safe and happy holiday." I hope everyone has a restful December-January and returns rejuvenated for the year ahead.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (16:02): I wish all members and staff a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. As is my custom, I will read a few verses from Chapter 1 of Matthew from the *Bible* I was presented with by the Parliament, as was the custom in the eighties. I am not sure whether it still happens today.

Mr Jeremy Buckingham: In the 1880s?

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE: In 1981. Because we had not yet elected the President, the Clerk appointed three commissioners. My *Bible* is engraved with the signatures of the three commissioners—John Johnson, Paul Landa and Clive Healey. It includes the Oath of Allegiance on the cover. It is a very precious *Bible* and I have used it ever since. Verse 18 of Chapter 1 reminds us of what we are celebrating at Christmas as we adjourn the Parliament. It is the authorised version so it has the old King James language. It states:

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together—

which means before they have sex—

She was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee, Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying,

23 BEHOLD, A virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emanuel, which being interpreted is God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

I am pleased to remind all members, including myself, of the message and meaning of Christmas. I add the greetings and thanks of the Christian Democratic Party, also on behalf of my colleague the Hon. Paul Green. I thank everyone this year, particularly the President, the Hon. John Ajaka, for his help, the Hon. Don Harwin and the Hon. Scott Farlow. I thank the Hon. Trevor Khan for his brilliant leadership of our Committee stage and his constant good humour. I thank Labor leaders the Hon. Adam Searle and the Hon. Walt Secord for their help. I thank the Clerks, Hansard, our catering staff, security and all the attendants for their help during the year. God bless each one of them. Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (16:06): I will begin by saying Merry Christmas to everyone. I speak on this final day of sitting in 2017 to offer well wishes to honourable members in this place for the Christmas and New Year period. May everyone remain safe. The year 2017 has been a fantastic one for the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, and there are many people to thank. Firstly, I acknowledge the good work of our Legislative Council office staff and thank them for their often unsung efforts. Many would know that crossbenchers do not have the same resources as Government members, although sometimes we have more resources than Opposition members. They work very hard and work collegiately. In small offices people need to get on with each other. Senada Bjelic, who sits at the front desk in my office, is the pinnacle of fine organisation. Both my colleague Robert Borsak and I would be lost without her fine organisational skills and attention to detail. John Townsend, who wrote this speech, ensures that Robert Borsak, Phil Donato and I are able to reach people across the State through the mainstream media and social media. He has changed the way we work as a party, and for the better.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: Is he responsible for your mean tweets?

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN: No—well, he probably is because I don't know what that is. When Niall Blair reminds me that one of my staffers tweeted something, I can say, "I don't know, Niall. He might have done."

What's a tweet?" I do have a definition but there are ladies present so I will not provide it. Robert Despotoski will be well known by many in this place and the other place for his unique political abilities and as a formidable tactician. Nothing happens in this building without Robert getting wind of it first; I am sure that 90 per cent of the stuff that goes on around this place is actually started by Robert. Finally, I turn to Steve Larsson, the twitterer. Our fastidious researcher and firearms policy expert is constantly sifting through government documents and announcements to help us set our agenda. We can always tell how hard Steve is working because we get some of these messages at 2.30 or 3.00 in the morning.

The Hon. Walt Secord: It is a trick. He has it on delay.

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN: Probably it is, and I am on to him. I thank the Hon. Walt Secord. Steve is often the first one to be contacted by farmers and licensed firearm owners across the State to assist them with their inquiries and concerns. I thank State Director Filip Despotoski, Robert's son—who worked in my office—Keith Graham, Steve Voller, Christine Voller, Bob Shore, Dave Cook, Grant Leland and the many other volunteers who assisted us in the recent by-elections. Was that not fun? Two by-elections.

I pay my personal respects to and thank the Clerks, particularly the Clerk of the Parliaments, David Blunt. Thank you David. You and your staff do an incredible job. Previous speakers have spoken at length about the difficulty of that work. Hansard always make our words read like exquisite prose. That is particularly true when it comes to me because I seldom read from a document. They somehow make it sound as though it is not Swahili. They can even translate Jemmy Buckinghamese when he speaks Swahili. I love the catering staff; I know them all by name and they know me.

I thank the Department of Parliamentary Services staff. A questionnaire was distributed about the cleaning staff. I have spent many years in the property industry and I know a great deal about property maintenance, cleaning and attention to detail. It is done properly every time in this place. I have only one criticism, and the Hon. Ernest Wong agrees with me. I am sure the Leader of the Government had his finger in the design of the men's toilets on level 11. I will not go into any detail and explain why—it is Christmas—but I would like to meet the chief design architect. I thank the Government, the Opposition and the rest of the crossbench for their cooperation during the year.

It really has been an exciting year. In fact, maybe I am getting a bit old, but it has also been a tiring year. A couple of by-elections tend to slow me down. But now that we are at the end of the year, I can hardly wait until next year. I am sure that 2018 will be a great year. If I have failed to thank anyone, I did not mean to; it is just that there are so many people to thank. You really are a good team of people to work with, whether or not we agree. Generally speaking, this place runs like a clock—sometimes a clock that keeps on running and running. We signed up for the gig. If you take the money, you do the work. I hope that members have a safe and pleasant Christmas break and I wish you all a merry Christmas.

[Business interrupted.]

Visitors

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of all honourable members, I welcome into the President's Gallery Dr Stavros Kyrimis, Consul General of Greece, guest of the Hon. Courtney Houssos. I also note that the honourable member's husband and two children are here, particularly Master Arthur Houssos, who is again incredibly well behaved. I also welcome and acknowledge the Hon. Meredith Burgmann, who was President of this Chamber from 1999 to 2007.

Motions

SEASONAL FELICITATIONS

[Business resumed.]

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM (16:13): On behalf of the New South Wales Greens, I extend seasonal felicitations to all members of this House, all staff who are involved in the running of this place, both governmental and parliamentary, and wish everyone all the best for the break and for the year ahead. I will start at the top and thank the people who keep this place running: the cleaners, the security staff, the attendants, the clerks, Hansard, the cafeteria—except Andrew, who is continually trying to poison me with salads—and the dining room staff. I thank everyone who keeps this Parliament running, sometimes in the wrong direction but running anyway. It is a very difficult and exciting place to work, and I hope that all of those who serve the people of New South Wales have a well-earned break and a great and New Year.

The Greens members take on many portfolio responsibilities. I especially thank all the staff in our parliamentary offices, who respond to legislation and deal with an enormous amount of constituency work. The Greens run very successful campaigns and the workload involved falls to the staff and the members of our party. We are principally a volunteer organisation, and many of our campaigns and our work are driven by our membership. Those people volunteer to help and get behind what we do. I thank the journalists—except for James Robertson—who follow what we do. They are the Fourth Estate and hold the Government to account. They make sure that democracy is well served by members by closely scrutinising what we do. I wish them all the best. I know they are going through a challenging time with restructuring. Apparently, the beloved orange carpet on level six is finally about to disappear. If only it could speak, it would have a tale or two to tell. There are big changes to come. Members of the minor parties on the crossbench are small in number but mighty in stature. They do a great job of holding this lot to account. All the best to you. I wish members of the Opposition and the Government all the best for the New Year. I hope to see you all again next year.

The PRESIDENT (16:16): I thank all honourable members. In February this year I was elected as President by all members in this House. It is an incredible honour and a privilege to serve as President of this Legislative Council. I thank the Deputy Leader of the Government and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for their very kind words. I thank the leaders of this Chamber—the Leader of the Government, the Deputy Leader of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—and the members of the crossbench and other members for their continued assistance to me as President. I thank the Government Whip and Deputy Government Whip, the Opposition Whip and Deputy Opposition Whip.

I greatly appreciate the contributions of the Deputy President, the Hon. Trevor Khan, and thank him and his staff, Matthew Yeldham and Richard Karaba, for all that they do, especially when the Deputy President continues with his commentary from my right, in case I miss what another member is saying. He knows I have a hearing problem and I think that is the reason for his commentary. I thank the Assistant President, Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, and the temporary chairs, the Hon. Shayne Mallard, the Hon. Ernest Wong, the Hon. Paul Green and Dr Mehreen Faruqi. I apologise if I sit in the chair too often and deprive them of the opportunity to do so. I will make it up to them that next year by giving them many more opportunities.

I thank my chief of staff, Nicolle Nasr. This year Nicolle joined me in the transition from the ministerial office to the office of the President. She has ensured that the transition has been an easy one for me, and she continues to keep me in check. I thank the rest of my team—my deputy chief of staff, Tom Anderson, Tori Crisp, Tina Daniels, Nicholas Smerdely, and Barry Heyder.

As Presiding Officers, we are all too well aware that the success of the Parliament is possible due only to the contributions and collaboration of all staff. I thank the Clerk, David Blunt, the Deputy Clerk, Steven Reynolds, and the amazing Kate Cadell. I must have been President for only one hour when I called her and simply said, "Hello", but she immediately knew who I was. That is a example of who she is and how she operates. They have all made my life and my transition much easier because of their wonderful advice.

I thank the Usher of the Black Rod, Susan Want, and our Chamber support team of Maurice, Mark, Richard, Mike and John. They always seem to know what is required and when it is required without being asked. That is extraordinary. I thank the Executive Manager of the Department of Parliamentary Services, Mark Webb, and his team of Julie Langsworth, John Gregor, Robert Nielsen, Mike Price, and Lee Kwiez. They continue to consult with members on any issues that need to be considered. I thank them for their great teamwork. Much has been said by all about the amazing work of Hansard, security, building services, IT, the library and research, finance, human resources, catering, education and the cleaners. That list demonstrates the enormous amount of work done by those who are not on the frontline to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

I take this opportunity to thank my family, and especially my beautiful wife, Mary. I would appreciate it if the Hon. Mick Veitch would stop telling her that she made a huge mistake in marrying me. He is not being a very good friend. I thank my six beautiful daughters, my grandson, John, and my granddaughter, Violette, who is named after my dear mother. My mother was admitted to Calvary Hospital yesterday afternoon. When I spoke to her yesterday I told her that I would try to be with her, extraordinarily she replied, "Your job is to be in the chair." She would be very disappointed and ashamed of me if I were not in the chair when I was required to be here. Each year I promise my family that I will spend more time with them, and each year I break that promise. Again, I promise that I will spend more time with them and I hope that next year I do not break that promise. I wish each and every one of my colleagues a merry and safe Christmas. I wish you time with your family; I wish you all the very best for 2018.

The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

*Committees***COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION****Membership**

The PRESIDENT: I report receipt of the following message from the Legislative Assembly:

MR PRESIDENT

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

- (1) (a) Austin William Evans be appointed to the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission in place of Katrina Ann Hodgkinson, resigned; and
- (b) a message be sent informing the Legislative Council.

Legislative Assembly
23 November 2017

SHELLEY HANCOCK
Speaker

*Adjournment Debate***ADJOURNMENT**

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

MERVYN AMBROSE LESLIE FLANAGAN SHOOTING

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM (16:23): I draw the attention of the House to an issue raised in this Parliament 100 years ago, which featured in a debate on a censure motion that lasted for three sitting days. Merv Flanagan was a Labour Movement martyr who was murdered in 1917. He is yet to see justice. It was the time of the 1917 rail strike—still the largest industrial dispute in New South Wales—and one-third of the State's unionists were on strike. Of course, the nation was at war. Merv Flanagan was a striking carter. On 30 August 1917, on Pymont Bridge road in Camperdown, there was an argument, a scuffle, and Merv Flanagan was shot dead. He was with his brother James Flanagan and his friend Henry Williams, who was shot in the leg. The man who fired the shots was Reginald Wearne. He was a stock and station agent, and a strike-breaker shipped in from Bingara. He was also the brother of a powerful conservative State politician.

Let us concede that it was a different, more violent time, and that there was fault on both sides. What happened was tragic. What followed was an outrage. Sydney's establishment rallied around the murderer and Wearne was quickly granted bail. He received hundreds of letters and telegrams of support, some of which described Flanagan as "an enemy of the State" and "a parasite of the lowest social order". His defence was funded by the wealthy, including A. M. Hemsley of the law firm Allen, Allen and Hemsley, who passed the hat around at Sydney's elite Union Club. Wearne was then set free. A Coroner's inquest finding was used to have manslaughter charges withdrawn. Unusually, a jury was empanelled to hear the case. The Acting Coroner hailed from Wearne's home town of Bingara. In contrast to Wearne's freedom, the brother, James Flanagan, and Williams were each jailed for three months. The murderer Wearne was free, but James Flanagan and Williams were jailed. The striker, Merv Flanagan, was dead. Now, 100 years later, it is still an injustice. First, I thank the Government for supporting a condolence motion in this House last Wednesday 15 November. The motion stated:

That this House places on record its deepest sympathy with the widow, orphans and relatives of the late Mervyn Ambrose Leslie Flanagan, killed at Bridge Road, Camperdown on Thursday 30th August 1917.

A resolution in identical terms was passed in the other Chamber of this Parliament on 26 September 1917. We are joined today by one of those relatives, Sandra Williams, the granddaughter of Merv Flanagan. As a result of that resolution, Sandra, I am able to convey to you the thoughts and the warm wishes of all members of this House. However, I believe we need to do more. It is never too late for justice. As the local member, R. J. Stuart-Robertson, said at the time:

The sooner something is done to assure the public that justice is to be had in our courts of law for the unionist, whether dead or alive, the better it will be for the State.

That is why today I wanted to tell Merv Flanagan's story. That is why today I call on the State Government to assemble and to release any documents the State holds that relate to this case, including any Cabinet, police and prosecution files that might be held on the incident, the legal process and the policy of issuing weapons to strike-breakers. That is why today I call on the Government to issue an apology to the family for the legal injustice that was done. If this Government does not, I am confident the next Government will. That is why today I call on the City of Sydney to join with the labour movement to permanently recognise the site of Merv Flanagan's death in Camperdown. I have been informed today by the City of Sydney that it is open to doing so, and I welcome that. Today we remember Merv Flanagan. We remember his story. We remember his family. We remember this

injustice. Even after 100 years, we ask that these things be done so that we may confidently say that it is still possible to assure the public that justice is to be had, for any unionist, indeed for any citizen, dead or alive in New South Wales.

WHITE RIBBON DAY

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (16:28): This Saturday is White Ribbon Day, which presents everyone, particularly men, with the opportunity to take a stand and to speak out against violence against women. There is no excuse for domestic violence. No reason will ever be good enough; no justification can ever be offered that makes the behaviour of some in our society acceptable. I stand with everybody in this place in our support for those living with the stresses and consequences of domestic violence and in our strong condemnation of its perpetrators. Domestic violence is not a new phenomenon; it has occurred throughout history. However, by talking openly about what domestic violence is, we have exposed it. Domestic violence is a crime that is now reported more frequently than it was previously. That is a positive step. We must continue to talk about it, because it is only by exposing domestic violence at every opportunity that we will be able to stamp it out. I am hopeful and confident that my generation will quash this scourge. The perpetrators of domestic violence are often not who we expect. They are our colleagues, our brothers and our friends. Often times they will never show public signs of the aggression that rears its head behind closed doors.

I want women to feel empowered to speak up, to say no and to leave environments where they are both emotionally and physically abused. I want them to know that the community will support them in what can be the most difficult time of their life. Earlier this year, the Central Coast experienced the tragic death of Blair Dalton from Ettalong at the hands of her partner. Blair was a mother of two young children. Her children, her family, her friends and our community have been robbed of all the experiences that they should have had with Blair. I do not wish for Blair to become another statistic, but the fact is that on average every week in Australia one woman is killed by a current or former partner. I am proud to be part of a Government that is prioritising domestic and family violence. Since 2012, reported incidents of domestic violence in New South Wales have remained steady. However, we have seen a significant increase in the punishment of perpetrators. The number of persons found guilty of domestic violence has increased by 44 per cent and the number of perpetrators receiving jail time has increased by 93 per cent.

Unfortunately, for reasons well publicised on the Central Coast, we will not get to sentence the late Lance Pearce, the man who killed Blair Dalton, his former partner. Strong punishment of the offenders, while important, was not enough to protect Blair Dalton and is not enough to protect the 50 women who die each year at the hands of their current and former partners. Strong punishment was not enough to protect the woman from Campsie who was attacked by her partner with a hammer on the same day that Blair passed away. The Government is supporting victims of domestic violence on the Central Coast and the Hunter through a number of initiatives. Safer Pathway is a statewide initiative that is creating coordinated referral pathways and consistent assessment actions from police to victims of domestic and family violence and their children.

The benefit of Safer Pathway is that it brings multiple agencies together to ensure that victims no longer need to repeat their story multiple times. Safer Pathway was launched within the Tuggerah Lakes Local Area Command in November last year and will be launched in the Brisbane Water LAC in March next year. The Government is also creating safe environments for families escaping domestic violence through the funding provided for the Staying Home Leaving Violence service. This includes home security upgrades, safety planning and therapeutic support for victims. On the Central Coast, the Coalition has drastically increased the annual funding to Coast Shelter from \$1.7 million in 2010-11 to almost \$6.6 million in the past financial year. This is a \$4.9 million increase over the past six years.

Coast Shelter has been operating for more than 25 years on the Central Coast and provides accommodation to more than 150 men, women, families and youth every night through the Kara Women and Children's Refuge, and the Coimba Men's Refuge. I am glad to be part of a government that supports the victims of family violence. Women need to feel the support of their friends and families to have the strength to walk away from toxic environments. That is why events like White Ribbon Day are important. They encourage people to identify and call out domestic violence where they see it. They encourage men to stand up against their friends and family who are perpetrating domestic violence. They contribute to a culture where women are empowered to seek the services that are available to them as they seek a better life for themselves and their families.

RURAL LOCAL AREA COMMAND AMALGAMATIONS

The Hon. ROBERT BROWN (16:33): The 2017 Christmas felicitations are finished and we are into campaign mode. I acknowledge the contribution made by the Hon. Taylor Martin, who talked about domestic violence. What I have to say may be interesting to him. On the final sitting day of 2017 I highlight the tricky and disingenuous tactics of the Government. It blatantly left it until the last sitting day of Parliament to announce the

details of its forced rural police local area commands [LAC] amalgamations. Despite promises to the contrary, 34 rural police local area commands will be reduced to 26. None of these details were released before the Murray or Cootamundra by-elections, for obvious reasons. Jobs will be cut in the form of unsworn officers, inspectors, superintendents and important specialists, such as domestic violence officers, which I bring to the attention of the Hon. Taylor Martin.

In the Hunter, Nationals Upper Hunter MP Michael Johnsen failed to stop the creation of the Hunter Valley Police District from a consolidation of the Hunter Valley LAC with the southern sectors of Central Hunter LAC. We will be raising that issue through to 2019. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party representative for Orange, Philip Donato, will fight against The Nationals job cuts to create the Central West Police District from the merger of Lachlan and Canobolas LACs. Mr Donato has been receiving calls constantly from concerned police officers—he is an ex-copper and will not let this issue go. The new member for Cootamundra, Stephanie Cooke, has presided over her first failure. She failed to stand up to the Government to stop the Cootamundra LAC being scattered into the Hume Police District and the Riverina Police District, to be based in Wagga Wagga. She promised more police in the by-election but instead has allowed job cuts and has proved the concerns of our candidate, Matthew Stadtmiller, to be correct.

Austin Evans, the gallant member for Murray, who is now on the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission, which will be interesting, has rolled over and allowed the new Murrumbidgee Police District, Barrier Police District and the Murray River Police District to swallow up the Deniliquin, Griffith and Albury local area commands. In the by-election debates, which I attended, he promised this would not happen. Evans can bet his boots that Helen Dalton will make a meal of that. I am sorry to say this and I hope my colleague take no offence, but this proves that the Government does not seem to be able to deliver when the Liberal Party's agenda is dominant. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, which Mr Barilaro calls "The Shooters, Fishers and Failures Party", will be there during 2019 pushing the issues hard. Once again, merry Christmas.

ENVIRONMENTAL UTOPIA

Mr JEREMY BUCKINGHAM (14:37): In Parliament we are often caught up in the day-to-day minutia of policy and legislation, but it is important for us to lift our sights long term, beyond the horizon. Imagine what New South Wales could be in 2030 if we have a government that is serious about our responsibility to future generations to have a healthy environment and a vibrant, fair society. Coal power and coalmining have been phased out. We have cleaner air and emission reductions. A serious, just transition package has assisted the affected workers in these industries to take up new roles or retire with dignity.

The economies of the impacted communities have been transformed to be focused on tourism, services, advanced manufacturing and renewable energy. A 100 per cent renewable energy scenario has been achieved. Solar farms are common, both efficient photovoltaic and solar thermal. It has created a boom for many regional areas, with Government policies encouraging the creation of new manufacturing businesses supporting the renewable energy sector. Nearly all buildings have solar panels or roof panels. Shade is provided to car parks with battalions of solar panels. Australia's abundance of sunshine and cheap, flat land means we have become a renewable energy super power. Most households have their own battery storage to store renewable energy—the power of the sun. Elsewhere, banks of batteries, thermal storage and pumped hydro ensure cheap, reliable, clean power.

Almost all new cars and much of the New South Wales Government fleet is now electric, many self-driving. Electric trucks are plying the highways. There is less air pollution and less noise pollution, it is better for pedestrians, and there is more space in our cities. The electrification of transport has increased demand for electricity in 2030, but the falling price of renewables means that overall we are much better placed than when we were drilling for oil or importing it from overseas. The Sydney-to-Melbourne hyperloop was completed three years ago, making pollution-free travel between the capitals possible in less than an hour. Construction is almost finished on the extension of the hyperloop to Brisbane.

The idea of single-use plastic bags and containers seems ridiculous, as significant cultural shifts in our attitudes to waste have radically changed expectation. Reuse and recycling is the norm, not the exception. Cradle-to-cradle legislation is the order of the day. The Liberals and The Nationals have been resoundingly thrown out of power and are still in the wilderness after 11 years. A proper fibre-to-the-premises national broadband network finally has been built. This enables many people to leave the rat race in Sydney and buy their dream homes in wonderful parts of regional New South Wales. Fibre to the premises means they can be part of a global economy from a regional, rural or remote area.

The expansion of our national parks estate, with a great koala national park on the mid North Coast, and an end to native forest logging has allowed the recovery of our iconic koala population. Our vibrant mixed-use marine parks attract tourists to our coast and allow fish stocks to be rebuilt for recreational fishers and all our

rivers are swimmable. There is a weir in Wilcannia for the Barkindji people. Community-led planning decisions have replaced the proponent-driven system and adequate transport, schools and services are built in tandem with all new developments. The nightmare of coalmining on the Liverpool Plains is fading into the distance. "Coal seam gas" is a byword for stupid government policy and a failure by the fossil fuel industries to bully their way into the communities of New South Wales. Euthanasia is accessible, legal and safe. Medical cannabis is an available medicine for all people in New South Wales. Finally, and most importantly, by 2030 a treaty has been signed with the First Nations of New South Wales which recognises that this always has been and always will be Aboriginal land.

PROJECT O COOMA

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (16:42): One of the great pleasures of this past year has been becoming involved with Project O Cooma. Project O is a program facilitated by Big hART, Australia's leading arts and social change organisation. It currently runs in four communities around Australia, one of which is Cooma. Project O drives change in rural, regional and isolated communities affected by family violence. It is a sad fact that family and domestic violence rates are higher in regional, rural and remote Australia than in metropolitan areas. Our communities, values and circumstances can vary greatly, but Project O has identified that investing in young regional women is the best way to drive generational change in communities.

Through Project O workshops, participants' natural abilities are identified and they are taught practical skills. The workshops then provide opportunities to apply these skills in community advocacy events to promote active learning and entrepreneurship. In turn, this creates new habits of work and pathways to employment for participants, as they identify new horizons beyond negative generational expectations and gender norms. In the research and development phase of Project O, findings highlighted that the target group had many aspirations to succeed but not necessarily the personal agency required to develop these aspirations. The Project O program has a deep and consistent focus on the development of personal agency and confidence, encouraging participants to take action and have their voices heard. I have witnessed this. As the young women develop in the program and speak up in their communities, their visibility increases. This then promotes positive attitudinal change towards their capabilities, thus increasing their feelings of self-worth.

An additional benefit for the girls is the heightened engagement with their community. Project O partners with local organisations and businesses and these groups actively support Project O's community events and provide in-workshop mentoring. This support and promotion of the efforts of the young women help them feel engaged and endorsed by their communities and inspired to actively contribute to their regions. I am honoured to say that I was a mentor for Project O Cooma and was particularly happy to accompany four of the girls when they visited New South Wales Parliament this year. Montana Gibson-Reilly, Georgia Sturgeon, Brooke Tangye and Violet Webel visited Parliament and had a meeting with the Premier and Deputy Premier, followed by lunch in the Stranger's Dining Room. They were a credit to themselves, their team and, above all, their community. The learning from the workshops is applied by participants in a series of art-based advocacy events that highlight community issues, test their new-found skills and raise visibility of their leadership. Through these events, participants highlight to their peers that it is possible to make a valid contribution, to say yes to opportunities, and to achieve big things. In this way, they become peer leaders by example.

The big event for the Cooma girls is the upcoming Colourathon, which will be held on 30 November at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra. The Colourathon is an art marathon delivered by Project O participants by harnessing the global trend of mindfulness and colouring in and raising awareness around the issue of family violence. Government, corporate and community partners are invited to attend this positive, highly public, and media-friendly event to colour in solidarity with the young women. Every hour of colouring in is sponsored in a public campaign and will raise money for specialist child trauma therapy training to assist children fleeing family violence. This demonstrates prevention initiatives and frontline services joining hands in a sophisticated response to assist the most vulnerable victims of family violence. A key goal of Colourathon and the supporting activities is to support participants to have challenging, exhilarating team experiences and wins, proving to themselves and their peers that they can acquire new entrepreneurial skills and create their own trajectory.

The benefits of positive peer influence are encouraged. This allows them to redefine themselves both as individuals and a demographic and to recognise their future leadership potential in the community. By delivering awareness-raising events around the range of intersecting issues that young regional women face, participants are in turn educating themselves about the issues they are highlighting. These can include homelessness, mental illness and family violence. By providing this interest-led learning experience, Project O allows participants to be educated in preventative measures and help-seeking behaviours. Recent studies of prevention approaches indicate that early intervention programs engaging young people in workforce training and development are effective in removing barriers posed by disadvantage and in preventing such issues as family violence, which was a key

recommendation of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence. One of the many privileges of my role was to meet these young women and the people who work with them to make our communities better places. I wish them all the best for the Colourathon next week. I cannot wait to see what each of them achieves. Stand tall, girls, you have earned it.

TRIBUTE TO DR STAVROS KYRIMIS

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (16:47): Today I pay tribute to Dr Stavros Kyrimis, the Consul General for the Hellenic Republic in New South Wales for the past five years. Sadly, Dr Kyrimis will leave us in December for his next posting to Tehran. Never without a suit and bow tie, he certainly is a distinguished figure. But it is his humility, tireless work and strategic mind which is memorable and which we will sorely miss. He never stops and has rarely missed a function held by the 192 organisations and 40 parishes that represent the Greek community. I have been at countless events alongside him and have witnessed firsthand the genuine affection for him across the Greek community.

His work is not simply attending functions. He is sending emails and text messages to organise things at all hours of the day and night. I know because I often receive them. I do wonder if he ever sleeps. From the time of his arrival in 2010, Dr Kyrimis took a broader focus rather than simply servicing the Greek community. In spite of the large number of existing Greek organisations, he actively sought out Greek professionals and other philhellenes to identify new leaders and talent and fostered their development, building informal networks to bring them together. Every hour of his time is used to further the interests of the Greek community here in Australia by working collaboratively with others.

Dr Kyrimis has showcased the long history of military collaboration between Australia and Greece, including the crucial role that Greeks played in supporting the first Anzac campaign at Gallipoli and then during the battle for Crete in World War II. It was the Greek island of Lemnos that was the last staging point before the Gallipoli battle began, a place of respite during the campaign and the final resting place of many Australian soldiers. Programs like the Premier's Anzac Day Ambassadors visits to Lemnos and the service on the eve of Anzac Day would not have occurred without the Consul General's leadership.

Dr Kyrimis has sought to collaborate with other key multicultural communities. Joint events, such as the recent *Jews of Greece* exhibition at the Jewish Museum in Darlinghurst or the *REMEMBER: Australian and Greek veterans in the Korean war* exhibition at the Korean Cultural Centre Gallery, have been obvious examples of an enduring relationship that will last long after the exhibitions are completed. In addition to supporting important Greek organisations, such as the Joint Committee for the Commemoration of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association [AHEPA], he forged relationships with Australian organisations, such as the RSL, the National Maritime Museum and the Anzac War Memorial, as evidenced in the marble tablets program, the Greek celebration at the National Maritime Museum's Welcome Wall and the deeply symbolic Annual Oxi Day commemoration at the Anzac War Memorial.

The culmination of those relationships was showcased when the Hellenic Club supported the ambitious plan to bring the Greek Presidential Guard to Sydney for the first time for Anzac Day in 2016 and again this year. The pride shown by the Greek diaspora everywhere the iconic guards visited showed the significance of such a visit. The visit required months of painstaking preparations. Dr Kyrimis' work and incredible reputation is all the more remarkable when we consider the broader context within which he has been operating. In the aftermath of the crisis in Greece, it has not been an easy time to be Greek. Greeks everywhere have had to put up with cheap jokes at their expense that show a superficial understanding of the deep depression that has gripped Greece, from which it is still struggling to recover. In the face of this, Dr Kyrimis' incredible work ethic, humility and strategic approach has showcased the true Greek character—a character that is evident in his four beautiful children. I had the delight of spending time with his daughter, Paschalia. I hope that our Anna grows to be such a mature, intelligent, engaging yet thoughtful young woman. I hope she chooses a life of public service—I hope politics.

Dr Stavros Kyrimis is from a village called Gerolimenas in the beautiful mountains of Mani, which is a region of Greece renowned for its resilience and toughness. Even the Ottoman Empire never controlled the Mani peninsula. Greeks can be parochial and loyal to their local village or region. But throughout Greek history, their most significant leaders—especially in the modern era, such as Metaxa or Venezelos—have managed to transcend local loyalties and pursue the interests of the Greek nation. In the same style of leadership, Dr Kyrimis has provided leadership for the whole Australian Greek community and, in doing so, has been a unifying figure for it as well. Dr Kyrimis, thank you for your service and dedication to both the Greek and Australian communities. You will be sorely missed. We hope you return, and not only in an official capacity. You will always have friends here in Sydney and New South Wales, including my own family. Thank you so much.

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

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 16.52 until Tuesday 13 February 2018 at 14.30.