



**New South Wales**

# **Legislative Council**

## **PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)**

**Fifty-Sixth Parliament  
First Session**

**Thursday, 16 August 2018**

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales



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## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**Thursday, 16 August 2018**

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

**The PRESIDENT** read the prayers.

### *Motions*

#### **TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR DAVID COOPER**

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I call the Hon. Rick Colless to order for the first time.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (10:03):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) Professor David Cooper, Director of the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales [UNSW] passed away on 18 March 2018;
  - (b) Professor Cooper dedicated his life to the prevention, treatment and cure of HIV and other infectious diseases;
  - (c) Professor Cooper's work on the HIV epidemic through UNSW and at the St Vincent's AIDS Unit saved countless lives in Australia and globally;
  - (d) Professor Cooper's understanding of the stigma and ignorance surrounding HIV/AIDS saw him build relationships with affected communities including gay men, drug users and sex workers and helped New South Wales and Australia formulate the world's most effective local response to HIV/AIDS; and
  - (e) in 2003, Professor Cooper was made Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for "service to medicine as a clinician, researcher and leading contributor in the field of HIV/AIDS research and to the development of new treatment approaches".
- (2) That this House recognises the contribution that Professor David Cooper made to the people of New South Wales and across the globe through his work, passion and care for those impacted by HIV.
- (3) That this House sends its condolences to Professor Cooper's family, wife Dorrie and daughters Becky and Illana.

**Motion agreed to.**

#### **INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (10:03):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) 15 August 2018 marks the seventy-second anniversary of India's liberation, the day the centuries long subjugation of the sub-continent by the British ended with the birth of the world's largest democracy;
  - (b) India's independence was won after:
    - (i) the formation of the largest social movement of the twentieth century, whose reach included millions of men and women from all castes and creeds, speaking a panoply of languages and dialects;
    - (ii) through non-violent actions like hartals and marches, fasts and protests, which exposed the brutal actions of the British Raj until the British people themselves turned against colonialism;
    - (iii) the philosophy of non-violence, pioneered by the Indian independence movement; was employed by other oppressed peoples in lands like the United States and South Africa, as well as Australia, to secure their freedom and liberation;
  - (c) India today remains the world's largest democracy, with the world's biggest middle class, home to one of the world's most advanced technological sectors, and that is rapidly modernising its education, energy and environmental sectors; and
  - (d) Australia, proudly one of the world's most multicultural nations, hosts one of the world's faster growing Indian diasporas.
- (2) That this House congratulates India for the seventy-second anniversary of its liberation and wishes all Indian people *Jai Hind*.

**Motion agreed to.**

**The PRESIDENT:** I remind members that there are 39 items of formal business. It would assist the Chair and the House if there were no interjections or conversation in the Chamber, which will then allow members to concentrate and move through the items quickly.

**TOGETHER FOR HUMANITY**

**The Hon. NATALIE WARD (10:05):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) on Monday 18 June 2018, Together for Humanity hosted an event at the Parliament of New South Wales at which guest speaker Alpha Cheng, son of Curtis Cheng who was tragically shot and killed by a 15-year-old extremist outside NSW Police Headquarters in 2015, spoke about acceptance, tolerance and the need to support and foster peaceful multiculturalism in Australia;
  - (b) students Nabil Hafza and Radford Baghdadi from Punchbowl Boys High School spoke of their experience of the Together for Humanity program;
  - (c) the mission of Together for Humanity is to develop and promote students' intercultural understanding in Australian schools, and in doing so bring communities together, despite differences of faith;
  - (d) the President, Ms Madenia Abdurahman, is a South African Australian Muslim school principal, the Chairman is a Welsh born Australian Christine McDiven, AM, its National Director is a Rabbi Zalman Kastel, and its patron is an atheist Janet Holmes a Court;
  - (e) since 2002, Together for Humanity has been working with and inside schools to foster tolerance through intercultural understanding in Australian youth from an early age; and
  - (f) more than 100,000 students have experienced a range of programs that not only expose students to different cultural perspectives, but educate teachers on how to plant the seeds of understanding and tolerance early in their students' lives.
- (2) That this House acknowledges the contribution and support of this event and the invaluable work of Together for Humanity by those in attendance including:
  - (a) sponsors of the event Karen and John Kightley;
  - (b) Mr Bert Rosenberg, Mr Garry Browne, AM, and guests in attendance who gave generously to support the ongoing work of Together for Humanity; and
  - (c) Parliamentary host Mr Jonathan O'Dea, MP, the Hon. Natalie Ward, MLC, Minister Ray Williams, MP, and Mr Jihad Dib, MP.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Documents*

**BUDGET FINANCES 2018-2019**

**Tabling of Documents Reported to be Not Privileged**

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD (10:05):** I move:

- (1) That, in view of the report of the Independent Legal Arbiter, the Hon. Keith Mason, AC, QC, dated 19 July 2018, on the disputed claim of privilege on documents relating to the order for papers regarding the 2018-2019 budget finances, this House orders that the document considered by the Independent Legal Arbiter not to be privileged be laid upon the table by the Clerk.
- (2) That, on tabling, the document is authorised to be published.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Motions*

**AUSTRALIAN FILM DIRECTOR MARK GRENTELL**

**The Hon. WES FANG (10:05):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) Wagga Wagga and Uranquinty raised film director Mark Grentell will soon be releasing his second feature film, *The Merger*, following the success of his directorial debut film *Backyard Ashes* in 2013; and
  - (b) *The Merger*, written by Damian Callinan and produced by Anne Robinson, is based in the township of Bodgy Creek and tells the story of a struggling Aussie rules team that recruits refugees to revive the club.
- (2) That this House acknowledges and commends Mark Grentell for his dedication to the Australian film industry and especially to his hometown of Wagga Wagga.
- (3) That this House wishes Mark Grentell, Damian Callinan, Anne Robinson and their production team all the very best of luck for the premiere of *The Merger* and for the continued success of making "Waggawood" the film capital of regional New South Wales.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Business of the House***WITHDRAWAL OF BUSINESS**

**The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:** I withdraw Private Member's Business item No. 2394 outside the Order of Precedence.

*Motions***TRIBUTE TO HENRY NGAI**

**The Hon. ERNEST WONG (10:07):** I move:

- (1) That this House extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Mr Henry Ngai who passed away on the morning of 4 August 2018.
- (2) That this House notes that:
  - (a) Mr Ngai was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list;
  - (b) Mr Ngai was born in China and came to Australia with his family from Hong Kong in 1985;
  - (c) Mr Ngai was the founder and director of ABC Tissue Products (popularly known as Quilton) in 1986 and made the business very successful with the company ranked number 805 out of the top 2,000 companies in Australia; and
  - (d) Mr Ngai was also awarded the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2017.
- (3) That this House acknowledges Mr Ngai's life as a success story of immigration to Australia which is remembered by many.
- (4) That this House recognises:
  - (a) Mr Ngai for his service not only to business but even more so to the community; and
  - (b) Mr Ngai was widely respected for numerous services and contributions to the community including:
    - (i) Mr Ngai's company made significant donations to charities in Australia, including Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Street and the Exodus Foundation;
    - (ii) Mr Ngai also made donations to the Australian Red Cross, The Salvation Army, World Vision, St Vincent's Hospital, Fairfield Hospital, and the Children's Hospital at Westmead;
    - (iii) in 2017, ABC Tissue made a \$2 million donation to St Vincent's Hospital to help purchase an MRI guided-ultrasound machine which, when delivered, will be the first in Australia and the Southern Hemisphere;
    - (iv) ABC Tissue Vision Express in 2010 provided free treatments for patients with cataracts, and the eye disease pterygium, in Cambodia and in China;
    - (v) in 2012, ABC Tissue Hearing Express was created to provide hearing aids to people with impaired hearing in China;
    - (vi) the company also has a charity arm which regularly donates winter clothing and rice to people overseas on a basis of need, and in 2012, 64,000 thick winter jackets were donated to people in China, along with 650 tons of rice to people in various provinces of Cambodia.

**Motion agreed to.**

**SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION WINTER BALL**

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:07):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) on 7 July 2018, the Sri Lanka Association of New South Wales held its 2018 Winter Ball in support of Food Bank New South Wales; and
  - (b) a number of special guests and dignitaries attended the event including the Hon. Mr Gerry Anderson, OAM; CEO of Food Bank New South Wales, Mr Lal Wickremathunge; Consul General of Sri Lanka for New South Wales and President of the Sri Lanka Association of New South Wales Mr Sam Masachchi; the Hon. John Robertson; the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC, representing the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Premier.
- (2) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the Sri Lanka Association of New South Wales was formed in 1973 to provide a meeting point for people of Sri Lankan origin in New South Wales, including newly arrived migrants;
  - (b) nearly 30,000 people in New South Wales were born in Sri Lanka and at least 26,000 more have Sri Lankan ancestry; and
  - (c) Foodbank is the largest hunger relief organisation in Australia, accounting for 65 per cent of all food distributed to charities by food rescue organisations in Australia, and in New South Wales, Foodbank provides 90 per cent of all food relief.



- (3) That this House acknowledges the tireless work and efforts of the Sri Lanka Association of New South Wales executive committee including Mr Sam Masachchi, President, and Mr Malith De Zoysa, Vice President.

**Motion agreed to.**

**BIAGGIO SIGNORELLI ASBESTOS FOUNDATION**

**The Hon. LOU AMATO (10:08):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) an Autumn Gala Ball to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Biaggio Signorelli Asbestos Foundation was held on Wednesday 30 May 2018 at Doltone House at Eveleigh with 2,549 guests in attendance and raising over \$1.5 million for the charity;
  - (b) the Biaggio Signorelli Asbestos Foundation was created after Biaggio Signorelli, founder of the Doltone House Group, an extraordinary man who was an Italian migrant of the mid 1950s and accomplished so much in a foreign land, was diagnosed with mesothelioma in October 2007, and died eight months later;
  - (c) special guests at the reception included:
    - (i) the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Premier;
    - (ii) the Hon. Luke Foley, MP, Leader of the Opposition;
    - (iii) the Hon. John Ajaka, MLC, President of the Legislative Council;
    - (iv) the Hon. Victor Dominello, MP, Minister for Finance, Services and Property;
    - (v) Mr Rob Vellar, representing the Hon. Anthony Roberts, MP, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, Special Minister of State and member for Lane Cove;
    - (vi) Mr John Sidoti, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to Cabinet and member for Drummoyne;
    - (vii) Mr Chris Minns, MP, shadow Minister for Water and member for Kogarah;
    - (viii) Mr Steve Kamper, MP, member for Rockdale;
    - (ix) the Hon. Morris Iemma, former Premier;
    - (x) the Hon. Frank Sartor, AO, former Minister and Chair of the Biaggio Signorelli Asbestos Foundation;
    - (xi) Councillor Stephen Bali, MP, member for Blacktown and Mayor of Blacktown Council;
    - (xii) Councillor Vincent De Luca, OAM, Northern Beaches Council and fundraising volunteer for the Biaggio Signorelli Asbestos Foundation;
    - (xiii) Councillor Bill Saravinovski, Mayor of Bayside Council;
    - (xiv) Councillor Frank Carbone, Mayor of Fairfield Council;
    - (xv) Councillor John Faker, Mayor of Burwood Council;
    - (xvi) Councillor Khal Asfour, Mayor of Canterbury-Bankstown Council;
    - (xvii) Councillor Carmelo Pesce, Mayor of Sutherland Shire Council;
    - (xviii) Kerri-Anne Kennerley and Vince Sorrenti, masters of ceremony for the evening;
    - (xix) Professor John Rasko, AO and Associate Professor Simone Strasser;
    - (xx) Professor Charlie Teo, AM; and
    - (xxi) Emeritus Professor Nico van Zandwijk.
  - (d) the Board of the Biaggio Signorelli Asbestos Foundation consists of: Paul Signorelli (Chair), Adriano Caluccio, Joseph Carrozzi, Anna Cesarano, Keith Cox, OAM, Ben Fordham, Dr Anthony Linton, Nina Milazzo, Jason Morrison, the Hon. Frank Sartor, Charly Tannous, Dane Wheeler, Glenn Wheeler and Maurizio Zappacosta.
- (2) That this House acknowledges and commends Mr Paul Signorelli and the Board of the Biaggio Signorelli Asbestos Foundation on their tireless efforts to help patients with mesothelioma and raise much needed funds for medical research.

**Motion agreed to.**

**DONATELIFE WEEK**

**The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (10:08):** I move:

That this House notes that:

- (a) Sunday 29 July to Sunday 5 August 2018 was DonateLife Week;
- (b) each year, events are held across Australia during DonateLife Week to encourage all Australians to register their donation decision and to discuss their donation decisions with their loved ones;

- (c) more than 1,400 Australians are today on wait lists for a life-saving or life-transforming transplant;
- (d) in 2017, 1,675 lives were transformed by 510 deceased and 273 living organ donors and their families;
- (e) the Central Coast marked DonateLife Week with the opening of Banjo's Skate Park at Terrigal on 5 August that was attended by more than 1,000 people;
- (f) Banjo's Skate Park was built in tribute to Banjo Pilon, who passed away in 2015 while skateboarding in his local street;
- (g) following Banjo's passing, his parents Jilly and Mic and his siblings Fletcher and Gabi made the decision to donate his organs which had a life-saving impact on six individuals who were waiting for a transplant; and
- (h) the Australian Government provided \$500,000 to build Banjo's Skate Park following advocacy from the local community and member for Robertson, Lucy Wicks, MP.

**Motion agreed to.**

**BLUE MOUNTAINS RURAL FIRE SERVICE DISTRICT MEDALS PRESENTATION**

**The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (10:09):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the Blue Mountains Rural Fire Service held their District Medals Presentation on Friday 3 August 2018;
  - (b) the event honoured the longest serving volunteers of the Blue Mountains Rural Fire Service; and
  - (c) nine National Medals and 21 Long Service Medals were presented to 30 recipients with a total of 660 years of service to the community.
- (2) That this House congratulates:
  - (a) Frank Vincent who received the Long Service Medal 4th Clasp for his 50 years of service; and
  - (b) the award recipients of the National and Long Service medals.
- (3) That this House acknowledges the hard work and dedication of the Rural Fire Service volunteers across the State who serve their community with distinction.
- (4) That this House notes that those who attended as special guests included:
  - (a) the Hon. Shayne Mallard, MLC, representing Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant, MP, and Minister for Western Sydney Stuart Ayres, MP;
  - (b) Assistant Commissioner Stuart Midgley, AFSM;
  - (c) Councillor Mark Greenhill, OAM, Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council;
  - (d) Councillor Chris Van der Kley, Deputy Mayor, Blue Mountains City Council;
  - (e) Councillors Brent Hoare, Kerry Brown, Romola Hollywood and Shae Foenander, Blue Mountains City Council;
  - (f) Matthew O'Donnell, Regional Services Coordinator (Operation), representing Chief Supt Jayson McKellar, AFSM, Regional Manager, East; and
  - (g) Supt David Jones, District Manager, Blue Mountains.

**Motion agreed to.**

**FRESHWATER COMMUNITY BANK YOUTH OBSERVER PROGRAM**

**The Hon. NATALIE WARD (10:09):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) on 7 June 2018, four high school students appointed as Youth Observers visited Parliament House as part of the Freshwater Community Bank Youth Observer Program;
  - (b) the students, Ruby Ankers and Gaia Wright-Willemsen from Mackellar Girls Campus; and Sophie Keoghan and Matthew Chen from Manly Selective Campus, Northern Beaches Secondary Campus; were selected as part of the Community Bank Youth Observer program;
  - (c) the program brings together and provides opportunities for local youth to observe the workings of the Community Bank for a period of one school year;
  - (d) Youth Observer experiences include attending board meetings, spending time with the Chairman and the Company Secretary and Treasurer, and participating in planning, discussion and attending community projects;
  - (e) the program is part of the development and education program supported by Harbord Financial Services Limited and is an invaluable contribution to the development and maturity of local youth, providing an opportunity for youth to learn skills for later life; and

- (f) the Youth Observer students were hosted by James Griffin, MP, and the Hon. Natalie Ward, MLC, continuing the annual event initiated by Mike Baird.
- (2) That this House acknowledges such valuable experiences for bright young leaders are the result of hard work and dedication from leaders in community and business, including Volunteer Directors Noela Roberts, Julie Rigoni and Simone Linay and the contribution of community banks which direct profits back into their communities.

**Motion agreed to.**

**YMCA NEW SOUTH WALES YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2018**

**The Hon. WES FANG (10:10): I move:**

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the 2018 YMCA New South Wales Youth Parliament was officially opened on 16 July 2018 in Parliament House and showcased some of the brightest young minds from across New South Wales; and
  - (b) the YMCA New South Wales Youth Parliament creates a platform for our State's youth representatives to have their voices heard through legislative debate and immerse themselves in the decision making process.
- (2) That this House congratulates all those who participated in the 2018 YMCA New South Wales Youth Parliament and particularly acknowledges Year 12 student, Luke Manning from Mater Dei Catholic School in Wagga Wagga for his contribution to the trading industry committee, his appointment as a shadow Minister and for representing the electorate of Wagga Wagga so professionally.

**Motion agreed to.**

**2018**

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

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the Disability Services Australia Employment Achievement Awards were held on 19 July 2018 at Bankstown Sports Club;
  - (b) the event recognised the personal achievements of employees and transition to work participants in Disability Services Australia employment activities; and
  - (c) the event was attended by the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, MLC, Government Whip in the Legislative Council representing Minister for Disability Services the Hon. Ray Williams, MP; as well as the Hon. Matt Thistlethwaite, MP, member for Kingsford Smith.
- (2) That this House congratulates the winners of the Disability Services Australia Employee Achievement Awards:
  - (a) Seven Hills Employee of the Year, Darren Cassar;
  - (b) Braemar Employee of the Year, Tess Elias;
  - (c) Condell Park Employee of the Year, Lee Gounaris;
  - (d) Mascot Employee of the Year, Joel Retter;
  - (e) Asset Care Employee of the Year, Jordan Dessent;
  - (f) Job Seeker of the Year, Stuart Clough; and
  - (g) Employer of the Year, Birdsville.
- (3) That this House acknowledges the work that Disability Services Australia does across New South Wales to support over 2,000 people with disabilities in developing their skills, capabilities, and participation in their local communities.

**Motion agreed to.**

**RICHMOND CHRISTIAN COLLEGE, BALLINA TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY**

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

- (1) That this House notes:
  - (a) 2018 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of Ballina's Richmond Christian College;
  - (b) the college was first established in 1993 by a small group of parents who wanted to provide Christian education for their children and for all those who wanted Christian education for children in the future;
  - (c) the first classes were held in the Presbyterian Church hall with just 16 students;
  - (d) today over 200 students are enrolled from pre-kindy to year 12, with 35 staff all located in the purpose-built college campus; and
  - (e) staff, students and the Ballina community marked the momentous occasion with a whole of school assembly on Friday, 10 August 2018 followed by a family fun evening at the college.

- (2) That this House acknowledges Stuart Taylor, founding principal, for all his work in establishing the college and helping to grow the school during his 10 years as principal.
- (3) That this House congratulates outgoing principal Garry Binks, incoming principal Jonathon Simmons, past and present students and staff and the whole Ballina community for making the college the wonderful educational institution it is today.

**Motion agreed to.**

**CLUB MARCONI SIXTIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

**The Hon. LOU AMATO (10:11):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) Club Marconi celebrated its 60 year birthday on 8 August 2018;
  - (b) Club Marconi was named after Guglielmo Marconi;
  - (c) Marconi sent the first direct wireless message from Great Britain to Australia on 22 September 1918;
  - (d) in addition to this monumental achievement, Marconi switched on 2,800 coloured lights at Sydney Town Hall with a radio signal sent from his yacht *Elletra* in Genova;
  - (e) the club was founded by a small group of members of the Italian community in the Western Suburbs to play the traditional Italian bowls game of Bocce;
  - (f) from those humble beginnings Club Marconi has grown into one of the largest registered clubs in Australia, and is the largest sports club in Sydney;
  - (g) Club Marconi is situated on 31 acres of parkland and playing fields at Bossley Park;
  - (h) the club has become a sanctuary for those wishing to enjoy the cosmopolitan lifestyle of Sydney's rapidly expanding Western Suburbs; and
  - (i) the club boasts first class entertainment, leisure, sport and unsurpassed culinary excellence for the surrounding community.
- (2) That this House acknowledges:
  - (a) the cherished friendship between Italy and Australia;
  - (b) the great work of Club Marconi in providing a first class welcoming facility for Sydney's Western Suburbs;
  - (c) the many employment and career opportunities the club provides to the local community;
  - (d) the great efforts of the organisers and 400 guests who made the 60 year birthday celebrations a great success; and
  - (e) those in attendance included:
    - (i) Tony Zappia, Club Marconi Chief Executive Officer;
    - (ii) Vince Foti, Club Marconi President;
    - (iii) Mr Frank Carbone, Mayor, Fairfield City Council;
    - (iv) Mr Frank Minnelli, Former Assistant Police Commissioner;
    - (v) Councillor Anita Kazi;
    - (vi) Councillor Ninos Khoshaba;
    - (vii) Councillor Dai Le;
    - (viii) Councillor Joe Molluso;
    - (ix) Dr Hugh McDermott, MP, member for Prospect; and
    - (x) the Hon. Lou Amato, MLC, representing Senator the Hon. Concetta Fierravanti-Wells.

**Motion agreed to.**

**KIKUPA AND NAIDOC CUPS TOUCH FOOTY DAY 2018**

**The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (10:11):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) on Tuesday 17 July, The Glen Centre held the annual Kikupa and NAIDOC Cups Touch Footy Day at Woongarra Oval, Woongarra;
  - (b) the event aims to promote and celebrate the Indigenous culture and the strong Aboriginal community on the coast, promote physical fitness and help reduce mental health issues;
  - (c) The Glen is based on the Central Coast and is a service that provides drug and alcohol rehabilitation opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous men from across New South Wales;

- (d) more than 200 individuals participated in teams fielded by:
  - (i) The Glen Centre;
  - (ii) Central Coast Academy of Sport;
  - (iii) Mingara Recreation Club;
  - (iv) Bungree Aboriginal Association;
  - (v) Precision Air Conditioning;
  - (vi) Bunnings;
  - (vii) Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Network;
  - (viii) Dooralong Transformation Centre;
  - (ix) Developing Leaders Community Organisation;
  - (x) Department of Community Services;
  - (xi) All Stars (local Indigenous youth);
  - (xii) NRL;
  - (xiii) Bourke Aboriginal Health Service; and
  - (xiv) Doyalson Touch Football including the Hon. Taylor Martin, MLC, and member for Wyong, David Harris, MP.
- (e) referees were supplied by Doyalson and Peninsula Touch Football Clubs.
- (2) That this House congratulates:
  - (a) The Glen Centre team who won the Kikupa Cup with some help from current New South Wales Touch representatives Alex and Daniel Langbridge;
  - (b) the NRL team who won the NAIDOC Cup featuring former NRL, New South Wales and Australian representative, Mark O'Meley and Women's State of Origin Player of the Series, Isabelle Kelly; and
  - (c) The Glen Centre for organising the successful day.

**Motion agreed to.**

**LIONS CLUB OF SYDNEY INDIAN INC.**

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:12):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) on 14 July 2018, the Lions Club of Sydney Indian Inc. [LCSI] held its annual general meeting and changeover ceremony in Sydney; and
  - (b) a number of members and special guests attended the event, including Rohitas Batta, Padman Karamil, Sanjeev Misra, Mangat Bansal, Karan Sardana, Kranthi Chinnibathini, Nidhi Mehta, Narashimha Reddy, Gurdeep Singh, Sundar Subbarao, Jayakumar Sadananda, Raj Bandari, Poonam Kathuria, former Lions Club International President, Mr Barry Palmer, former District Governor, Mr Ron Gattone, District Governor, Mr Derek Margerison, Vice District Governor, Mr Jon Copson, Ms Julia Finn, MP, member for Granville as well as the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier.
- (2) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the Lions Club of Sydney Indian Inc. is part of the world's largest service club organisation, with over 1.4 million members and 46,000 clubs worldwide;
  - (b) the LCSI was chartered in April 2015 and has placed an emphasis on serving the community locally and globally;
  - (c) the Lions Club has organised various talks, seminars, and health and community projects independently and in association with other clubs and organisations across the State to further promote friendship and understanding between different communities; and
  - (d) the Lions Club of Sydney is essential to promoting positive community service and wellbeing and fostering a further understanding and commitment to one another for not only the over 90,000 Indian Australians currently residing in New South Wales but for all residents interested in making a positive difference within the community.
- (3) That this House acknowledges and congratulates the tireless efforts and work conducted by the over 40 active members of the Lions Club of Sydney and acknowledges the previous Board of Directors including President, Dr Rohitas Batta; first Vice President, Mr Padman Karamil; second Vice President, Mr Sanjeev Misra; third Vice President, Dr Mangat Bansal; Secretary, Mr Karan Sardana; Joint Secretary, Mr Kranthi Chinnibathini; Assistant Secretary, Ms Nidhi Mehta; Treasurer, Dr Narashimha Reddy; Assistant Treasurer, Mr Sanjeev Misra; membership Chair, Dr Mangat Bansal; Director, Mr Gurdeep Singh; Director, Mr Padmanabhan Karamil; Director, Jayakumar Sadananda; Director, Raj Bandari; and Director Ms Poonam Kathuria.

**Motion agreed to.****WAGGA WAGGA MEN'S SHED****The Hon. WES FANG (10:12):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) on 12 August 2018, the Wagga Wagga Men's Shed celebrated its tenth anniversary; and
  - (b) since its formation 10 years ago, the Wagga Men's Shed has volunteered hundreds of hours to helping charities and took out the coveted Shed of the Year Award in 2017.
- (2) That this House acknowledges the importance of Men's Shed programs across Australia in establishing a place for men to continue their social interactions and maintain their mental health and wellbeing.
- (3) That this House congratulates Shed President, Peter Quinane, the executive and all those who have helped to make the Wagga Wagga Men's Shed such a success for the local community.

**Motion agreed to.****BANKSTOWN CITY NETBALL ASSOCIATION INC.****The Hon. LOU AMATO (10:13):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) Bankstown City Netball Association Inc. [BCNA] was founded in 1961, has one of the most diverse membership bases in the State, including refugees to Australia, and recently has partnered with Bankstown RSL Club for a Platinum sponsorship for the next five years;
  - (b) BCNA currently has 13 affiliated clubs, many of which have been affiliated since the association's foundation, including: Bankstown Sports Netball Club, St Christopher's, Revesby Workers Netball Club, Birrong Sports Netball Club, and some younger clubs such as East Hills Netball Club, Picnic Point Pumas and Padstow RSL Demons;
  - (c) BCNA has reported that the introduction of the Active Kids Bonus has had a great positive impact with membership increasing;
  - (d) Bankstown RSL's sponsorship will provide funds as well as facilities and apparel;
  - (e) BCNA this year had 12, 13, 14 and 15 years representative teams all competing at the State Age Championship this year and the 40 years Masters Representative team competed in the Masters Championships coming a creditable fifth in the State;
  - (f) for the first time in several years, BCNA entered U/17s and Opens representative teams in the State championships;
  - (g) the Bankstown RSL High Performance Academy, consisting of 20 players aged 12 to 15 years is in its third year and gives players selected extra training and a pathway to become elite players and achieve their potential by receiving specialist training under Academy Coaching Director, Shannon Anand and Head Coach, Margaret Stone who established the Academy in 2016;
  - (h) those selected in the Bankstown RSL High Performance Academy include: Kiana Donovan, Rheagan Sialeipata, Emily Weatherall, Tumaire Paretoa, Jaqueline Hunt, Taylah Sommer, Larissa Kuhn, Leilani Hola, Emily Ivancic, Amelia Kirgan, Yolanda Lalakobau, Lauren McComb, Annale Paretoa, Hannah Bunyon, Janaia Donovan, Liddy Mudunavosa, Keelie Wilson, Callie Jenkins, Karissa-Marie, Teariki and Anahera Paekau;
  - (i) Amelia Kirgan has been selected in the South West Academy of Sport and was selected from over 120 girls competing for a place; and
  - (j) the hardworking Executive Committee of BCNA consists of: Wayne Chesterton, President; Lisa Trevithick, Vice President; Deanne Mawer, Treasurer; Jessica Cherry, Secretary; Linda Tunnickliff, Competition Convenor; Nicole Oram, Umpires Convenor; Helen Lee, Registrar; Virginia Riseham, Representative Liaison Convenor; and Leah Lewis, Administration Assistant.
- (2) That this House acknowledges and commends:
  - (a) the outstanding work of the Bankstown Netball Association's Executive Committee to ensure children and adults of diverse backgrounds are able to play the sport of netball and also ensure pathways for girls and women to compete at the elite level; and
  - (b) the generosity of the Bankstown RSL Club to Bankstown Netball Association in granting funds to empower women and girls and facilitate them participating in the great sport of netball.

**Motion agreed to.****SYDNEY LEGACY****The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (10:13):** I move:

- (1) That this House affirms its support for Sydney Legacy and for its charity work providing services to dependents of veterans across New South Wales.
- (2) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the ninety-second annual President's Changeover Luncheon occurred on Friday 13 July 2018 in the Strangers' Dining Room in Parliament House;
  - (b) the event was attended by the following dignitaries:
    - (i) the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, MLC, Government Whip in the Legislative Council;
    - (ii) Mr Greg Wrate, incoming President of Legacy Sydney;
    - (iii) Mrs Gwen Cherne;
    - (iv) Mrs Bree Till;
    - (v) Mrs Maralyn Newman, Deputy Commissioner NSW/ACT Department of Veterans' Affairs;
    - (vi) Mr Mick Bainbridge, Vice President RSL, NSW;
    - (vii) Mr James Brown, President RSL, NSW;
    - (viii) Mrs Meg Green, National President, War Widows' Guild of Australia;
    - (ix) Ms Rhondra Vanzella, OAM, President, War Widows' Guild of Australia, NSW;
    - (x) Mr Hadyn White, Executive Officer to The Deputy Commissioner;
    - (xi) Legatee Rick Cranna, Chairman, Legacy Australia Incorporated;
    - (xii) Legatee Hugh Robertson, President, The Legacy Club of Melbourne;
    - (xiii) Legatee Meredith Wyles, President, The Legacy Club of Adelaide;
    - (xiv) Legatee Judy Mack, President, The Legacy Club of Canberra;
    - (xv) Mrs Neroli Lane, Women's Auxiliary;
    - (xvi) Legatee Trish Berghouse; and
    - (xvii) Mrs Muriel McCabe, immediate Past President.
  - (c) the event was a success, raising support for Legacy Australia's work for our Defence families.
- (3) That this House congratulates Legatee Greg Wrate on becoming the new President of Sydney Legacy.

**Motion agreed to.**

### **SKULLCANDY OZ GROM OPEN 2018**

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (10:13):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes:
  - (a) the Skullcandy Oz Grom Open 2018 was held from 13 to 18 July 2018 at Lennox Head;
  - (b) the competition is one of Australia's most anticipated junior surfing events;
  - (c) the competition included the World Surf League sanctioned Pro Junior Qualifying Series as well as an elite competition for promising grommets in the 12, 14 and 16-year age divisions; and
  - (d) over 220 surfers took part in the competition, with some surfers coming from as far as Europe, the United States of America and Japan.
- (2) That this House congratulates the following competition winners:
  - (a) WSL Pro Junior Men's - Te Kehukehu Butler;
  - (b) WSL Pro Junior Women's - Nyxie Ryan;
  - (c) Under 16 Boys - Lennox Chell;
  - (d) Under 16 Girls - Summa Longbottom;
  - (e) Under 14 Boys - Marlon Harrison;
  - (f) Under 14 Girls - Jazz Wylie;
  - (g) Under 12 Boys - Willis Droomer; and
  - (h) Under 12 Girls - Ocea Curtis.
- (3) That this House congratulates and thanks Tony O'Brien, Jonny Hewett, Steve Condon and Cameron Lindsay for organising the Skullcandy Oz Grom Open to support young surfers and showcase the beautiful Lennox Head beaches.

**Motion agreed to.**

**AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR MEN'S SOFTBALL**

**The Hon. LOU AMATO (10:14):** I move:

- (1) That this House congratulates the Australian Junior Men's Softball team, which was crowned the World Baseball Softball Confederation Junior Men's Softball World Champions on 16 July 2018.
- (2) That this House notes that:
  - (a) Australia has won the prestigious World Baseball Softball Confederation Championship five times in the history of the series; and
  - (b) the final championship game was played out against Japan with Australia securing the game with a score of 6-1.
- (3) That this House acknowledges:
  - (a) the historic performance by pitcher Layton Reid, who tossed a complete game no-hitter to lead the Australian team to victory;
  - (b) 19-year-old Blake Jackson from Hoxton Park whose performance earned him the second best batting average of the game; and
  - (c) the great sportsmanship of the Japanese team taking out second place in the championships.

**Motion agreed to.**

**CHASING COMETS FILM**

**The Hon. WES FANG (10:14):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the upcoming film *Chasing Comets* is set to showcase in Wagga Wagga on the silver screen when it is released to the general public in August 2018;
  - (b) *Chasing Comets*, filmed on location in Wagga Wagga, follows the story of hometown footy star Chase Daylight and his rocky path to achieving his dream of playing in the National Rugby League; and
  - (c) the film will pay homage to one of Wagga Wagga's greatest sportsmen, Steve Mortimer, who played a Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs club record 272 first-grade games between 1976 and 1988.
- (2) That this House wishes director, Jason Perini, and writer and producer, Jason Stevens, all the very best for the film's theatrical run and that *Chasing Comets* continues the long line of successful Australian films set in regional areas.
- (3) That this House acknowledges and thanks those involved in the making of *Chasing Comets* for choosing to set the film in Wagga Wagga and the importance of the film industry in showcasing regional centres.

**Motion agreed to.**

**LAKE MACQUARIE ORGANICS RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY**

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:15):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the Opening Ceremony of the Lake Macquarie Organics Resource Recovery Facility was held on Thursday 19 July 2018 at Awaba;
  - (b) the Lake Macquarie Organics Resource Recovery Facility is a new recycling plant that has been built by REMONDIS, a Germany-based, global water, waste and environmental management company;
  - (c) the facility is supported by a \$1.4 million Organic Infrastructure Grant that was awarded by NSW Environment Protection Authority under the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative;
  - (d) over 100 separate contracting firms, the majority local to the Hunter Region, were engaged to build the facility, with approximately 300 people employed; and
  - (e) dignitaries that attended the ceremony included:
    - (i) Mr Scot MacDonald, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, the Central Coast and the Hunter, representing the Hon. Niall Blair, MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry;
    - (ii) Mr Greg Piper, MP, member for Lake Macquarie;
    - (iii) Councillor Kay Fraser, Mayor of Lake Macquarie City Council;
    - (iv) Councillor Luke Cubis, Deputy Mayor of Lake Macquarie City Council;
    - (v) Councillor Colin Grigg, Lake Macquarie City Council;
    - (vi) Councillor Wendy Harrison, Lake Macquarie City Council;
    - (vii) Mr Klaus Steitz, MLC, Consul General, Federal Republic of Germany, Sydney;



- (viii) Ms Anissa Levy, NSW Environment Protection Authority;
  - (ix) Mr Norbet Rethmann, Chair, REMONDIS International;
  - (x) Mr Luke Agati, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, REMONDIS Australia;
  - (xi) Ms Susie McBurney, General Manager, New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory REMONDIS Australia; and
  - (xii) Ms Roslyn Florie-George, Acting Manager, Australian Capital Territory, REMONDIS Australia.
- (2) That this House:
- (a) acknowledges that Lake Macquarie residents will be the first in the Hunter Region to have access to a dedicated kerbside food and garden waste collection; and
  - (b) congratulates REMONDIS on all it has done to build this much-needed facility.

**Motion agreed to.**

**BALLINA COAST AND HINTERLAND BUSINESS EXCELLENCE GALA AWARDS NIGHT**

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (10:15):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes:
- (a) the Ballina Coast and Hinterland Business Excellence Gala Awards Night was held on Saturday 11 August 2018; and
  - (b) the awards night is the Ballina Chamber of Commerce's premier event to recognise and reward excellence in business, foster innovation and encourage a focus on sustainability, corporate citizenship and safe work practices.
- (2) That this House congratulates the following award winners:
- (a) Excellence in Aged Care and Wellbeing - UPA North Coast;
  - (b) Excellence in Retail - Ballina Camping and Disposal;
  - (c) Excellence in Trade, Construction and Manufacturing - Horizon Motor Homes;
  - (d) Excellence in Personal Services and People's Choice Business of the Year - Curves Ballina;
  - (e) Excellence in Professional Services - Southern Cross Credit Union;
  - (f) Excellence in Visitor Experience-Hospitality - Ballina RSL Club;
  - (g) Excellence in Innovation, Excellence in Small Business and Business of the Year - ENV Solutions;
  - (h) Excellence in Workplace Safety - Inner Beauty;
  - (i) Excellence in Business - Horizon Motor Homes;
  - (j) Excellence in Social Enterprise - Breast Friends;
  - (k) Start Up Superstar - Tell Someone Who Cares; and
  - (l) Outstanding Young Employee - Kahlee Strudwick, Mortgage Choice.
- (3) That this House recognises the important role chambers of commerce play in supporting local businesses to achieve excellence in their workplace.

**Motion agreed to.**

**BATTLE OF FROMELLES ANNIVERSARY**

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:16):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) on 19 July 2018 the Annual Commemorative Procession and Service marking the 102nd anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles was held at Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney; and
  - (b) a number of dignitaries, veterans, defence personnel and family members of the fallen were present at the event, including Mr M. Pierre Bianconi, Deputy Consul General for the Republic of France; Mr Michael Ward, Consul General for Britain; Mr Harry Allie, BEM, Chair of the New South Wales Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Veterans Commemoration Service Committee; Pastor Bob Durbin; the Hon. Lynda Voltz, MLC; Brigadier Neil Sweeney, AM; Mr and Mrs John and Dorothy Clingan; Mr Jim Munro, President of Families and Friends of the First Australian Imperial Force; as well as the Hon. Scott Farlow, MLC, representing the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP, Premier; and the Hon. David Elliott, MP, Minister for Veterans Affairs.
- (2) That this House notes that:
- (a) the Battle of Fromelles was the first battle involving Australian troops on the Western Front following the withdrawal from Gallipoli;

- (b) the battle was and remains the largest loss of Australian life in a 24-hour period with 1,917 killed or deceased from wounds sustained from battle, 3,416 wounded and 496 taken prisoner, totalling 5,533 casualties; and
  - (c) the sacrifice of Australian soldiers on the Western Front was immense, and commemorative events such as these are essential to keeping the Anzac spirit alive throughout New South Wales and Australia.
- (3) That this House acknowledges the tireless efforts and work conducted by all members of the Families and Friends of the First AIF, including Mr Jim Munro, President; Lieutenant Colonel Simadas, RFD, Vice-President; Ms Jill Hayes, committee member; Mr Geoff Lewis, committee member; and Mr Darren Mitchell, master of ceremonies.

**Motion agreed to.**

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE**

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:16): I move:**

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) at the National Suicide Prevention Conference held between 23 and 27 July 2018 at the Adelaide Convention Centre, the University of Newcastle's Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health presented a position paper, "Rural Suicide and its Prevention", reporting that in 2016 the number of suicides per 100,000 people in rural and remote Australia was 50 per cent higher than in cities and the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is twice that for non-Indigenous people;
  - (b) the presentation was prepared by Dr Hazel Dalton, Research Leader and Senior Research Fellow; Mr Trevor Hazell, Senior Advisor; Fiona Livingstone; Tessa Caton, Program Manager, Rural Adversity Mental Health Program; and Professor David Perkins, Director; and that the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health has found that five focus areas are needed to address the situation:
    - (i) prevent people who experience suicidality from taking their own lives;
    - (ii) help those who are affected by suicide;
    - (iii) provide support to vulnerable groups;
    - (iv) build protective factors in children and young people; and
    - (v) build healthy and resilient people and communities.
  - (c) the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health is based in Orange, New South Wales, and is a major rural initiative of the University of Newcastle and the Ministry of Health with staff located across rural and remote New South Wales committed to improving mental health and wellbeing in rural and remote communities, focusing on key areas: the promotion of good mental health and the prevention of mental illness, developing the mental health system to better meet the needs of people living in rural and remote regions, and understanding and responding to rural suicide;
  - (d) the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health also undertakes a Rural Adversity Mental Health Program with 14 staff throughout rural New South Wales linking people to care, providing training, working with rural partners and providing resources on mental health, including the Glove Box Guide to Mental Health;
  - (e) the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health has been listed as part of the Premier's recent response to the drought and has also made a submission number 87 to the Australian Senate Community Affairs References Committee inquiry into the accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia and gave evidence at the public hearing on 19 July 2018; and
  - (f) the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health Community Advisory Committee is made up of a variety of stakeholders, including chairperson Mrs Marie Russell, AM, Western Region Rural Communities; Ms Sarah Bartlett, Project Lead, Everymind; Ms Jill Blackman, former manager, Community Care, Gilgandra Shire Council; Mrs Beryl Brain, vice-president, Country Women's Association of New South Wales; Dr Richard Buss, Director of Workforce, Northern NSW Local Health District; Professor Robert Callister, Deputy Head of Faculty Health and Medicine, University of Newcastle; Dr Scott Clark, Clinical Director of Mental Health Branch, Western NSW Local Health District; Mr Bryan Hoolahan, director, Marathon Health; Mrs Kate Lorimer-Ward, Director of Educational and Regional Services, Department of Primary Industries; Dr Georgina Luscombe, senior lecturer in medical studies, School of Rural Health, University of Sydney; Ms Lisa Minogue, board member, NSW Farmers; Dr Kevin Sheridan, AO, Rural Adversity Mental Health Program and Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health ambassador; Ms Sue West, Chair, Anglicare Western NSW; and Mr Tony Williams, group director, SafeWork NSW.
- (2) That this House:
- (a) acknowledges and commends the authors of the position paper entitled "Rural Suicide and its Prevention": Dr Hazel Dalton, research leader and senior research fellow; Mr Trevor Hazell, senior advisor; Fiona Livingstone; Tessa Caton, program manager, Rural Adversity Mental Health Program; and Professor David Perkins, director, for their outstanding work and dedication to suicide prevention in rural and remote regions of New South Wales; and
  - (b) congratulates and commends the University of Newcastle's Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health for its continued outstanding dedication to suicide prevention in rural and remote regions of New South Wales.

**Motion agreed to.**

## INDEPENDENT BEER AWARDS

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (10:16):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes:
  - (a) the Independent Beer Awards Australia 2018 were held on 28 June 2018;
  - (b) the awards recognise and celebrate the best of independent craft beer in Australia;
  - (c) Ballina's Seven Mile Brewing Co. received the Gold award for its West Coast India Pale Ale; and
  - (d) this achievement was all the more impressive for father and son duo Lou and Matt Wilson as they only opened the doors to Seven Mile Brewing Co. earlier this year.
- (2) That this House congratulates Lou Wilson, Matt Wilson and the whole Seven Mile Brewing Co. team for being recognised with the Gold award.

**Motion agreed to.**

## NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:17):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) at the Suicide Prevention Australia's LiFE Awards held on 25 July 2018 at the Adelaide Convention Centre, National Indigenous Leader and Dubbo resident Joe Williams was conferred the highest individual award in the Communities Matter category, University of New England's Alison Kennedy was conferred the Emerging Researcher Category award, Redfern's Babana Aboriginal Group was conferred the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Category award, and New South Wales Woman of the Year 2018 finalist Danielle Miller was conferred the Media Category award;
  - (b) Mr Joe Williams:
    - (i) is a Wiradjuri, first nations man born in Cowra, raised in Wagga Wagga and had a 15-year career as a professional sportsperson, playing in the National Rugby League for the South Sydney Rabbitohs, Penrith Panthers and Canterbury Bulldogs before switching to professional boxing in 2009 where he achieved two World Boxing Federation World Junior Welterweight championships and won the World Boxing Council Asia Continental title;
    - (ii) has battled suicidal ideation and bipolar disorder and after a suicide attempt in 2012, commenced helping people who struggle with mental illness and travelling Australia and internationally speaking about his personal mental health journey in various schools, corporations, community organisations and communities;
    - (iii) in 2014 created The Enemy Within entity, customised workshops and youth-focused camps, where he speaks of adversity, dealing with struggle, resilience, improving attitude and positive energy;
    - (iv) developed a cultural wellbeing program which concentrates on first nations people becoming the best version of themselves and released his autobiography entitled *Defying The Enemy Within*, which tells his journey and offers practical wellbeing tips that a person can implement in their lives to keep themselves mentally well;
    - (v) featured in the recently released global documentary *Suicide: The Ripple Effect*; and
    - (vi) in 2016 was named as a finalist in the National Indigenous and Multicultural Human Rights awards and in 2015 was Wagga Wagga Citizen of the Year for his outstanding work within the community, mental health and suicide prevention sectors.
  - (c) Dr Alison Kennedy:
    - (i) has lived and worked in rural communities for 15 years and commenced her research career in 2010 at the National Centre for Farmer Health, was awarded a University of New England PhD scholarship and received the Chancellor's Doctoral Research Medal upon graduation for her research examining the experience of suicide and accidental death bereavement for rural farming families;
    - (ii) attracted international recognition for her work, including the American Association of Suicidology grant supporting research in the area of suicide prevention, and was instrumental in securing funding for the Ripple Effect, an award-winning online suicide prevention project; uses digital media to convey lived experience, education and personal challenges to reduce stigma; and questions current best practice suicide stigma assessment; and has informed new directions for adopting behavioural indicators of stigma;
    - (iii) received acknowledgement in numerous print and online articles, radio interviews, television interviews and social media reaching regional, State, national and international audiences on the Ripple Effect project ensuring her work extends beyond academia;

- (iv) will, this year, take up an academic study placement to work with the University of Kentucky and her work with the Ripple Effect project has resulted in an international collaborative partnership with the University of Hamburg-Eppendorf; and
  - (v) research work includes being the primary investigator on "From Inside the Farm Gate: Rural Women's Stories of Thriving and Surviving" and AgSPACE, which is a collaborative project with the Victorian Coroner's Court to improve suicide prevention efforts in rural farming communities.
- (d) The Babana Aboriginal Group:
  - (i) commenced as a small group of Aboriginal men gathering around a tree in Redfern Park over a decade ago to discuss Indigenous matters in the local community;
  - (ii) upon realising the incidence of suicide in the community, three years ago initiated the annual Indigenous Suicide Prevention Awareness Day, focusing on bringing attention to the challenge of suicide in Indigenous communities, insight and information and critical linkages to service providers;
  - (iii) the first Suicide Prevention Awareness Day attracted around 100 people, largely drawn from the local community; the second event doubled in attendees drawing people from the broader community, including from Western Sydney; and in 2017 more than 300 attended from across New South Wales;
  - (iv) Suicide Awareness Day concentrates on the tradition of more than 40,000 years of storytelling, hearing stories from those who have walked the journey of suicide; and
  - (v) events have been the catalyst for the development of the "How to have a yarn" Tool Kit, which has now been downloaded more than 40,000 times and the building of an Indigenous suicide prevention peer to peer support network.
- (e) Ms Danielle Miller:
  - (i) is an experienced educator, author and media commentator with a special focus on young people drawn from her experience as an educator;
  - (ii) for the past 12 months has been a leading voice in the media responding to reports of youth suicide;
  - (iii) conducted social media reach and efforts to promote the Mindframe national guidelines after news broke of the passing of "Dolly" Everett went viral and followed an article in the *Women's Agenda* "Why I'm not publicly commenting on the tragic passing of teen girl Dolly Everett"; and
  - (iv) has also written a number of features for *Stellar* magazine aimed at promoting positive mental health and prevention of male suicide, including articles: "Do real men cry? How redefining masculinity can save lives", "Everybody makes mistakes", and a profile with Sydney Swans Australian Football League captain Josh Kennedy entitled "Men need to admit they aren't bulletproof".
- (2) That this House:
  - (a) congratulates and commends all award recipients and acknowledges their outstanding service to suicide prevention;
  - (b) acknowledges and commends the outstanding work of the Board of Suicide Prevention Australia, which includes chair Matthew Takaki, Murray Bleach, Phillip Cornwell, Angela Emslie, Jacinta Hawgood, Christopher John, Vanessa Lee, Luke Mann, Myfanwy (Myf) Maple, Stan Piperoglou and Alan Woodward.

**Motion agreed to.**

**CEMENT CONCRETE AND AGGREGATES AUSTRALIA INNOVATION AWARDS**

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:17): I move:**

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia [CCAA] New South Wales Innovation Awards were held on Friday 10 August 2018 at the Rosehill Gardens Racecourse and was attended by more than 330 representatives and suppliers to the New South Wales heavy construction materials industry;
  - (b) the event, recognises achievements in improving environmental management, workplace health and safety and community management in the cement, concrete and quarrying industries;
  - (c) dignitaries in attendance at the event included:
    - (i) Mr Scot MacDonald, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, the Central Coast and the Hunter, representing the Hon. Anthony Roberts, MP, Minister for Planning;
    - (ii) Mr Ken Slattery, chief executive officer, CCAA;
    - (iii) Mr Joe Goss, council member, CCAA;
    - (iv) Mr Greg Price, New South Wales Director, CCAA; and
    - (v) Ms Monique Andrew, New South Wales State Director, CCAA.

- (d) New South Wales innovation award winners across the three categories were:
  - (i) Community Leadership Award: Boral Australia, Teven Quarry, "Building Social Inclusion with the Community";
  - (ii) Environmental Innovation Award: Cleary Bros, Albion Park Quarry, "Enhanced Revegetation of Rainforest Communities"; and
  - (iii) Health and Safety Innovation Award: Boral Australia, Tippers North, "Rock Removal from Dual Tyre Kit".
- (e) sponsors of the event were Penetron, Mack Trucks, Isuzu Australia, Freightliner, NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council, SafeWork NSW, Borcat Trailers, EMM Consulting, Mapei, McLanahan, Sloanebuilt Trailers; and WesTrac.
- (2) That this House:
  - (a) congratulates and acknowledges the work of the Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia NSW in fostering and encouraging the improvement of environmental management, workplace health and safety and community management in the cement, concrete and quarrying industries; and
  - (b) congratulates those conferred awards at the event.

**Motion agreed to.**

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS AWARD CEREMONY**

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:17):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
  - (a) the New South Wales Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects held its awards ceremony on Friday 6 July 2018 at The Venue, Alexandria;
  - (b) the annual New South Wales Architecture Awards night is the preeminent architectural awards event for the State and provides an opportunity to view a cross-section of the design excellence that is currently being engaged in the service of communities across New South Wales;
  - (c) dignitaries at the event included:
    - (i) Mr Scot MacDonald, MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, the Central Coast and the Hunter, representing the Premier, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP;
    - (ii) the Right Hon. Clover Moore, Lord Mayor of Sydney;
    - (iii) Mr Andrew Nimmo, New South Wales Chapter president, Australian Institute of Architects;
    - (iv) Mr Peter Poulet, Government Architect;
    - (v) Ms Olivia Hyde, Office of the Government Architect;
    - (vi) Ms Clare Cousins, national president, Australian Institute of Architects;
    - (vii) Ms Helen Lochhead, president elect, Australian Institute of Architects; and
    - (viii) Tim Horton, registrar, Architects Registration Board.
  - (d) award recipients included:
    - (i) New South Wales Architecture Medallion - Joynton Avenue Creative Precinct by Peter Stutchbury Architecture in association with Design 5 - Architects for City of Sydney;
    - (ii) Commercial Architecture - The Sir Arthur G. Stephenson Award for Commercial Architecture - International House Sydney by Tzannes, Award - Barangaroo House by Collins and Turner, Award - Biripi Clinic by Kaunitz Yeung Architecture;
    - (iii) Educational Architecture - The William E. Kemp Award for Educational Architecture - Macquarie University Incubator by Architectus, Award - St Patrick's Primary School, Lochinvar - Stage 1 by SHAC, Award - UTS Blackfriars Children's Centre by DJRD with Lacoste and Stevenson Architects;
    - (iv) Heritage - Greenway Award for Heritage - Joynton Avenue Creative Precinct by Peter Stutchbury Architecture in association with Design 5 - Architects for City of Sydney, Award for Heritage Creative Adaptation - O'Connell Public by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects, Award for Heritage Conservation - The Westpac Long Gallery by Design 5 - Architects;
    - (v) Interior Architecture - John Verge Award for Interior Architecture - 75 Myrtle Street, Chippendale by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects, Award - The Waranara Early Learning Centre for the City of Sydney by Fox Johnston, Award - NeW Space, University of Newcastle by Lyons and EJE Architecture;
    - (vi) Public Architecture - Sulman Medal for Public Architecture - Punchbowl Mosque by Candalepas Associates, Award - Joynton Avenue Creative Precinct by Peter Stutchbury Architecture for City of Sydney;

- (vii) Residential Architecture - Houses (Alterations and Additions) - Hugh and Eva Buhrich Award for Residential Architecture - Laneway House by Jon Jacka Architects, Award - Bolt Hole by Panovscott;
  - (viii) Residential Architecture - Houses (New) - Wilkinson Award for Residential Architecture - Cabbage Tree House by Peter Stutchbury Architecture, Award - Coastal Garden House by Neeson Murcutt Architects, Award - Three Piece House by TRIAS;
  - (ix) Residential Architecture - Multiple Housing - Aaron Bolot, Award for Residential Architecture - The Rochford by Fox Johnston, Award - The Triplex Apartments by Luigi Rosselli Architects, Award - Griffiths Teas by PopovBass; Award - Short Lane by Woods Bagot;
  - (x) Small Project Architecture - Robert Woodward Award for Small Project Architecture - Treetop Studio by Aileen Sage Architects, Award - Montoro Wines Cellar Door by Source Architects, Award - The Beehive by Raffaello Rosselli Architect with Luigi Rosselli Architects;
  - (xi) Sustainable Architecture - Milo Dunphy Award for Sustainable Architecture - International House Sydney by Tzannes, Award - The Beehive by Raffaello Rosselli Architect with Luigi Rosselli Architects, Award - Joynton Avenue Creative Precinct by Peter Stutchbury Architecture for City of Sydney;
  - (xii) Urban Design - The Lloyd Rees Award for Urban Design - Darling Harbour Transformation by HASSELL - HASSELL and Populous, Award - East Sydney Community and Arts Centre and Albert Sloss Reserve by lahnimmo architects with Spackman Mossop Michaels Landscape Architects, Award - The Connection - Rhodes by Crone Architects, Award - Day Street Apartments by Tzannes and Loftex;
  - (xiii) Enduring Architecture - Award - Sirius by Tao Gofers, New South Wales Department of Housing with Alexander & Lloyd Architects;
  - (xiv) COLORBOND® Award for Steel Architecture Award - Biripi Clinic by Kaunitz Yeung Architecture; and
  - (xv) New South Wales Chapter Prizes – New South Wales Premier's Prize - Biripi Clinic by Kaunitz Yeung Architecture; City of Sydney Lord Mayor's Prize – Barangaroo Ferry Wharf by Cox Architecture; The Blacket Prize - St Patrick's Primary School; Lochinvar - Stage 1 by SHAC; New South Wales Chapter President's Prize - Deborah Dearing, President of the New South Wales Architects Registration Board; Emerging Architect Prize sponsored by AWS - Amelia Holliday and Isabelle Toland, Aileen Sage Architects; David Lindner Prize - Passive Security in Schools: Investigating alternative methods of achieving secure environments in schools by Jamileh Jahangiri, TKD Architects; Marion Mahony Griffin Prize sponsored by Bespoke Careers - Oi Choong, Context Landscape Design.
- (2) That this House acknowledges the outstanding work of the New South Wales Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects and congratulates all recipients of 2018 Chapter Awards.

**Motion agreed to.**

**GIANTS NETBALL TEAM PRELIMINARY FINALS**

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD (10:18):** I move:

- (1) That this House notes that:
- (a) on Sunday 19 August 2018 at Qudos Bank Arena, Olympic Park, the New South Wales and Canberra Giants Netball Team will compete in the Suncorp Super Netball Preliminary Final against Queensland Lightning;
  - (b) Giants Head Coach, Julie Fitzgerald celebrates the twentieth occasion she has lead a team into a final series of the National League, and since 1985 has performed outstanding service to the sport of netball, including:
    - (i) 1985 - Coach NSW Night State Team; 1988-1990 - Coach NSW U/19s Team; 1995, 1996, 1997 Coach NSW U/21s Team; 1994-1996 - Coach, Sydney Cenovis Team (Esso League); 1997-2007 - Coach Sydney Swifts (Commonwealth Bank Trophy); 1998-1999 - Coach NSW Open Team; 2008-2011 - Coach NSW Swifts (ANZ Championship); 2014-2016 - Coach Waikato Bay of Plenty Magic;
    - (ii) 2012 Assistant Coach of the Australian Diamonds and 2012-2013 Coach Australian Institute of Sport Netball Squad;
    - (iii) coached the team that won the National League in 2001, 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2008; and runners up in 1998, 2003, 2005;
    - (iv) between 1997-2011 lead the NSW Swifts to the Finals every year bar one season; and
    - (v) coaching at the elite level in excess of 300 games.
  - (c) the Giants team consists of Captain Kimberlee Green; Bec Bulley; Jamie-Lee Price, selected into the Australian Diamonds Squad; Sam Poolman; Susan Pettitt; Jo Harten; Serena Guthrie; Kristiana Manu'a; Kiera Austin; Kristina Bric; and Latika Tombs;

- (d) the outstanding work of the board of Netball New South Wales and their support of the Giants: Louise Sullivan, president; Carolyn Campbell, chief executive officer; Myles Baron-Hay; Vincent De Luca, OAM; Janet Drakos; Christine Feldmanis; Diana Fraser; Ruth Havrlant; Carol Murphy; and Rodney Watson, OAM;
  - (e) the generous contributions of major sponsors of the Giants: HCF; Bing Lee; Nissan; Woolworths; FDC Construction & Fitout; Hawaiian Airlines; National Storage; and Samsung;
  - (f) the outstanding contribution and support of Suncorp, the Major Sponsor of the League and broadcasting partners the Nine Network and Telstra;
  - (g) the work of the Netball Australia board that consists of: chair Paolina Hunt; Robert Shaw; president Wendy Archer, AM; Cheryl McCormack; Glenn Russell; Karen Stocks; Marcia Ella-Duncan, OAM; Susan Comerford; and chief executive officer Marne Fechner; and
  - (h) the umpires for the Suncorp Super Netball Series: Joshua Bowring; Helen George; Marc Henning; and Michelle Phippard.
- (2) That this House:
- (a) congratulates and commends the members of the Giants team on progressing to the Suncorp Super Netball final series and extends its best wishes for a successful series; and
  - (b) acknowledges and commends the outstanding work and dedication of Mrs Julie Fitzgerald on her twentieth final series in the National League as a head coach and her continuous devotion to the game of netball.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Rulings*

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT BY MEMBERS**

**The PRESIDENT (10:18):** Yesterday, the Hon. Dr Peter Phelps took a point of order after the division on the motion for the disallowance of the Crown Lands Management Regulation 2018 about the conduct of members in the public gallery. The nub of the point of order was whether a member—in this case Mr David Shoebridge—could be sanctioned under the standing orders if they, in some way, incited people in the public gallery to disrupt proceedings or to act in a disorderly manner. The relevant rules in relation to the conduct of visitors to this Chamber are standing orders that authorise the Chair to order the removal of any person who interrupts the business of the House and a resolution that sets out the types of behaviour that might result in the galleries being cleared, such as audible conversations, applause or jeering, or other actions that interrupt proceedings.

The relevant standing orders in relation to members' conduct are 190, 191 and 192, which are specifically intended to provide mechanisms for the quick resolution of disorder so that the consideration of business can continue. Most commonly, Standing Order 192 is invoked, with the President or the Chair of Committees calling a member to order, and after three such calls, ordering the member to be removed from the Chamber to allow proceedings to continue without disruption. In more serious cases, the member may be named by the President and suspended by motion without notice under Standing Order 190.

I have reviewed Mr David Shoebridge's speech in reply, and was present in the chair during his original speech and the vote on the motion for the disallowance of the Crown Land Management Regulation 2018 yesterday. In my view, there is no evidence that Mr David Shoebridge encouraged any person in the public gallery to interject or to cause a disturbance during the debate, or otherwise breached the standing orders. Consequently, there is nothing to suggest that Mr David Shoebridge did anything in this Chamber which would call on me to take action under the standing orders.

However, the standing orders also make it clear that the House has the inherent power to proceed against a member for conduct unworthy of a member committed inside or outside this House if such action is necessary to protect the House and the performance of its functions. For example, if a member were to do something outside the Chamber which encouraged or incited members of the public to act in this Chamber in a disorderly manner, the House could take action against that member. In this regard I have looked at the social media that encouraged people to gather outside Parliament House and to protest against the regulation, the subject of the debate yesterday. The Facebook post stated:

We'll be fighting for the right to protest on the street and inside Parliament ... Protest with us outside Parliament at 8.30 am before we move a disallowance motion inside Parliament.

I am confident the author of the post—Mr David Shoebridge—intended to convey that the member would be fighting for the right to protest through his words in the Chamber. It is possible, however, that members of the public who attended to listen to the debate yesterday may have interpreted the words as an encouragement to protest inside the building. On this occasion I am prepared to give the member the benefit of the doubt. However, I take this opportunity to remind members of the need to be careful about the way in which they communicate with supporters who are encouraged to attend and to observe proceedings. Any deliberate encouragement of

members of the public to protest in this Chamber or to obstruct the Legislative Council in the performance of its functions will be treated extremely seriously and would likely be dealt with as a contempt. Accordingly, no action is to be taken in relation to Mr David Shoebridge.

*Committees*

**COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Reports**

**The Hon. WES FANG:** I table report 4/56 of the Committee on Children and Young People entitled "Review of the 2016-2017 Annual Report of the Advocate for Children and Young People and the functions of the Children's Guardian", dated August 2018.

**The Hon. WES FANG (10:22):** I move:

That the House take note of the report.

**Debate adjourned.**

*Petitions*

**PETITION RECEIVED**

**Mount Hutton Intersection Safety**

Petition expressing safety concerns about the intersection of Tennent, Warners Bay and Progress roads and Dunkley Parade, Mount Hutton, and calling on the Government to take action to ensure pedestrian safety and avoid future accidents at the intersection, received from **Mr Scot MacDonald**.

*Business of the House*

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

**The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES:** I move:

The standing and sessional orders be suspended to allow the moving of a motion forthwith relating to the conduct of 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. 2378 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Mr Justin Field relating to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Marine Plastics Reduction) Bill.
- (2) Private Members' Business item No. 2377 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Daniel Mookhey relating to a reference to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.
- (3) Private Members' Business item No. 1956 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile relating to violence in South Africa.
- (4) Private Members' Business item No. 1996 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Bronnie Taylor relating to agricultural shows in New South Wales.
- (5) Private Members' Business item No. 2268 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Ernest Wong relating to a Select Committee on Homelessness.
- (6) Private Members' Business item No. 2051 outside the Order of Precedence standing in the name of the Hon. Ben Franklin relating to Anzac Day 2018.

**Motion agreed to.**

*Documents*

**BUDGET FINANCES 2018-2019**

**Tabling of Documents Reported to be Not Privileged**

**The CLERK:** I table the document identified as not privileged in the report of the Independent Legal Arbitrator, the Hon. Keith Mason, AC, QC, dated 19 July 2018, on the disputed claim of privilege in relation to Budget Finances 2018-2019.



*Bills***WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY AMENDMENT (MARINE PLASTICS REDUCTION) BILL 2018****First Reading****Bill introduced, and read a first time and ordered to be printed on motion by Mr Justin Field.****Second Reading Speech****Mr JUSTIN FIELD (10:33):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I grew up in and around the beaches of Central Queensland between Bundaberg and Yeppoon at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef. I spent a lot of time at the beach as a kid, just digging in the sand, and later as a nipper and surf lifesaving volunteer and a surfer. My son, Banjo, is 2¼ now and he loves the beach too. I hope he shares my passion for the ocean as he grows up. It is with a mix of pride, sadness and anger when we go to the beaches around Mollymook and Narrawallee on the New South Wales South Coast where we live that I watch Banjo excitedly attracted to picking up bits of plastic. He does it because he sees me doing ocean clean-ups with local community groups. I often take him along and I always Take 3 For The Sea—a wonderful community initiative that encourages people to pick up three bits of plastic each time they go to the beach. We often have a bucketful of plastic when we leave. Banjo sees it as a bit of a game.

But when I was a kid, the games we played involved digging for pipis, building sandcastles and decorating them with the shells we had picked up. There might have been a stray bottle, an old foam float from a crab pot or maybe some fishing line, but we did not see plastic very often. Now it is literally everywhere. In just one generation, our beaches, rivers and oceans have become filled and covered with plastic pollution. The bits we see along the sand are bad enough and unsightly, but look further and we can see what happens next: the sand becomes meshed with the tiniest plastic fragments as the big bits break up into smaller and smaller pieces. Small plastic fibres—microfibres—can now be seen under a microscope in the smallest of marine animals, krill. Plastic now contaminates the very bottom of the marine food chain, and it is unsurprising that plastic is found in almost all seafood.

Our waste is now being fed back to us by the ocean that we have treated as a garbage tip for far too long. Scientists predict that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the sea by volume. Three million tonnes of plastic is consumed in Australia every year, with much of this entering our natural environment. The CSIRO has estimated that there are 358 million pieces of plastic litter along our national coastline and 35 billion pieces of plastic floating in Australian waters. That does not include microplastics and microfibres that we are only just starting to recognise as being probably one of the most widespread forms of plastic pollution.

So much plastic has been created since its invention in 1907, the majority of it in just the past few decades, that if it were represented as a plastic film—picture it as a thick Glad Wrap—it would be enough to wrap the entire planet. That is not hard to believe when one spends time, as I do, with communities across the State at beach and park clean-ups—plastic is literally everywhere. It breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces—it breaks up but it does not break down. The idea that plastic can be thrown away is a fantasy. We tell ourselves to pretend we "do the right thing", but plastic does not go away—there is no "away". There is landfill and there is the environment, and that is where plastic ultimately ends up.

Scientists describe the era we are now living in as the Anthropocene—defined as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment. One of the key markers in the geological record of the Anthropocene period, of modern human civilisation, will be the presence of plastic. In the geological tick of time that will be human history—our record will be a thin line of plastic. What a terrible legacy to leave. The damage is already severe, but without a response we risk plastic in the environment becoming even more pervasive. The long-term consequences for human and animal health are not yet clear. Combined with other significant impacts associated with habitat loss and climate disruption, the ecological consequences of unmitigated plastic pollution are unthinkable. We can, and must, turn this around.

Today I am proud to introduce to the New South Wales Legislative Council, on behalf of the Australian Greens, communities across the State, our creeks, rivers, oceans and all marine life, a bill to phase out single-use plastics in this State and to set an ambitious but critical target to cut the amount of plastic waste entering our marine environment by 90 per cent by 2020. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment (Marine Plastics Reduction) Bill 2018 sets a new benchmark for legislative action to deal with the scourge of plastic waste and recognises that the only suitable regulatory response to single-use plastics is to regulate them out of existence. While the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government holds out as the last jurisdiction in Australia not to

have committed to a lightweight plastic bag ban, the Labor Opposition is stuck, to be honest, in first gear, re-moving bag ban legislation in the other place.

We need to move well past that—the community has; this Parliament has to as well. We must be bold. The Greens are today introducing a comprehensive plan to phase out petroleum-based, single-use plastics and to make a real difference when it comes to getting plastic waste out of our marine environment. I turn now to the details of the bill. The objective of the bill is ambitious but clear: to provide for the phasing out of single-use plastics, polystyrene packaging, products containing microbeads and other harmful plastic products so as to reduce the threat to the survival of marine animals and ecosystems caused by the amount of plastic flowing into the environment. The bill introduces explicit marine plastic elimination targets to drive urgent action. These include: first, to reduce plastic waste entering the marine environment by 90 per cent by 2020; and, secondly, for all packaging used in New South Wales to be either recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2023.

If we cannot do that those products should not be made. Importantly, this target was agreed by all State and Commonwealth Ministers at the April 2018 Meeting of Environment Ministers. So the bill will implement a law that is a commitment already made by this Government, but that it has failed to enact. The bill's third target is, by 2020, the complete elimination from the natural environment of plastic resin pellets used in industrial processes. Fourthly, by the end of 2023 we want all washing machines to be fitted with a lint filter that traps microfibres and microplastics; and, finally and most importantly, The Greens want all petroleum-based, single-use plastics eliminated by 2023.

This bill will see an immediate ban on a single-use plastic bags, plastic straws, microbeads and polystyrene takeaway food containers. Plastic cutlery, plastic takeaway food containers and non-compostable cigarettes and plastic cotton buds will be banned by 2020. There are already clear alternatives now for all those products. We do not need them and they should not be allowed to be made, used, sold and ultimately thrown away. That is simply wasteful. Banning single-use plastics is not a radical concept. This was a key recommendation of the Senate report into the waste and recycling industry in Australia published in as recently as June this year, which had cross-party consensus. The bill will legally compel the Premier of New South Wales to ensure that these important targets are met.

I can foresee an argument from the Government that many actions proposed in this bill would be best dealt with by a national law to ensure consistency. I do not disagree with that idea. But the reality is we need action now and, despite some vaguely positive sounds coming out of Canberra and Council of Australian Governments [COAG] meetings over a number of years, the flow of plastic pollution into our creeks and rivers and ultimately into the ocean continues largely unabated. As I have made clear, New South Wales has fallen woefully behind the other States in taking action. We can put the pressure on the Commonwealth and other States—right here, right now—to do the right thing. New South Wales should be a leader, not a laggard on this important issue.

We are a State that prides itself on our marine environment, on our beautiful harbour, on our beautiful beaches and coastlines. That is this State's key marketing tool to the world. Yet walk along any beach with a microscope and you will see how much of the sand underfoot is made up of plastic bits and pieces. This bill will also require the Minister for the Environment to take all reasonable steps to convene a meeting of responsible Ministers of the Commonwealth, States and Territories for the purpose of achieving the targets in the bill. Try that; it is an important action to take.

**The Hon. Penny Sharpe:** We were leading on plastic reduction, but we have not been doing that for a long time.

**Mr JUSTIN FIELD:** We were leading on that, but we have not been for a long time. The Government said it will do this, so it should. It should have those meetings. But a national target cannot be achieved, we need action now in New South Wales. That is what this bill will do. The bill will also establish a Marine Plastics Reduction Commission, which will liaise between industry and government to prepare industry plans and to ensure that the targets in this bill are met. The commission will inquire into and recommend the best mechanisms to reduce plastic waste in those areas. The commission will also apply the concept of extended producer responsibility when recommending mechanisms such as take-back schemes like the container deposit scheme or advanced disposal fees such as a levy.

The creation of this commission recognises both the role of industry in the production of products that ultimately become marine plastic waste and the need for a whole-of-government response. Under the bill, the commission is also tasked with the preparation of a marine plastic pollution threat abatement plan for New South Wales. This was brought to my attention as an essential component of any proposal to reduce marine plastic pollution, as such a plan will identify the sources and prevalence of plastic pollution, actions to ameliorate or to eliminate this pollution and, most importantly, who should be responsible for taking that action. The Boomerang

Alliance's threat abatement plan for marine plastic pollution has provided invaluable guidance and detail on what such a plan might look like.

An abatement plan acknowledges that to effectively eliminate single-use plastics entering our environment, specific and timely actions from industry, government agencies and community organisations are required. It acknowledges that we all have a role to play and must take a strategic and collaborative approach to shift society away from its addiction to single-use plastics. The elimination of single-use plastic items could have adverse impacts on some people. I recognise that, and I regret that the changes made through this bill to address the scourge of plastic pollution may impact on people with a disability or with medical conditions who require single-use plastic products to eat or drink safely, independently and in comfort.

For this reason, the bill includes a specific exemption that would allow plastic items such as straws to be sold or provided to people with a need relating to disability or a medical condition. I hope that this will go some way to alleviating the concerns of people with a disability and their families. However, I acknowledge the fact that reducing the availability of these products, particularly plastic straws, may have an impact on their daily lives. I also know, though, that people are actively seeking alternative solutions to meet the diverse needs within our community. Eliminating single-use plastics by 2023 is ambitious, but it is possible and we have the alternatives now.

Any small additional costs will likely come down over time and be more than offset by the positive impact in terms of reducing pollution in the environment, human health consequences and the wasteful consumption of raw materials. That is just unnecessary. We would be far from a first mover in this regard. The United Kingdom has a target of eliminating all avoidable plastic waste by 2042, but single-use plastics much earlier. The European Union has already banned plastic cotton buds, cutlery, plates and straws. In 2016 France passed a law to require by 2020 that all plastic cups, cutlery and plates be compostable and made of biologically sourced materials. Many developing countries where plastic is a massive litter problem have introduced outright bans on some single-use plastics, with harsh penalties—including jail time—reflecting the massive environmental, health and social consequences of this litter.

I introduce this bill today because I recognise that legislation and regulation are needed urgently to address this issue. But I know that ultimately it will not be totally effective until we change our society to make the wasteful consumption of plastic socially unacceptable. Attitudes are changing—one would have to be blind not to notice that within the community in recent years. We all make dozens of personal decisions every day that could help turn the plastic tide. A trip to our own parliamentary cafe tells that story. There is absolutely no need for any of us in this building to use takeaway coffee cups when there are mugs sitting in our office cupboards. The majority of plastic packaging on items from the cafe goes straight into the bin within minutes of purchase and ends up as landfill.

There is absolutely no need for this waste. There are alternatives to the packaging, but there are also other food choices that we can make. That is each individual's choice. I acknowledge that other things are harder and we can all do better—including me—but let us start on our own personal journey in the war against waste. As members of Parliament, our personal responsibility also extends to making laws that will support that outcome in the community.

I had a profound experience during a recent visit to Lord Howe Island to meet with scientists studying the impact of plastic pollution on the local population of flesh-footed shearwaters. In the palm forest one night, a young chick—just a few months old—came running out to meet us. They are attracted to the lights when people are in the forest. It ran right over my foot and we picked it up. As soon as the researcher picked it up, I could hear the crunching sound of plastic bits in the bird's stomach. The scientists pump the chicks' stomachs, in part to gather data on the impact of plastic but also to remove plastic if it is there because it can be a burden on the chicks' ability to fledge and to fly. But the plastic was so compacted in the stomach of this particular chick that it could not bring it up. The researchers took the bird home to try to help it, but unfortunately it died overnight.

The next day I stood over the bird as the researcher cut open its stomach. The pieces of plastic that were pulled with tweezers out of its tiny stomach covered an entire square of paper towel: whole bottle caps, balloon ties, bits of broken containers, bits of broken cigarette lighters and Cyalume sticks. This poor chick's parents had foraged at sea for weeks while it waited in the burrow, only to return with a meal that ultimately led to the chick's death. Most birds on the island have ingested plastic. Approximately 10 per cent of the birds that are born each year on the island do not fledge. Some die before fledging and some, because of the weight of the plastic and the lack of nutrition over time, cannot make their first flight. Tired, they drop into the ocean and drown. They wash up on the beaches overnight. Each morning we collected their carcasses—the ghost crabs had eaten the fleshy bits off most of them overnight. We took them back and opened them up and, of course, there was more plastic. Lord Howe Island is 500 kilometres from here—a long way away—but our unnecessary waste is killing those birds.

This bill does not come out of nowhere. The Greens have been pushing in this place for action on plastic pollution for more than a decade. I acknowledge my predecessor and the first Greens member of the New South Wales Legislative Council, Ian Cohen, who introduced container deposit legislation in 2008. In fact, members in this place have been talking about plastic for a long time. It was fascinating to read the debate in 2000 on a bill to ban the mass release of balloons, which was brought on by the Labor Government. There was passionate advocacy from all sides. I read the speech of the Hon. Peter Primrose and even former member the Hon. Duncan Gay talked about the need to find biodegradable solutions. Back then, there seemed to be a degree of consensus on this issue. We seem to have lost that now and there is no reason for it, because this issue affects us all. It has nothing to do with politics, and we can change it right now.

The Coalition did not oppose the legislation introduced by the then Labor Government, and that was the right thing to do. This bill is also the right thing. We are later than we should be; we should have taken action a long time ago. But it is never too late to do the right thing. I acknowledge all the groups associated with the Boomerang Alliance, and especially the Total Environment Centre, for their ongoing advocacy and advice in drafting this legislation and informing us all about how plastic is impacting on the environment and what we can do about it. I also thank all the people who are working to raise awareness in their communities across the State. They have made this issue mainstream, and I thank them for their passion and energy for change. I cannot imagine that any member in this place has not recognised the massive upswell of support for action to address this issue.

In particular, I acknowledge some key individuals who have been an inspiration to me, helped me to learn, given me ideas and devoted so much time to building the movement for change: Anthony Hill, AJ Linke, Dr Jenn Lavers, Dave West, Harriet Spark, Tim Silverwood, and all the volunteers from seabird rescue groups across the State. In my local area, Monica Mudge, Judith Dean and Jo Power have been phenomenal. Many more people are popping up every day. Last week I met with the Green Caffeen team in Kiama, who have created a new app-based system that aims to prevent one million single-use coffee cups being used and sent to landfill. It is a new idea to deal with the problem, but they need government support. I also thank my staff, and in particular Emily Dyball for her wrangling of the drafting process and Jane Garcia for helping to tell this story.

This bill will make a difference to the shearwaters. It will make a difference to the turtles and dolphins and whales and to all the fish in the sea. It will make a difference to us, to our health and wellbeing and to our sense of enjoyment. It will mean cleaner parks and creeks and beaches. Hopefully, it will ultimately mean that my son and his children can go back to picking up shells on the beach instead of plastic. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned.**

#### *Documents*

#### **TABLING OF PAPERS**

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I table the following papers:

- (1) Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984—Report of Wine Grapes Marketing Board for year ended 2017, together with a statement of reasons for lateness.
- (2) Law Reform Commission Act 1967—Report No. 146 of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission entitled "Dispute Resolution", dated June 2018.
- (3) Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999—Report of NSW Department of Justice entitled "Statutory Review: Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Amendment (Family Member Victim Impact Statement) Act 2014", dated June 2018.
- (4) Local Court Act 2007—Report of NSW Department of Justice entitled "Statutory Review: Local Court Act 2007", dated June 2018.
- (5) Relationships Register Act 2010—Report of NSW Department of Justice entitled "Statutory Review: Relationships Register Act 2010 (NSW)", dated June 2018.
- (6) Surrogacy Act 2010—Report of NSW Department of Justice entitled "Statutory Review: Surrogacy Act 2010", dated July 2018.

I move:

That the reports be printed.

**Motion agreed to.**

#### *Motions*

#### **FORMER MEMBER FOR WAGGA WAGGA**

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (10:56):** I move:

- (1) That under section 73 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, this House refers to the Independent Commission Against Corruption for investigation and report:
  - (a) the conduct of the former member for Wagga Wagga, Daryl Maguire, in respect of his relationships with property developers including Country Garden, Aoyuan, the Wuai Group and others, and the extent to which this conduct was in conflict with his proper duties and responsibilities as a parliamentarian;
  - (b) the requests and representations that the former member for Wagga Wagga, Daryl Maguire, made to Premiers O'Farrell, Baird and Berejiklian, Ministers, staff and others in respect of planning proposals, property developments and developers, land use and infrastructure planning;
  - (c) the circumstances surrounding the provision of information to the former member for Wagga Wagga, Daryl Maguire, and the purposes that this information was subsequently used for;
  - (d) any recommendations for changes to the "Code of Conduct for Members" that arise as a result of this inquiry; and
  - (e) as deemed necessary, the commission may also inquire into any related matters.
- (2) That a message be forwarded to the Legislative Assembly informing it that the Legislative Council has this day agreed to the motion and, according to section 73 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, requesting that the Legislative Assembly pass a similar motion.

Section 73 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act does not exist for ornamental purposes. It is not as though members of Parliament, having passed that clause into law, are now meant to step back and admire it on the mantelpiece as an ornamental part of the legislation. It is a vital anti-corruption protection device within the Act. It should be used judiciously and with great care and deliberation. But it must be used whenever a matter surfaces in the public domain that is so corrosive to public trust that no amount of Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC] self-referrals is able to express the importance that Parliament attaches to an investigation.

It should especially be used when a parliamentarian, elected to discharge the privileges and powers of that office in service of the community that elected them, has been found by their own admission to have engaged in behaviour that resembles corruption and wrongdoing, where the scope of their wrongdoing is still unknown and where any current inquiry being undertaken by ICAC is incapable of determining the full scope of the corrupted member's behaviour. That is when section 73 is used, and it is a responsibility of this Parliament to so use it when matters like that involving Mr Maguire surface.

The point of Parliament having this power under the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act is so it can act in its own defence. If people lose trust in the Parliament's integrity, they lose trust in the Government of New South Wales. Section 73 is the antibody that we need in order to provide the protection that public trust requires of the Parliament. That is why it is so important that we do not leave this matter to ICAC for self-referral, but that we signal our disgust and distrust of Mr Maguire by invoking the section and referring the matter to ICAC. The question that this motion asks of all members of the House is whether Mr Maguire's conduct is so abhorrent as to justify the Parliament invoking section 73 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act. It is, and here is why.

I will note what the existing ICAC inquiry has discovered. The former member for Wagga Wagga, elected by the people of Wagga Wagga to serve the Wagga Wagga community, was spending his time trying to broker a property development deal with Canterbury City Councillor Michael Hawatt on behalf of the developer Country Garden. In a phone-tapped conversation, Mr Maguire said that friends from the company were "mega big with mega money" and that they wanted to invest in development-approved properties. Councillor Hawatt suggested a \$48 million pre-approved apartment development. Mr Maguire and Councillor Hawatt then discussed the financial commission that Country Gardens should pay them for helping secure the deal. That is the first revelation from the existing ICAC inquiry.

We know that Mr Maguire offered to contact the Minister for Local Government, Mr Paul Toole, to secure Councillor Hawatt a position on a government committee. The councillor also requested that Mr Maguire access Cabinet information for him. That is the second revelation from the existing ICAC inquiry. We also know that Mr Maguire reportedly has lobbied ministerial staff about property developments over the phone, via email and in face-to-face meetings. We do not know which staff or which Ministers, but I will return to that later. The developments included a potential 25-storey residential tower in Campsie—for the information of members, that is not in Wagga Wagga—and a parcel of land in Camellia where 2,000 apartments may be built. This took place in mid-2016. At one point Mr Maguire was reportedly asked why as a rural member of Parliament he was interested in these city projects and—as we learnt from ICAC—he said, "Don't you know how this works? We have to help our friends."

The lobbyists register shows that Country Garden, a developer at the centre of the scandal involving Mr Maguire, hired a Liberal Party-aligned lobbyist firm in July this year. It shows also that Country Garden has

been a client of Liberal Party-aligned property firms since April last year. We also know from the existing ICAC inquiry that Mr Maguire accepted financial assistance from ACA Capital Investments to fly to China on 22 August 2002. He then had dealings with ACA Capital Investments and its sole director for the next decade, culminating in ACA Capital Investments' failed bid to build a \$400 million international trade centre in the electorate of Wagga Wagga. The local newspaper described Mr Maguire as a driving force behind the trade centre, but the bid collapsed when the council's report cited community concern over the lack of transparency surrounding the project. This was all discovered in an investigation for the purposes of ascertaining the behaviour that was taking place at the former Canterbury City Council. That investigation inadvertently revealed all these dealings undertaken by the former member for Wagga Wagga.

One can easily infer, just on the basis of what we already know, that at some point in the 20 years of service rendered by Mr Maguire to this House as the member for Wagga Wagga—20-odd years of having been preselected by the Liberal Party to represent the electorate of Wagga Wagga—Mr Maguire stopped acting in the interests of the Wagga Wagga community and started using all the privileges and powers of his office to act in his own self-interest. The problem is that that is the known conduct of the former member for Wagga Wagga. There is a whole category of behaviour about which there are still unanswered questions and which on any proper reading of the terms of reference of the current ICAC inquiry cannot be looked into. We know from all the people who have the courage to be anonymous sources to the newspapers that Mr Maguire was infamous for being a corridor carouser. He would stalk the corridor outside the Legislative Assembly and accost any Minister or ministerial staff who happened to be passing by. He would force his way into the Minister's diary to do an introduction.

We do not know what impact Mr Maguire's corridor carousing had. We do not know what meetings took place. We do not know what information was shared or what the results were. We do not even know which Ministers were involved. What we do know is that the person doing it had a whole bunch of secret dealings with a whole bunch of lobbyists which he did not disclose. That is the first reason for a reference by this Parliament under section 73 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act. We know that Mr Maguire was caught boasting about his behaviour in relation to Green Square—namely, his acting for a Malaysian property interest. We do not know who the Malaysian property interest was or of the circumstances in which Mr Maguire was engaged. We do not know what activities he undertook or what representations he made. We have the denial of one Minister—the planning Minister—but we have no opportunity to understand the extent to which Mr Maguire was abusing his power with ministerial staff and officials.

We also know of Mr Maguire's interest in Parramatta. The member for Parramatta, speaking to the local media, distanced himself from a person with whom he had spent eight years in a caucus party room, saying he had had nothing to do with him. In fact, he was almost pretending that the first time he had known of him was when he was asked to provide comment. What contact did the former member for Wagga Wagga have with the Parramatta Liberal councillors? What contact did he have with the other party functionaries who we all know have a lot of power when it comes to local government planning decisions? That is the third reason for a reference by this Parliament for a future ICAC inquiry. And that is before we get anywhere near the now infamous meeting the former member for Wagga Wagga set up between the Premier and two convicted criminals from the electorate of Wagga Wagga.

Many of the 50,000-odd people who live in Wagga Wagga would relish the chance to spend 10 minutes with a Premier. We do not know why those two people were selected. We do not know what took place in that meeting with the Premier. We do not know what information was gleaned and, in turn, how that information was distributed. The Premier has not answered any of the questions she has been asked by the Labor Opposition in the other place. That is another matter that ICAC ought to be investigating. With some prescience, I anticipate that the Government might not see these events in the same way as I do and it may not be inclined to support my motion. I claim such prescience on the basis of the character so far displayed by the Government in relation to the Maguire affair.

When Mr Maguire's conduct was first revealed in the secret ICAC recordings—which we all heard—we did not hear from the Premier; she was nowhere to be seen. Indeed, when the call came for Mr Maguire's resignation and removal from Parliament, the most conspicuously absent voice was that of the Premier. It took the Labor Opposition to threaten a rarely used expulsion power in the other place to compel the Government to act. When we heard Mr Maguire exceptionally concede to the Labor Party, he still managed to sit on the backbench for three or four weeks, collecting \$14,000 in salary, delaying his resignation to the last possible moment, with absolutely no pressure from anyone in the Government—certainly not the Premier—for him to go. The Liberals were too busy sorting out with The Nationals who would get the prize.

That is the first reason for my cynicism that perhaps the Government will not be supporting my motion. The second reason I am cynical is because although Labor in the other place has been endeavouring to get to the bottom of these issues and has given the Government a reasonable opportunity to explain itself, we have had

nothing more than obfuscation. When the Leader of Opposition in the other place moved that the lower House endorse its motion, the Government simply said, "We don't like Mr Maguire", but refused to raise the matter in the other House. That is yet another reason why it is so important that this House consider the matter.

Ordinarily, one would describe this as being within the reasonable species of political behaviour from a government that does not want to have an association with a member of its party who has now been found to have been effectively corrupt. The problem is that this Government is now running around the electorate of Wagga Wagga ahead of the 8 September by-election saying, "Gee, we are sorry for having put Daryl in the Parliament for 20 years. We did not know anything about his corruption." That is what the Government is saying to the people of Wagga Wagga ahead of the important choice they have to make on 8 September as to who should be filling the shoes of the corrupt member. They cannot run around Wagga Wagga saying they are sorry for Darryl Maguire's corruption if they vote against an ICAC inquiry into Daryl Maguire. It is that simple. Section 73 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act is there to be used in instances like this involving Darryl Maguire. It is within the power of this House to act and for the sake of the public trust we must act. I commend the motion to the House.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (11:08):** This motion is unnecessary as the Independent Commission Against Corruption's current investigation in relation to Canterbury City Council, Operation Dasha, includes the conduct of Mr Daryl Maguire. In his remarks, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey said that the use of this power in the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act by a Chamber of the Parliament needs to reach a very high bar and that it is a reserve power in the Act. The problem is that none of the remainder of his remarks demonstrated why this reached that high bar. When the Hon. Daniel Mookhey went through his list of knowns, all he demonstrated was that Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC] is doing what he suggests is needed through this referral under section 73. He just demonstrated why this reference is unnecessary.

The member then went on to talk about the unknowns. His recitation of the unknowns of course was a lengthy fishing expedition, but let us leave that aside. He is forgetting how ICAC works. The Independent Commission Against Corruption is not limited by terms of reference. If ICAC sees something that it needs to pursue, it will simply extend its reference. It surprises me that the Hon. Daniel Mookhey has not noticed that being demonstrated by ICAC after these recent events. Again, this points to the fact that this reference under section 73 is completely unnecessary. The ICAC's key function is to investigate and to expose corrupt conduct.

If any person, including any member of this House, has any evidence of corrupt conduct, he or she should bring that information to the attention of ICAC so that it can be investigated. If there is something that has not already been revealed at ICAC that a member of the Opposition has knowledge of, it is that member's duty under law to take it to ICAC, not to sit on it and come into this Parliament and move a motion. They should have already taken the matter to ICAC. I am sure everyone in this House knows that if a member of the Opposition did have knowledge of something, they would have gone to ICAC long ago. One has to consider how serious the Opposition is and whether this is simply a stunt in the middle of a by-election campaign.

Under the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government, ICAC will always be fully empowered and funded to investigate, to expose and to prevent corruption. We have implemented all 35 bipartisan parliamentary committee recommendations to reform ICAC—reforms consistent with the independent 2015 review of the ICAC's jurisdiction and powers. In the 2018-19 budget, this Government provided record funding of more than \$106 million for ICAC over four years. This compares to funding of around \$19.8 million per year in Labor's 2010-11 budget. This record funding underlines our commitment to a strong and fair ICAC.

Like everyone else, I was shocked and disappointed at the revelations surrounding the former member for Wagga Wagga. It is behaviour we will not tolerate and it has no place in this Government. We expect the highest level of integrity from all members of Parliament. There is no doubt that the former member for Wagga Wagga let down his community and he let down the people of New South Wales. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey's comments about the Premier and what happened immediately after the revelations at Canterbury City Council ignore completely a matter of public record. For the first time in the 18 months she has been Premier, she was on leave; she was out of the State. For the Opposition to imply that she was hiding is just wrong. As soon as the Premier came back to the jurisdiction and resumed her duties as Premier—and let us not forget that for that whole week there was an acting Premier—she acted, and the record shows that the member for Wagga Wagga, that same day, announced he was resigning.

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** No, he didn't.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Yes, he did, and that is the fact.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** Order! The Hon. Daniel Mookhey was heard in silence. The same courtesy will be shown to the Minister.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Therefore, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey has not given the House the full picture. The member made some remarks about the electorate of Wagga Wagga and I will briefly respond to them. We are immensely proud of what our Government has already delivered for the region. Wagga Wagga is this State's largest inland city and a great place to live, to work and to raise a family. We are delivering a new Wagga Wagga Base Hospital—after 16 years of empty promises from those opposite. Four Labor Premiers promised to do something about the hospital, but none of them did.

This Government is also delivering a new primary school, a new Police Citizens Youth Club facility and new roads, it has opened a new courthouse and it is creating the environment to grow local jobs. Wagga Wagga is a city that is prospering under a government that cares about regional New South Wales. Our ongoing commitment to Wagga Wagga is already proven, whereas Labor has repeatedly shown over a long period that it just does not care about regional New South Wales. The Government will not support this motion and the House should reject it.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** Order! Members contributing to the debate will be heard in silence.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD (11:15):** In my capacity as Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I make a brief contribution to the debate on the motion relating to section 73 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act, as moved by my colleague the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, who is also the duty member for Wagga Wagga. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey is a hardworking parliamentarian, but hopefully this motion will be one of his last efforts as the duty member for Wagga Wagga. For the sake of the residents of Wagga Wagga, who have been let down by the Liberals, local psychologist and community leader and councillor Dan Hayes will be joining us in the New South Wales Parliament next month. Sorry, Wes, that was the shortest campaign I have ever seen. You flew close to the sun and melted, just like a crisp.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition will direct his comments through the chair.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Hopefully Dan Hayes will join us in the Parliament next month as the Country Labor member of Parliament for Wagga Wagga. But, admittedly, he faces a monumental task on 8 September. It has been more than a century since there has been a Labor member of Parliament in the region.

**The Hon. Rick Colless:** No it's not.

**The Hon. Dr Peter Phelps:** It was 1957.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** It was 1957, but he is up to the job.

**The Hon. Wes Fang:** That is how much you neglect Wagga.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** Order! The Hon. Wes Fang will come to order. The member will be heard in silence.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I understand the member has strong views. He has been let down by the Liberals too and I understand why he feels the way he does.

**The Hon. Don Harwin:** Point of order: The member should not respond to interjections and he should direct his remarks through the Chair.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** I uphold the point of order. The member will direct his comments through the Chair. Interjections are disorderly and the member should not respond to them.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I would like to correct the record. Scanning back in my mind, in 1957 Eddie Graham was the last Labor member of Parliament for Wagga Wagga. It just came back to me in a wave. I was thinking of the great Labor icons who have represented rural and regional areas. This motion is important because it goes to the heart of why the Berejiklian Government has to go and why the community should elect Dan Hayes. Dan is fantastic; he is one of the most impressive candidates I have met. This motion is about integrity, it is about doing the right thing, and it is about referring a wrongdoer to the Independent Commission Against Corruption rather than shielding him. None of these things will the Liberal Party do.

Earlier this week we saw the Liberals and Nationals in this Chamber pull out all stops to stop me speaking on the ICAC annual report 2015-16, which had its early tentacles back into the current activities of the member for Wagga Wagga. It is because the Liberals and The Nationals are rotten to the core. The former member for



Wagga Wagga is a prime example of the behaviour that Premier Gladys Berejiklian will tolerate. The Leader of the Government claimed that she was on holiday and unable to be contacted. The Premier thought she could hide and wait, put him in the naughty corner on the crossbenches and skate through it until March.

Since the election eight years ago, eleven Liberal members of Parliament have fallen on their swords. Rather than rooting out the corruption, the Liberals and The Nationals in this Chamber seek to cover it up by attempting to stop a referral to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. Over the last eight years I have been profoundly disappointed by each Liberal Premier: Barry O'Farrell, Mike Baird and Gladys Berejiklian. There has been one political direction imposed upon the ICAC: to wind back the clock. The Liberals and The Nationals have a sorry history with the ICAC. In response to the growing number of Liberal members of Parliament caught out by the ICAC, we would expect a government to pour resources into it, to stiffen it up, to back it. Instead, this is a government that sacked an ICAC commissioner, wound back ICAC's powers and slashed its budget.

The Liberals-Nationals take away powers, curb activity and, even worse, refuse to refer members who have publicly admitted wrongdoing to the ICAC for further investigation. Make no mistake, the Liberal-Nationals Government is trying to shield the former member for Wagga Wagga from further scrutiny by the ICAC. Rather than supporting this motion, the Liberals and The Nationals are resisting and fighting it. It should be a motion that is carried unanimously in this Chamber. The evidence has been laid out forensically by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey. The former member for Wagga Wagga himself admitted wrongdoing on his own Facebook page in a post which his lawyers immediately told him to take down.

**The Hon. Daniel Mookhey:** Hostage video.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** It was akin to a hostage video. This is a man who has been heard in secret recordings played at the ICAC discussing with a Canterbury councillor massive lucrative commissions for property deals with a wealthy developer known as Country Garden. The former member for Wagga Wagga was well known for hanging around the doors of the Legislative Assembly waiting to catch a Minister coming in or out to harangue or bother them. People were muttering, "There he is again." He hung around waiting to talk to chiefs of staff, senior advisers and Ministers. I am sure it got to the stage where people spoke about what to do about Daryl Maguire but nobody did anything. Evidence was presented that he promoted a hospital development in Bankstown by sending emails and making representations to the chief of staff to then Minister Jillian Skinner.

Let us go back to the wrongdoing. He admitted to wrongdoing twice in the secret recording. In that hostage video on Facebook he apologised "for breaching the very strict code of conduct" required of him. The first occasion was in evidence at the ICAC and the second was in a post on his Facebook page, which lawyers told him to immediately remove. This man took clients into the deepest and darkest corridors of the Berejiklian Government. This man claimed to serve the families of Wagga Wagga for 20 years but in fact served his own interest and worked for clients. The member for Wagga Wagga is a person who shepherded clients into the ministerial suites of the Government to get personalised attention and hearings from senior Ministers and their staff. It is no surprise that this Government is resisting a referral to the ICAC; it is terrified of lifting up the carpet. Mr Maguire's activities have carried on throughout the O'Farrell, Baird and Berejiklian governments; it is common knowledge amongst Government members.

Where is the Premier? She was in hiding, she is in hiding, and continues to hide. Where is the leadership? The Premier shows no leadership on this matter. Last week we saw in the Legislative Assembly the excruciating spectre of the Premier repeatedly refusing to answer questions regarding the member for Wagga Wagga. Her response would be, "Refer it to the ICAC". We can refer it to the ICAC. We saw the Liberals and The Nationals close ranks and vote down a motion to refer Daryl Maguire to the ICAC. There is now a motion before the Chamber. I congratulate the Hon. Daniel Mookhey. Government members have a chance to reflect on the failure of the Premier. This Chamber can do today what the Premier failed to do.

For three days in the Legislative Assembly the Premier refused to answer questions from Labor regarding the conduct of the former member for Wagga Wagga and the vote was shameful, 44 to 35. The Premier's only response was repeatedly, "There is an ICAC investigation and the member should refer any issues of concern to that inquiry. That is the appropriate way to deal with it". That is what members of the Legislative Assembly tried to do and that is what we are trying to do today. For all her pious talk, the Premier used Government numbers to shut down transparency, an investigation into the member for Wagga Wagga and a referral to the ICAC. I will refresh the memory of members with the names of past referrals to the ICAC: Chris Hartcher, Chris Spence, Darren Webber, Barry O'Farrell, Tim Owen, Andrew Cornwell, Bart Bassett, Craig Baumann, Gary Edwards and now Daryl Maguire. Following the 13 June revelation at the ICAC, there are only three people in New South Wales who thought that Daryl Maguire should remain a member—Daryl Maguire, the Premier, and we found out earlier today the Leader of the Government in this Chamber.

**The Hon. Don Harwin:** Point of order: The member has just said something for which he has no basis to say and which is deeply offensive. I ask him to withdraw it.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** To the point of order. I refer to the member's response to the Hon. Daniel Mookhey's speech when he urged members not to vote for the motion. On that basis I concluded Daryl Maguire, the Premier and the Hon. Don Harwin think that Daryl Maguire should not be referred to the ICAC. It is an easy conclusion to make based on his speech.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** The member has misrepresented the Minister and the motion does not substantially name the Minister. The Minister has taken offence and I direct the member to withdraw the comment.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** Based on the ruling, I withdraw the comment. It fell to the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to declare that they would expel Daryl Maguire for his actions. The Premier thought she could skate through until March 2019 with Daryl Maguire sitting on the crossbench. That is disrespectful to the crossbench.

**Mr David Shoebridge:** We do not want him.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** You do not want him. Why would you want him?

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** Order! I remind members that interjections are disorderly at all times. The member will be respectful and remain silent.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** It was unfair to crossbench members for Daryl Maguire to sit with them. The Premier thinks she can bring a new low standard to government in New South Wales.

**The Hon. Don Harwin:** Point of order: That comment is clearly out of order. It is a direct reflection on a member of the other House and it is contrary to standing orders.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** To suit the House, I withdraw the comment. I note the time is ticking away. This is a clear case for an ICAC referral but there is another matter in the public arena at the moment: a clear case of the arts Minister Don Harwin and the distribution of regional arts and culture grants.

**The Hon. Don Harwin:** Point of order: I have two points of order. The member again made a personal reflection about a member and he raised a subject outside the terms of the motion. I ask that the member's comments be ruled out of order.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** I uphold both points of order. I ask the Hon. Walt Secord to withdraw the reference to the Minister and to return to the substantive motion.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** I withdraw the comments, but I will return to that subject later.

**The Hon. Trevor Khan:** Point of order: You have given a ruling and the Hon. Walt Secord is cavilling with your ruling.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** To the point of order—

**The Hon. Trevor Khan:** I have not finished. As I was saying, the Hon. Walt Secord is cavilling with your ruling. It is clear that the member is now intent on a course of action that goes beyond the motion. This is the second time you have ruled upon it. I ask that you call him to order.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** I uphold the point of order. I call the Hon. Walt Secord to order for the first time. I ask that he return to the substantive motion and not reflect on members of the House.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** In conclusion, it is no wonder that good people in the Liberal Party and The Nationals are leaving this Government, such as the member for Dubbo, Troy Grant, or the respected former Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli. It is no wonder that the great party of The Nationals, which was once the domain of Wal Murray, Doug Anthony and "Black Jack" McEwen, is now the party of John Barilaro.

**The Hon. Don Harwin:** Point of order: The Hon. Walt Secord has made a reflection and an imputation about the motives of the member for Dubbo, which is completely unfounded. It is yet again a knowingly disorderly remark. He should be called to order.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** To the point of order: I do not know how the Hon. Don Harwin feels about him, but I referred to him as a good person. I said, "good people in The Nationals, such as the member for Dubbo, Troy Grant...". I do not know how any member could find that offensive.

**The Hon. Don Harwin:** To the point of order: My remarks were quite clear. The Hon. Walt Secord made a comment about why the member for Dubbo had announced his resignation and he made an imputation about his motives.

**The Hon. Adam Searle:** To the point of order: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition did no such thing. If it was an imputation, it was in Mr Grant's favour.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** Under Standing Order 91 it is disorderly for members to reflect on the imputations of improper motives of persons in the other House. I uphold the point of order.

**The Hon. WALT SECORD:** To suit the House I will withdraw my comments that he is a good person.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** That is very helpful.

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (11:32):** On behalf of The Greens I indicate our strong support for the motion to refer Daryl Maguire to the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC] under section 73. The Act is there for a reason. It is there so that on those rare occasions when both Houses of this Parliament realise that there is a substantial issue, which relates to corruption or to serious integrity issues that have affected the Parliament, members can send the issue to the ICAC. I am not going to pretend that Daryl Maguire did anything else other than corrupt Parliament and corrupt the public trust and members of Parliament. His actions destructed the reputation of representative democracy in this State. It was a vile and egregious breach of public trust. Daryl Maguire acted with corrupt motives and intent and he affected the reputation and standing of democracy in this State. He affected the reputation and standing of both Houses of Parliament in this State. I am ashamed to be in the same club as Daryl Maguire. I am ashamed to be in the same institution as Daryl Maguire. This institution should state collective shame and refer that corrupt, grubby politician to the ICAC.

That is what the motion says. How on earth can members of this Chamber—no matter which political party they are from—oppose the motion when we have an obligation to stand up and restore faith in the public? We have an obligation to call out a corrupt member of this Parliament. It should be said in the clearest possible terms: Daryl Maguire is corrupt. He shames us all. He shames democracy. He was trying to cut deals for his own profit with property developers and he was abusing his position as a member of Parliament while doing it. Let us send him off to the ICAC. Government members have said that the ICAC is already inquiring about the matter. It may be, but this motion includes other elements such as reviewing our code of conduct and whether it is sufficient. They are good reasons to refer him to the ICAC. Even if the ICAC is already carrying out the same inquiry that is indicated in this motion, the man is corrupt. He shames democracy, the political party of which he is a member and this institution, and he has destroyed trust with the electorate. Send him to the ICAC and do not let him come back.

**The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ (11:35):** I support the motion moved by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey. The reality is that the people of New South Wales have a lack of confidence in the political process. To uphold the political process, New South Wales has an Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC]. One of its duties is to dig out corruption and restore faith in the people of New South Wales. Unfortunately, despite what the Leader of the Government in this House has said, this Government is set on removing the ICAC. Despite the Hon. Don Harwin saying that in 2017 the Government increased the ICAC budget, the ICAC's operating budget was reduced by \$800,000. The year before, the commissioner made it clear that the ICAC had to reduce its staffing by 17 per cent. The reality is that this Government does not want the ICAC to do its job.

If members want to restore the faith of people in the political system in New South Wales, they will support this motion. The motion asks that the Parliament, which represents the people of New South Wales, is held to a higher standard. This Parliament will hold its members to a higher standard. Daryl Maguire has brought this Parliament into disrepute. It is right that this House is taking action to restore the faith of the people in New South Wales. People across the whole of New South Wales have grave concerns about planning. I constantly receive complaints from people about development applications. Many of them involve the people now before the ICAC. Previously in this House I have raised the planning process of Riverlands Golf Course in Milperra. It is owned by Charbel Demian, the person to whom Daryl Maguire was talking. I have raised issues in this House about Wilton and the surrounding land, which is owned by Country Gardens.

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** Country Gardens. You know Country Gardens.

**The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ:** It is absolutely right that this Parliament restores faith in its parliamentary processes—

**The Hon. Wes Fang:** Point of order: The Hon. Walt Secord interjected with a remark about me. I take offence to it. It was unparliamentary and I ask him to withdraw it.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** I heard the interjection. Does the Hon. Walt Secord wish to speak to the point of order?

**The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ:** I have no idea what the interjection was.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** The Hon. Lynda Voltz will resume her seat.

**The Hon. Daniel Mookhey:** To the point of order—

**The Hon. Adam Searle:** Can we stop the clock?

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** No. There is no standing order to stop the clock.

**The Hon. Daniel Mookhey:** I was sitting next to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I did not hear any interjection.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** I am in the chair and I heard it. The Hon. Wes Fang has taken offence. I direct the Hon. Walt Secord to withdraw the interjection.

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** To the point of order: It was some time ago. I do recall pointing across the Chamber, but you will have to refresh my memory.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** Order! The Hon. Walt Secord is seeking to take an early mark again today. I do not want to embark on that path. I want an orderly debate. The Hon. Wes Fang has taken offence at what the Hon. Walt Secord said. I direct him to withdraw the comment or I will call him to order again.

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** To suit the House, I withdraw the comment.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** The debate is being held in a civil way. It is an important debate. I ask members to observe it in silence and not interject. I will not hesitate to call members to order. The Hon. Lynda Voltz has the call.

**The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ:** As I was saying before the point of order was taken, many of these development applications and development processes have been raised in regard to the companies and the individuals that are currently before the ICAC. While most members know how hard other members work on both sides of the Chamber, it is the actions of people such as Daryl Maguire that reinforce what the people of New South Wales think of politicians. It is only by Parliament referring this matter to the ICAC that the faith of the people will be restored. Those on the other side of the Chamber who think they can ignore scrutiny and transparency—as they do on so many other issues such as Community Building Partnership grants that have been given out, and on having campaign funds—cannot do so on this issue. Parliament should take a stand and refer this matter to the ICAC so all matters raised, not just the terms of reference into Canterbury Council, are scrutinised.

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN (11:41):** It is appropriate to give context to some of the matters that have been raised in this debate. I am not here to defend Daryl Maguire. It is appropriate that he resigned from the Liberal Party. It is appropriate that he resigned from the Parliament. His behaviour was entirely unacceptable. Mr David Shoebridge was correct in some of the matters he raised. Daryl Maguire has besmirched the good name of all of the members in this place. He has besmirched the reputation of the New South Wales Parliament. In that respect, this House is in agreement.

Politics is difficult enough in this State without the trust of the people of New South Wales being frustrated and diminished because of the behaviour of Daryl Maguire. I am sure all members, particularly Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, who has served for so long on the Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption, would be frustrated that his good name and members' names have been besmirched by what has occurred. The Hon. Walt Secord belled the cat on what this motion was about, because he spent the first half of his speech talking about the Labor candidate for Wagga Wagga and what a good bloke he is.

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** Point of order: I referred to repeated objections from the other side on imputations and suggested imputations of motives of members. The Hon. Trevor Khan is putting imputations and motives on my statements.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** I do not uphold that point of order. It is a reasonable debating point. The Hon. Walt Secord introduced the material in his contribution.

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN:** That creates this problem: With both sides in agreement as to the unacceptability of the behaviour of Daryl Maguire, behaviour that we all condemn, we are confronted by a motion that is not motivated by anything other than the desire to run a by-election campaign. That further traduces the reputation of this place and withdraws from the importance and severity of the matter that we are dealing with.

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** Point of order: The Hon. Trevor Khan again is referring to the imputations on my motive.

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN:** To the point of order: I am not referring to the Hon. Walt Secord; I am referring to the motion.

**The Hon. Daniel Mookhey:** To the point of order: Having just heard the contribution of the Hon. Trevor Khan, I take it therefore as an imputation against my motives as the person who has moved the motion. I take offence.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shayne Mallard):** I direct the Hon. Trevor Khan to adhere to the substantive motion, but I do not uphold the point of order.

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN:** I ask all members in this place to reflect carefully, not only on this motion, but on how these matters have been dealt with in the past. ICAC inquiries relating to conduct of a whole variety of people, including members or former members of Parliament, are not uncommon. Regrettably, they are too frequent. We should look at how this Parliament has attended to those past matters, which is to soberly reflect upon what is unfolding. For instance, I refer to Operations Jasper and Acacia, where revelation after revelation was made. Many of us read the transcript of the ICAC each day to see what new revelation was made. In a sense what we did was the appropriate thing, and that was to allow ICAC to undertake its inquiries properly, soberly and without interference.

Operations Jasper and Acacia started essentially with a kernel of information and during the course of the inquiries they expanded in a variety of directions—directions that were perhaps not only unknown to members, but also unknown to the ICAC. A comment made repeatedly by various commissioners—some of whom I have not entirely had a fulsomely friendly rapport within the context of those hearings—is that notwithstanding what ICAC may have obtained in the compulsory examinations, that is, the private part of the hearings, it is the public part of the hearings when material comes to light which may not have been known by the ICAC.

This material comes about through two circumstances: simply by the evidence that is adduced or because further material comes to the ICAC because of what has been heard publicly. That results in an amendment to the terms of reference that the ICAC is undertaking. In relation to Operations Jasper and Acacia, there were repeated amendments to the reference to include more people and more circumstances. Parliament did not interfere with that process as the ICAC went about its business. Parliament watched the ICAC develop its inquiry as it went. Contrary to what has been said by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey—which seems to suggest that there is some form of constriction upon the ICAC in the development of its inquiry—it is a free-flowing and expansive organism that will develop essentially organically as it proceeds.

I encourage members to recognise that the ICAC is undertaking an inquiry and, without doubt, it will pursue an appropriate area of inquiry independent of anything that we seek to do ourselves. We do not know what evidence the ICAC has obtained at this time. We do not know where the inquiry will go, but we know what the Hon. Daniel Mookhey has said with respect to Mr Maguire comes from the transcript of evidence taken by the Independent Commission Against Corruption. Some members have taken the time to obtain and read the transcript. Our problem is that the appropriate outrage felt by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey comes from evidence that we have heard and from what the ICAC has taken. Are we being asked to repeat a process that has already been undertaken? It is, in a sense, understandable that the Hon. Daniel Mookhey is outraged—

**Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile:** They are continuing their inquiry.

**The Hon. TREVOR KHAN:** Indeed, that is the point. We can all be appropriately outraged—and outraged we are—but the ICAC makes the findings and develops its case. We do not know where that case is going and we should allow that process to continue unhindered by interventions motivated for a whole variety of reasons, including the outrage but tainted by the politics of a by-election which is being undertaken. In light of what I have said, I seek to amend the motion moved by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey. I move:

That the question be amended by deleting all words after "That" and inserting instead "this House condemns the former member for Wagga Wagga for his actions as revealed and admitted at the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (11:53):** I wish to speak to the amendment. Government members support the amendment. It is an appropriate follow-up to my earlier remarks and to the feelings of all Government members.

**The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (11:54):** I intend to make some brief comments in support of the motion because, like so many members of the public, I have been appalled by the actions of the former member for Wagga Wagga. They must be investigated fully by the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC]. I commend my colleague the Hon. Daniel Mookhey for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. To be frank, I cannot believe the protection racket that is being run by those opposite for their mate this morning. But what should we expect of this Government? After the ICAC investigated systemic corruption by its party office, by 10 of its members of Parliament, it then cut the funding to the independent investigator.

I will look at the scoreboard. A total of 11 Liberal members of Parliament have been forced to the crossbench or out of Parliament, including a Premier: a full cricket team. Indeed, the failure of the current Premier—the third in just three years—to speedily act on this latest scandal with the former member for Wagga Wagga shows just how weak the Government is when it comes to excising these individuals. The Premier should have forced the former member for Wagga Wagga to resign immediately. Instead, it was only after Labor promised to expel him from the other place that she turned to a former Liberal Premier—who was forced out by his omissions to the ICAC—to do it for her. It makes us wonder what kind of influence he still wields within the party. It makes us wonder who is really running the place.

The actions of the former member for Wagga Wagga must be fully investigated by the ICAC, because the reported phone calls that he was making about cutting deals and acting for developers occurred in 2016—well after those former 10 Liberals were forced out after colluding with developers. His wilful disregard, in spite of the consequences even for his closest colleagues, calls his entire 20-year history in the Legislative Assembly into disrepute. Just what was the former member for Wagga Wagga doing intervening in council affairs more than 400 kilometres outside his electorate?

In his contribution today, the Hon. Don Harwin mounted the same poor line of defence that the Premier tried last week in the Legislative Assembly. He said that these matters are already being investigated. Let us have a look at the terms of reference for the current inquiry by the ICAC. They are designed to deal specifically with characters within the Canterbury Council and their dealings, as they should. But we must have a separate inquiry to allow the full investigation of the 20-year career of the former member for Wagga Wagga. In his contribution, the Hon. Trevor Khan questioned the motives for this motion. He spoke about the upcoming by-election in Wagga Wagga as though it was almost incidental to our discussion today. Let us be clear: the people of Wagga Wagga are being forced to the polls in several weeks' time because of disregard and corruption by their former long-term representative, a former representative that those opposite thought they could hide from the public. They thought they could let him cower on the crossbenches until the election in eight months. They thought he could take a wage paid for by the taxpayers until the election.

I too commend our excellent candidate in the by-election. The people of Wagga Wagga will have their say on the actions of the former member for Wagga Wagga, but the motive for this motion is a full investigation. The Hon. Trevor Khan said that some previous investigations began with a kernel of information, but I say on the public record that there is more than a kernel that would inspire a future investigation. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey outlined matters that are clearly on the public record that demand a full and transparent investigation by the ICAC. Members opposite have also said that we should write to the ICAC. Yes, we can do that and the ICAC can consider it, but a motion from this place compels the ICAC to investigate. More importantly, a motion will not only compel the ICAC to act, but also send a strong message to the people of New South Wales about what this Chamber expects from members in this place and in the other place and the attitude that we take towards our representatives.

I have no doubt that almost all members of Parliament on both sides of the Chamber come into office with the best of intentions to serve the public and to act in their interests, and the vast majority do this during their time as members of Parliament. But, sadly, that is not the public perception. That public perception is further sullied by the disgraceful actions of the former member for Wagga Wagga. If we are to improve the public's view of the very important work that we do as members of this place and to reflect the immense privilege that it is to be here as a member, the ICAC must investigate the actions of the former member for Wagga Wagga, and he should suffer the consequences. I commend the motion to the House.

**The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (12:00):** I move:

That the amendment of the Hon. Trevor Khan be amended by omitting the words "deleting all words after 'That' and inserting instead" and inserting instead "inserting after paragraph (2)".

The effect of the amendment is not to remove the original motion as moved by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, but to incorporate what the Hon. Trevor Khan, the Deputy President of this Chamber, has proposed. We think it is so good that it should be part of the complete array. As has been pointed out to me, the words in the motion moved by the Hon. Trevor Khan are the same words used by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Luke Foley, in the other place. It is quite clear from the debate in this Chamber that no-one is or should be seeking to defend the actions

of the former member for Wagga Wagga. If indeed this House and all its members do look dimly upon his actions, not only as revealed in the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC] inquiry but also as admitted, we should rightly condemn those actions. But that does not mean we should draw up short from the course of action proposed in the original motion.

As the Hon. Courtney Houssos has pointed out, any person can refer any matter to the ICAC and the ICAC can consider whether to investigate it, but a resolution of either House requires the ICAC to look into the matter. I take up a point raised by the Hon. Trevor Khan in his contribution: The ICAC may well be looking into these matters. That may be so. However, it appears that Mr Maguire was not the subject of its inquiry but was instead caught up in another investigation. There is now, rightly, public disquiet about the actions of Mr Maguire and the public does not know what actions the ICAC is taking in respect of them, if any. It may be that the ICAC is looking into it, but it may also be that the diminished resources of the ICAC as the result of the Government's—

**The Hon. Don Harwin:** It's had its budget increased.

**The Hon. ADAM SEARLE:** After the Government cut the ICAC's budget significantly. The point is that we do not know whether the ICAC is looking into these matters. In order to restore public confidence in this Parliament it is necessary that there be an appropriate referral by the House to the ICAC to make sure that these matters are being looked at. That is the reason the legislation has this mechanism: It is not to tell the ICAC what to do but to make sure that things are investigated when the Parliament judges they should be.

If we rightly condemn the actions of Mr Maguire—if that is the true position of this House and all its members—the inexorable logic of that condemnation is to ensure that his actions are scrutinised properly by the ICAC. It is not good enough to leave it hanging. It is not good enough for the people of Wagga Wagga, and the people of this State more broadly, to apprehend that Mr Maguire would have to be the unluckiest person on the face of the planet to be caught on an ICAC wiretap on his first foray into this line of action. Reasonable observers may apprehend that this was not his first foray—and that may be doing him an injustice. Let us have the ICAC scrutinise his actions. Let there be a proper and full investigation, because if the matter is left hanging it affects not only Mr Maguire's reputation but also the reputation of the Parliament and all those who serve in it.

As the Hon. Trevor Khan pointed out in his contribution, the reputation of members of Parliament has taken a beating as a result of repeated attendances to the ICAC by various members of Parliament over the years. There were 11 such appearances in the last term of Parliament alone—all of them by Coalition members. These matters should not be the subject of partisan discussion. I thank the Hon. Trevor Khan for moving his amendment to make sure that we rightly condemn Mr Maguire's actions, but that should not preclude the rest of the course of action being proposed. It should be included and all members in this place should come together on a nonpartisan basis. I address one point raised by the Hon. Trevor Khan. This motion is not motivated by an upcoming by-election; this motion would have been moved regardless of whether Mr Maguire had resigned. A by-election is unavoidable, and all of us are being watched by the people of Wagga Wagga and across the State as to how we treat this matter.

**The Hon. MATTHEW MASON-COX (12:03):** It is fair to say that this House is united in its condemnation of the actions of former member for Wagga Wagga Daryl Maguire. I support completely the amendment moved by the Hon. Trevor Khan. I do not support the position advanced by the Opposition. It is simply a moot point because, as the Opposition knows, the other Chamber has rejected this course of action and section 73 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act requires a resolution by both Houses to refer a matter to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. That reveals the stunt the Opposition is pulling in this Chamber today. Importantly, the Opposition has at least taken the Hon. Trevor Khan's amendment on board. I am sure the Opposition is united with the Government in its condemnation of the actions of Mr Maguire. His actions tarnish us all and they tarnish the great institution of Parliament. We stand together in condemnation. May the former member for Wagga Wagga face the full armoury of the law in relation to his actions, and let justice be done.

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (12:07):** In reply: I am grateful for the contributions of the Leader of the Government, the Hon. Don Harwin; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Walt Secord; Mr David Shoebridge; the Hon. Courtney Houssos; and the Hon. Adam Searle. I am especially grateful for the contributions of the Hon. Trevor Khan and the Hon. Lynda Voltz, both of whom have great expertise on matters related to the Independent Commission Against Corruption [ICAC] because of the service they have rendered to the ICAC committee. The substance of my address will be mostly in reply to the Hon. Trevor Khan's address, because he was by far the most eloquent of the Government's speakers in setting out its position.

**The Hon. Don Harwin:** He always is.

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** I acknowledge the contribution of the Leader of the Government.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** The Hon. Daniel Mookhey should not acknowledge interjections. They are disorderly—and unnecessary.

**The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY:** Indeed. Sadly, the prescience of my substantive address, in which I flagged that the Government would not support the motion, has come to fruition. Whilst I take comfort in my own seer-like powers, I do not take comfort in the position that the Government has adopted. The Hon. Trevor Khan set out the case in this respect: Effectively, he said that there is no need for Parliament to act because the ICAC has the power to undertake its own self-referrals or otherwise to continue its investigation. That is the basis upon which the Hon. Trevor Khan's argument was set out. That argument was echoed by other members in their contributions to the debate.

The first problem with the argument is that any such self-referral does not carry with it the opprobrium, the moral sanction and the moral instruction of the Parliament. No number of self-referrals is capable of expressing our outrage and the importance that we attach to discovering the full scope of the activities of the former member for Wagga Wagga. That is why it is important that Parliament pass this motion to use section 73. Only by doing so are we able to communicate to the ICAC and to the public at large that our outrage is more than just rhetorical and more than simply a mere amendment to be moved at the end of the debate in order to get through a by-election. Rather, this is serious and we attach high importance to it; therefore, we pass this motion.

The second problem is that there is a distinction between inquiries initiated under section 73 and self-referrals or referrals from the public. The Hon. Trevor Khan—a master of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act—will know this. Section 73 does not provide discretion for the ICAC; every other form of reference does. If I were to write a letter to the ICAC and send it, I have absolute trust that the ICAC will examine my letter and make a decision, exercising its discretion however it sees fit. It cannot do that in respect of a section 73 power: It must undertake the investigation. A parliamentary referral to the ICAC is not identical to all other forms of initiation of ICAC inquiries. In fact, it is the most powerful way to initiate an inquiry, and there is a reason why.

In my substantive address I said that because section 73 is so powerful, we should use it sparingly, deliberately and judiciously with that temperament in mind. Granted, some members—perhaps even the Hon. Trevor Khan—implied that there were other motives for moving this motion. But during this debate we did not hear a single Government member say that if Mr Maguire's conduct does not qualify for the use of section 73, what does? There are secret tapes of a member of Parliament soliciting what sounds like kickbacks and bribes, a species of evidence that shows this is part of a pattern of behaviour, unanswered questions and further reports surfacing outside the ICAC in the media from sources inside the Government. If that does not qualify as the type of behaviour that warrants the use of section 73, then it is open to the Government to say what does.

In respect of the other 11 serving members of Parliament in the past eight years who have found their way to the ICAC, not once did the Government say that their behaviour required the use of section 73. So what does require its use? That standard is not set out at all. A third argument is that we ought simply to allow Mr Maguire's behaviour to be treated in line with all other forms of precedent—that is, in general the Parliament defers to the ICAC to act of its own volition. First of all, section 73 is not at all mutually exclusive to the ICAC doing that. In fact, should we use section 73 in this respect, we would—[*Time expired.*]

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** I seek an extension of time for the Hon. Daniel Mookhey.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** Order! It is not for the Hon. Walt Secord to seek an extension of time on behalf of the Hon. Daniel Mookhey. The procedure is that a member seeks an extension of time before his or her time has expired. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey's time had expired. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey could have sought an extension of time. The House would decide whether to grant it.

**The Hon. Daniel Mookhey:** I simply commend the motion to the House.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** The question is that the motion be agreed to, to which the Hon. Trevor Khan has moved an amendment. The Hon. Adam Searle has moved an amendment to the amendment moved by the Hon. Trevor Khan. The question is that the amendment of the Hon. Adam Searle to the amendment of the Hon. Trevor Khan be agreed to.

**Amendment to amendment negated.**

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

**The House divided.**



Ayes ..... 19  
 Noes ..... 16  
 Majority..... 3

#### AYES

Amato, Mr L  
 Fang, Mr W (teller)  
 Green, Mr P  
 MacDonald, Mr S  
 Martin, Mr T  
 Nile, Revd Mr  
 Ward, Mrs P

Colless, Mr R  
 Farlow, Mr S  
 Harwin, Mr D  
 Maclaren-Jones, Mrs (teller)  
 Mason-Cox, Mr M  
 Phelps, Dr P

Cusack, Ms C  
 Franklin, Mr B  
 Khan, Mr T  
 Mallard, Mr S  
 Mitchell, Mrs  
 Taylor, Mrs

#### NOES

Borsak, Mr R  
 Field, Mr J  
 Mookhey, Mr D  
 Primrose, Mr P  
 Shoebridge, Mr D  
 Walker, Ms D

Buckingham, Mr J  
 Graham, Mr J  
 Moselmane, Mr S (teller)  
 Searle, Mr A  
 Veitch, Mr M

Donnelly, Mr G (teller)  
 Houssos, Mrs C  
 Pearson, Mr M  
 Secord, Mr W  
 Voltz, Ms L

#### PAIRS

Blair, Mr  
 Clarke, Mr D

Sharpe, Ms P  
 Wong, Mr E

#### Amendment agreed to.

**The PRESIDENT:** I will now put the question on the original motion as amended. The question is that the motion as amended be agreed.

#### Motion as amended agreed to.

### SOUTH AFRICA RACIST VIOLENCE

#### Debate resumed from 17 May 2018.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (12:24):** The Legislative Council has always had a wide remit. It has always adopted views principally on matters to do with the public affairs of New South Wales but occasionally, particularly during private member's business, it has considered issues of wider significance. The motion of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile is an example of this. It deals with a matter of great concern to some Australians. I have always taken the view when the Legislative Council considers issues of wider international significance that, as far as possible, it is able to do so with broad consensus in the House. I propose to move an amendment to the motion, but before doing so I indicate to the House that I have consulted with the Opposition about it. I have also given notice to Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, and no doubt he will address that in his reply. I move:

That the question be amended by:

- (1) Omitting all words after "Genocide" in paragraph (1).
- (2) Omitting all words after "That this House" in paragraph (2) and inserting instead: "strongly condemns:
  - (a) any and all calls for the killing, marginalisation, persecution, victimisation and targeting of any racial minority group in the Republic of South Africa by any of its officials, past or present; and
  - (b) any law that unjustly expropriates land from any individual without fair, just and equitable compensation."

The amendment will best accord with the traditional approach that we have taken to try to gain broad consensus. I commend the amendment to the House.

**The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ (12:26):** I have significant concerns about the motion. It cites some figures that have not been backed up with any substantiated data. For example, I am concerned about the reference to the murder rate in the farming community as a whole compared with the general population in South Africa. Each

day in South Africa three women are killed—in other words, every eight hours a woman is killed. The woman is usually a black person and she is usually killed by someone known to her—namely, she is a victim of domestic violence. I suggest that murder rates for the killing of women and children in South Africa should be the priority of a member who moves a motion about what is happening in that country.

It is terrible for anyone to be killed because of their race. We should all be concerned about the murder rates among the Rohingya people in Myanmar, the Hazaras in Afghanistan and the Romani people in Europe. They are all persecuted minorities who have come under severe attack. More importantly, we should stand up for those nations that protect the rights of women who are repressed. I note that recently the Canadian Prime Minister stood up against the imprisonment of women in Saudi Arabia. The Canadians have fought side by side with us in every international conflict, including in the Battle of Polygon Wood at Passchendaele. When the Australian and New Zealand soldiers were completely done in, the Canadians came to our rescue.

I acknowledge that the amendment moved by the Hon. Don Harwin makes the motion more palatable, but to highlight the plight of white South Africans on the farms of South Africa while completely ignoring the plight of women and children in South Africa is a terrible thing. It does not reflect the concerns of this House.

**The Hon. PAUL GREEN (12:29):** On behalf of the Christian Democratic Party, I support my colleague's motion, to which the Government has moved an amendment. The Hon. Lynda Voltz made a poignant comment that across the world there are civil wars and injustices occurring throughout all sorts of communities and involving all sorts of races and religion. These types of global events should receive fair and equitable coverage in our television media rather than incidents that are politically expedient. In this Chamber, members have different passions and causes that we follow and support. This is one cause that my colleague supports, and I know other members in the House support other important causes.

I support the motion moved by my colleague Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile regarding violence in South Africa. The motion asks the South African ambassador to confirm whether allegations of systemic racist violence are true and calls on the Federal Government to respond. The recent unrest has resulted from the current President, Cyril Ramaphosa, speaking in favour of a law to expropriate white-owned farmlands without compensation. First and foremost, we have no excuse to ignore the plight of persecuted minorities. The killing, marginalisation, persecution, victimisation and targeting of any racial group is deplorable and unacceptable.

Land ownership has long been a tense issue in South Africa. Seventy-two per cent of arable land is in the hands of white people, who make up less than 9 per cent of the population of 56.5 million. Attacks on farm owners are characterised by extreme brutality and include the physical dismemberment, torture and rape of victims and the killing of children and infants in horrendous ways. There are no official figures of the number of deaths. However, it has been reported that about 400 white farmers were killed last year. Civil rights group AfriForum suggests that there are, on average, 680 farm attacks and 94 farm murders in South Africa every year.

In the *Daily Telegraph* on 13 May 2018, Carolyn Marcus reported that Johann and Mariandra Heunis's small chicken farm outside Pretoria was the target of a farm attack in September 2016. Their young daughter desperately pleaded with the assailants to take her piggy bank and leave her dad and heavily pregnant mum alone. The assailants ignored her and shot Johann five times in front of his children. Liberal Democratic Senator David Leyonhjelm asked Australia to picture our farmers being butchered like this. He tweeted:

Just imagine if 400 of them were being murdered each year—the entire country would be galvanised into action. But because it's white farmers in black South Africa, I doubt much will be done.

We are all too aware of the shameful apartheid in South Africa's history, which has contributed to the world turning its back on the country's white minority. However, innocent victims should not be held responsible for the sins of their forefathers. In 1988, South Africa ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination which calls on national governments to take steps to eliminate racial discrimination and prohibit discrimination under law and to guard against discrimination arising as a result of law. We do not need to remind South Africa of its international human rights due diligence responsibilities. The Federal Government and Federal Opposition have stated that people who are facing persecution, regardless of where they are from or the colour of their skin, are able to apply to Australia's humanitarian visa program and their application will be assessed on merit. In *The Australian* on 9 May 2018, Sue Neales reported:

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton has asked his department to look at how persecuted white South African farmers might meet strict eligibility requirements and migrate to Australia. His comment that farmers should be fast-tracked under the humanitarian program following reports of murders of white farmers caused controversy in South Africa, where the government accused him of tarnishing the country's reputation.

I encourage anyone facing persecution to look at these humanitarian visas. I conclude with a quote from a phenomenal leader, Nelson Mandela, who said:

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.

I encourage members of this House to support the motion. I commend that motion to the House.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** I inform the House that as an amendment has been moved to the motion, members are entitled to speak to the amendment for a period of 15 minutes. Therefore, Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile can speak in reply for a period of five minutes and he can speak to the amendment for a period of 15 minutes.

**The Hon. PAUL GREEN:** I indicate that Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile is keen to conclude the motion this morning.

**The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (12:36):** I move:

That the amendment of the Hon. Don Harwin be amended by omitting the word "minority" from paragraph (2) (a).

I move that amendment because there have been incidents in Africa where the majority racial group has been targeted. My amendment ensures that any group that is being victimised, persecuted, marginalised or targeted in any way is included in the motion.

**Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (12:37):** In reply: I speak in reply and to the amendments. I thank the Hon. Don Harwin and the Hon. Adam Searle for their advice in relation to changes to be made to the original motion. Paragraph (2) of the motion will now read:

(2) That this House calls on the Government to:

(a) as a matter of principle, strongly condemn:

- (i) any and all calls for the killing, marginalisation, persecution, victimisation and targeting of any racial group in the Republic of South Africa by any of its officials, past or present,
- (ii) any law that unjustly expropriates land from any individual without fair, just and equitable compensation. I acknowledge also the contribution made by the Hon. Lynda Voltz. I fully support her concerns and I will support any motion she may move in that regard. I raised this issue first in a speech during the adjournment debate on 15 March and then when moving the motion before the House on 17 May 2018. I noted reports of the worsening situation in South Africa and referred to mainstream media accounts published both here and overseas and printed online. I cited information from journalists and organisations. I acknowledge that the exact data about the number of victims and their identities is difficult to ascertain.

Since I last spoke on this issue, a report in *The Australian*, dated 16 April, sourced figures from Africa Check stating that the number of farmland victims is somewhere between 156 per 100,000 on the high end and 34 per 100,000 on the low end. Whatever the exact figures may be, it is beyond doubt that there is a serious problem of racial violence in South Africa. My research, as summarised in this House on 17 May, suggests that this crisis has been promoted by irresponsible rhetoric from malicious elements who foster a culture of hatred and fear.

The important key principles of international law, which the Christian Democratic Party supports, must be upheld. I thank the Hon. Don Harwin and the Hon. Paul Green for their contributions to the debate and the Hon. Adam Searle for his advice. The Hon. David Clarke, who is absent from the Chamber as he is attending a funeral, conveyed to me his support for the motion and his concern about the strife occurring in the Boer community. I acknowledge my chief of staff Edwin Dyga for researching and preparing the motion. I commend him for his interest in this human rights issue. I am surprised that there has been silence on this issue within the European Union and the United Nations. It should be emphasised that this issue resonates with the Australian community. On 6 March a well-attended rally took place in Queensland in support of the victimised Boer and white farmers of South Africa. On 8 April another rally took place in Perth. It was reported in *The Australian* by Victoria Laurie that 2,000 people attended the rally. She wrote:

... protesters held white crosses, some bearing the names of relatives who died on their farms, and placards such as "Save my farming grandparents".

On 16 April Ian Burrell reported in *The Australian* that there was a noticeable influx of frightened white South Africans immigrating to Perth. He reported that the Coetzee family escaped South Africa after their home was invaded by armed, balaclava-clad militants. Nicolene Coetzee is reported as saying, "We would never go back to living in that house". Her family is "just thankful to be in Australia now." On 2 August *The Australian* reported that the President of South Africa intends to press ahead with changes to the constitution that will allow the land expropriation law to take effect—in other words, land can be expropriated without compensation.

On 9 May, Sue Neale, the national rural reporter for *The Australian*, wrote that many victimised South Africans are looking toward our nation to relocate and continue their lives in peace. In her article, Ms Neale illustrated the case of the Greyling family who arrived in Moree, New South Wales, and now help manage a local citrus farm. The common theme in the articles is that people feel they have no voice and that the world has forgotten them. That is the reason I moved this motion. Australia has not forgotten or ignored them, nor have we

forgotten minority groups who are suffering in other nations. I acknowledge Sonia Hruska from the United Liberty Alliance who has provided a detailed and referenced report dated 13 June 2018 titled, "A risk analysis of the forthcoming political and social instability in South Africa and the imminent threat to minorities".

As Australians, we are pleased to have the opportunity to help those overseas who are in need. New South Wales is a generous State and we are a compassionate people. Because of the broad cultural similarities between the victims and our nation, the South African people who seek refuge here will find it relatively easy to assimilate into our community. By many accounts, this successful assimilation has already begun in Perth. I submit that there is an urgency for this issue to be raised in the international arena. I urge my colleagues to press upon their Federal counterparts to do so, and to do so soon. I again thank members who have spoken to this motion. I commend the motion to the House.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile has moved a motion, to which the Hon. Don Harwin has moved an amendment. The Hon. Ben Franklin has moved an amendment to the amendment of the Hon. Don Harwin. The question is that the amendment of the Hon. Ben Franklin to the amendment of the Hon. Don Harwin be agreed to.

**Amendment to amendment agreed to.**

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** The question is that the amendment of the Hon. Don Harwin as amended be agreed to.

**Amendment as amended agreed to.**

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

**Motion as amended agreed to.**

## **AGRICULTURAL SHOWS**

**Debate resumed from 15 March 2018.**

**The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (12:48):** I speak to the importance of agricultural shows in New South Wales. I thank the Hon. Bronnie Taylor for moving this motion. She is an excellent advocate for rural and regional communities in New South Wales. The Maitland Show is held annually in February. The 2018 show featured attractions such as a rodeo, fireworks, home craft displays, horticultural displays, a cattle clinic, vintage motorcycles, hot rods and mini rods, woodchopping, an animal nursery, livestock exhibits, a scarecrow competition, an international salon of photography and a tug-of-war competition. The *Maitland Mercury* reported that at the rodeo the professionals showcased their skills and courage in the bull ride and open saddle bronc and bareback bronc and did not disappoint the fans.

The 2018 Maitland Showgirl winner was Caitlin Hipwell. Our hardworking Liberal Councillor Ben Mitchell from Maitland Council presented her award. The 2018 show marked the 157th anniversary of the Maitland Show. The Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Association established the Maitland Show on 16 August 1859 and it has operated continuously ever since. The Hunter River Agricultural Association is the second-oldest continuing regional agricultural association in mainland Australia. It is only a few months younger than the Agricultural Society of NSW, which is responsible for the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The Newcastle Regional Show or, as locals call it "the Show", is held annually in March. The 2018 show had many attractions, including an agricultural precinct, an animal nursery, an art competition, cyclocross, cattle competitions, a cookery competition, a community stage, a demolition derby, a dog show, goat competitions, fence post splitting, horse events and sideshow alley. The show was extremely successful, with more than 30,000 people attending the three-day event. The Newcastle Regional Show has been held annually since 1902, only missing shows in 1916 when the showgrounds were being used as a military camp and in 1919 due to the influenza epidemic and from 1941 to 1945 when the showground was once again used as a military staging ground. The show is organised by the Newcastle Agricultural, Horticultural, and Industrial Association, which was formed in 1899. This year was a significant year as it marked the first time that the show had a female president. The new president, Lauren Haskins, has held various roles with the show and was the Newcastle Showgirl in 2005.

The Central Coast Regional Show has been held annually since 1888 when the Gosford and Brisbane Water Agricultural, Horticultural, and Fruit-growers' Association was formed and the inaugural Gosford show was held. It must have been a cracker because the following year the Premier of New South Wales, Sir Henry Parkes, visited to officially open the show on 5 April. He travelled by train to Gosford because, as the Hon. Scott Farlow knows, there was no F3 at the time. In April 1889 the trains were not yet travelling across the Hawkesbury

River Railway Bridge. The Premier returned for the opening of the bridge the following month. I am trying to imagine what it would have been like for the Premier to travel to Gosford to open the second Gosford Show.

The Premier would have disembarked the train at Hawkesbury River, got on a boat to cross the river, then got on another train at Mullet Creek. He would have looked up at the soon-to-be-completed Hawkesbury River Bridge—which closed the last gap in the rail system between South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland—and contemplated the meaning of that bridge linking the colonies of Australia. The NorthConnex, which has more than 99 per cent of its tunnel complete, will close a gap in much the same way, as it will enable traffic light-free travel from Newcastle to Melbourne. I like to think the speech that Sir Henry Parkes gave at the opening of the railway bridge the following month was inspired by that trip to the Gosford Show. It was an important speech in the lead-up to our nation's Federation, although not quite as famous as the Tenterfield Oration that he gave later that year. At the opening of the bridge, he said:

Now, will not this be allowed to remain in the mind of every man here that we met to celebrate the opening of this great bridge in peace, in friendship, and in friendly pride. We have here a representative of the great government to our south and of the great government to our north, and why should not this occasion be an emblem of our future relations? It is said that the time has arrived for the political federation of these colonies ... I think it must develop by the progress of opinions, and it is in that view that I regard the event which we are met here to celebrate today as one of potent influence for the welfare of these colonies...

That is the small role that the Gosford Show potentially played in the Federation of the Australian colonies. In May I attended the Central Coast Regional Show, as I have done in years past. The show had reptile displays, fireworks, horse events, pet parades, machinery displays, historic car displays, a junior rugby knockout, fire whip cracking and a brass band performance, and one of the highlights was the rock show that was put on by the Central Coast Lapidary Club. I agree with the motion which states that the Sydney Royal Easter Show plays a significant role in promoting New South Wales agriculture and agricultural communities to city families.

In its submission to the State Development Committee inquiry into regional development and a global Sydney, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW stated that the show is the largest ticketed event in Australia. Last year it was attended by more than 920,000 visitors celebrating the vital role that agriculture plays in the health and wealth of our State and applauding the highest achievers in agricultural excellence. Last year \$186 million was spent at the Royal Easter Show and more than \$247 million contributed to the State's economy as a result of the 14-day event. The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW is an iconic Australian organisation and has been a prominent force in the direction and development of Australian agriculture through competitions, education and events since its foundation. It now manages the Sydney Showground, for which it has a long-term lease.

Its vital importance to the State is highlighted by its memorandum of understanding with Sydney Olympic Park, which, if delivered, will secure and expand the existing \$615 million total economic contribution generated by events at Sydney Showground, secure and expand \$207 million in total direct spending generated by out-of-State visitors attending events at the Sydney Showground annually, secure and expand the annual direct spending of \$186 million at the annual Sydney Royal Easter Show, create \$500 million in economic uplift, add 100 additional full-time jobs on average per annum, and add 183,000 additional bed nights from interstate and international visitors. I could go on. This is exciting for the Sydney Olympic Park Precinct, New South Wales and the agricultural sector. I commend the Hon. Bronnie Taylor for moving this important motion. With New South Wales now declared 100 per cent in drought, there has never been a more important time to highlight the significance and value of agricultural shows to our regional communities.

**Mr SCOT MacDONALD (12:56):** The Hon. Bronnie Taylor has moved a great motion. The 154<sup>th</sup> Wagga Wagga show will be held on 7 and 8 September. It would be great if all members could attend. I commend the president of the Wagga Wagga Show Society, Mr Bruce Ryan; senior vice-president Mr Doug Milward; junior vice-president Jenny Hodges; junior vice-president Paige Mazoudier; treasurer John Stewart; and secretary manager Aileen Storey. The committee does a wonderful job. I recommend that all members visit the Wagga Wagga Show, which will be a fantastic event, and the next day there is a by-election.

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

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

*Questions Without Notice*

**SYDNEY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE**

**The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (14:31):** My question is directed to the Leader of the Government, the Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts. Given the broken pipes crisis that is leading to billions of litres of water being wasted in the midst of a drought, why is the Government taking \$800 million out of Sydney Water and leaving it unable to undertake proper maintenance?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (14:31):** Let us be clear that while there is a policy of dividends payable by State-owned corporations—in this particular case, Sydney Water—Sydney Water has absolutely guaranteed that there will be no impact at all on the services it provides given its level of dividends. It is always appropriate for a State-owned corporation to provide the taxpayer with a return on the capital the taxpayer gives it.

I will address some of the other aspects of the Hon. Adam Searle's question. The member needs to understand that as a result of the climatic conditions we have had in the midst of a very severe drought, there is extra pressure on the pipe system due to the changing morphology of the ground surrounding the pipes, which increases the likelihood of cracking. It is a serious issue but I am pleased to say that Sydney Water is on top of it and is working very hard to address it as quickly as possible. It may even be a subject to which I return later in question time.

### DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

**The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (14:33):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Energy and Utilities. Can the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is responding to the drought in Greater Sydney?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (14:33):** I can. I must give the Leader of the Opposition a bouquet for prescience, because he anticipated the Government's first question. I thank the Hon. Shayne Mallard for his question. The drought and the impact it is having on our farmers and regional and rural communities across the State is well understood. This is about the livelihoods of people and communities across regional New South Wales. In response to the drought, the Government is acting. It has announced more than \$1 billion in drought relief measures, including transport subsidies, waivers on farming costs, further bolstering the Farm Innovation Fund, animal welfare measures and mental health support. It is a significant response to a significant issue—not a panicked cash splash, but a measured and considered response.

As the Deputy Leader of the Government said yesterday, our assistance package is as much about getting the farmers through this drought as it is about setting them up to better manage and survive future droughts. This disciplined approach is no different from our approach to securing a safe, reliable and affordable water supply for Greater Sydney, which is also feeling the effects of the drought. Sydney has experienced extremely dry conditions over the past 15 months, with the first six months of this year being the driest on record. These conditions have seen Greater Sydney's water storages decline, driven by lower than average inflows and higher than average demand. Despite this, as of Tuesday 14 August, storages were two-thirds full—at 66 per cent.

This is not a time for panic or political pointscoring, as we have seen from some. The comments made last week by the member for Kogarah were, I think, ill considered. Some would say that they smacked of trying to spread panic by saying that we could be on the brink of "critical and savage water restrictions being imposed on Sydney's households". Perhaps the member for Kogarah has panicked, but then again those opposite do not have a plan. I assure the House that we do. We have a measured and considered plan to deal with securing Greater Sydney's water supply as storages fall. It is about being prepared, being disciplined, and recognising that small changes in demand can have a big effect on storages. While we cannot make it rain, we can all play a part in making sure we use water wisely, particularly during these prolonged dry periods.

Sydney Water is also ramping up its efforts to reduce water lost from leaks and breaks in its networks. Since reaching a peak under Labor of 190 megalitres lost per day from leaks and breaks, Sydney Water has reduced this by 40 per cent as of last year. In the face of the current dry conditions, Sydney Water has devoted extra resources to get more crews out on the ground, attending to leaks caused by the drought. It has already hired an additional 30 maintenance staff and an additional 20 contract crews to supplement the workforce. With WaterNSW and Sydney Water, the Government will continue to keep a close eye on the situation and act accordingly to secure Greater Sydney's water supply.

### REGIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE

**The Hon. WALT SECORD (14:37):** My question is directed to the Minister for the Arts and Leader of the Government. Given that the Bangarra Dance Theatre, the Australian Theatre for Young People and the Australian Chamber Orchestra have all cancelled regional tours after the Government rejected funding bids, what is the Minister's response to arts community concerns that he has directed Create NSW to redirect funds, which means regional communities will miss out on tours from those companies?

**The Hon. Greg Donnelly:** Excellent question.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (14:38):** That might be the honourable member's opinion, but he is completely wrong. The Hon. Walt Secord's question is not factually based. Once again, he is wrong. We have seen this over and over again in some statements the Hon. Walt Secord has made about the Arts portfolio this week—he has also done it previously, but we will concentrate just on this week. Regional touring has been fully funded, as planned. It was a competitive round with a lot of applicants and some very good people were funded. The member mentioned Bangarra?

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** The Bangarra Dance Theatre, the Australian Theatre for Young People and the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Thank you. The Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Bangarra Dance Theatre are major performing arts groups. They get a three-year funding deal from the Australia Council and Create NSW. As part of their core responsibilities in getting that money, they are required to do a level of touring, and all of them do that. To suggest they have missed out and that tours have been cancelled because of that decision is not the full picture. It was a competitive round.

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** Did the ABC Arts reporter get it wrong too?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Indeed, she did; she needs to go back and check her sources. Let me inform the House about a number of the people who were successful in obtaining regional tour funding in round one and round two. We have heard the Hon. Walt Secord bang on a bit about small companies missing out—

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** You like the big end of town.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** No. The record shows—

**The Hon. Trevor Khan:** Point of order: My point of order is that we are starting question time today as we did yesterday, with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition interjecting.

**The PRESIDENT:** I remind the Hon. Walt Secord that he is already on one call to order. If I had called the member to order for each of his interjections thus far he would have now left the Chamber. This is my final warning.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** In fact, the competitive round of regional tour funding, which in the last financial year exceeded \$400,000, went overwhelming to small and medium companies. The Hon. Walt Secord seems not to have done his research. If he had, he would have realised that Bangarra Dance Theatre got \$74,588. So he is not even right about last year's funding. Last year Bangarra got funding to tour Newcastle and Dubbo. He is not doing his work, not doing his research. The Hon. Walt Secord is wrong again. Some of the successful applicants, for example, were the National Theatre of Parramatta—

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** A wonderful organisation.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** The Merrigong Theatre Company from Wollongong—another good one—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! There are interjections from Opposition and Government members, and the Minister is inciting and responding to interjections. This is my final warning. Those members who continue to interject will be called to order.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** The Ensemble Theatre toured a production to Western Sydney and to interstate venues. It was funded for the regional component of its national tour. That great company does not get one cent of annual funding or multi-year funding. The Ensemble Theatre does great work. [*Time expired.*]

**The Hon. WALT SECORD (14:43):** I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate his answer as to how the Ensemble Theatre visiting Western Sydney and travelling interstate constitutes regional touring?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (14:43):** I do not think the member has been listening. I will read directly from this document:

The funding of \$38,995 for the Ensemble Theatre's tour of *TWO* production was for the New South Wales regional component of the national tour of Ensemble Theatre's *TWO* by Jim Cartwright. The New South Wales regional component has a significant audience reach with—

wait for it—

11 regional venues, 17 performances and a projected audience of over 5,000.

I am reminded of the old saying: Never ask a question unless you know the answer to that question.

### SERVICE DELIVERY AND DISCRIMINATION

**Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (14:44):** My question without notice is directed to the Hon. Don Harwin, representing the Attorney General, the Hon. Mark Speakman. Is the Attorney General aware that Jack Phillips, owner of the Masterpiece Cakeshop in the United States, is again being targeted by vexatious litigation in the United States for refusing to provide a decorated cake against the conscience of its owners? What protections exist in New South Wales to prevent this kind of organised, malicious targeting of businesses and individuals such as by a Mr Burns? What can be done to prevent this kind of legal abuse—known as "lawfare"—which seeks to bankrupt defendants through incessant litigation, such as occurred to Bernard Gaynor, who has had to sell his home. Will the Attorney General consider waiving the legal costs of defendants in cases where they have appealed to a human right, such as freedom of conscience or speech, and have subsequently prevailed in the courts?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (14:45):** The Federal Government has commissioned an inquiry following events last year, which is to be conducted by a panel of people overseen by Philip Ruddock, to look into this exact area. I suspect if anything is required to be done in the area he suggests, then we will see some recommendations before too long. In terms of the question, none of us should belittle the way that marginalised groups feel—

**The Hon. Greg Donnelly:** Here we go.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I am sorry, what was that? Here we go?

**The Hon. Greg Donnelly:** Yes.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I call the Hon. Greg Donnelly to order for the first time. I remind the Minister that he should not respond to interjections.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** None of us should belittle the way that marginalised groups feel when they are denied services. It is simply wrong to pretend it is not an issue. I understand that people also want to feel they have the capacity to exercise their own conscience. Indeed, that is why the Federal Government has sought to have the inquiry. But to pretend there is no issue in terms of people being denied services based on issues such as their race, disability or sexuality is just nonsense.

**The Hon. Trevor Khan:** Or even their religion.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** Or their religion, as the Hon. Trevor Khan says.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I call the Hon. Trevor Khan to order for the first time.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I know that Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile feels very strongly about this issue and I am very happy to refer the question to the Attorney General for a response.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (14:48):** My question is addressed to the Minister for Early Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is helping early childhood education services improve their learning environments?

**The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education) (14:48):** I thank the member for his question. As a father, he has an ongoing interest in the delivery of quality early childhood education to New South Wales children and families. Earlier this year the Liberal-Nationals Government launched the Quality Learning Environments program in recognition of the importance of a safe play environment for our youngest learners. As I have said in this place many times, growth and development throughout a child's early years are significant. Up to 90 per cent of a child's brain develops before the age of five, laying much of the foundation for their future life and learning. More than 370 Quality Learning Environments grants of up to \$15,000 were awarded to community centre based preschools and mobile preschools. That is nearly \$5 million invested by the Liberal-Nationals Government to enhance the quality of preschool environments and contribute to positive experiences and outcomes for children.

Many services will use their Quality Learning Environments grants to enhance the outdoor space for children and improve children's experiences and safety in outdoor play. This will include the instalment of shade sails, play equipment, bike tracks, cubby houses, sandpits and mud kitchens, and upgrades to soft fall. Preschools are also using the grants to improve indoor facilities, enhancing the safety and comfort of the learning environment for children. Indoor enhancements made as a result of this program include bathroom repairs and renovations, plumbing, replacement of carpets and flooring, painting, and installation of blinds and air conditioning.



I had the opportunity to visit a few services that are benefiting from this grants program when I was in the Barwon electorate—which I spoke about earlier this week—with local member Kevin Humphries and Andrew Schier, our Nationals candidate. I was able to see firsthand in Burren Junction that this funding will be used to replace the soft fall in the preschool's playground. Members of the community, parents and children were there to show me, and they were very excited about the soft fall being replaced. In Gilgandra the Quality Learning Environments grant will be used to provide an upgrade to the outdoor environment, including the expansion of the sandpit, the elimination of slipping hazards and the installation of a mud pit area to promote exploration, social and emotional development, and a wide range of learning opportunities for the children.

Condobolin Preschool Kindergarten will be able to purchase furniture and resources to cater for the increased number of children and to furnish spaces to create exciting and inviting play spaces for children. Children in the community of Lake Cargelligo will also see enhancements to their learning space. The service will be able to make improvements to outdoor environments to ensure safety and hygiene through hiring a landscape designer to improve outdoor learning environments for the children.

Across the State, the grants will also be used for the maintenance of outdoor areas, including installing fencing and retaining walls to help contribute to the safety and positive experiences of children attending preschools. Other examples include new solar panels, sheds, decking and garden upgrades. Chicken coops funded by the program will help enhance the learning experiences of children attending the service. Other grants were awarded for services to replace indoor and outdoor furniture such as cabinets, bookcases, and tables and chairs, as identified by those services, to help address safety, health or other functional needs of the services and enhance the positive experiences of the children.

It is important to note that resources enhancing quality environments for children with disability were also funded under this program, such as a hydraulic nappy change table that one service will be able to use to make it a better environment for children with additional needs. This is a great example of how we as a government are committed to ensuring that children in New South Wales can participate in quality early childhood education, no matter where they live or what their circumstances are. These grants have been well received by the preschool sector and we are proud to be able to deliver them.

#### *Visitors*

#### **VISITORS**

**The PRESIDENT:** On behalf of all honourable members, I take this opportunity to welcome into the public gallery a delegation of our colleagues, political leaders from the National Diet, Japan, hosted by representatives of the Australian Political Exchange Council. A number of our colleagues and I had the honour of meeting with them earlier, at 1.00 p.m. Welcome to Legislative Council question time. I know that you just came from question time in the other place. You will find this much better and much more exciting!

I also welcome to the gallery Adrienne Ward, the Hon. Natalie Ward's sister-in-law, who has travelled from Queensland to be here today to observe question time. I hope it is worth the trip.

#### *Questions Without Notice*

#### **PORK INDUSTRY ANIMAL WELFARE**

**The Hon. MARK PEARSON (14:52):** My question is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry. As the Minister is aware, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission [ACCC] has written to Australian pork industry members raising concerns about illegal cartel behaviour by those engaging in the commercially coordinated killing of piglets in order to reduce supply and drive a subsequent increase in the price of pig meat. Is the Minister confident that, as he has stated so frequently, there is no conflict of interest between the interest of New South Wales farmers and the welfare of their animals, given that the ACCC suspects that young animals are being killed purely for the purpose of manipulating market price? Is it reasonable, justifiable and necessary to kill piglets in order to raise market prices?

**The Hon. NIAL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (14:53):** I also welcome the delegation from Japan, one of the key trading partners with the State of New South Wales in a number of our commodities. I thank Japan for its continued relationship with the State of New South Wales, and I welcome the delegation on behalf of members on all sides of the Chamber.

I thank the honourable member for his question; it is an important question. I was aware of those reports from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, which is looking into pork supply in this country and how that may be an issue for the ACCC if some members of the industry are colluding to manipulate the

domestic supply market. I know that some people in the industry have commented about the level of imported products that are coming into this country and how that has created issues within the industry. Obviously, the ACCC is taking a market-based approach when looking into the issue of possible collusion.

As Minister for Primary Industries in New South Wales, I want to ensure that every producer in every sector maintains the high animal welfare standards that we all would like to see in New South Wales—not just members of Parliament but also the average consumer. I am confident that we have the necessary regulatory processes in New South Wales—in particular, through agencies such as the RSPCA—to investigate any animal welfare complaints. If the member has evidence of any animal welfare concerns, I encourage him to report it to the necessary authorities. We will also be monitoring this situation and see what the ACCC investigation discloses. When I saw the same reports I wanted to ensure that we continue to have high animal welfare practice standards in New South Wales. If we hear reports of any animal welfare issues, we too, through my agencies, will make sure that we pass on the information to the relevant authorities, such as the RSPCA, so that they can conduct an investigation.

I sought further information on the matter myself when I became aware of the issue and the fact that the ACCC was looking into it. I await that information with interest. As I said, we want to ensure that we continue to support our New South Wales producers. We know that producers in all our livestock-producing sectors do a very good job. New South Wales is considered a key production market because one of the things we do well is value our high animal welfare standards. I thank the member for his question. We will monitor what the ACCC uncovers and will continue to liaise with the industry and to monitor the situation ourselves. If at any stage we have any concerns, we will ensure that they are passed on to the relevant authority for investigation.

#### **BATEMANS BAY ARTS AND CULTURAL FUNDING**

**The Hon. LYNDIA VOLTZ (14:58):** My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts. Given the Minister's answer yesterday about Batemans Bay arts and cultural funding and in light of the low success rate for round one applicants to the Regional Cultural Fund, how does the Minister explain that part of the \$47 million for round two has already been allocated before the close of applications? Will the Minister guarantee that it is worthwhile for other regional communities even to lodge an application?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (14:58):** If I understood the question correctly—and I will re-read it later—the Hon. Lynda Voltz is saying that some of the \$47 million that is allocated for round two has already been spent. My understanding is that is not the case, and therefore she is wrong.

#### **BROKEN HILL PIPELINE**

**The Hon. RICK COLLESS (14:59):** I address my question to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry. Will the Minister update the House on what the Government is doing to provide water security and support for the drought-stricken community of Broken Hill, and is the Minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr Jeremy Buckingham:** Where is that weir in Wilcannia?

**The Hon. Niall Blair:** Point of order: Members were placed on notice by the Chair at the start of question time about interjections being disorderly. The member has entered the Chamber, when question time is half over, and has interjected on his way in.

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** To the point of order: The clock has been stopped for the Minister to take a point of order. I ask that one minute be deducted from the Minister's time to answer.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Hon. Walt Secord's remarks do not relate to the point of order. The clock has been stopped for a point of order to be taken during question time. I remind the Hon. Walt Secord that he is on one call to order. I call Mr Jeremy Buckingham to order for the first time. The member walked into the Chamber and interjected on two occasions, not one, as the Minister suggested.

**The Hon. NIAL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:01):** I thank the Parliamentary Secretary for his question and note his interest in this matter. This Government is getting on with helping regional communities that are affected by drought. In Broken Hill in the State's far west, the Government is delivering long-term water security through the Broken Hill pipeline. Today we reached an important milestone in the construction of this vital piece of infrastructure. As members would be aware, construction of the 270-kilometre pipeline commenced in January and two mainline construction crews have worked their way along the Silver City Highway.

These two hardworking crews met today and joined two steel pipes, signifying the end of mainline construction of this critical water supply initiative. Some works in Wentworth and Broken Hill are still to be completed, but more than 240 kilometres of Australian steel pipeline has been laid, with less than 20 kilometres remaining. The pace of this construction is amazing and could not come at a better time for this community, which is suffering from extremely dry conditions. With the baseline rate for construction targeted at one kilometre per day, the construction team achieved a record rate of 7.3 kilometres on 30 June. It is smashing records.

The project is well and truly on schedule and WaterNSW has committed to the pipeline being ready for first water by December 2018. This represents an enormous opportunity for not just Broken Hill but the entire Lower Darling. With the pipeline ready for first water in December, WaterNSW can continue releases from Menindee Lakes down the Lower Darling. This may enable some flows down the Lower Darling which otherwise may have ceased. With the entire State affected by drought, this could not come at a better time. Not only has this project delivered water security, it has bankrolled the economies of some of the State's most westerly towns. To date, more than \$25.6 million has been spent by the project on supplies and services in Broken Hill, Wentworth and the surrounding communities. In total, it is estimated the local economies will benefit by up to \$50 million.

When the project commenced, the Government requested that WaterNSW meet set employment targets. It has met the target for local employment, with 150 local people working on the project. Also, it has nearly doubled the Aboriginal employment target, with 47 Aboriginal people working in a number of roles across the project. However, that is not all. With a \$3 million training investment target, the project is focusing on capacity building and upskilling local people in infrastructure delivery. The project currently has 48 trainees working towards the completion of qualifications in areas such as civil construction, business, workplace health and safety, leadership and project management.

This project has brought immediate benefits to both the Wentworth and Broken Hill communities, but the most significant benefits will be long lasting. With the entire State affected by drought, this Government has secured Broken Hill's water security for the future. Unlike those opposite, who have opposed this project the whole way but still have not produced an alternative, this Government is getting on with the job and delivering a pipeline that will ensure the viability of Broken Hill for generations to come. The construction teams have made a massive effort. With this project, these communities will be set up for the future.

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

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** The benefits of this project, which this Government has committed the money to and built, are immediate and also will be long lasting.

#### **PRISONER SAFETY**

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (15:04):** I direct a question to the Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry, in his capacity representing the Minister for Corrective Services. Will the Minister inform the House what review is being undertaken by the Government of the safety of prisoners given the appalling incident of violence at Silverwater Metropolitan Remand Centre upon a key witness in a gangland murder prosecution, which prevented the witness giving evidence in court earlier this week?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:05):** I thank the member for his question, which relates to a case that was brought to light this week. I was with the Premier earlier today when she was asked about this incident and she expressed her concern. I know that the Minister for Corrective Services has requested an investigation of the incident but I do not have the details. I will take the question on notice, refer it to the Minister for Corrective Services and provide the member with an answer.

#### **SYDNEY DESALINATION PLANT**

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (15:06):** My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts. Given Sydney's water supplies are likely to drop below 60 per cent in coming weeks and months, when will the desalination plant be operational?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (15:06):** In response to the drought conditions facing New South Wales, the Government has announced more than \$1 billion in drought relief measures. I spoke about them earlier in question time and I acknowledged the contribution of Minister Blair in that respect. I noted earlier in question time that Greater Sydney is feeling the effects of drought. It is well known in the House that the State is experiencing an extremely dry period and has been for the past 15 months, with the first six months of the year being the driest on record.

These conditions have seen Sydney Water's water storages decline, driven by lower-than-average inflows and higher-than-average demand. Despite this, storages are currently two-thirds full, at 66 per cent. WaterNSW

has advised that should the historically dry conditions prevail there is a chance that storages will reach 60 per cent by the end of this year. However, this is a worst case scenario and assumes a further four to five months of the lowest inflows on record. Conversely, small changes in demand can have a big effect on storages. As the honourable member would know, under the Metropolitan Water Plan the desalination plant is only required to come into operation if the catchments reach 60 per cent. As is also a matter of public record, the desalination plant was affected by a mini tornado at Kurnell some years ago.

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

**The Hon. Walt Secord:** Point of order: My point of order relates to relevance. The question was specific: When will the desalination be operational? It was very simple.

**The Hon. NIAL BLAIR:** To the point of order: I have been listening to the Minister's answer and not only has he been generally relevant but also he has been directly relevant. He has been talking about the desalination plant and the percentage of water storage. There is no point of order. This is just another stunt by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to interrupt question time.

**The Hon. Penny Sharpe:** To the point of order: My point of order relates to the Minister's comment about taking up the time of the Chamber. The Minister is now debating the issue. I did not wish to raise this matter but I cannot let this one go through to the keeper.

**The PRESIDENT:** There is no point of order. The taking of unnecessary points of order invites other members to speak. Members should not take unnecessary points of order. The Minister has been generally relevant in his answer. The Minister has the call.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** As I was saying, there was a mini tornado in Kurnell some years ago which required major repairs to be undertaken on the desalination plant. Fortunately, the plant operator was able to claim the full cost of repairs under insurance and no government funding was required for those repairs. That is good news because it means there was no impact on water bills across metropolitan Sydney. The repairs are now complete. Testing is underway and is scheduled for completion in December. The plant is not required to be commissioned to full production until water storages reach 60 per cent. Bearing in mind that the chances of our water storage getting to 60 per cent are quite low and that the testing process will be finished by December, there will be no difficulty commissioning the plant to ramp it up to full production when that testing is complete in December. *[Time expired.]*

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (15:13):** I ask a supplementary question: Will the Minister elucidate his answer? Will the desalination plant be ready in December to run from day one if we hit 60 per cent of water storages?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (15:13):** I am happy to not run away from that supplementary question even though it is the same question and I have already answered the question.

**The Hon. Penny Sharpe:** No, you have not.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I have answered it. I said that as a result of the repair process the testing will be finished in December.

**The Hon. Penny Sharpe:** What if it is not working?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** That is what testing is all about.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Minister will not respond to interjections. I call the Hon. Don Harwin to order for the first time. I call the Hon. Penny Sharpe to order for the second time.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I deserved to be called to order. I will try to be better in the future. I thought I was clear to the Hon. Penny Sharpe. I said that repairs are finished and the desalination plant is now in the process of being tested. The testing will finish in December and, at that point, it can be ramped up to full production. That is the answer to the member's question. Obviously, at full production, which is at some point after December, it can supply up to 250 megalitres of water a day, or approximately 15 per cent of Sydney's water demand. That is what the desalination plant can do. I reiterate the advice I gave to the Chamber at the beginning of my answer. The best information we have from Sydney Water and WaterNSW is that the chances of that happening are low. I will concede that this is a severe drought—*[Time expired.]*

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, THE ARTS AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION**

**The Hon. NATALIE WARD (15:15):** My question is addressed to the Minister for the Arts. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is promoting science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics [STEAM] education in New South Wales?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (15:15):** I thank the Hon. Natalie Ward for her question on an important issue. New South Wales is blessed with two great scientific cultural institutions—the Australian Museum [AM] and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences [MAS]. The AM and MAS are co-producing the 2018 Sydney Science Festival, which runs until Sunday 19 August 2018. The 2018 festival is the biggest yet, with more than 200 events presented in collaboration with more than 80 science organisations. It showcases Sydney's diverse and multidisciplinary science and innovation community through talks by world-leading researchers and hands-on workshops, exhibitions and family events exploring all areas of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics [STEAM]. The festival aims to encourage an interest in science among the public, particularly among young people. It provides opportunities to highlight Sydney's scientific credentials and foster partnerships between the community, research organisations and industry.

The Powerhouse Museum has hosted "Science Express: The art of STEAM storytelling". The Australian Museum highlights have included Primary School Week and High School Week. The festival also features leading women of the scientific world, thereby encouraging young women to consider a career path in STEAM. Interim audience figures to 14 August 2018 indicate a strong community interest, with more than 35,000 people attending festival events at the MAS and the Australian Museum. A great many of those attendees were for events in Western Sydney. Western Sydney partners and events are featured throughout the Sydney Science Festival, with 18 events held in the west. Program partners include the City of Parramatta, Western Sydney University, Westmead Hospital, Sydney Olympic Park, and the excellent Information and Cultural Exchange, known as ICE. I have visited the organisation based in Parramatta and am extremely impressed with its work. I remember a visit I made to Granville Boys High School, which had a great project.

Participants have the opportunity to learn about the future of cancer treatments and local innovations at Westmead Hospital, tour forensic training facilities at Western Sydney University, and meet the popular science communicator, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. This Government is dedicated to delivering for the people of Western Sydney. It is in everything we do; it is in our DNA. We do not make a special point of servicing the people of Western Sydney as an add-on to government policy. It is at the core of what we believe is the right thing to do. That is why we are investing in a new museum at Parramatta, which will be a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver a State cultural institution for the people of Western Sydney and New South Wales. I remain disappointed that the Opposition is adhering to its backflip and has withdrawn the idea of supporting a new museum at Parramatta. It is a tragic let down of the people of Western Sydney. [*Time expired.*]

**DRAFT COASTAL INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVALS**

**Ms DAWN WALKER (15:19):** My question is directed to the Minister for Primary Industries, representing the Minister for Lands and Forestry. The consultation period for the draft Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals [IFOA] closed just over a month ago on 13 July 2018. Will the submissions be made public, and if not why?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Regional Water, and Minister for Trade and Industry) (15:20):** I thank the member for her question and her concern in this area. I would have thought that she would not be very interested in the detail because we know that The Greens in particular do not want forestry in this State. They would rather see the \$2.4 billion of the forest and product manufacturing industry disappear. They would rather see regional economies wiped off the face of this earth because of their bias towards forestry. The Government is taking a balanced approach through consultation and now The Greens are slightly interested.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I call the Hon. Dawn Walker to order for the first time. I remind the Hon. Rick Colless that he is on one call to order.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** That is not how we do it on this side of the Chamber. We do not want to decimate and wipe out a whole industry. We want to make sure that we get the balance right because we are committed to a long-term—

**Ms Dawn Walker:** The public want a say about forests.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** If Ms Dawn Walker wants to know the answer, listen to what I have to say.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Minister will resume his seat. Ms Dawn Walker was not present in the Chamber when I made my earlier ruling that I will not permit members, and particularly the member who asks the question, to continually interject during a Minister's answer. I call Ms Dawn Walker to order for the second time. As I have indicated previously, Ministers will not respond to interjections and in doing so scream over other members. I call the Hon. Niall Blair to order for the first time. The Minister has the call.

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** The Government is committed to long-term and sustainable management of the New South Wales forestry estate for the benefit of the community, the environment and the State's \$2.4 billion forest and product manufacturing industry. In line with that, the Government has begun public consultation on the new Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals [IFOA], which sets out the management and regulation of our native forestry operations on public land in New South Wales. Consultation has included briefings to environmental and industry stakeholders as well as regional stakeholder consultation events. Regional meetings are being held in Grafton, Port Macquarie, Lismore, Batemans Bay, Narooma and Eden. They are the communities that The Greens want to wipe off the face of New South Wales by attacking their industry.

The consultation process is being independently facilitated by Elton Consulting to ensure all groups have their say. Stakeholders and the community are invited to make submissions via the Environment Protection Agency website. The consultation period ended on Friday 29 June 2018 and the submissions will be made publicly available, unless confidentiality is requested. That is how it is done. On this side of the Chamber, we try to get the balance right. The Government has gone to the communities affected by these changes and it has spoken to environmental groups. It was an open, transparent, independent process for all to come and give an opinion about the Government's proposal. It is about getting the balance right and ensuring a sustainable forestry industry in this State. An alternative that has been advocated is for products to come from overseas jurisdictions that are less regulated and do not have a renewable and sustainable industry as we have in New South Wales. The Greens are advocating for products to come into Australia, particularly from Asia, where there are issues with environmental sustainability.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The Minister will resume his seat. I call Ms Dawn Walker to order for the third time. In accordance with Standing Order 192, I direct the Usher of the Black Rod to remove Ms Dawn Walker from the Chamber. The member is excluded until the termination of the sitting.

*[Pursuant to standing order Ms Dawn Walker left the Chamber, accompanied by the Usher of the Black Rod.]*

**The PRESIDENT:** I call Mr Jeremy Buckingham to order for the third time. In accordance with Standing Order 192, I direct the Usher of the Black Rod to remove Mr Jeremy Buckingham from the Chamber. The member is excluded until the termination of the sitting.

*[Pursuant to standing order Mr Jeremy Buckingham left the Chamber, accompanied by the Usher of the Black Rod.]*

**The PRESIDENT:** I call the Hon. Wes Fang to order for the first time. As I have stated clearly on many occasions, I do not want to direct members to be removed from the Chamber. My priority is to protect the dignity and integrity of the Chair, the Chamber and all members. When I direct that a member is to be removed, members will remain silent. Has the Minister concluded his answer?

**The Hon. NIALL BLAIR:** Yes.

#### SYDNEY DESALINATION PLANT

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (15:26):** My question is directed to the Minister for Resources, and Minister for Energy and Utilities. Two days ago the Premier stated at a press conference that money had been set aside in the most recent New South Wales budget to fix the desalination plant. She also stated that it could take up to eight months for the desalination plant to become operational. Has the Minister just misled the House?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (15:27):** No, I have not. As I stated quite clearly, the full cost of repairs were dealt with under insurance and there was no need for government funding. I said it would take some time to ramp up the desalination plant to full production. The Premier mentioned "eight months". Eight months is one estimate and would be the absolute maximum that it would take to ramp up. From the briefings I have had, it is quite possible that it could be less than that time frame. Full production is the full capacity of the plant, supplying 15 per cent of the total amount of water for Sydney, but water would be available before full capacity was reached. A fixed period cannot be applied to when the plant would be in full production. There are a number of reasons why, but I will give just one of them. Water comes from the ocean into a pipe off Kurnell into the desalination plant—that

is no big surprise. When the plant is not in operation, the caps over the top of those pipes are secured shut. It may come as a surprise to some members of the House—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I remind the Hon. Walt Secord that he is on one call to order.

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** —that it is not easy to open and close the caps. Depending upon the oceanic conditions off Kurnell, it could potentially take the operators weeks to get the optimum amount of stability in the ocean to be able to do the work. It has been put to me that the potential length of time that that might take is up to six weeks, which is obviously a big factor in whether it is eight months or a shorter period. In any case, it will be ramped up to full production, but water will come from the desalination plant well before that.

**The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (15:29):** I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate his answer. Did the New South Wales budget set aside money to fix the desalination plant, as stated by the Premier?

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (15:29):** I have answered that question on two occasions and I have nothing to add to those answers. I have given all of the relevant information as requested by the House about the commissioning of the desalination plant. I still adhere to what I said in answer to the honourable member's first question, which is that Water NSW and Sydney Water have advised me that the chances of the catchments reaching 60 per cent by the end of the year are still quite low, despite the fact that we, of course, have a historically high level of depletion. Based on historical climactic models, the chances of that happening are still regarded by those two bodies as quite low.

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

#### *Deferred Answers*

#### **BATEMANS BAY ARTS AND CULTURAL FUNDING**

**The Hon. DON HARWIN (Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy and Utilities, and Minister for the Arts) (15:31):** On 15 August 2018 the Hon. Lynda Voltz asked me a question about Batemans Bay arts and cultural funding. I thank Hon. Lynda Voltz and the Hon. Walt Secord for the courtesy of supplying a copy of the question so I could get the information quickly for them. I am advised that the Department of Premier and Cabinet is working with Eurobodalla Shire Council on funding for the announcement that was made in March. Applying for the Regional Cultural Fund could form part of that funding mix, but the New South Wales Government offers a suite of funding options out of the regional funds, as I outlined to the House yesterday.

#### *Motions*

#### **AGRICULTURAL SHOWS**

##### **Debate resumed from an earlier hour.**

**The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (15:32):** I support this motion and commend my colleague the Hon. Bronnie Taylor for moving a motion about the importance of agricultural shows in New South Wales. I acknowledge the work she has done. Not only is our State a major driver of the national economy in the services sector, but we are also a key player in the agriculture space. Our State has a proud history of thriving cattle, lamb, wool and wheat industries, which make up a significant portion of total agricultural production. Agriculture is widely dispersed across the eastern two-thirds of our State and our farmers raise approximately one-third of the country's sheep, one-fifth of its cattle and one-third of its pigs. New South Wales also produces a large share of Australia's hay, fruit, legumes, maize, nuts, wool, wheat, oats, oilseeds, rice and poultry.

From the Northern Tablelands to the Southern Highlands, the Tweed to the Hunter, agricultural production plays an important part in local communities. Therefore, it is no surprise that there are just under 200 annual agricultural shows held across New South Wales each year. Now in its eighty-seventh year of operation, the Agricultural Societies Council of New South Wales is the parent body of 195 Agricultural Show Societies across New South Wales, with the primary role of promoting and protecting pastoral, agricultural and horticultural societies in New South Wales. The council does this by offering support, services, development and ideas for growth to their members so that they may host ever improving agricultural shows across different areas and regions of the State.

Agricultural shows serve an important function—they bring local communities together to socialise and exchange ideas, and also offer producers an avenue to promote their products and industrial resources. Shows often have competitive displays where producers can showcase the best animals and rural produce—from prize-winning cattle, sheep and pigs, to fruit and vegetables exhibits, to displays of wood chopping and show jumping, to ploughing demonstrations.

**Debate adjourned.**

*Committees*

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS**

**Establishment and Membership**

**Debated resumed from 7 June 2018.**

**The Hon. ERNEST WONG (15:35):** In reply: I thank honourable members for their attention to this matter. In particular, I thank the Hon. Scott Farlow, Mr Justin Field, the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, the Hon. David Clarke, the Hon. Mark Pearson and the Hon. Shayne Mallard for their contributions to this debate. We are standing at a moment in time, as far as homelessness in this State is concerned. What has been tried in the past six years simply has not worked. The number of people accessing homelessness services in New South Wales has inexorably risen from 48,262 people in 2014-15, to 69,715 in 2015-16 and then to 74,216 in 2016-17. Of the 74,216, 49,477 were still without permanent accommodation by the time their support ended.

It is particularly distressing that, amongst the 74,216 people accessing homelessness services, more than 5,000 were children and young people aged 12 to 18 years seeking support and a place to stay. More than one-third of those children were under 16 years of age, and approximately 700 specifically sought accommodation. The NSW Ombudsman, Michael Barnes, recently made particular reference to the critical area of homeless children. He pointed out that while many homeless children "have suffered abuse or other trauma, which means they require a specialised response", what we currently have are "incomplete operational arrangements for service provision ... [and] unreliable data".

Does all that sound like success? The situation is clearly only getting worse. The argument that I am getting from members on the other side of the House is that the Government now has a strategy with budget funding, but only \$61 million is new funding—and this is over four years. That is just \$15 million a year. What difference will that make? There are only three programs: social impact investment, colocated health services and universal screening. The largest new investment is in social impact investment, but there are questions with this approach in relation to the funding gap subsidy required to ensure that the gap between the capital costs and the rental returns is viable. The previous Social Impact Investment, Youth Foyer, was announced almost four years ago and only contracted last year. It will not provide services to clients until at least 2020. Consequently, the Homelessness Strategy will certainly not end, or even reduce, homelessness.

The strategy is without any additional affordable or social housing, and no supportive housing—internationally recognised prerequisites for reducing homelessness. The Homelessness Strategy has no forward planning or consideration of increased demand, nor any plan of any substance to address this. The Minister's "strategy" simply amounts to a few new projects—bandaid solutions that go nowhere to the goal of solving homelessness in New South Wales. I believe that what I have outlined above covers the arguments raised by the Hon. Scott Farlow, who said that the Government has been developing a homelessness strategy to aid efforts in tackling this heartbreaking problem, and by the Hon. David Clarke, who proclaimed, "We are already solving the issue and putting those things together." A fully functioning inquiry would assist with identifying what additional investment is required, as well as how the existing service system can be improved to address current and future demand.

As rightly said by Mr Justin Field, there is a complete disconnect between what is happening in the New South Wales community and the delivery of the Government's program, which is clearly failing. There is a fundamental lack of integration between service providers for the homeless, despite the fact that integration is the key to effectiveness in providing solutions. This is acknowledged in the Berejiklian Government's Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023, which admits that:

In NSW ... organisations and services remain disconnected, despite recognition of the importance of integration and attempts to promote integrated responses in policy and service delivery ...

This most recently issued statement further acknowledges that as a result of this present state of affairs:

People often have to approach a range of services and repeat their story many times to get the support they need. A lack of ... service integration means ... poorer outcomes for the person.

These quotes are from the Government's own policy statement. But what do we have at the moment from the Government in the form of a solution to this? Nothing but a promise to reduce delivery gaps. Beyond looking at the pressing need for the integration of State-based service provision for the homeless, an inquiry would be able to look at new approaches. [*Extension of time*]

I conclude with a declaration made by the British Conservative member of Parliament Bob Blackman. Unlike members opposite, he decided to take action on homelessness and in 2016 he introduced a bill into the



United Kingdom Parliament which became the Homeless Reduction Act 2017. In explaining why he did so, he said that even "having one single person sleeping rough on our streets is a national disgrace". This man is on the same side of politics as the members who oppose this motion. Homelessness is a serious issue and it is disgraceful of us to play politics with it. There is no reason why members opposite should not give an inquiry the opportunity to look at all the solutions that are available, particularly since the current Government is only offering bandaid solutions. Let us have some heart and some empathy. Let us support an inquiry so we can end the misery of those who need us to help them get out of the severity of the coldness and rain.

Homelessness NSW has released its policy platform for the 2019 State election. It calls for a 10-year plan to end homelessness that includes systematic funding of supportive housing approaches; a focus on ending inner city homelessness; and a focus on prevention, particularly for young people, women, and children experiencing domestic and family violence. These are recommendations for both major political parties to take into consideration in the lead-up to the 2019 State election.

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

**The House divided.**

Ayes .....15  
Noes .....21  
Majority.....6

#### AYES

Donnelly, Mr G (teller)  
Houssos, Mrs C  
Pearson, Mr M  
Secord, Mr W  
Veitch, Mr M

Field, Mr J  
Mookhey, Mr D  
Primrose, Mr P  
Sharpe, Ms P  
Voltz, Ms L

Graham, Mr J  
Moselmane, Mr S (teller)  
Searle, Mr A  
Shoebridge, Mr D  
Wong, Mr E

#### NOES

Amato, Mr L  
Colless, Mr R  
Farlow, Mr S  
Harwin, Mr D  
Maclaren-Jones, Mrs (teller)  
Mason-Cox, Mr M  
Phelps, Dr P

Blair, Mr  
Cusack, Ms C  
Franklin, Mr B  
Khan, Mr T  
Mallard, Mr S  
Mitchell, Mrs  
Taylor, Mrs

Clarke, Mr D  
Fang, Mr W (teller)  
Green, Mr P  
MacDonald, Mr S  
Martin, Mr T  
Nile, Revd Mr  
Ward, Mrs P

**Motion negatived.**

*Adjournment Debate*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Hon. DON HARWIN:** I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

#### ISRAELI MILITARY COURTS

**Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (15:50):** In April last year, I visited the Israeli military courts in the occupied West Bank of Palestine. Those military courts were a gross abuse that anybody familiar with basic legal forms would be affronted by. I urge the members in this House who often cheer Israel, join the uncritical chorus in favour of Israel and ignore the plight of the Palestinian people to visit the military courts that exist in occupied Palestine.

Just before I entered the Chamber, I had the benefit of a briefing from Gerard Horton, one of the founders of Military Court Watch, and Salwa Duaibis, one of the key workers at Military Court Watch. They have come to Australia to try to get some balance into the discussion by members of Parliament and public figures in Australia on the issue of Israel and Palestine. Gerard and Salwa tell me that in the United Kingdom, approximately 10 per cent of members of Parliament have visited and seen for themselves the reality of the Israeli military courts that operate in the occupied West Bank of Palestine.

When visiting the courts, one cannot help but be affronted by the gross abuse of human rights that occurs on a daily basis. For a start, the military courts are convened in shipping containers. The court process involves a military judge—often an Israeli major or similar—in military uniform, a military prosecutor and military court attendants. Sometimes three, four or five Palestinians are brought in with maybe three or four other lawyers, an additional court attendant and an interpreter—all in one half of a shipping container. And the cases cycle through in a chaotic way. Cases start and finish, start and finish. The entire process is conducted in Hebrew.

The Palestinians who are brought before these things that call themselves courts clearly do not understand the foreign language in which the court is operating. I have seen for myself that the Hebrew-Arabic interpreter sitting in the court interprets maybe one word in five or six as this chaotic cycle of submissions and comments and references occurs in this half of a shipping container on Palestinian land occupied by the Israeli military. Year on year, the successful prosecution rates range from between 95 per cent to 99 per cent.

One reason I went to see the operation of the military courts is that so many Palestinian children are prosecuted in them. Almost to a person, the children who are brought before these military courts are arrested within 800 metres of an illegal settlement in the West Bank—settlements that are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention. One of the most offensive things about the operation of these military courts is when you enter, they give you a briefing paper about what they describe as the Military Courts Unit of Judaea and Samaria—ignoring the fact of Palestine in the statement of the courts. They give you a briefing that says these courts are established in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention—the very convention that is flouted by Israel with the illegal settlements, which are in gross breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. It is the settlements themselves that cause the arrest of children and other Palestinians in the zone of conflict between the settlements and Palestinian villages.

The data that Military Court Watch has just produced shows that at any given time between 200 and 400 Palestinian children are taken from their families, often in the dark of night with no prior warning. Parents are not told what the charges are. The children are whisked away and taken to court and it can be two to six days before the parents even find out the charges against the children. And what are the charges? Normally that they threw some rocks or they incited on Facebook. If they do not plead on the first attendance, it can be three months before they come on for trial. Children are routinely held without legal counsel and without their parents in these grossly unfair military courts. Before another member of Parliament gets up here and touts the benefits of Israel and the Israeli occupation, they should visit these military courts and see the obscene abuses of human rights. Let us get some perspective in this debate.

#### WESTERN SYDNEY INFRASTRUCTURE

**The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (15:56):** As the New South Wales economy goes from strength to strength, there can be no doubt that Western Sydney is the centre of this growth. The 2018 New South Wales budget puts in motion the Government's plans for Western Sydney to expand. As the Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, has stated:

...building for the Western Sydney of tomorrow, while delivering for its people today.

In particular, I welcome the recent budget announcements benefiting the electorate of Londonderry in the heart of Western Sydney. What is good for Western Sydney is good for Londonderry. The New South Wales budget allocates a record \$2 billion to rail and road infrastructure in the Western Sydney region, including the electorate of Londonderry. This includes an allocation of \$130 million to continue the construction of the M4 Smart Motorway, with improved access from St Marys, serving the community of Western Sydney and Londonderry—a key hub to Londonderry.

Rail investments in the region include \$648 million for infrastructure and the purchase of a new rail fleet to service Western Sydney. The Government is also acting on plans to realise the 30-minute city ambition, including for Western Sydney, starting with the \$100 million joint funding commitment between the New South Wales and Commonwealth governments to support the business case for the North South Rail Link. This is a game-changer for jobs for outer Western Sydney residents, especially in Londonderry. Stage 1 of the new rail link will run from St Marys to the Badgerys Creek aerotropolis via the new Western Sydney Airport, connecting to the existing T1 Western train line at St Marys—a key hub servicing the electorate of Londonderry. This ambitious project will connect passengers and future employees to the new Western Sydney Airport and the Western Sydney parkland city centre at Badgerys Creek/Bringelly.

The Government is investing in the future for local employment opportunities, benefiting the Londonderry community. One way that the Government is investing in employment for the people of Western Sydney is by laying the foundations to deliver the Western Sydney Airport, a state-of-the-art gateway to the world, and to build around it an aerotropolis of jobs, industry and innovation. This is expected to generate around 28,000

jobs and sustain local communities for generations to come—up to 60,000 jobs directly and indirectly generated over the next generation.

In addition, the Government is working with the Commonwealth Government to fund the \$3.6 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan, which includes major road upgrades to support the Western Sydney Airport and working on the rail connection. At the local level, the budget sets aside \$2 million for roadworks on Mamre Road, St Marys and The Northern Road at Llandilo. The budget also includes more than \$5 million in grants to local councils in the area for road and lighting upgrades.

The New South Wales Government is working hard to fix the mess that Labor made of the Nepean Hospital. It has announced the largest investment in the hospital's history. More than \$1 billion for the Nepean Hospital has been announced, with \$576 million for stage 1 of the Nepean Hospital upgrade and \$450 million for stage 2. Of course, I was born at the Nepean Hospital; I am very proud of this announcement. Nepean Hospital car park will also be upgraded at an estimated cost of \$26 million.

I wish to correct the record with respect to comments made by the member for Londonderry about the allocation of major works spending in relation to the new school at Jordan Springs. The member for Londonderry posted an image of the budget papers on her Facebook page telling the public that Jordan Springs public school would receive nothing in the budget. That is not true. Anyone who can read the budget papers can see that it is on the program. The Government will be going to market for contractors to bid for the work on the projects, including Jordan Springs public school. To allow for competitive bidding, the Government does not list how much we have budgeted for each project but the budget still lists the projects—that is budget reading 101.

I have been informed by the Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon. Stuart Ayres, that construction on Jordan Springs public school will begin later this year once a contract has been awarded. The member for Londonderry seems rather confused. Perhaps she has been distracted from working for her constituents. She clearly has some serious questions to answer about the appalling public political assassination of the Federal member for Lindsay.

**The Hon. Greg Donnelly:** Point of order: The Hon. Shayne Mallard is reflecting upon a member in the other place. He has clearly launched an attack on that member.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** I have heard enough.

**The Hon. Greg Donnelly:** As you know, Mr Deputy President, I can talk through the member's contribution.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** Order! If the Hon. Greg Donnelly makes threats he will be called to order. We will not have a repeat of what we went through last session. The Hon. Shayne Mallard will not reflect upon a member of the other place.

**The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD:** I quote from a report that appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 8 August, which states:

The bitter Emma Husar row has spread, with Ms Husar accusing a State Labor parliamentary colleague—understood to be shadow minister Prue Car—of deliberately 'isolating' her and excluding her from media events within her own electorate.

**The Hon. Greg Donnelly:** Point of order: The Hon. Shayne Mallard is clearly continuing to reflect upon a member of the other place by reading an article from a newspaper.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** The Hon. Shayne Mallard will not reflect upon a member of the other place.

**The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD:** Clearly the member for Londonderry has been too busy undermining her Labor colleague and is now preparing to run for the seat of Lindsay—

**The Hon. Greg Donnelly:** Point of order—

**The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD:** —and not represent the people of Londonderry.

**The Hon. Greg Donnelly:** The member is clearly flouting your ruling.

**The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (The Hon. Trevor Khan):** I call the Hon. Shayne Mallard to order for the first time.

## ABORTION

**The Hon. GREG DONNELLY (16:01):** I appreciate that we are not in Victoria and that the majority of members in this House support a football code other than the Australian Football League [AFL]. However, we are fast approaching the finals and the grand final on the last Saturday in September at the Melbourne Cricket

Ground [MCG]. The AFL final rounds attract 80,000-plus fans at most games and the grand final close to or just over 100,000 fans. All those Australians come together in the one place at the one time, peacefully and with a great sense of tradition, team loyalty and fun, and barrack their heads off and shout themselves hoarse up to and even after the final siren.

The number 80,000 to 100,000—and an almost full or full MCG—also resonates in another way. It represents what is generally accepted as the range of surgical and medical abortions that take place in Australia each year. As there is no systematic collection of this health data, the best that can be identified is a range. Some argue the true figure is closer to the lower end of the range while others submit that the larger number is closer to the mark. In any event, whether it is the lower figure, higher figure or somewhere in between, it is a large number.

I appreciate full well that the mere raising of this issue makes a number of people in this Parliament feel uncomfortable. Given that New South Wales represents approximately one-third of the Commonwealth of Australia, from a population point of view one can divide those figures by three to get a rough estimate of the number of pregnancy terminations that take place in this State each year. However, in a week when a member of this House asked a question without notice of a Minister about the death of 68 koalas on the Pacific Highway in northern New South Wales since 2013, I ask myself how unreasonable is it to raise two issues relating to abortion in this State?

I have spoken in this House before about the appalling practice of female gendercide. I ask members to close their eyes and think about this for a moment: Between 1970 and 2010, sex selection and postnatal excess female mortality due to discrimination resulted in an estimated 126 million women "missing" worldwide. As I have outlined to the House previously, there is clear evidence that this dreadful practice is happening in Australia, and indeed in this State. The SBS radio programs on this issue broadcast on 31 July, 1 to 6 August and 17 August 2015 provided significant insights into the practice.

This afternoon I draw to the attention of the House new research that explores to a whole new level the issue of male-biased sex ratios in this country. That research, which was published recently in the prestigious *International Journal of Epidemiology*, is entitled "Male-biased sex ratios in Australia migrant populations: a population-based survey of 1,191,250 births 1999-2015". As we know from science, the naturally occurring male-to-female ratio is 1.05. Higher, and in some cases much higher, figures in certain population cohorts indicate that interventions are occurring that—using plain English—are culling female foetuses. Ongoing advances in genetic testing and ultrasound technology are making this not only cheaper but also more readily available. The exact number of foetuses aborted in Australia because they are female is not known. All one can say is that it is truly shocking that any abortions are taking place in Australia because of the sex of the foetus.

Not unrelated to this is the practice—I will return to discuss it in more detail on another occasion—of aborting foetuses because they have, or may have, Down syndrome. Honourable members may have read over the past 12 months media coverage of Iceland reporting publicly that it was on track to "eradicate" Down syndrome in that country. However, with just one or two children—I repeat, one or two children—born with Down syndrome in Iceland each year, in truth they are not eliminating it; they are killing everyone who has it. While the figures in Australia are nothing like those of Iceland, the practice of aborting foetuses in Australia, and indeed in New South Wales, because they have or may have that additional chromosome in their cells is commonplace.

The fact that many women who receive a diagnosis of Down syndrome during their pregnancy then go on to receive either poor or very poor prenatal care should be a source of much soul-searching for medical and health professionals in this country. The two specific issues that I have raised this afternoon deserve the attention of this Parliament and other legislatures in Australia. I encourage that deliberation.

## DROUGHT

**The Hon. RICK COLLESS (16:06):** As Dorothea Mackellar said in her famous poem *My Country*, published in 1908:

I love a sunburnt country,  
A land of sweeping plains  
Of ragged mountain ranges,  
Of droughts and flooding rains,

...

Her beauty and her terror—  
The wide brown land for me!

That sums up the situation now being faced in New South Wales—pretty severe drought. As Dorothea Mackellar outlined in 1908, there is nothing new about pretty severe droughts. My family has a long history in western New South Wales. My grandfather was born in 1899 at a little place called Ford's Bridge—about 100 kilometres west of Bourke in north-western New South Wales. He was born during the period of New South Wales history known

as the Millennium Drought. In 1901 a terrible bushfire completely burnt the family out, and they lost everything. So they walked off and never went back. That was the nature of droughts and fires in those days because they did not have the fire management practices we have today.

My father tells a story of a drought in the 1930s when the temperature did not drop below 100 degrees Fahrenheit for more than three consecutive weeks—day or night. My dad is still alive—he is 92 years old—and he has lived through many droughts on the land. The climate people talk now about the hottest temperatures on record but to have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit consistently for more than three consecutive weeks is a pretty severe drought. The first drought I remember was in 1967. That was also a very severe drought—it did not rain for most of that year. At that time my father and mother were on the land up on the Northern Tablelands and I was away at school in Tamworth. I remember worrying about my father's physical and mental health because he was either feeding stock or carting water to them for 12 hours a day, and he did not have a day off for 18 months.

So there is nothing new about this drought. Is it severe? Absolutely it is severe. Is it more severe than some of the other droughts that New South Wales has been through? I do not know that it is. In 1982 I was working in Gunnedah and that year there were sand dunes forming along the roadsides and fences were covered with sand. In the beautiful black soil Liverpool Plains is an area called Goran Lake, which is a lake when it rains but is empty when it is dry. The wind formed black soil sand dunes in Goran Lake because there was absolutely no ground cover and no moisture in the soil.

There is nothing new about these conditions. But we need to work out where we will go from here if this drought continues. If we miss a normal seasonal rainfall event it automatically puts us into about an 18-month drought. If we miss a second seasonal rainfall event, it is a three-year drought. If we miss a third seasonal rainfall event, it becomes a 4½-year drought. We are in a situation now where we could be facing a four-plus year drought. If that does come to pass, I fear greatly that the Government will find it very difficult to provide support and assistance not only to farming communities but also to the small business community—and not just in small regional towns. It will affect even the larger regional towns, and eventually the major cities as well.

What do we plan to do? That is a challenge for the Government and the Opposition. Everybody who is involved in the political system in New South Wales, and in all of Australia for that matter, needs to address as a major issue how we move forward if the drought lasts for another—perish the thought—12 months or even 18 months or more.

#### **LABOR UNION MULTICULTURAL ACTION COMMITTEE AND VIC ALHADEFF**

**The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE (16:11):** There comes a point when one has to stand up and defend oneself in the face of mischievous behaviour. Today I say a few words about the Vic Alhadeff affair. Here is the absolute truth of the matter in black and white. As the convenor of the newly formed action committee, the Labor Union Multicultural Action Committee, I saw the importance of bringing together unions, the Labor Party and our Labor Action Committees to build bridges, improve lines of communication, facilitate an exchange of information, share collective knowledge and use that knowledge to advance party policies.

The venue was the Labor movement's Trades Hall in Sussex Street. As convenor and facilitator, I sent out invitations to unions and Labor members of Parliament to join us at the launch. Furthermore, my office obtained from our party office all 18 email addresses of the Labor Action Committees and invited all of them. Included on that list was the Labor Israel Action Committee. No party unit was excluded: All invitees were either Labor members, union members or Labor Action Committee members. This was a Labor Party event. It was not a multicultural function to which any member outside those Labor union action groups would be invited.

On the night of the event, as people were coming through to the venue, Mr Vic Alhadeff walked in. Greetings were exchanged and Mr Alhadeff asked me, "Is this the multicultural function?" I replied, "This is a Labor Party meeting" and explained the background of the meeting. He then talked to others in attendance and, after a little while, Mr Alhadeff said, "As it is a Labor meeting, Mr Danby is coming and I will go." I invited him to have some refreshments; he declined and left. That was it. The following morning I was shocked to hear from Andrew Clennell that I had denied Mr Alhadeff entry to a Labor Party meeting. Mr Alhadeff claimed that it was "concerning" he did not receive an initial invite from the party until after he requested it.

No Chinese, Indian, Pakistani, Greek, Italian or Arabic community leaders were invited, or even demanded an invitation. Mr Alhadeff said, "It made no sense for him to exclude the CEO of the Jewish Board of Deputies when we represent the Jewish community". The implication is that he was denied access to a Labor Party meeting because he was Jewish and, worse still, that this was done by a Muslim. I was therefore instantly assumed guilty, and was the subject of persecution by the media. No member of the Australian Labor Party was denied entry—in fact, a number of members of the Jewish faith who are members of the Labor Israel Action Committee,

including Mr Byron Danby, the Political Engagement Manager of the Jewish Board of Deputies, were invited and were present.

To insinuate that people of the Jewish faith were excluded is nothing but malicious. The truth is that I never turned away Mr Vic Alhadeff—or anyone, for that matter. Mr Alhadeff opted to leave. The truth also is that Mr Alhadeff never disclosed when he was talking to me that he was invited by the party office or by the party general secretary to a party meeting. I wonder why? I was not aware of his invitation; his invitation was not communicated to me—in fact, it was only brought to my attention after the meeting closed. Even during the meeting no-one raised any issue that may have caused them any concern—neither Mr Danby, who represents the Jewish Board of Deputies, nor anyone else. I am not sure whether Mr Alhadeff had an agenda. I will leave that to the judgement of the House.

#### **CANCER COUNCIL RELAY FOR LIFE**

**The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (16:16):** This afternoon I speak briefly on the Cancer Council's Relay for Life and commend the Cancer Council for its ongoing work and tremendous contribution to this important cause. Relay for Life is an opportunity for communities to recognise and celebrate those who have overcome cancer or who are undergoing treatment, as well as to acknowledge the family, friends and carers who support them. It is events such as Relay for Life that give us the chance to remember all those who have lost their lives to cancer, and to ensure that their memory lives on.

Relay for Life began in Australia in 1999, and since then it has been celebrated each year by thousands of Australians who participate in more than 200 relays across the nation to show their support. For many, this is in memory of a loved one lost to cancer; for some, it is a way of showing how they overcame their own battle with cancer; and for others, it is a chance to be involved and to show their support to their community. Relay for Life stands as a nationwide testament to the support that Australians have for those who have felt the harsh reality of cancer.

It is never easy to hear when a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer but, through events such as Relay for Life, the Cancer Council continues to raise funds and to offer support for those affected by cancer when they need it most. Through the nationwide support of Relay for Life, more than \$100 million has been raised through the charity event since its inception. The tireless efforts of the Cancer Council over the past 20 years have improved the lives of more than 61,000 Australians and saved countless others from the threat of cancer. The funds that are raised through Relay for Life are dedicated to improving screening and cancer prevention methods, as well as contributing to research into new technologies and cancer treatments.

Last year, the Hills Relay for Life raised \$320,00, which will make a significant difference. The relay was held at the Castle Hill Showground and was supported by The Hills Shire Council along with the Castle Hill RSL Club, the Rotary Club of Norwest Sunrise and a number of other local community organisations. The Hills Relay for Life was also supported by local State and Federal members of Parliament and local schools, including Castle Hill High School. Members of The Hills branch of Soroptimists International, who have been strong supporters of students across New South Wales, were also involved quite significantly and organised morning tea during all the events. I commend to the House the incredible work of the Cancer Council and its Relay for Life events, and I encourage others to get involved in Relay for Life next year.

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

**Motion agreed to.**

**The House adjourned at 16:19 until Tuesday 18 September 2018 at 14:30.**