



New South Wales

Legislative Council

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Tuesday, 6 August 2019

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, 6 August 2019

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. John George Ajaka) took the chair at 14:30.

The PRESIDENT read the prayers and acknowledged the Gadigal clan of the Eora nation and its Elders and thanked them for their custodianship of this land.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2019

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2019

CRIMES (ADMINISTRATION OF SENTENCES) AMENDMENT (INMATE BEHAVIOUR) BILL 2019

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2019

AGEING AND DISABILITY COMMISSIONER BILL 2019

STATE REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2019

Assent

The PRESIDENT: I report receipt of messages from the Governor notify Her Excellency's assent to the bills.

Judiciary

JUDICIAL COMMISSION

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

MR PRESIDENT

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

That, pursuant to clause 4 of Schedule 2A of the Judicial Officers Act 1986:

- (1) This House nominates Mr Kenneth Edward Moroney, AO, APM, and Professor Nalini Joshi, AO, as community representatives for appointment to a panel of the Conduct Division of the Judicial Commission of New South Wales.
- (2) A message be sent requesting the Legislative Council's concurrence in the nominations.

Legislative Assembly
30 July 2019

JONATHAN O'DEA
Speaker

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That consideration of the Legislative Assembly's message stand an order of the day for the next sitting day.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

PLANNING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2019

First Reading

Bill received from the Legislative Assembly, and read a first time and ordered to be printed on motion by the Hon. Don Harwin.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That standing orders be suspended to allow the passing of the bill through all its remaining stages during the present or any one sitting of the House.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That the second reading of the bill stand an order of the day for a later hour of the sitting.

Motion agreed to.*Documents***LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION****Reports**

The PRESIDENT: According to the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Act 2016, I table the following reports of the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission:

1. Report entitled *Operation Errigal*, dated June 2019, received out of session and authorised to be made public on 25 June 2019.
2. Report entitled *Operation Chivero*, dated June 2019, received out of session and authorised to be made public on 25 June 2019.
3. Report entitled *Operation Rozzano*, dated June 2019, received out of session and authorised to be made public on 25 June 2019.
4. Report entitled *Operation Kariba*, dated June 2019, received out of session and authorised to be made public on 25 June 2019.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.**CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM****Reports**

The PRESIDENT: According to the Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993, I table the following reports of the NSW Child Death Review Team:

1. Report entitled *Biennial report of the deaths of children in New South Wales: 2016 and 2017—Incorporating reviewable deaths of children*, dated June 2019, received out of session and authorised to be made public on 25 June 2019.
2. Report entitled *Review of suicide clusters and evidence-based prevention strategies for school-aged children*, dated June 2019, received out of session and authorised to be made public on 25 June 2019.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.**FORESTRY AGREEMENTS AND INTEGRATED FORESTRY OPERATIONS APPROVALS****Amendments**

The PRESIDENT: According to the Forestry Act 2012, I announce receipt of amendment No. 7 to the integrated forestry operations approval for the Riverina Red Gum dated 20 June 2019, together with a statement of reasons, received out of session and authorised to be made public on 5 July 2019.

INSPECTOR OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**Reports**

The PRESIDENT: According to the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988, I table a special report of the Inspector of the Independent Commission Against Corruption entitled *Report concerning a complaint by the Australian Labor Party (NSW Branch) and Country Labor about the conduct of the Independent Commission Against Corruption in investigating political donations received by these parties (Special Report 20/01)*, dated July 2019, received out of session and authorised to be made public on 17 July 2019.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.*Motions***WIN TV NEWSROOM CLOSURES IN REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES**

The Hon. WES FANG (14:36): I move:

1. That this House notes that:

- (a) WIN TV will shut down three newsrooms in regional New South Wales including Wagga Wagga, Orange and Albury;
 - (b) it is estimated that the closures will affect 30 to 40 staff across the local television news services;
 - (c) regional areas rely on local broadcasting for their daily news and any cut to these services represents a devastating blow to the community; and
 - (d) this decision to cut three newsrooms in regional New South Wales is a tragedy for local communities and represents a sad day for news services.
2. That this House condemns the decision by WIN TV as a blatant, cold cost-cutting measure made during one of this State's worst droughts.
 3. That this House calls on WIN TV to reverse this decision.

Motion agreed to.

LUCINDA BROGDEN, AM

The Hon. NATALIE WARD (14:37): I move:

1. That this House notes:
 - (a) the important and tireless contribution made by Mrs Lucinda Brogden, AM, in improving mental health in the workplace, as a champion of suicide prevention and mental health awareness;
 - (b) Mrs Brogden's extensive experience in psychology and strong commitment to helping others improve mental health and build stronger communities;
 - (c) her positive impact in improving workplaces and communities through an evidence-based approach to problem solving and social investment;
 - (d) her outstanding contribution to the promotion of mental health, prevention and treatment of mental illness through advocacy, research and service, and recognition of the work of others in this important area; and
 - (e) Mrs Brogden's work as Chair of the National Mental Health Commission, Patron of Partners in Depression, and Patron of Lifeline Northern Beaches.
2. That this House congratulates Mrs Lucinda Brogden, AM, on being appointed to the Order of Australia as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Motion agreed to.

HMAS NEWCASTLE

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (14:37): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
 - (a) on 12 June 2019, the HMAS *Newcastle* visited its namesake city for the final time;
 - (b) the ship exercised its Right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Newcastle at a ceremony and march through the streets on 15 June 2019;
 - (c) the HMAS *Newcastle* will be decommissioned on 30 June 2019 after more than 25 years of service in the Royal Australian Navy;
 - (d) HMAS *Newcastle* is named after the City of Newcastle and is the first Royal Australian Navy ship to carry this name;
 - (e) the ship has been deployed in support of peacekeeping operations in East Timor and the Solomon Islands and Operation Catalyst in the Persian Gulf;
 - (f) the Right of Freedom of Entry was granted to the ship by the City of Newcastle in 1995 and is the highest honour that a city can bestow on a ship or military unit; and
 - (g) a seven-gun salute was fired from Fort Scratchley on its arrival and departure on 18 June 2019.
2. That this House congratulates the HMAS *Newcastle* and its crew on a quarter of a century of dedicated service to Australia.

Motion agreed to.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (14:38): I seek leave to amend private members' business item No. 126 outside the order of precedence standing in my name for today by omitting all words after, "That this House notes" and inserting instead:

1. "that 20 June 2019 is World Refugee Day.
2. That this House acknowledges the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees around the world.

3. That this House recognises that from 1 July 2018 to 1 June 2019 New South Wales has successfully settled over 4,000 humanitarian entrants from 31 different countries, which is 36 per cent of all humanitarian arrivals in Australia."

Leave granted.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Accordingly, I move:

1. That this House notes that 20 June 2019 is World Refugee Day.
2. That this House acknowledges the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees around the world.
3. That this House recognises that from 1 July 2018 to 1 June 2019 New South Wales has successfully settled over 4,000 humanitarian entrants from 31 different countries, which is 36 per cent of all humanitarian arrivals in Australia.

Motion agreed to.

ALASTAIR MCEWIN, AM

The Hon. NATALIE WARD (14:39): I move:

1. That this House notes:
 - (a) the important and tireless contribution made by Mr Alastair McEwin, AM, in advocating for people with disabilities;
 - (b) Mr McEwin's extensive experience in the area, championing disability awareness through his role as Manager for the Australian Centre for Disability Law, Chief Executive Officer of People with Disability Australia Inc. and Disability Discrimination Commissioner for Australian Human Rights Commission;
 - (c) his positive influence in the disability, human rights and not-for-profit area; and
 - (d) Mr McEwin's outstanding track record in delivering outcomes for disability rights and access to justice across the non-profit, legal, government, corporate and professional services sectors.
2. That this House congratulates Mr Alastair McEwin, AM, on being appointed to the Order of Australia as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Motion agreed to.

SURF LIFE SAVING FAR NORTH COAST BRANCH

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (14:39): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
 - (a) the Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch Sixteenth Annual Awards of Excellence was held on 15 June 2019;
 - (b) the awards celebrate outstanding achievements and formally end the successful 2018-19 season for Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch as well as its affiliated clubs and groups; and
 - (c) the Far North Coast Branch consists of 10 surf life saving clubs from Yamba to Fingal Head.
2. That this House congratulates the winners of this year's Awards of Excellence for:
 - (a) Surf Lifesaver of the Year - Rod Anderson - Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore SLSC;
 - (b) Volunteer of the Year - Paul Irwin - Byron Bay SLSC;
 - (c) Club of the Year - Cudgen Headland SLSC;
 - (d) Assessor of the Year - Steven Perris - Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore SLSC;
 - (e) Trainer of the Year - Maryanne Sewell - Byron Bay SLSC;
 - (f) Administrator of the Year - Cath Dougherty - Yamba SLSC;
 - (g) Facilitator of the Year - Sue Eke - Cudgen Headland SLSC;
 - (h) Official of the Year - Harry Klouzal - Cudgen Headland SLSC;
 - (i) Coach of the Year - Scott McCartney - Cudgen Headland SLSC;
 - (j) Male Athlete of the Year - Luke Chaffer - Cudgen Headland SLSC;
 - (k) Female Athlete of the Year - Anthea Warne - Cudgen Headland SLSC;
 - (l) Masters Athlete of the Year - Robert Brown - Brunswick SLSC;
 - (m) Surf Sports Team of the Year - Yamba Boilers Boat Crew;
 - (n) Youth Lifesaver of the Year - Holly Clements - Salt SLSC;
 - (o) Services Team of the Year - FNCB Duty officers;
 - (p) Patrol of the Year - Patrol 10 - Ballina Lighthouse and Ballina SLSC;

- (q) Patrol Captain of the Year - Kaitlin Smith - Cudgen Headland SLSC;
 - (r) Youth Volunteer of the Year - Aidan Yourell - Evans Head Casino SLSC;
 - (s) Jacob Lollback Interbranch Award - Cahrizma Macdonald-Cass - Cabarita Beach SLSC;
 - (t) Cadet Life Saver - Kieren Nugent - Brunswick SLSC;
 - (u) President's Trophy - Adam Mills - Cudgen Headland SLSC;
 - (v) Point Score - Cudgen Headland SLSC;
 - (w) Pool Rescue Point Score - Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore SLSC;
 - (x) JAC Club of the Year - Salt SLSC;
 - (y) Education Club of the Year - Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore SLSC;
 - (z) Administration Club of the year - Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore SLSC;
 - (aa) Surf Sports Club of the Year - Cudgen Headland SLSC; and
 - (ab) Life Saving Club of the Year - Byron Bay SLSC.
3. That this House congratulates the Surf Life Saving Far North Coast Branch on its successful 2018-19 season and its continued efforts to increase lifesaving standards across the region.
 4. That this House acknowledges the importance of Surf Life Saving NSW to keeping our beaches safe throughout the State and sincerely thanks all volunteer surf lifesavers for their extraordinary commitment to protecting our community.

Motion agreed to.

RIVERINA REGION NSW TRAINING AWARDS

The Hon. WES FANG (14:40): I move:

1. That this House notes that the Riverina Region NSW Training Awards were held in Wagga Wagga on Friday 14 June 2019.
2. That this House acknowledges the importance of Training Services NSW as a valuable learning resource to launch careers.
3. That this House congratulates all finalists and in particular acknowledges the following winners:
 - (a) Samuel Heffernan, Trainee of the Year;
 - (b) Grace Mattingly, VET in Schools Student of the Year;
 - (c) Amber Parr, School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year;
 - (d) Claire Gibbs, Vocational Student of the Year;
 - (e) Patricia Espie-Whitburn, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year; and
 - (f) Evan Gargaro, Apprentice of the Year.

Motion agreed to.

Documents

TABLED PAPERS NOT ORDERED TO BE PRINTED

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: According to standing order, I table a list of all papers tabled since 4 June 2019 and not ordered to be printed.

TABLING OF PAPERS

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

Progress report of the New South Wales Government entitled *NSW Annual Report on Progress Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*, dated December 2018.

I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Committees

LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Reports

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: I table the following reports of the Legislation Review Committee:

1. Report entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 1/57*, dated 6 August 2019.
2. Report entitled *Legislation Review Digest No. 2/57*, dated 6 August 2019.

I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.

SELECTION OF BILLS COMMITTEE

Reports

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (14:42): I table report No. 21 of the Selection of Bills Committee, dated 6 August 2019. I move:

That the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: According to paragraph 4 (1) of the resolution establishing the Selection of Bills Committee, I move:

1. That:
 - (a) the provisions of the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019 be referred to the Standing Committee on Social Issues for inquiry and report;
 - (b) the bill be referred to the committee upon receipt of the message on the bill from the Legislative Assembly;
 - (c) that the committee report by Tuesday 20 August 2019; and
 - (d) on the report being tabled, a motion may be moved immediately for the first reading and printing of the bill and that the bill proceed through all remaining stages according to standing and sessional orders.
2. That the following bills not be referred to a standing committee for inquiry and report, this day:
 - (a) Planning Legislation Amendment Bill 2019;
 - (b) Fines Amendment Bill 2019;
 - (c) Transport Administration Amendment (RMS Dissolution) Bill 2019; and
 - (d) Privacy and Personal Information Protection Amendment (Notification of Serious Violations of Privacy by Public Sector Agencies) Bill 2019.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (14:44): I move:

That the motion be amended by omitting "Tuesday 20 August 2019" and inserting instead "10 November 2019".

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD (14:44): The Greens oppose referral of the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019 to any inquiry, let alone to one that does not report until November. The campaign for termination of pregnancy, which is a health issue, has been going on for decades. Public debate has been raging for 119 years. We already know that the bill has the resounding support of the social, legal and medical sectors, and we already know that there is opposition to reproductive healthcare reform from various churches, religious organisations and socially conservative organisations. We do not believe an inquiry will tell us anything that decades of debate has not. The delay would put the women of New South Wales through further unnecessary trauma as we give a platform to people who would rather shame and slander us for the choices we make about our bodies.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN (14:45): I oppose Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile's amendment. When this matter came before the Selection of Bills Committee, there were two motions: one moved by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile and one moved by my good self. Both motions suggested a referral to the Standing Committee on Social Issues. On that point I am certainly in disagreement with Ms Abigail Boyd: It is quite appropriate that this matter be ventilated before the social issues committee. That is why when the Select Committee on the Legislative Council Committee System, referred to as the "committee on committees" and chaired by the Hon. Scott Farlow, made recommendations for the establishment of the Selection of Bills Committee; it was always contemplated that contentious bills could be referred for inquiry to allow consideration of the contents of the bill. That is precisely what is contemplated on this occasion.

However, I agree with Ms Abigail Boyd that, plainly, there has been great ventilation of this issue over many years. Members will remember that in 2017 Dr Mehreen Faruqi introduced the Abortion Law Reform (Miscellaneous Acts Amendment) Bill 2017 to this place and the matter was ventilated at some length—not only in this place but also in the public arena. Indeed, in light of the introduction of the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019 I have visited a number of websites, such as those of the Australian Christian Lobby and Right

to Life NSW. The Right to Life website still had photos dating back to the 2017 debate, as well as various commentary on that bill. The matter was ventilated at that time.

It was also ventilated during debate on the Public Health Amendment (Safe Access to Reproductive Health Clinics) Bill 2018, in which the Hon. Penny Sharpe and I had some not inconsiderable involvement. It was also ventilated in the context of Zoe's law on about three occasions. Indeed, on the last occasion members might remember that I suggested amendments to try to facilitate the passing of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile's bill. That bill was never put because of concern that the amendments that I proposed may well have been seen as a precursor to the abortion debate that we are now having. None of this is new; all of it was in the contemplation of members of this House and of the wider community.

I also agree with Ms Abigail Boyd that this matter is longstanding in the community. It has long been called for by a range of women's groups and domestic violence groups, the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and various lawmakers. It is safe to say that in the inquiry proposed by the original motion, all of those bodies will be ready and raring to go. They will come and give concise and informative evidence to the public at large, and to this Parliament, supportive of this legislation. We also know, because of the various letters that we have received, that Archbishop Glenn Davies, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, the Greek Orthodox Church and just about every other church are ready to express an opinion for or against this legislation.

Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile: Against the legislation.

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: Not all of them are, Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile.

Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile: The ones you just mentioned are.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN: We can be certain that everyone knows what this debate is about. Everyone has a position that can be ventilated when the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues considers this matter. All that information gathered by that committee will then be available to this House. I say to members that we are ready to go; the witnesses are ready to go. We should bring this bill on for debate after having a reasonable opportunity to hear further informed views. I have no doubt that the inquiry will demonstrate the wisdom of the introduction and the passing of this bill.

The PRESIDENT: I make it absolutely clear that we are dealing with the motion moved by the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones and the amendment moved by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile, which relates to removing "20 August" and inserting instead "10 November". I confirm that at no time did Ms Abigail Boyd move a further amendment that there be no reference to the committee. She spoke on that topic, but she did not move an amendment.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM (14:51): I am in favour of the amendment moved by Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile. I reflect on the surreal experience six or seven weeks ago, when everyone in this Chamber agreed that it was a good thing that this Chamber, having been effectively liberated from Government control, had become a true House of review. Whatever happened to that? Now we have two tiers of attitude about the proper role of the Legislative Council. One is, "If you've got the numbers, jam it through." The other is, "If there are contentious issues that are controversial and complex, we should take the time to get it right."

I reflect seriously on a conversation I had in the Selection of Bills Committee, when I raised the point that the Morrison Government is promising to introduce freedom of religion legislation in Canberra. The bill we are talking about, as it has been presented in the other place, has a restriction on the freedom of religion of doctors of Christian, Islamic or Hindu faith who do not want to participate in the process. I take the view that once people are made to do things by the state against their moral code or against their faith, we move one step closer to being a police state. I worry about that.

At the committee meeting I raised the point, "What if the Morrison Government enacts the religious freedom for doctors legislation? Do we come back here in six months time, having rushed this through, and have to pass an amendment?" The answer came back, "We don't know what the Morrison Government is doing." Why do we not ask it, through a proper committee process—that is, call evidence from the Federal Government—so we do not have to come back? This is the kind of legislation that should be done once and be done properly. Why is there a rush when there is a complex issue of religious freedom and the public concern, now that this issue has been ignited, about the safeguards in place for late-term abortion?

I did not hear anything about this issue during the four months I was campaigning for the State election. I have not heard anything about it during the four months that I have been a member of the Legislative Council. But now it has been ignited in the public debate. It is about more than the division, the conflict and the clashes of

stakeholders out there on the street. I learned of the public reaction at forums over the weekend, when everyone was coming up to me and asking, "What's this about?" People want more information about what is happening with the safeguards for late-term abortions.

Anyone who is arrogant enough to think they know what the public opinion is on this needs to listen to people and to talk to them instead of trying to rush this through. People in this place may have had some prior exposure to a different bill—the Faruqi bill—as opposed to this bill, which has not even been passed by the other place. This committee is being set up before the other place has even passed the bill, which arrogantly presumes the content of the referral to the committee before the other place has passed it. Even as I was waiting for the call to speak in this debate, I was handed eight amendments foreshadowed by Minister Rob Stokes and Attorney General Mark Speakman—no less. At a perfunctory glance those amendments look very complex and worthy of a lengthy process of consideration.

I was here not long ago. I listened to the good counsel of the Leader of the Government on my motion about deliberative democracy and this being a proper House of review. He made the concession that if the Government had not rushed through the greyhound racing legislation, new coal legislation, lock-out legislation and local government amalgamations legislation it would have been in a better place politically and the laws would have been stronger. I appreciated that concession from the Leader of the Government. When will this Government learn that when there is a complex issue which has ignited major public concern—one that may be overridden by their colleagues in Canberra—they need to slow down the process and get the legislation right? Government members need to be saved from themselves in that respect.

It will be tragic for our democracy and for this State—for the people clashing on the street—if we have to come back in six months time to do it again. We should slow the process down, do it once and do it properly. As a political realist, I concede that a bill will pass both Chambers of this Parliament. As a man, I feel discomfort about debating this subject matter, so my mind is not closed to the possibilities of an amended bill being acceptable, but those pushing this do a disservice to the Chamber—after all the rhetoric and chest beating about its being a House of review and proper process—and I believe their actions disrespect this Chamber. They set up two tiers. As new members of this place—there are many of us—we are told that, because we have not participated, "Just suck it up, and watch the process unfold over a two-week, perfunctory, disgraceful committee process." That process will be so short that it will be inconsiderate of the complexity and the need for consultation.

There should not be two tiers of members in this place. There should be one tier, where everyone is informed, everyone is exposed to the information and everyone lives up to the promise of a proper House of review. If members want to be true to that promise in all circumstances they should think again and support Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile's amendment.

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY (14:56): I encourage members of the House to support the amendment of Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile. The Hon. Mark Latham has touched on a few of the points that I was going to raise so I will not repeat them specifically but perhaps elaborate on a couple of them. The first point I want to make is that we all need to take a deep breath, as silly as that might sound. That may be very hard to do but this debate is very intense. Most of us have not been through a debate of this nature before. Some have, and they are fortunate. Newer members, in particular, need to understand that we are dealing with something very intense and we all have to get this together. I make that genuine point to everyone in the House, no matter what their views are on the decriminalisation of abortion—in other words, the removal of the provisions from the Crimes Act.

Like the Hon. Mark Latham, I think that decriminalisation of abortion in this State will take place—perhaps in the not-too-distant future. The strong rhetoric that we hear in the public domain and between ourselves in the Parliament is that abortion must be removed from the Crimes Act. I understand the passion of Ms Abigail Boyd and her predecessor the Hon. Mehreen Faruqi in that respect. But the real issue is: What is going to be the law that regulates abortion after we remove it from the Crimes Act? That is what we should be focusing on.

During the second reading debate members will speak about the principal issues—hopefully, we will not cavil with amendments during the Committee stage—but that cannot be helped because the two matters are intrinsically combined because views are passionately and strongly felt. The arguments over decriminalisation should be looked at, but we also need to envision what will be in the Act at the end of this process. I dare say that abortion will be removed from the Crimes Act. It does not matter what my views are on that matter—they vary from other people's views—what matters is the content of the bill. A bill was introduced in the other place on Thursday. Debate on that bill will start in 2½ hours. Who knows what will come out of that process? We have no idea.

I return to the issue of the referral of the bill to a committee. This is being done in an extraordinarily rushed fashion. It anticipates something that will not happen for hours. I am troubled by this because this leads to the short time frame, which goes to the substance of this matter. I say this very deliberately and very carefully:

The Hon. Trevor Khan, as the Deputy President, has a leading role in all this. He is a cosignatory to this bill and other areas of social policy reform in this State. I understand his passion about this. However, what he has effectively done and is able to do as the Deputy President, a senior person within his party and within the Coalition, is to argue within the Government, presumably successfully, that the motion to refer should be supported. I understand that the Government has bound its members to support the referral as it is not a matter to do with conscience. That is an extraordinary thing to achieve on this issue. In effect, the Hon Trevor Khan has been able to lock the Government, through his passionate and strong advocacy—

[*A Government member interjected.*]

No, let me finish—into referring this legislation. So it really does not matter what the Labor Party thinks about this; that is what the Government has done. The Hon. Trevor Khan and those who support his passion about this have persuaded Gladys Berejiklian to draft the resolution to expeditiously deal with this matter in a way, dare I say, that traduces honoured and longstanding parliamentary practice, not just in the other place but in this House. Indeed, I think the people of the State would rightly say a pox on all houses.

For any reasonable consideration of a complex matter, two weeks is just not enough time. The one motion before the House is for an extended period of deliberation. I think that is a reasonable period. It gives people a chance to breathe. We need the community to carry the fact that we have done this as a Parliament, not that members have traduced things and been essentially co-conspirators. That is my concern. I agree with the Hon. Trevor Khan on this point: We will live with the legacy of what we have done. We have all been part of it. I just think it would be good and decent to be part of a process where the matter has been able to be vented. I seek an extension of time.

Leave granted.

I circulated a document earlier last week—and I will circulate it to others—outlining the process in Queensland in 2018, Tasmania in 2013 and Victoria in 2008, respectively, for the debate around decriminalisation conducted by Labor administrations. These processes often involved months and months to allow the community and those strongly opposed to buy into the process so that they could ultimately live with the outcome as there had been due parliamentary process. I urge the House to support greater deliberation.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Greg Donnelly mentioned that there was one motion before the House relating to the time the committee would have to report. In fact, there is a motion before the House and an amendment that seeks to extend that time.

The Hon. MARK PEARSON (15:02): Like Mr David Shoebridge, the Animal Justice Party initially did not support the referral of this bill to the Standing Committee on Social Issues for the reasons stated previously: that members have addressed this issue for so long, particularly in the last term of Parliament. However, as the Hon. Mark Latham and others have pointed out, some members were not in this House and not privy to the same forensic process, which is unfair. Therefore, we support the bill going to the social issues committee per the Hon. Trevor Khan's motion that the committee report back to this House within two weeks on 20 August. As the Hon. Taylor Martin pointed out, he has chaired several committees and committees can very diligently, swiftly and accurately give great examination of these issues when a report is required.

To address some of the concerns of other members, including Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile and the Hon. Greg Donnelly, the committee can seek leave from this House to extend the time for it to deliberate on this bill if so required. I am sure this House would grant the committee that time. I think therefore that those concerns are covered and we would respect a committee's decision to do that. The Animal Justice Party supports the referral of the bill to the committee for the reasons stated. We should not be waiting around for three months for the same story to be going on and on in Macquarie Street and elsewhere.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (15:04): For the Labor Party, the substance of any bill on the subject matter of the reproductive health legislation being considered in the other place will be a matter of conscience. On the procedural proposition of referring the matter to inquiry by the social issues committee, the Labor Opposition will vote in favour of that referral and will vote against Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile's amendment. The referral itself will not accelerate or slow down the consideration by this House of any legislation, although Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile's motion would very seriously slow down the consideration by this House of any bill that emerged from the other House, if in fact any bill does so emerge. That is why the Opposition will be voting in the way I have foreshadowed.

The Hon. MATTHEW MASON-COX (15:05): This is a procedural motion for which the Government seeks to bind its members. I have informed the party room that to me this is a matter of substance and conscience and that I will not be constrained in relation to a form of a procedural motion. I need the members of this House to understand that. For me, this is a very important matter of personal conscience. Indeed, I have asked from day

one, "What is the haste and urgency in relation to this bill?" I believe the process is important, particularly in this House. I have not been given a good explanation from the leadership of the Government, or indeed from the protagonists supporting this bill, as to why it is being rushed urgently through both Houses of Parliament.

These are important issues. While people may have entrenched views formed over a long period, this is a very specific bill. It is this bill that we are going to be reviewing through this reference to a committee, not people's views held from time immemorial. The bill has its defects, as members have pointed out. Various people have various issues. We should, as a House of Parliament, give the community the opportunity to ventilate those views, not to simply have a process that effectively gives members a week—we are talking about the week between two sitting weeks. People are suggesting it is 10 days; it is really a week.

We have not even received the bill yet. Let us hope we receive the bill sometime this week—there are no guarantees, but we are expecting it tomorrow or Thursday. We then have to call relevant parties and then next week we have the opportunity to have a hearing or two. I served on the committee that looked at the issues of the Ageing and Disability Commissioner. It was only a few days for that review. The overwhelming feeling of that committee was that the time was insufficient to give justice to the stakeholders and those people interested in the issues. This is a much more complex bill with far-reaching ramifications—many would say they are life-and-death issues. There are very complex issues involved in relation to ethics and, indeed, religious objection to the view itself.

Without ventilating all the issues, I endorse the views of the Hon. Mark Latham and the Hon. Greg Donnelly that we need to look carefully at the bill and take the time to go through the issues, rather than have some rubberstamp type of inquiry that does no justice to very significant issues that are rightfully the province of this place to review through its committee system. I urge members to look at this situation in that light, not from their long-entrenched views but the detail of the bill—whatever that might be—that comes from the Legislative Assembly sometime this week. That is the issue we need to review. It is very clear to me that the working group set up to push this bill through has basically worked out a timeline and we all have to comply with it. In short, the fix is in. It is very disappointing on a very important bill. I believe this House should exercise its right to review these types of difficult issues in a considered fashion, not according to a timetable drawn up by a small group of people who seek to wield influence in this place.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (15:09): I make a very short contribution and acknowledge that other members have made contributions. I say from the outset that I am a member of the Labor Party and one of the central traditions from the time of our formation is that we bind as a group, we are stronger together in solidarity. I indicate from the outset that I will be voting to support the Government Whip's motion and against Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile's motion to amend it. I put a couple of things on the record before I do that. The question of consultation has been raised by a number of members in their contributions today. The Hon. Trevor Khan said that there are people ready to go on each side. I accept that that is the case. There are people ready to go on either side, but the challenge for us as lawmakers is to engage with people in the broader community beyond just the stakeholders. I think there are deeply held views that do not simply match up with the particular people who might be ready to go.

I have concerns that a two-week inquiry is not in the best traditions of this House. It is not in the traditions of this House that we moved to strengthen earlier this year and something that we are very proud of in formulating our role as a House of review. I put that on the record. A number of people have said to me over the past week—because it has really only been a week that we have had to talk about this bill—that they have not had the opportunity to consult on the bill. Earlier this week I heard the sponsor of the bill in the other place say that he had consulted with 70 community organisations over the three-month period of drafting this bill. That is a long consultation process and a lot of people to consult. The problem was he was not consulting broadly with the community with different views. It is incredibly important on deeply complex issues such as this, irrespective of honourable members' views, that we are not afraid to go out and speak to the community about it.

The Hon. Trevor Khan said that this is an issue that has been canvassed extensively in this House. That is true. The issue of decriminalisation of abortion has been canvassed in this House in a number of different bills and motions well before my relatively recent entry. But the question that we deal with as legislators—and when we exercise our conscience vote the burden on us is in some way greater—is that we need to think about not only what we are taking away, but also what we are putting in its place. The view with the Faruqi bill—excuse my shorthand, and I paraphrase here—when it was last considered was that the specific provisions were not appropriate. If the mover of this bill is confident that these particular provisions are appropriate, then they should be confident enough to go out and speak to the community about them and explain why that is the case. It is a central challenge of the work that we do as lawmakers to listen to the community and bring them with us. I do not think a rushed inquiry is in the best interests or best traditions of this House. It does not help us bring the community with us, irrespective of what members' views are in this debate.

I do not agree with the point that has been made by many people, on both sides of this debate, that everybody has these views, they are already held and deeply held, so we do not even need to have a discussion. I think people have deeply held views. Some people are deeply confident in their deeply held views, and I applaud them for that. A lot of members of Parliament are deeply conflicted on these issues. A more measured and considered way of approaching them is in the best traditions of this place and of being members of Parliament.

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:14): We are considering a motion moved by the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones in her capacity as chair of the Selection of Bills Committee. Of course she is also the Government Whip, but it is in her former capacity that she moves this motion, as she is required to do under the standing orders. I say that because I want it to be quite clear why this has come up. There have been comments made in this debate by some members—and I have to say their characterisation of this process is unfortunate and I do not think accords necessarily with the facts. In one particular area I make it absolutely clear how the Selection of Bills Committee works. A decision by this House on a bill—[*Time expired.*]

The Hon. Don Harwin: I seek leave to speak for an additional five minutes.

Leave granted.

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (15:15): As I was saying, the way the Selection of Bills Committee works on bills introduced into the Legislative Council is that it will almost always consider them before the Legislative Assembly has finished dealing with them. That is the process that the House set up. There is nothing unusual about the fact that the bill that is about to be debated in the lower House has already been considered by our Selection of Bills Committee. That is a process we can expect to happen regularly throughout the parliamentary term. It is important that that misconception be cleared up. There is already a precedent for that happening, as I am sure honourable members know.

There were also some observations made about the Premier's motives. I did not take a point of order at the time. I absolutely reject them; they are simply not true. Let me tell honourable members why they are not true. They are not true because when suggestions of an inquiry following the Legislative Assembly's likely conclusion of its consideration of this bill at the end of this week was brought to me by Opposition members, Government members and crossbench members, both for the bill and against the bill, it seemed to me that it would be a good opportunity to take advantage of a committee inquiry between sitting weeks. The committee has come back with 11 days for inquiry. Ultimately it is a decision for this House.

The Government believes 11 days gives a good opportunity to inform members. If the House wishes to have a longer period, that is the House's choice. It is my intention as Leader of the Government to seek to commence deliberation on the bill on the next sitting Tuesday, provided the House receives the report in accordance with the motion moved by the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones and can proceed then. At that time I will also propose to the House that it take precedence over Government business and be concluded. From that point the House is the master of its own destiny and if the House decides not to proceed, ultimately, that is a decision for the House.

I take this opportunity to say we consider the recommendation that the Selection of Bills Committee has made is appropriate. I am not sure that the amendment as to the length of time is the sort of time length that was envisaged by the Select Committee on the Legislative Council Committee System as being appropriate for the consideration of the bill but, nevertheless, honourable members will make that decision. Government members will support the motion moved by the Chair of the Selection of Bills Committee.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones has moved a motion, to which Reverend the Hon. Fred Nile has moved an amendment. The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided.

Ayes5
Noes33
Majority.....28

AYES

Banasiak, Mr M
Nile, Revd Mr

Borsak, Mr R (teller)
Roberts, Mr R

Latham, Mr M (teller)

NOES

Amato, Mr L
Buttigieg, Mr M (teller)
Faehrmann, Ms C
Field, Mr J
Harwin, Mr D
Jackson, Ms R

Blair, Mr
Cusack, Ms C
Fang, Mr W
Franklin, Mr B
Houssos, Mrs C
Khan, Mr T

Boyd, Ms A
D'Adam, Mr A
Farlow, Mr S
Graham, Mr J
Hurst, Ms E
Maclaren-Jones, Mrs
(teller)
Mitchell, Mrs
Moselmane, Mr S
Searle, Mr A
Shoebridge, Mr D
Ward, Mrs N

Mallard, Mr S
Mookhey, Mr D
Pearson, Mr M
Secord, Mr W
Taylor, Mrs

Martin, Mr T
Moriarty, Ms T
Primrose, Mr P
Sharpe, Ms P
Veitch, Mr M

Amendment negatived.

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

Motion agreed to.

*Documents***PARLIAMENTARY REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL****Reports**

The CLERK: According to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989, I announce receipt of the annual report and determination of the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal, dated 21 June 2019.

AUDITOR-GENERAL**Reports**

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

1. Performance Audit Report entitled *Contracting non-government organisations*, dated June 2019, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 26 June 2019.
2. Performance Audit Report entitled *Managing native vegetation*, dated June 2019, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 27 June 2019.
3. Performance Audit Report entitled *Ensuring contract management capabilities - Department of Education*, dated June 2019, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 28 June 2019.

GO NSW EQUITY FUND**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 30 May 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding the GO NSW Equity Fund, received on 27 June 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 27 June 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that pursuant to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

Further Return to Order

The CLERK: I table additional documents relating to an order for papers regarding the GO NSW Equity Fund, received on 25 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying additional documents received on 25 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that pursuant to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

LAND CLEARING**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 30 May 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding land clearing, received on 27 June 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 27 June 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that pursuant to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

Further Return to Order

The CLERK: I table an additional document relating to an order for papers regarding land clearing, received on 9 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying additional documents received on 9 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

COUNTRY UC LTD AND COOMA UC INCORPORATED**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 6 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding Country UC Ltd and Cooma UC Incorporated, received on 27 June 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 27 June 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

Further Return to Order

The CLERK: I table additional documents relating to an order for papers regarding Country UC Ltd and Cooma UC, received on 3 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying additional documents received on 3 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

VALES POINT POWER STATION AND ERARING ENERGY SALE**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 6 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding the sale of the Vales Point Power Station and Eraring Energy, received on 27 June 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 27 June 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

BUDGET 2019-2020**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 19 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding the 2019-2020 budget, received on 10 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 10 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

BUDGET FINANCES 2019-2020**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 19 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding the 2019-2020 budget finances, received on 10 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 10 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

ELECTION COMMITMENTS – THE NSW BUDGET 2019-2020**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 20 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding a document entitled *Election Commitments – The NSW Budget 2019-2020*, received on 11 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 11 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing order the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 20 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding government departmental employment numbers, received on 11 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 11 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

BUDGET ENERGY FUNDING INITIATIVES**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 20 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding energy funding initiatives in the 2019-2020 budget, received on 11 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 11 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

CAMPBELL'S STORES, THE ROCKS**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 20 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding granting of lease for the Campbell's Stores in The Rocks, received on 11 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 11 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

BROKEN HILL PIPELINE**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 30 May 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding the Murray River to Broken Hill Pipeline, received on 12 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 12 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

TRANSPORT ASSET HOLDING ENTITY**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 20 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding the Transport Asset Holding Entity, received on 25 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 25 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

OLD-GROWTH FOREST TIMBER**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 20 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding the old-growth forest timber supply, received on 25 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

LANDCOM**Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to resolution of the House of 20 June 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding Landcom, received on 25 July 2019 from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of documents.

Claim of Privilege

The CLERK: I table a return identifying documents received on 25 July 2019 that are claimed to be privileged and should not be made public or tabled. I advise that according to standing orders the documents are available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

VIP GAMING MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**Report of Independent Legal Arbitrator**

The CLERK: I report receipt of a report from the Independent Legal Arbitrator, the Hon. Keith Mason, AC, QC, dated 31 July 2019, on the disputed claim of privilege on schedule 2 of the VIP Gaming Management Agreement. The report is available for inspection by members of the Legislative Council only.

*Committees***STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT****Government Response**

The CLERK: According to standing order, I announce receipt of the Government's response to report No. 45 of the Standing Committee on State Development entitled *Water NSW Amendment (Warragamba Dam) Bill 2018*, tabled on 10 October 2018, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 3 July 2019.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE**Government Response**

The CLERK: According to standing order, I announce receipt of the Government's response to report No. 69 of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice entitled *2018 review of the Dust Diseases Scheme Scheme*, tabled on 26 February 2019, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 5 July 2019.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE**Government Response**

The CLERK: According to standing order, I announce receipt of the Government's response to report No. 70 of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice entitled *2018 review of the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme*, tabled on 26 February 2019, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 5 July 2019

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**Government Response**

The CLERK: According to standing order, I announce receipt of the Government's response to report No. 2 of the Public Accountability Committee entitled *Impact of the CBD and South East Light Rail Project*, tabled on 25 January 2019, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 9 July 2019.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (15:36): I move:

That the House take note of the Government response.

Debate adjourned.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**Government Response**

The CLERK: According to standing order, I announce receipt of the Government's response to report No. 2 of the Public Works Committee entitled *Impact of Port of Newcastle sale arrangements on public works expenditure in New South Wales*, tabled on 25 February 2019, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 9 July 2019.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM (15:38): I move:

That the House take note of the Government response.

Debate adjourned.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO.4 - LEGAL AFFAIRS**Government Response**

The CLERK: According to standing order, I announce receipt of the Government's response to report No. 40 of the Portfolio Committee No. 4 - Legal Affairs entitled *Museums and galleries in New South Wales*, tabled on 28 February 2019, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 17 July 2019.

The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK (15:38): I move:

That the House take note of the Government response.

Debate adjourned.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 - PREMIER AND FINANCE**Government Response**

The CLERK: According to standing order, I announce receipt of the Government response to report No. 47 of Portfolio Committee No. 1 - Premier and Finance entitled *Fresh food pricing*, tabled on 17 October 2018, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 29 July 2019.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (15:39): I move:

That the House take note of the Government response.

Debate adjourned.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE**Government Response**

The CLERK: According to standing order, I announce receipt of the Government response to report No. 66 of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice entitled *Adequacy and scope of special care offences*, tabled on 22 November 2018, received out of session and authorised to be printed on 1 August 2019.

REGULATION COMMITTEE**Government Response**

The CLERK: According to standing order, I announce receipt of the Government response to report No. 2 of the Regulation Committee entitled *Cemeteries and Crematoria Amendment Regulation 2018*, tabled on 9 November 2018. Under the standing order, the response has been authorised to be printed.

*Announcements***GUANGDONG PROVINCE DELEGATION**

The PRESIDENT (15:40): I advise honourable members that, following an invitation from the Consul-General of the People's Republic of China, I recently led a cross-party delegation to Guangdong Province, China. The delegation consisted of the Hon. Shayne Mallard, the Hon. Robert Borsak, Mr Ron Hoenig and Ms Sonia Hornery. The purpose of the delegation was to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between New South Wales and Guangdong, and the relationship between the Parliament of New South Wales and the Guangdong Provincial People's Congress. The delegation provided an important opportunity to convey the New South Wales Parliament's ongoing commitment to this sister-state relationship, it being our State's first such relationship.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the Chinese foreign affairs office in facilitating a number of meetings for the delegation, including with Madam Li Yumei, Chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the Guangdong People's Congress, and Mr Luo Wenzhi, Chairman of the Standing Committee of Shenzhen Municipal People's Congress. I also thank Jason Robertson, Australia's Consul-General in Guangdong, and Murray Davis, the New South Wales Trade & Investment Commissioner, and their teams for the time taken to meet with the delegation and attend a number of the meetings. They have since advised that those meetings were extremely useful for the State of New South Wales.

*Notices***PRESENTATION**

[*During the giving of notices of motions*]

The PRESIDENT: I indicate to all members that interjections are disorderly when another member is giving a notice of motion. It is also disorderly for the member giving the notice of motion to respond to, and in some way answer, interjections. The process will flow more easily and proceed more quickly if members are permitted to give their notices of motions without interruption. Interruptions should occur only if a member is taking a point of order.

[*Later,*]

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Point of order: There are outrageous interjections coming from members on the other side of the Chamber.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am pleased that members listened to my earlier warning about interjections being disorderly. This is my final warning. I will start calling to order members who continue to interject. I indicated clearly that during the giving of notices of motions there will be no interjections. I congratulate the Hon. Natalie Ward on not responding to a single interjection. It is impossible for Hansard and for the Chair to hear what is being said when there are continual interjections. The Hon. Natalie Ward has the call.

*Visitors***VISITORS**

The PRESIDENT: I welcome to the public gallery Ms Casey Carpenter, a student at the University of Technology Sydney who is currently working in the office of the Hon. Courtney Houssos as part of the UTS NSW Parliamentary Intern Program. She is here to view question time.

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

*Questions Without Notice***LAND CLEARING**

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (16:00): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women. Does the Minister stand by her parliamentary comments of 8 May in relation to representations that were made to Ministers about investigations into complaints of illegal land clearing on properties in which she has an interest?

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Point of order: I know there was great ventilation of this issue in previous sittings but I take a point of order as to whether these matters go to the issues of the administration of the Minister's responsibilities. I submit it is outside the standing orders.

The Hon. Adam Searle: To the point of order: I note the interruption but the remit relating to questions is wider than strictly portfolio responsibilities. It is connection with public affairs with which the Minister has carriage or responsibility. Surely comments made in the Parliament by a member and a Minister has that sufficient connection.

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Further to the point of order: The substance of this essentially goes to issues, as I would understand, prior to the Minister taking the commission and, therefore, does not fall within the standing orders.

The PRESIDENT: I indicate a past ruling of President Burgmann, which was also confirmed by President Primrose, President Fazio and President Harwin:

Questions may be put to Ministers relating to public affairs with which the Minister is officially connected, to proceedings pending in the House, or to any matter of administration for which the Minister is responsible.

Members are also aware that that would extend to any matter for which a Minister is representing another Minister with a specific portfolio. I cannot see any wording in the question that comes within that ambit. The question is out of order. I call the Hon. Walt Secord to order for the first time.

NEW SOUTH WALES SCREEN SECTOR

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (16:03): My question is addressed to the Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government is supporting the New South Wales screen sector?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:03): Absolutely—and what a month it has been for the screen industry in New South Wales. Our State continues to maintain its status as the number one State for screen production, with the Government's strong support of the sector playing a central role. The Made in NSW fund has supported 20,000 jobs and generated more than \$700 million in production expenditure in the last three years. It continues to attract blockbuster productions. This includes two new Marvel films, *Shang-Chi*, *The Legend of the Ten Rings*, and the recently announced *Thor: Love and Thunder* that will be filmed in Sydney.

A vital part of the screen sector is post, digital and visual effects, known as PDV, which is growing rapidly as more productions use computer-generated graphics and special effects. The Government's decision to provide a 10 per cent rebate for the PDV sector over the next five years will have enormous economic and reputational benefits for New South Wales. It has helped secure Sydney as a home for Disney's Industrial Light & Magic [ILM] in the face of strong competition across Australia. This will be only the third ILM office to set up outside North America. The PDV rebate will also benefit local companies, including Animal Logic, which is an internationally renowned PDV company based in Sydney whose projects include *Peter Rabbit* and *The Lego Movie*. The University of Technology Sydney Animal Logic Academy, together with ILM's expertise, will be invaluable in building the capacity of the local PDV sector.

ILM has worked on special effects for more than 350 films, including *Star Wars*, *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The Avengers*. ILM's presence in Sydney will create 500 high-value jobs and is estimated to generate over \$300 million into our economy over the next five years. ILM will also partner training organisations in New South Wales with its Jedi Academy to develop skills over the next five years through matched funding of \$6 million. This will ensure that the local PDV industry has a skilled and job-ready workforce. The digital and technical skills gained by ILM's presence will benefit many other sectors, including software development, robotics engineering and defence. The Government's role in supporting our film industry is generating jobs, investment and education. [Time expired.]

LAND CLEARING

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (16:06): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women. How many Ministers or their officers did this Minister speak with or contact in relation to allegations of illegal land clearing on properties in which she has an interest?

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Point of order: The question must relate to the responsibilities that the Minister is undertaking. These are matters that were well canvassed on a previous occasion and have been the subject of calls for paper. It is clear that they are matters that predate the Minister receiving her commission. Therefore, the question is out of order.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: To the point of order: I listened carefully to your ruling on the previous matter. The Minister has responded to this matter in the House previously, made clear indications and given answers. I submit that because the Minister has been engaged in this issue and provided information to the House, it is absolutely within her public role and my question to seek further information is within the standing orders.

The Hon. Niall Blair: To the point of order: Just because a point of order was not taken previously when this matter was before the House and the member chose to answer the question does not mean the question is not out of order now that a point of order is being taken. It is consistent with your earlier ruling.

The PRESIDENT: I indicate that the fact that a point of order was not taken previously does not in any way bind me to listen to this point of order.

Mr David Shoebridge: To the point of order: As I understood it, the substance of the point of order taken by the Hon. Trevor Khan was that the question related to matters that predated the Minister assuming the office. If that is a basis upon which to prevent scrutiny of Ministers, then a government could defeat the proper scrutiny of Ministers in a Westminster system simply by changing its Ministers. We support changing Ministers, but that has never been a basis upon which to limit questions in the House; otherwise it defeats the capacity of this House to hold Ministers to account.

The Hon. Don Harwin: To the point of order: The contribution made by Mr David Shoebridge was simply a debating point and did not raise any substantive matter under the standing orders.

The Hon. Walt Secord: To the point of order: I fear that we are entering new territory in which we are limiting our rights as elected representatives to question members of the Government about public policy. The first question time of the new Parliament was devoted to this. The Minister took questions that created further questions, which created more questions in the public arena. This issue is in the public arena. It is a subject of public policy debate and should be allowed to be the subject of questions in this Chamber. I fear that we are entering very dangerous territory.

The Hon. Don Harwin: Further to the point of order: The Hon. Walt Secord's remarks in the first instance did not raise any substantive matter under the standing orders. In the second instance, he has canvassed a ruling that you gave earlier in question time, which is disorderly.

The PRESIDENT: I refer to my previous ruling, which clearly relates to Standing Order 64 (1):

- (1) Questions may be put to Ministers relating to public affairs with which the Minister is officially connected, to proceedings pending in the House, or to any matter of administration for which the Minister is responsible.

I mentioned also that if a question was directed to a Minister in this House representing a Minister in the other place and the question was connected to the administration of that Minister's portfolio, the question would be in order. The problem with this question is that it is incredibly wide and in no way links to the Minister being asked the question in relation to Standing Order 64 (1). The question is out of order. It can be re-asked if it is properly linked to Standing Order 64 (1) and past rulings.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS (16:13): My question is directed to the Leader of the Government representing the Minister for Transport and Roads. Roads and Maritime Services provides a free notification and reminder service to motorists to renew their registration. The service is only available for vehicles registered to an individual. Why is the free notification and reminder service not currently available for vehicles registered to an organisation, which includes small businesses? When will the free notification and reminder service be available for vehicles registered to an organisation, which includes small businesses? Since the removal of registration labels from vehicles, how many small business owners have been fined for having an unregistered vehicle, and how much revenue has been collected from small business owners as a result of unregistered vehicle fines?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:13): The Hon. Rod Roberts asks a very good question. I am advised that the notification service for vehicle registration is only available for vehicles registered to an individual. It is not currently available for vehicles registered to an organisation. I am sure the Minister for Transport and Roads, whom I represent, will be interested in the fact that this matter is of interest to the Hon. Rod Roberts—and no doubt other members as well—and will have a look at it.

I advise the member that organisations and individuals can do a free online registration check at any time for vehicles previously or currently registered in New South Wales. That free registration check includes the registration expiry date, whether the registration is suspended or cancelled, any registration restrictions, any registration concessions—that is, additional charges that might apply when transferred to a new owner—and the compulsory third-party insurer and policy expiry date. I thank the member for his interest. I will refer his question to the Minister for Transport and Roads in case there are any additional matters that the Minister wants to comment on. No doubt he and his staff will see the question in *Hansard* and note the member's interest. I encourage the member to make representations on the issue to the Minister as well.

EDUCATION WEEK

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (16:15): My question is addressed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. Will the Minister update the House on the importance of Education Week and on the steps that are being taken to support students across New South Wales?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (16:15): I thank the Hon. Taylor Martin for his question. This week is Education Week—a fantastic week that celebrates our public education system in New South Wales and those who work and study within it. Yesterday the member for Dubbo and I had the privilege of attending the regional launch of Education Week at Dubbo College Senior Campus. It was fantastic to launch the event at the same time that we saw the Premier at St Marys North Public School via simulcast. Both venues showcased the amazing talent across the State and it was a wonderful start to an incredibly exciting week.

This morning I had the opportunity to attend Google's Sydney headquarters and open the Game Changer Challenge, which is the flagship event of Education Week. The Game Changer Challenge is designed to promote the development of general capabilities in students. In the three-day event, 18 teams from public schools across New South Wales come together to learn about and use design thinking to solve a complex real-world problem. This year's challenge question was: How might we humanise technology? Students began the challenge with an industry immersion day at Google headquarters, which is an extraordinary experience I am proud to offer our young people.

During the challenge launch at Google students were able to question a panel of eminent Australians during a question-and-answer session. The panel included Professor Toby Walsh, Distinguished Professor Mary-Anne Williams, and Google Australia and New Zealand managing director Mel Silva. In an era of accelerated change, many of the traditional views of education are changing. Technologies and industries we have yet to imagine will be the powerhouses of the jobs of the future. The Game Changer Challenge gives today's students the opportunity to learn how to be critical, empathetic, creative and deep-thinking adults. It aims to promote those traits among students and teachers by exposing them to the problem-solving process known as design thinking.

The theme of this year's Education Week is "Every Student, Every Voice". The theme recognises the importance of understanding that our vast education system is not simply a machine that pumps students into the workforce. It is a vibrant, dynamic community of different and diverse individuals who enrich communities across New South Wales. This week's focus on the student voice is about more than just giving young people a say; it is about making sure that we listen, value and act on student ideas. Developing genuine conversations with our students is vital because research shows that this has significant positive impacts on student wellbeing.

This Government is doing a lot to help improve student wellbeing. Not only are we working on infrastructure to provide new and upgraded innovative learning spaces for our kids but also a record amount of Gonski funding is going into our schools. We have a strong focus on student wellbeing and we are working to ensure that we have highly qualified mental health professionals in schools so that students can speak to people about the anxieties they may have. Those examples are just some of the ways we are making sure that every student has a voice. [*Time expired.*]

PINE PLANTATION PRIVATISATION

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (16:19): My question is directed to the Hon. Sarah Mitchell representing the Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade. Given there have been numerous reports from the financial sector that the Government is seeking a method to market and price Forestry Corporation's 230,000 hectares of publicly owned radiata pine plantations to allow for privatisation, will the Minister advise the House what, if any, plans the Government has for the privatisation of those crucial assets?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (16:19): I thank Mr David Shoebridge for his very detailed question asked of me representing the Deputy Premier in his various ministerial portfolios. I am happy to take the question on notice and come back with a detailed answer for the member.

MUSEUM AND ARTS PROJECTS

The Hon. WALT SECORD (16:19): My question without notice is directed to the Leader of the Government, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts. Will the Minister confirm that the Sydney Modern, the Powerhouse Museum, the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct and Theatre Royal projects will now cost the New South Wales taxpayer more than \$2 billion due to cost blowouts?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:20): I am sad to say that the Hon. Walt Secord has got it very wrong. I will have difficulty, in just 2½ minutes, dealing with all of his questions. He mentioned the Sydney Modern and the Powerhouse Museum projects. What was the other one?

The Hon. Walt Secord: I referred to Sydney Modern, Walsh Bay Arts Precinct and Theatre Royal.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: With respect to Sydney Modern, the Government is very confident of delivering a world-class, high-quality expansion of the Art Gallery NSW within budget. Contrary to some public reports, Lendlease has not walked away from the Sydney Modern Project at the Art Gallery NSW. A competitive tender process has been underway over recent months. The Government has been focused on getting a value-for-money outcome for the people of New South Wales as well as for the individuals who have donated money to the delivery of the project. The Government has received four bids from the market, which are now being evaluated. The Government expects a contract to be awarded in the near future and construction to commence this year. There is absolutely no basis for the honourable member's suggestion of cost overruns on the Powerhouse Museum project. There is no overrun on that project.

The honourable member completely misunderstands what is happening at Theatre Royal. At the moment Dexis is negotiating a lease to the State Government. The Government has undertaken an expression-of-interest process to get an operator. At this stage it is not anticipated there will be any cost to the taxpayer from the Theatre Royal development. That is the beauty of the project. Theatre Royal is a lyric theatre that is capable of taking big shows. It is the type of theatre that Sydney has been sorely lacking. It will be available again shortly and Sydney will have three lyric theatres. This Government will have increased the number of lyric theatres from two to three. [*Time expired.*]

The Hon. WALT SECORD (16:23): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate his answer with regard to the Sydney Modern Project and the comments he made about the private benefactors providing \$100 million? If there are cost overruns and blowouts and the project does not meet the timetable, is there a requirement on the Government to return the \$100 million?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:23): I made it quite clear to the Hon. Walt Secord member that there have been no cost overruns at Sydney Modern—none at all. In fact, the Government is quite confident that it will be built within budget. The rest of the honourable member's question is purely hypothetical.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN (16:24): My question is addressed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women. How is the New South Wales Government supporting people experiencing mental illness in rural and remote communities through the use of technology?

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women) (16:24): I thank the Hon. Trevor Khan for his question. People in rural and remote communities might experience barriers to accessing mental health due to geographical isolation, travel time and cost. Telehealth services can assist people

in those communities to overcome barriers. In response to the Mental Health Commission's 2014 strategic plan, Living Well, the New South Wales Government announced the establishment of a telehealth service to support health workers in northern New South Wales.

I have spoken previously in this House about the Northern Mental Health Emergency Care - Rural Access Program, which is a mental health service operating from the James Fletcher campus in Newcastle. A team of Newcastle mental health professionals provide mental health assessment services using audiovisual links to communities in northern New South Wales, the mid North Coast and throughout Hunter-New England. They use videoconference technology to provide mental health assessments directly to patients and recommendations on care to emergency department clinicians. The Northern Mental Health Emergency Care service has been implemented in 29 emergency departments across three local health districts, including the Byron Central Hospital site, which I visited recently to see this technology in action. What a beautiful part of the world! I thank the dedicated professionals at the James Fletcher Hospital in Newcastle for providing those clinical services, and I commend all three local health districts for working together on this joint initiative, bringing mental health expertise to rural and remote regions.

In addition to the Northern Mental Health Emergency Care service, core funding from the mental health budget supports other regional mental health centres to use telehealth to provide mental health expertise to smaller emergency departments. Those centres are located across our State—in Goulburn and Bega in the Southern NSW Local Health District, in Wagga Wagga in the Murrumbidgee LHD and in Orange in the Western NSW LHD, which also services the Far West Local Health District. We are providing real-time specialist mental health consultations and advice via telehealth to staff working in smaller rural and remote hospitals.

This service is facilitating safe assessment and treatment planning for patients in local hospitals, reducing the time and cost associated with travel when there is a need to access expert mental health care, reducing the need for ambulance and police services to provide long-distance transport, and also enabling local services to respond in a timely manner to the needs of their local communities. This Government is committed to increasing access to specialist mental health services and it is committed to improving mental health outcomes for people living in rural and remote communities. We have seen great advancements in telehealth in recent times. I look forward to watching how this continues and to more LHDs and hospitals being included in the program. It was an absolute privilege to see it in action.

COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

The Hon. MARK BANASIAK (16:27): My question is addressed to the Hon. Bronnie Taylor representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales. The regulatory impact statement for the Fisheries Management regulation 2019 claimed, "There is over 1,000 commercial fishers that will gain a direct benefit from harvesting." That is the same figure quoted by New South Wales Department of Primary Industry in 2015 before the commercial fishing of prawns began and prior to the former Minister, in April 2018, stating that there had been 235 buyouts. Has the regulatory impact statement been altered or is it that the stated objective of the commercial fishing reforms of removing latent shares has failed and has instead created an industry of share barons running multiple shell companies to avoid licensing fees?

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women) (16:28): I thank the Hon. Mark Banasiak for his question. As it relates to a Minister in the other House, I will take it on notice and get back to him with a response.

POWERHOUSE MUSEUM PRECINCT AT PARRAMATTA

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE (16:29): My question without notice is directed to the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, and Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts. Given there has now been a third high-level resignation from the senior management team at the Powerhouse Museum—the position of the head of curatorial collections and exhibitions—what steps is the Minister taking to ensure that the project proceeds?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:29): The Powerhouse Museum has excellent leadership under Lisa Havilah. Her staff and her team are doing an excellent job. The Government is committed to the delivery of the Powerhouse precinct in Parramatta and, as a result of the Government's work, western Sydney is now much closer to having its own state-of-the-art museum. I inform the honourable member that I can be quite confident of that because the Government is currently preparing for the second stage of an international design competition to select the design team. I announced in May 2019—

The Hon. Walt Secord: Point of order: My point of order relates to relevance. The question is not about Lisa Havilah; it is about the resignation of Peter Denham, the head of curatorial collections and exhibitions at the Powerhouse Museum. This is the single most important position involving the relocation of the museum.

The PRESIDENT: The question that was asked set a foundation by indicating that a senior management team member had resigned. That was a statement. The question only says, "What steps is the Minister taking to ensure the project proceeds?" The Minister was being directly relevant to that question. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Six design teams have been shortlisted for the project. Those teams have recently been in Sydney to be briefed for the next stage of the competition. The design competition will lead to the transformation of one of Australia's oldest and most important cultural institutions. The Government expects to have the winning design for the museum by the end of the year. Everything is proceeding as it should. A lot of work has been done on the move. Despite changes in personnel, I am absolutely sure that this great project will produce a fantastic outcome—the new museum will be delivered on time and within the envelope provided.

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The Hon. MATTHEW MASON-COX (16:32): My question is addressed to the Minister for Finance and Small Business. How is the New South Wales Government demonstrating its commitment to regional economies affected by the drought?

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Minister for Finance and Small Business) (16:32): I thank the Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox for his question. It is great to be back, is it not? I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on his re-election.

The PRESIDENT: I am not sure how the Minister is being directly relevant.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: I am only 15 seconds in.

The PRESIDENT: That was 10 seconds too many.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: During the recess I had the opportunity to travel through New South Wales.

The Hon. Walt Secord: I tracked you!

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Did you? It was good that the Hon. Walt Secord tracked me because it means I am pretty relevant to him. Besides getting down to Picton, Goulburn, Yass and Boorowa, I got up to—

The Hon. Mick Veitch: Dubbo.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Yes, I got to Dubbo. I saw the Hon. Mick Veitch out at Dubbo.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: Spent too much time in The Hills district, I hear.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Not a lot of time in The Hills district. I also got up to Tamworth, Quirindi, Barrabra, Narrabri and Gunnedah. Drought now affects 98 per cent of this State. This is a really serious issue that we are facing. The Government is very conscious of the impact of drought on farmers. Many schemes have been set up to help farmers cope with drought. There is a secondary component in relation to drought—that is, the impact on small business. Every small business depends upon income being churned through country towns to ensure its continued operation. I went to a small business in a town called Barrabra. There is a woman who owns a dress shop in Barrabra—

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: How do you spell Barrabra?

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Do not worry about that. This lady showed me her books. Three years ago she earned \$2,500 a week and she had one staff member. The corresponding week this year she earned \$124. These people cannot continue to survive unless it rains or, alternatively, the Government and the community get in to support them. So what more can we do to support small businesses? The Government is delivering a package of infrastructure projects for the purposes of creating opportunities for more money to get into these towns with a view to supporting them. In addition, we have delivered payroll tax cuts for regional areas. One of the things that impressed me was the opportunity for small business to expand by being lateral in the way they work. Agritourism is something we ought to be encouraging by getting red tape out of the way so country businesses can expand. [*Time expired.*]

COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK (16:35): My question without notice is directed to the Hon. Bronnie Taylor representing the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales. Why were commercial fishermen

advised to put their best bid forward in the first round of the share trading scheme, yet the subsidy of \$16 million in assistance measures to help commercial fishers adjust their fishing business in line with the new share linkage arrangements was held back until the final round? Who within Fisheries NSW and the Minister's office knew of how this subsidy was to be divided across the three rounds of share trading? How many mud crab shares were bought and sold prior to the share trading scheme opening?

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women) (16:36): I thank the Hon. Robert Borsak for his question. As the question relates to a Minister in the other place, I will seek an answer for him in due course.

MODERN SLAVERY ACT

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY (16:37): My question is directed to the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. Is the Minister and the Government fully committed to proclaiming the Modern Slavery Act?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:37): As honourable members are aware, in the last sitting week I advised the House that the Modern Slavery Act contained a number of legal and operational difficulties that required attention before it could commence operation. Since then, on 10 July I referred the Act, an amendment bill and a draft regulation to the Standing Committee on Social Issues for its inquiry and report. I also included the Government's submission to the inquiry to better inform committee members and key stakeholders of the extent and nature of the Government's concerns. I understand that the committee met today and adopted the terms of reference for the inquiry, the full details of which will be available on the committee's webpage. I encourage all members with an interest in this subject matter to engage with the committee process. That is the important first step in terms of modern slavery.

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY (16:38): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate his answer by explaining whether there is and will be no intention of the committee to reopen the question of whether there should be a Modern Slavery Act in New South Wales in the inquiry to which he referred?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:39): The letter of reference from me to the chairman of the committee in relation to the inquiry clearly canvasses that issue. I invite the Hon. Greg Donnelly to have a look.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (16:40): I ask a second supplementary question.

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Opening up the issue of modern slavery in New South Wales is outrageous.

The PRESIDENT: I allowed the Hon. Greg Donnelly to ask a supplementary question; it was answered. He is now denying his colleague an opportunity to ask a second supplementary question. I will allow the Hon. Daniel Mookhey to ask a second supplementary question.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Will the Minister elucidate his answer by advising the House what consideration was given in any implications to the Executive Council and has the bill been presented to the Executive Council?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:40): Again, these questions have been clearly addressed either in my previous answer or in the letter I have written to the chairman of the committee.

NAIDOC WEEK

The Hon. NIALL BLAIR (16:40): My question is addressed to the Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts. Will the Minister update the House on how the Government helped communities celebrate NAIDOC Week this year?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:41): I thank the Hon. Niall Blair for his question. In my first NAIDOC Week as Aboriginal affairs Minister, it gave me great pleasure to attend events around Sydney celebrating and recognising our First Nation's culture. NAIDOC Week is celebrated in July every year. This week is a significant opportunity for all Australians to come together to acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is an important aspect of our State's history and identity. The New South Wales

Government acknowledges and celebrates NAIDOC Week in many ways, with a focus on supporting community level celebrations.

This year for the first time a smoking ceremony was held outside government offices at 52 Martin Place to welcome staff and visitors. I was pleased to join with the Premier and officers to participate in that ceremony. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were also unveiled at 52 Martin Place, where they are now a permanent fixture. I was also pleased to visit and speak at the new Kimberwalli Centre in Mount Druitt, celebrating NAIDOC Week ahead of their official opening later this year. Kimberwalli is the culmination of nearly five years work—of which my colleague the Hon. Sarah Mitchell would be well aware—to develop a new centre of excellence for young Aboriginal people. In 2015 the Government committed \$20 million to the centre.

To support NAIDOC Week celebrations each year the Government provides grants to community groups. This year 182 grant applications were received; 129 projects received combined funding of \$195,690. Those activities funded included family days, award ceremonies, and culture and language workshops. Some of the events funded by the Government included the Shoalhaven NAIDOC Family Fun Day held on 10 July, the Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation open week, and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council Eora NAIDOC day in Redfern. Each of those events encouraged the community to better connect with their local Indigenous culture and history. We will continue to strive for a future in which Aboriginal culture and heritage continues to thrive, strengthen and enrich with each new generation. While we should be celebrating our community achievements every day, it is important to take the opportunity each July to participate in local, State and national celebrations.

SYDNEY METRO NORTHWEST

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD (16:44): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts representing the Minister for Transport and Roads. Given that vital bus services such as the 607X from Cherrybrook to the CBD were cut mere weeks after the Sydney Metro Northwest opened, did the Government give any assurances or make any commitments to the operator of the metro to reduce or cut bus services in Sydney's north-west, for example, to improve the potential economic viability of the metro?

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (16:44): I have some information I may be able to assist Ms Abigail Boyd with. However, if more information is needed I will do my best to provide that information to her. I have been advised that since the opening of the metro patronage on buses travelling to destinations such as Macquarie Park, Chatswood, North Sydney and the Sydney CBD via the M2 has dropped by around 21 per cent in the morning peak and by around 25 per cent in the afternoon peak. The changes made to the M2 services reflect the reduction in demand as customers move to the metro. We are developing an integrated transport network in Sydney's north-west.

The Sydney Metro Northwest has changed the way that customers travel. Since its opening, we have been analysing how customers are travelling on the network and this week further changes were introduced based on the data and feedback we received. The amount of duplication on the network has been reduced. This has allowed us to add extra services on key routes to make it easier for customers to travel around the local area, including enhancements to services to connect customers to the metro throughout the day in areas such as Rouse Hill, Kellyville, Bella Vista and Castle Hill. Some residential precincts will also be getting bus services for the first time, including Arnold Avenue, Kellyville, and Foxall Road, North Kellyville. I have been unable to address some aspects of the question on the advice I have been given so I will take the question on notice. I am sure the Minister for Transport and Roads will do his best to provide the information requested.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE (16:47): My question is directed to the Minister for Finance and Small Business. What were the circumstances of the departure of staffer and former Family First candidate Christian Ellis just months after his appointment to the Minister's office. Will the Minister confirm that he was forced to sack Christian Ellis after the Premier raised concerns regarding his involvement in a branch-stacking operation against senior Government figures?

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Minister for Finance and Small Business) (16:47): I had a bet with my office that no-one would ask me a question about this. I thought it is a front-page *The Sydney Morning Herald* story. We have got to—

The Hon. Daniel Mookhey: Point of order: The Minister is some way into his answer and he has not even strayed towards being generally relevant—let alone directly relevant. I ask that the Minister be directed to return to the leave of the question. He is also canvassing the question.

The PRESIDENT: The Minister is entitled to set up some foundation to being directly relevant. I take it that is what he was doing. The Minister will now be directly relevant.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Christian Ellis was employed by my office; he left my office to pursue other opportunities. That is what he did. Did the Premier speak to me about Mr Christian Ellis? The answer to the second part of the question is no.

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE (16:49): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister please elucidate his answer as to whether the Premier or the Premier's office discussed this matter with anyone in the Minister's office?

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Point of order: My point of order is that the question does not arise from the Minister's answer. In my submission, that is a new question.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: To the point of order: It was clear in the original question that the Minister was being asked about whether the Premier raised concerns regarding the staff member's involvement—whether it was the staffer, the Minister himself or someone in his office. We are seeking elucidation, given that the Minister gave a narrow answer to this very important question.

The PRESIDENT: I remind honourable members of a ruling by me in 2018 as follows:

For a supplementary question to be in order it would need to satisfy three aspects: It must be actually and accurately related to the original question; it must relate to or arise from the answer given by the Minister; and it must seek to elucidate a part of the answer given.

I fail to see how the supplementary question, which talks about the matter being raised by other employees, in any way satisfies the first, let alone the second, aspect. The question clearly indicated, "Will the Minister confirm that he was forced to sack Christian Ellis after the Premier raised concerns regarding his involvement?" The question was specific about any possible concerns raised by the Premier to the Minister. In no way are other employees mentioned. The supplementary question is out of order.

REGIONAL EDUCATION

The Hon. WES FANG (16:51): My question is addressed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. Will the Minister update the House on the initiatives pioneered by the Liberal-Nationals Government to support New South Wales teachers in drought-affected areas?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (16:52): I appreciate the question from the honourable member, who knows as well as many on this side of the House, how much our regional communities are suffering at the moment due to drought. It is interesting that my colleague was asked a question earlier today about drought. Drought is a really big issue. We know how hard it is biting our country towns. From spending time in those communities, as many of my Government colleagues and I do, and just walking down the main street it is evident how much the drought is really hurting people. Sometimes in the past when drought has hit families they were forced to make decisions to take children out of school, leave town and move elsewhere in order to find work. In previous times this has meant that if a school had a rapid decline in student enrolments, teachers would then be removed from the school and placed in areas with a growing population.

Last year my predecessor announced that in order to help support these towns, schools in many of our drought-affected areas would not see any changes to permanent staffing arrangements, even if student numbers dropped during this calendar year of 2019. I am pleased to say that the Government has made the appropriate decision to announce that it will continue this support through the next calendar year of 2020 because we know the real impact that this has on the lives of people in regional communities. Even losing one or two teachers from a country town can have a really big impact on our local economy. If there is anything more we should be doing to help these towns during this drought we will.

The drought is relentless but that does not, and should not, mean that students whose families choose to stay in the regions should have the quality of their education affected. During these tough times it is crucial that students in regional schools have stability and consistency. Families who stay in regional New South Wales should not have the quality of their children's education compromised and they should continue to have access to good teachers. Through this initiative students will not be disrupted by staff reshuffles; it will give them a better opportunity to succeed during their educational journey. I am pleased to share with the House that 220 schools will have their entitlement guaranteed by default and a further 36 schools are encouraged to apply for staffing entitlement maintenance. Eligible schools and principals will be directly notified by the department.

In addition, schools will be advised that this staffing will be maintained in their school budget. The list of eligible schools has been put together using a number of factors, including the combined drought indicator from

the Department of Primary Industries, where the school is located and other considerations such as proximity to the coast and water access. We are committed to assisting these schools and communities and will continue to review the current drought conditions to ensure that affected schools receive the necessary staffing assistance. This is an important initiative. As I said, if there is more we need to do during this drought we will. I really appreciate the opportunity that I have had over the past day to get really positive feedback from some of our teachers who have welcomed this announcement to continue giving certainty for the next calendar year. It is incredibly important that we back in our country communities in these tough times. [*Time expired.*]

WATER QUALITY

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN (16:55): My question is directed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women representing the Minister for Water, Property and Housing. A recently released peer-reviewed research paper by scientists from the University of Western Sydney on water quality data collected by WaterNSW from the Nepean River, including at popular swimming holes, has revealed dangerously high levels of E. coli bacteria and faecal contamination. This is not released to the public. Given that the Government's Beachwatch program gives daily advice to swimmers at Sydney coastal and harbour beaches, why is WaterNSW not issuing water quality alerts to the hundreds of people, including children, who swim in the Nepean River?

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women) (16:55): I thank the honourable member for her question. The question relates to a portfolio responsibility of a Minister in the other place. I will take it on notice and provide a response from the Minister.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON (16:56): My question is directed to the Minister for Finance and Small Business. Given that his spokesman confirmed that a staffer in his office used text messages to sign up members to the Liberal Party during work time, will the Minister assure the House that neither he nor anyone in his office used parliamentary or ministerial resources in internal Liberal Party branch-stacking operations in The Hills district?

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Minister for Finance and Small Business) (16:56): I thank the member for her question. I do not think she accurately reflects what the suggestion was. I think there was a screenshot of a—

The Hon. Rose Jackson: Tell us what really happened.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: I will tell you what happened. Like every other member in this place we receive a wage to represent the people of New South Wales, and as a Minister of the Crown I take that responsibility very seriously. It is the obligation of all members to represent the people of New South Wales and the interests of the Government in pursuing the worthy objectives that we hear about—and the Leader of the House has outlined some fantastic initiatives in relation to the arts. That should be the preoccupation of this House. It underlines the seriousness with which I take my obligations and those of my staff to the people of New South Wales. Fundamentally that is what underpins the responsibility of all of us. To those opposite I say that not only does that apply to me and my staff; it applies to every one of them and their staff. It applies to the way that they conduct their offices, the time they spend in their offices and whether they are properly representing the people of New South Wales.

Did my staff use office time for the purposes of doing branch work? I rely on the integrity of the instructions I give my staff when they are employed in my office—namely, their obligation is to the people of New South Wales and to the Government. The same direction is given by my chief of staff to every person he employs in my office. Unbeknown to me, if anyone has ever done that—and I do not know whether anyone has done that and I do not know whether in fact that is the case—it would be contrary to any direction given by me in relation to their obligations and their working in my office.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I ask a supplementary question.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think so, but let me double-check. I am pretty certain the answer is no. Standing Order 64 (4) states:

At the discretion of the President, one supplementary question may be immediately put by the member who asked a question to elucidate an answer.

The question was asked by the Hon. Rose Jackson, not by the Hon. Walt Secord. Therefore, I will not give the Hon. Walt Secord the call.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON (17:00): I ask a supplementary question.

The PRESIDENT: I will allow the Hon. Rose Jackson to ask a supplementary question. However, I point out that allowing a member to ask a supplementary question is at my discretion. When exercising my discretion, it is asking a little of me if a member rises to seek the call after the first member who wanted to ask a supplementary question failed miserably.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: Will the Minister elucidate any investigations or conversations he has had with his chief of staff in relation to the advice his chief of staff has given other members of staff in the office about the use of parliamentary or ministerial resources?

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the Hon. Rose Jackson on an incredible effort for the short time that was available to her. I rule the supplementary question out of order because it is not a supplementary question. The Hon. Rose Jackson has not satisfied my three requirements. Therefore, I will not give the Hon. Walt Secord the call for a possible second supplementary question.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: The time for questions has expired. If members have further questions, I invite them to place them on notice.

Supplementary Questions for Written Answers

MODERN SLAVERY LEGISLATION

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (17:01): My supplementary question for written answer is directed to the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts. On 19 June the Minister undertook to this House that he would refer the Modern Slavery Act to the Standing Committee on Social Issues "this week". Could the Minister elucidate the answers he has given this day by explaining why he delayed making his referral for three weeks, noting the advanced state of preparation for it he had outlined to the House on 19 June, and inform the House if the true aim of the Government is to ensure that the Modern Slavery Act never reaches the statute books?

Questions Without Notice: Take Note

TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: I move:

That the House take note of answers given to questions this day.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE (17:02): I refer the Minister specifically to answers to written questions submitted by me received since the last sitting of the House. I do not believe the responses were directly relevant. I asked a number of questions on notice relating to Parliamentary Secretaries to help provide transparency on exactly what the Parliamentary Secretaries are doing while in receipt of additions to their base salary paid for by the people of New South Wales. I specifically asked the Premier in relation to Parliamentary Secretaries whether or not they are required to provide quarterly diary disclosures. I asked each Minister regarding the Parliamentary Secretary associated with their portfolios what public affairs or public policy will the Parliamentary Secretary undertake? With what Acts or other legislation will the Parliamentary Secretary be officially connected? What public affairs or public policy will the Parliamentary Secretary be officially responsible for? For what matters of administration will the Parliamentary Secretary be responsible? In what publication or website will the activities of the Parliamentary Secretary be officially recorded?

The answer from the Government to those specific questions was basically that the Parliamentary Secretaries are appointed by the Premier, their duties are outlined in the Minister's office handbook and they are expected to comply with the ministerial code of conduct. The reference to the ministerial handbook is not particularly helpful about what the Parliamentary Secretary does. However, I accept this reference is possibly directly relevant in respect of the sessional orders. However, more specific questions that follow from that are not addressed in the answers.

I request that the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council take those questions on notice again and provide answers that comply with the sessional orders—first, by identifying the specific page or clause references in the ministerial handbook and the ministerial code of conduct that address the meeting disclosure requirements of Parliamentary Secretaries, as requested in my earlier questions, and, secondly, by addressing the specific questions that I posed relating to each Minister regarding the specific responsibilities of the Parliamentary Secretary associated with their portfolio. If the Government is not willing to provide answers that are directly relevant to those questions in accordance with the sessional orders, I will seek to use the forms available to me in the House to ensure that the sessional orders are complied with.

RUGBY AUSTRALIA AND ISRAEL FOLAU

The Hon. MARK LATHAM (17:05): Taking a lead from the shadow Minister, I take note of an answer provided to me on notice, No. 265 on 24 July 2019. The answer was from the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Special Minister of State, representing the Premier. The background was that in quite an extraordinary statement in a high-profile interview with *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 29 June the head of Rugby Australia, Mr Cameron Clyne, made statements essentially spelling out that State and Federal governments had asked him and Rugby Australia to sack Israel Folau. That was reported by journalist Georgina Robinson, who cited a direct quote from Mr Clyne in the newspaper:

... we'd have no sponsors at all because no sponsor has indicated they would be willing to be associated with social media posts of that sort [from Folau] and that includes government, because we've also heard from them.

This answers the excellent point that had been made by the Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox in an earlier debate.

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Point of order—

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: My remarks are relevant to the question. Does the Hon. Trevor Khan know the question? I doubt it.

The PRESIDENT: I can anticipate the member's point of order. I do not need to hear from the Hon. Trevor Khan.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: I will come to the question.

The PRESIDENT: The purpose of the take-note debate is the answers given by Ministers. The member is allowed to indicate what the question was and briefly indicate the parts of the question. The Hon. Mark Latham is doing far more than that: He is quoting from an article, indicating his views on the article, indicating his reasons and probably even indicating the reasons he originally asked the question. That is going too far. The Hon. Mark Latham should go directly to the question and the answer.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: My next statement was going to be that my question was: Is the Minister aware of claims in the media on 29 June by Cameron Clyne, the Chairman of Rugby Australia, that the Federal Government and the State Government told Rugby Australia that they would no longer support the code if Rugby Australia did not sack Israel Folau? Secondly, is the Minister—that is, the Premier—aware of any member of the New South Wales Government conveying such a view to Rugby Australia? If so, what are the details? Thirdly, what communication has the Premier had with Rugby Australia in relation to the Folau matter? What are the details? The answer that came back from the Premier is, "This is a matter for Rugby Australia and Israel Folau."

Who is the Premier trying to fool? The head of Rugby Australia says that Rugby Australia has an order from the State Government to sack Folau. Her answer comes back, "This is a matter for Rugby Australia and Israel Folau." No, it is not. It is a matter that has been placed on the public agenda by no less a person than the Chairman of Rugby Australia saying that an instruction has come from the State Government to get rid of this bloke. It was available to the Premier to answer, "No, no and none," but she has raised the suspicion that something happened here. I ask the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council to ask the Premier to answer this honestly and in a straightforward fashion instead of taking us for a pack of fools, which we are not.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (17:08): I take note of two answers given during question time today. The first relates to the question asked by the Hon. Rod Roberts relating to the vehicle notification service and the free registration services for small business. The question was excellent and it strikes at a lot of the concerns about people with commercially registered vehicles, about which I have had representations already since becoming the Labor spokesperson for small business. There is urgency about the answer to that, particularly as the period of registration is peaking at the end of the financial year and a lot of the notices have gone out. It would be helpful to have this advice come back forthwith. Obviously, the House is aware of the implications of a commercial vehicle operating unregistered. It is doubly devastating, both from the fine perspective but also because it takes that vehicle out of the work of the business. Of course, if you are a small business person who relies on a vehicle, that is a serious curb on the business.

I take note of a second answer in respect of the Dorothy Dixier from the Minister for Finance and Small Business on the drought. Labor is seriously interested about drought recovery for small businesses. The agricultural sector, as well as people working further down the supply chain and small businesses down there, is an area that we intend to scrutinise at some length. We will ask much tougher questions of the Government than

the Government asked of its own Minister for this constituency, which is very keen to know what precisely the New South Wales Government can do. I note that we have already seen some reports that small businesses feel the Government is not providing adequate recovery in respect of drought relief.

It is disappointing that the Minister's answer today did not set out in detail precisely what the Government's policies are for small business drought recovery. While I appreciated hearing the Minister's summary of his recess travels, and while I appreciated his ability to recite some of the places that he visited, it would have been far more impactful and informative if the Minister outlined what he said, what he committed to, the policies of the New South Wales Government, the commitments that have been made and the timescale for the delivery. Those are the questions that small businesses and many of the small business chambers wanted answered while he was on his trip.

The PRESIDENT: I indicate to the Hon. Daniel Mookhey and point out to members that at one stage he indicated how the question should be answered, how he would have answered the question or what the Labor Party would do. That is not part of the take-note debate on the answer. The member brought his remarks into a take-note debate on the answer because he saw that I pressed the microphone button and was planning to make a ruling. I indicate to members that I will stop the middle part in future.

MUSEUM AND ARTS PROJECTS

The Hon. WALT SECORD (17:11): As shadow Treasurer and shadow arts Minister I take note of two questions from the arts Minister involving the funding of cultural infrastructure projects in New South Wales. I was disappointed in the answer that the Minister gave in relation to questions about the Powerhouse, Sydney Modern, Walsh Bay and the Theatre Royal. He made passing reference to the Powerhouse Museum, and he made some passing reference to Sydney Modern about the cost of the project and whether it would make its final completion date. However, I was profoundly disappointed that he completely skirted around the Walsh Bay development. In his Address-in-Reply speech earlier this year the Minister made a quick drop-in reference to this, saying that the project had jumped from \$129 million to at least \$245 million.

I am disappointed that the Minister completely ignored that part of the question. I think he ignored it out of convenience, because he does not want to reveal to the Chamber that the cost blowouts are even more significant than the \$245 million. Just to remind the Chamber: It jumped from \$129 million to now \$245 million. Those were his words earlier this year.

WATER EFFICIENCY

Mr JUSTIN FIELD (17:12): In early June I asked the water Minister a number of questions relating to Sydney Water and water usage in the Sydney Water area. I received answers back on 26 June; some were not particularly useful but some beg a few more questions. In particular, my question related to the Water Wise Rules that have been in place in Sydney for a number of years now. I asked how many reports of alleged breaches to the Water Wise Rules the public had made. The answer I got was that Sydney Water received a low number of reports. I do not consider that a particularly effective response given that we are facing a water crisis. It is important that members realise that Sydney dam levels are currently at 50.6 per cent. We will soon go below 50 per cent, which will trigger a range of other actions from the Government. It is time that we take water seriously. I also indicate that the Government provided answers that indicate it did not investigate any of the reports that it received. It did not issue any warnings for breaches of the rules. Of course, it would not have, because those Water Wise Rules were largely voluntary; they were rules that were supposed to give guidance to people. But we have now hit level one water restrictions, which indicates that our Water Wise Rules should now be in force.

After receiving these answers I went to the Sydney Water website and clicked on "report of breach"—because I will be following up and finding out how breaches are dealt with in the future—and, of course, I was referred to a page that does not exist on the WaterNSW website. It seems the Government is not only not taking my question seriously in how it gives the answers but also not taking water efficiency very seriously. I asked a number of questions in relation to water efficiency, water recycling and leak management, and the answers that I got back were a little bit more informative. We still lose about 8 per cent of water in leakage in the Sydney Water jurisdiction, which is a huge amount of water when you consider the water crisis that we are in. Of the \$150 million that is spent on water efficiency, water recycling and leak management, that is a fraction of the \$2.5 billion that Sydney Water will return to the Government in dividends over the next five years. People are paying for this water. It is costing consumers. We also run the risk of getting into a serious water issue in Sydney. This Government is not taking water efficiency, water recycling and water protection seriously. It is going to cost consumers, it is costing the environment and we run the risk of real trouble as the drought continues.

NEW SOUTH WALES SCREEN SECTOR

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (17:15): I take note of the question I asked of the arts Minister regarding the New South Wales screen sector. I want to celebrate the answer that the Minister gave today of good news in regard to that sector and the State economy. I commend the Minister and the Government of which I am a member. The Made in NSW fund has supported 20,000 jobs and generated more than \$700 million in production expenditure just in the past three years. It is attracting blockbuster productions, including two new Marvel films, *Shang-Chi* and the *Legend of the Ten Rings* and the recently announced *Thor: Love and Thunder*, which is being filmed in Sydney. I know that film is close to the Minister's heart. We all saw him at the press conference with the stars of that film.

The Government's decision to provide a 10 per cent rebate for the post, digital and visual effects sector over the next five years will have enormous economic and reputational benefits for New South Wales. It is important to emphasise the reputational benefits for our State versus other States in competition for investment in the sector. It has helped to secure Sydney as the home for Disney's Industrial Light & Magic in the face of strong competition across Australia. I think that is at the Entertainment Quarter, or Fox Studios.

The Hon. Walt Secord: Point of order: I am mindful of your earlier ruling. You were very tough but fair with the Opposition. This adjournment speech bears no commentary whatsoever on what the Minister presented. I ask that you sit the member down.

The PRESIDENT: I indicate to the Hon. Walt Secord that, as I allowed the Hon. Daniel Mookhey to finish his answer, I was waiting to see the tie-in. I indicate to the Hon. Shayne Mallard that it had been my intention later this evening to look at the answer that was given by the Minister and then look at the contribution to the take-note debate from the Hon. Shayne Mallard. My memory is not perfect and, with so much happening during question time, it is hard for me to remember exactly word for word what a Minister said.

However, I believe—and I hope I am wrong—that the Hon. Shayne Mallard is going well beyond the answer that was given by the Minister. In fact, he is not giving an adjournment speech; rather, he is giving part two of the Minister's answer that would have been given if he had had more time. That is clearly not the basis of a take-note debate. I remind the Hon. Shayne Mallard that I expect him to go back to a contribution on the take-note debate on the answer given by the Minister. I will look at the Hon. Daniel Mookhey's earlier contribution to the take-note debate and the Hon. Shayne Mallard's contribution to it. I thank the Hon. Walt Secord for his assistance.

The Hon. Mark Latham: Mr President—

The Hon. Don Harwin: Point of order: I am happy for the honourable member to speak if he is in fact allowed to speak a second time. Could you clarify that?

The PRESIDENT: With everything that was happening I omitted to realise that the Hon. Mark Latham had already spoken once before.

The Hon. Mark Latham: No-one else sought the call.

The PRESIDENT: Sessional Order 28 (4) states, "A member may speak for not more than 3 minutes to the motion ... " In my view that clearly indicates that the member may speak only once for no more than three minutes. The Hon. Mark Latham is not entitled to a second call.

The Hon. Mark Latham: Does that apply in a case where no other member seeks the call and 30 minutes are allocated for the debate, or does it apply only to one particular answer? I have different answers.

The PRESIDENT: My view is that a member may speak for not more than three minutes to the motion. The motion covers the entire take-note debate. I am happy to look at this further but my initial ruling is that members cannot speak a second time. I am well aware that members have been speaking to me about some of the rulings on the new sessional orders. I am always happy to listen to the views of members. But reading the order as I am, my view is that it states that members can speak only once for three minutes.

The Hon. Mark Latham: Thank you, Mr President. I always respect your rulings.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you. I appreciate that.

TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council) (17:20): I will start with the Hon. Mark Latham's remarks about an answer on notice from the Premier on the Israel Folau matter.

I will follow up on that issue with the Premier. I note that the media reports were clearly about "the Government that provides funding to the organisation." That is not the State Government.

The Hon. Mark Latham: It's your Government.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I am not sure that that is correct. I will check. I received some preliminary advice, which I will check further, that the State Government does not directly fund Rugby Australia at all. But I will check that and get back to the Hon. Mark Latham. Similarly, the Hon. Peter Primrose raised some questions about questions on notice and I will have a look at that as well. Mr Justin Field raised water efficiency, which is a very important issue. As he would know, I had responsibility for Sydney Water prior to the election. We take water efficiency very seriously. The member noted that prior to the introduction of level one restrictions the Water Wise Rules were voluntary. From my recollection from the time I was Minister, there was going to be a grace period after the level one restrictions were brought in. That is a matter that I will need to look at. Leakage of 8 per cent is still unacceptably high, but it is a lot lower than it was previously. We will keep working to bring it down as low as possible.

The Hon. Walt Secord raised the issue of Walsh Bay. Some of the imputations the member made were simply wrong. It is a matter of public record why the budget for Walsh Bay went up from \$129 million to \$245 million. It was not because of cost blowouts; it was because of a widened scope. I thought that was obvious because in the original project there— [*Time expired.*]

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

Motion agreed to.

Deferred Answers

PERSONAL INFORMATION SECURITY

In reply to **the Hon. ADAM SEARLE** (4 June 2019).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council)—The Premier provided the following response:

I refer you to my previous answers on this matter in the Legislative Assembly.

FARM ANIMAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

In reply to **the Hon. EMMA HURST** (4 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister for Health and Medical Research provided the following response:

This question should be referred to the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales.

The Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales provided the following response:

NSW Department of Primary Industries [NSW DPI] has had a longstanding involvement in the management of antimicrobial resistance. This includes a presence on the Australian Strategic Technical Advisory Group on antimicrobial resistance, National Health and Medical Research Council [NHMRC], World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and United Nations expert panels. A focus of this work is being part of a coordinated effort in the implementation of Australia's national strategy on antimicrobial resistance.

Australia's response to antimicrobial resistance [AMR] recognises that human, animal and ecosystem health is connected.

The key purpose of the use of antimicrobials in agriculture is for the benefit of the animals, to maintain or retain good animal health and uphold good animal welfare. Comparatively, Australia's use of antimicrobials in livestock is one of the most conservative in the world. The New South Wales Government supports the use of antimicrobials in livestock being "as little as possible, as much as necessary".

An important management tool for producers aiming to reduce the use of antimicrobials is greater attention to farm biosecurity. Biosecurity on-farm is the first barrier to disease entry. Farmers are encouraged to develop on-farm biosecurity plans which incorporate strategies to minimise the need for antimicrobials.

MINISTERIAL STAFF SEVERANCE

In reply to **the Hon. PENNY SHARPE** (4 June 2019).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council)—The Minister provided the following response:

Details regarding severance payments for political office holders' staff can be found in the *Ministers' Office Handbook*, available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

MEASLES OUTBREAK

In reply to **the Hon. ROSE JACKSON** (4 June 2019).

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)—The Minister provided the following response:

The health, safety and wellbeing of New South Wales children in care is of paramount importance to me and the Department of Education.

As I indicated in my brief response to this question on 4 June 2019, the department takes advice from the Ministry of Health on how best to manage vaccine preventable infectious diseases. The Ministry of Health recommends that children be immunised against measles, mumps and rubella at 12 months and four years of age.

The NSW Public Health Act mandates that preschools cannot enrol a child unless the parent/carer has provided documentation that shows that the child:

- is fully vaccinated for their age, or
- has a medical reason not to be vaccinated, or
- is on a recognised catch-up schedule if their child has fallen behind with their vaccinations.

Under the National Quality Framework there are measures in place to protect children in early childhood facilities from highly contagious and preventable diseases such as measles.

Under regulations 88 and 168 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations, services are required to ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases at their service and have policies and procedures in place for dealing with infectious diseases.

Services are also required to notify the Department's Early Childhood Education Directorate of any serious illnesses encountered at the service. If the serious illness is a medical condition listed in Schedule 2 of the NSW Public Health Act, such as measles, the service is required to notify the local Public Health Unit of NSW Health.

Services are also required to keep an up-to-date immunisation register with a record of the immunisation status of each child enrolled at the facility. This immunisation register is checked by departmental officers when visiting a service.

Changes were made to the NSW Public Health Act in 2017 to ensure that a child must be appropriately immunised for their age to be enrolled in an education and care service. Only children who have a valid medical reason not to be vaccinated, or those on a recognised vaccination catch-up schedule, are exempt.

When enrolling a child in a New South Wales public primary or secondary school, parents/carers will be asked to provide an Immunisation History Statement. A child without an Immunisation History Statement will not be prevented from enrolling. However, under the NSW Public Health Act, children without proof of immunisation may be asked by Public Health Officials to stay at home during an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease.

Principals must contact the local Public Health Unit to notify vaccine preventable diseases, including measles. This is a requirement of the NSW Public Health Act. Public Health Unit staff will implement control measures (such as immunisations and restrictions on attending school) and provide other advice.

SHARK NETS

In reply to **the Hon. MARK PEARSON** (4 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

The Department of Primary Industries [DPI] has not historically tagged grey nurse sharks. In 2018, the Fisheries Scientific Committee requested that DPI collect data about grey nurse sharks that have been caught and released from nets.

One grey nurse shark caught at Bondi was tagged with a pop-up satellite archival tag on 11 February 2019. These tags do not monitor movement for 10 years like those for target species (Whites, Tigers, and Bulls), instead they are short term indicators of post-release survival. After a designated time, the tags automatically "pop-off" the shark, float to the surface and transmit a location signal so that they can be collected.

Similar tagging will continue in the 2019/20 shark meshing season.

CONFUCIUS CLASSROOMS PROGRAM

In reply to **Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE** (5 June 2019).

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)—The Minister provided the following response:

The review's terms of reference are copied below:

Terms of reference

The NSW Minister for Education has requested that the NSW Department of Education (the department) review all foreign government/organisation support for language programs that operate in New South Wales public schools. The Minister has also requested specific advice on the operation of the Confucius Institute established in the department in 2012.

The department has signed a number of agreements and memorandums of understanding with foreign governments and organisations to support language education in schools. The review will examine the governance arrangements of these programs, including risks associated with their operational structure and continued operation.

As a desktop review, this review will consider all departmental documentation, advice from relevant Commonwealth government departments and relevant material in the public domain about the programs.

It is not within the scope of the review to formally collect evidence from students, teachers, parents or principals about these programs, unless such comments and perspectives are in the public domain.

The review will report to the Minister for Education in late 2018.

The review has concluded. The outcomes and publication of this review are being considered by the Department.

There were no external submissions sought to the review. As a desktop review, the review considered all departmental documentation, advice from relevant Commonwealth Government departments and relevant material in the public domain about the language programs.

TEMPE STATION

In reply to **Ms ABIGAIL BOYD** (5 June 2019).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council)—The Minister provided the following response:

I am advised:

The ramp at Tempe Station will remain in place, and be made permanent, after refurbishment work on the footbridge is complete.

MINING AND WATER SECURITY

In reply to **Ms CATE FAEHRMANN** (5 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

The determination of longwall coal mining proposals in the Sydney catchment's special areas is a matter for the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

WALGETT IGA FIRE

In reply to **the Hon. WALT SECORD** (5 June 2019).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council)—The Minister provided the following response:

I am advised:

On 5 June 2019, the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, the Hon. Adam Marshall, MP, requested the Department of Premier and Cabinet to contact the Walgett Shire Council and broader community to discuss options for Government assistance.

On 13 June, the New South Wales Government announced it would provide up to \$50,000 to set up a temporary supermarket in Walgett. The New South Wales Government has also worked with the council to set up temporary bus services to nearby towns.

LAND CLEARING

In reply to **Mr JUSTIN FIELD** (5 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

The New South Wales State of the Environment Report 2018 used the most up to date satellite data of woody vegetation loss that was publicly available at the time.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE FUND

In reply to **the Hon. ADAM SEARLE** (6 June 2019).

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)—The Minister provided the following response:

Of the \$20 million allocated to the Before and After School Care Fund, \$9,447,577 was spent during the period 2015 to 2018.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND COMPANION ANIMALS

In reply to **the Hon. EMMA HURST** (6 June 2019).

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)—The Minister provided the following response:

The Safe Families Project pilot worked with two refuges to help people with pets fleeing domestic violence find accommodation. The pilot was successful and has been expanded.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FUNDING

In reply to **Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE** (6 June 2019).

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)—The Minister provided the following response:

The New South Wales Government supports the right of parents to choose the type of education that best suits their child and is committed to ensuring all students receive a high quality education, no matter what school they attend.

The Catholic sector educates approximately 250,000 students in New South Wales and is an important part of many communities across the State.

The New South Wales Government recognises the significant contribution of the Catholic sector and the contribution that parents make to their children's education through school fees and other contributions.

The New South Wales Government provides significant funding support to non-government schools. This includes \$1.3 billion for the 950 non-government schools that provide education for 35 per cent of students in New South Wales.

To ensure that Catholic and other non-government schools continue to be able to provide education for a growing school aged population, the Government is increasing the amount of capital support available, with \$500 million being made available over the next four years.

The Catholic Schools NSW report *The Case for Catholic Schools* highlights savings to governments including from the fees contributed by parents and the significant Capital funds also raised by parents in the sector. The report does not provide the detailed modelling undertaken by Ernst and Young, so the figures in the report have not been verified.

RODEO ANIMAL WELFARE

In reply to **the Hon. MARK PEARSON** (6 June 2019).

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)—The Minister provided the following response:

All rodeo events in New South Wales must comply with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 [POCTA] and adhere to the NSW Code of Practice for Animals used in Rodeo Events (the Code) which is recognised under POCTA. A rodeo operator who fails to comply with the code may be committing an offence under POCTA.

Clause 4.23 of the code states that rodeo associations are to ensure that arrangements are made for the phasing out by 20 June 1989, of calf-roping in a form which permits the abrupt stopping of calves when roped.

The Australian Professional Rodeo Association and Australian Bushmen's Campdraft and Rodeo Association have phased out calf roping in a form which results in abrupt stopping of calves when roped. Only an approved roping device can be used in calf roping events.

IMMIGRATION

In reply to **the Hon. ROD ROBERTS** (6 June 2019).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council)—The Minister provided the following response:

New South Wales is collaborating with the Commonwealth to develop an effective national population framework.

Over the next four years, we will be spending \$93 billion on infrastructure to support our growing communities across Sydney and New South Wales.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE FUND

In reply to **the Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS** (6 June 2019).

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)—The Minister provided the following response:

St Columba Anglican School at Port Macquarie was approved for a grant based on their submission for an OSHC service which will cater for a maximum of 250 children per session.

As the OSHC service intended to offer both morning and afternoon sessions, 500 before and after school care places were reported as created with the support of the fund.

SEXUAL CONSENT

In reply to **Ms ABIGAIL BOYD** (6 June 2019).

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)—The Minister provided the following response:

In May 2018, the Attorney General referred a review of the sexual consent provisions of the Crimes Act 1900 to the NSW Law Reform Commission [LRC].

Since commencing the NSW LRC review, in accordance with its terms of reference, the LRC has been considering various matters relating to this complex and sensitive area of law, including whether section 61HE of the Crimes Act 1900 should be amended, sexual assault research and expert opinion, relevant case law, developments in law, policy and practice in other Australian jurisdictions and internationally, and, importantly, the experiences of sexual assault survivors in the criminal justice system.

In October 2018, the LRC released a Consultation Paper and a survey to gather public comments, and is currently consulting widely with a range of stakeholders. The survey covers the main issues raised in the Consultation Paper and remains available to complete at www.lawreform.iustice.nsw.gov.au.

The New South Wales Government will consider the findings and any recommendations arising out of the review once the final report is received.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In reply to **the Hon. PENNY SHARPE** (18 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

Waiting and triage areas at the Sutherland Hospital Emergency Department were designed in line with contemporary care principles, in accordance with the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines and in consultation with specialist staff. Emergency department waiting and triage numbers have increased with the redevelopment. The total number of waiting spaces after the redevelopment is 72, an increase of 42. There is also an additional triage cubicle.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In reply to **Ms CATE FAEHRMANN** (18 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

- (1) All local health districts and specialty health networks have now reported completion of a local, co-designed seclusion and restraint prevention action plan for their service.

WARRAGAMBA DAM

In reply to **the Hon. JOHN GRAHAM** (18 June 2019).

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Minister for Finance and Small Business)—The Minister provided the following response:

The proposed Warragamba Dam raising would reduce the very significant existing flood risk to more than 130,000 people who live and work in the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain.

The proposal is to provide additional capacity of 14 metres to temporarily hold back floodwater upstream of Warragamba Dam. Raising the dam to create this 14-metre "flood mitigation zone" involves:

- increasing the crest levels of the dam's central spillway by approximately 12 metres, and
- increasing the dam abutments (side walls) - including the dam access road - by approximately 17 metres.

Raising the abutments by 17 metres would allow the raised dam to safely pass the most extreme possible flood used for dam design in accordance with new Australian Government guidelines as they apply to Warragamba Dam.

The flood mitigation zone would only be used to hold back floodwaters, from hours to approximately two weeks, when inflows fill the dam beyond the current full water supply storage level. The dam's permanent water storage capacity would not change.

GREYHOUND MUZZLING

In reply to **the Hon. EMMA HURST** (18 June 2019).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council)—The Minister provided the following response:

Pet greyhounds that are registered on the NSW Companion Animals Register will no longer need to be muzzled when in public. Greyhounds will still be required to be on a leash while in public at all times, like all other dogs. This reflects the New South Wales Government's commitment to improving living standards and rehoming rates for greyhounds.

As a transitional measure, however, a greyhound will still be required to wear a muzzle if it is in an off-leash area and has not successfully completed an approved retraining program. Greyhounds that have successfully completed this program will continue to wear identifying green collars or, alternatively, the person in charge of the animal will be able to carry a "proof of completion" card.

The requirement to muzzle in off-leash areas is transitional and will apply until the socialisation of ex-racing greyhounds improves as part of the ongoing work of Greyhound Racing NSW and the Greyhound Integrity & Welfare Commission.

PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS

In reply to **the Hon. ANTHONY D'ADAM** (18 June 2019).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council)—The Minister provided the following response:

I am advised:

No frontline services will be affected by the proposed efficiencies in the 2019/20 Budget.

COST OF LIVING

In reply to **Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE** (18 June 2019).

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Minister for Finance and Small Business)—The Minister provided the following response:

- I am advised that the New South Wales Government works to assist families in meeting the basic needs of children, particularly where there are additional vulnerabilities such as poverty.
- The New South Wales Government has partnered with Foodbank, with \$8 million in funding over the next four years, to provide breakfast at an additional 500 schools across this State.
- In addition to ongoing funding provided for food distribution, Communities and Justice assisted Foodbank to acquire land at Glendenning and to build its distribution hub through capital grants of \$5,000,000 since 2013. This new centre has allowed Foodbank to significantly grow its activities and its reach to people affected by food insecurity across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.
- Working with our non-government partners, Communities and Justice has funded \$149 million for early intervention services for parenting, youth and family support (2018- 19 Budget Papers). These services deliver programs directly to struggling families to ensure that the basic needs of children are met by building skills and capacity in financial management within broader parenting initiatives.
- In addition to these funded services, struggling families are able to request assistance via our Child Protection Helpline where, following assessment, eligible families can receive assistance through the Child Protection Support for Families Fund.

ABORIGINAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY

In reply to **the Hon. MARK LATHAM** (18 June 2019).

The Hon. DON HARWIN (Special Minister of State, Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts, and Vice-President of the Executive Council)—The Minister provided the following response:

I am advised this matter falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Education, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC, and has been referred to her office for response.

COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

In reply to **the Hon. MARK BANASIAK** (19 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

The central aim of the reforms was not to reduce the number of latent shares, but to provide fishers with more secure and valuable rights by implementing share management as it was originally intended—by linking the number of shares to the level of resource access.

To do this, the government provided a comprehensive package to assist fishers through the share linkage and restructuring process. This included fishing business buyouts, low-interest loans, grants for legal or financial advice, a subsidised share trading market, caps on fees and many other assistance measures. During the subsidised share trading market for example, active fishers had the highest priority, and their share purchases were subsidised by Government. Fishing business buyouts were offered and were open to anyone who wanted to consolidate their businesses or exit the industry.

It should be noted that shares themselves are not "latent" but can be traded amongst businesses which may or may not record catch against any particular share class in any particular year. The subsidised share trading market and other measures did not seek to reduce the number of shares but rather to support their redistribution.

In addition, while 'latent effort' is a common concept, there is no accepted definition nor any easy way to quantify it. For example, some fishing businesses hold several different types of shares to give them greater flexibility, so they can use different methods or target different species depending on seasonal or market conditions. They will not always report catch for all share classes but are not necessarily 'latent'. For this reason, during the Business Adjustment Program the government instead distinguished between "active" and "inactive" fishers.

FIREARMS LICENCES

In reply to **the Hon. ROBERT BORSACK** (19 June 2019).

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)—The Minister provided the following response:

I am advised:

The NSWPF Firearms Registry is working to improve processing times. This includes by the recruiting staff to ensure optimum staffing levels are provided in order to meet customer demand.

The registry has implemented the Firearms Licencing Information Management System. This system was implemented in stages and online forms are now available. This means that customers can now complete a range of firearms services online, such as a Permit to Acquire a Firearm and renewal of their firearms licence. These changes are to help ensure applications are processed more rapidly.

Online access is provided by Service NSW and there are links to the service on the Firearms Registry's webpage at: <https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/online-services/firearms>

DUBBO REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTRE

In reply to **the Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS** (19 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

The Commonwealth Government has committed \$3 million over two years for a new alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation facility in Dubbo. This Commonwealth funding will contribute to a \$5 million capital works project proposed by Dubbo Regional Council to establish a 15-bed rehabilitation and eight-bed withdrawal management facility.

Western NSW Local Health District participated in consultations that informed Dubbo Regional Council's business case for the new facility. The local health district will work in partnership with the new service when it has been established.

STATE BUDGET AND SEXUAL AND GENDERED VIOLENCE

In reply to **Ms ABIGAIL BOYD** (19 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided further information:

I note that the Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence is responsible for domestic violence program and policies.

I am advised that the New South Wales Government will continue to work with the organisations that developed the Safe State platform in addressing the devastating impact caused by domestic violence on women and families right across New South Wales.

The New South Wales Government is also investing a record \$431 million over four years to tackle domestic violence through a range of initiatives.

LAND CLEARING

In reply to **the Hon. ADAM SEARLE** (20 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

Yes, this Government is committed to the Land Management and Biodiversity framework.

MONARO GRASSLAND

In reply to **the Hon. WALT SECORD** (20 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

Local Land Services engages a variety of stakeholders, including regulatory agencies such as the Department of Environment and Energy, on a regular basis. Ongoing engagement ensures that LLS can provide landholders with up to date information as part of ongoing service delivery.

SHOALHAVEN WATER CONTAMINATION

In reply to **Mr JUSTIN FIELD** (20 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

Why is Shoalhaven City Council and not the EPA conducting the investigation?

Under Section 6 of the Protection of the Environment Operation Act 1997, Shoalhaven City Council is the appropriate regulatory authority for activities conducted at the Sikorsky Aircraft Australia site. As a result, Shoalhaven City Council is leading the investigation into this matter.

What role does the EPA have in its current investigation?

The Environment Protection Authority is assisting Shoalhaven City Council, including working with Council on collecting evidence, drafting notices and taking additional water samples. The EPA will continue to keep the community informed as information becomes available. On 2 July 2019, the EPA published the PFAS levels for these additional water samples collected from the Shoalhaven River on its website: www.epa.nsw.gov.au

What information can the Minister provide about the Government's response to the broader PFAS contamination issues in the Shoalhaven?

The Environment Protection Authority has been leading the New South Wales Government's response to ensure that the Department of Defence undertakes actions to protect the community from PFAS leaving HMAS *Albatross*, including the testing of edible fish and oysters from the Shoalhaven River. In 2018, the EPA released tailored precautionary dietary advice for fish caught in the Shoalhaven River after testing found PFAS in some species

NON-COMMERCIAL KANGAROO KILLING

In reply to **the Hon. EMMA HURST** (20 June 2019).

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women)—The Minister provided the following response:

Non-commercial culling licence allocations are applied to ensure the combined harvest and cull remain within ecologically sustainable limits.

The allocation limits are calculated by estimating the number and size of properties likely to seek licences, estimating the projected harvest levels, and then determining limits that will ensure the combined harvest and cull remains within ecologically sustainable quota.

Kangaroo harvest and non-commercial cull licence allocations are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they remain within ecologically sustainable limits. From the commencement of the reforms in August 2018 to the end of 2018, the combined harvest and cull remained within ecologically sustainable limits.

From January 2019, the maximum limits for non-commercial culling licences were reduced by 50 per cent in response to updated kangaroo population estimates for commercial zones that indicated populations had begun to decrease due to the drought.

The New South Wales Government monitors kangaroo numbers across New South Wales to establish appropriate quotas for harvesting to maintain ecologically sustainable populations of kangaroos.

For more detail, I encourage the member to read the summary of the population estimates and survey methodology in the annual quota reports published on the department's website: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/wildlife-management/kangaroo-management/kangaroo-population-monitoring-and-reporting.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

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

Motion agreed to.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That formalities in the routine of business under Standing Order 38 take precedence of debate on committee reports and Government response until concluded.

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

WITHDRAWAL OF BUSINESS

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I withdraw private member's business item No. 52 outside the order of precedence standing in my name on the *Notice Paper* for today relating to an order for papers regarding independent disability advocacy.

*Announcements***PARLIAMENT HOUSE FILMING**

The PRESIDENT: I inform members that a video project will take place at Parliament House. A video crew will be shooting vision tomorrow, Wednesday 7 August 2019, throughout Parliament House and within this Chamber, and again on Monday 12 August. The video will be used on the screens around Parliament House, on the website, internet and at events at Parliament House to highlight the important work of members and staff as they go about their jobs in this place.

*Members***LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

The Hon. MICK VEITCH: I inform the House that on 2 July 2019 the Hon. Adam Searle was elected Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and the Hon. Penny Sharpe was elected Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, replacing the Hon. Walt Secord.

OPPOSITION WHIP AND DEPUTY OPPOSITION WHIP

The Hon. MICK VEITCH: I inform the House that on 2 July 2019 the Hon. Mark Buttigieg was elected Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council, replacing the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, and the Hon. Anthony D'Adam was elected Deputy Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council, replacing the Hon. Greg Donnelly.

*Committees***SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSAL TO RAISE THE WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL****Membership**

The PRESIDENT: I inform the House that the Clerk has received the following nominations for membership of the Select Committee on the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall:

Government:	Mr Khan Mr Mallard Mr Martin
Opposition:	Mr Searle Ms Sharpe
Crossbench:	Mr Field Mr Roberts

Chair and Deputy Chair

The PRESIDENT: I further inform the House that on 23 July 2019 Mr Justin Field was elected chair of the committee and the Hon. Rod Roberts was elected deputy chair of the committee.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**Reference**

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN: I inform the House that in accordance with paragraph 6 of the resolution of the House establishing the portfolio committees, the Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment resolved on 20 June 2019 to adopt the following terms of reference:

1. That Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment inquire into and report on actions, policies and funding by government to ensure healthy, sustainable koala populations and habitat in New South Wales, and in particular:
 - (a) the status of koala populations and koala habitat in New South Wales, including trends, key threats, resource availability, adequacy of protections and areas for further research;
 - (b) the impacts on koalas and koala habitat from:
 - (i) the Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approvals and Regional Forest Agreements;
 - (ii) the Private Native Forestry Code of Practice;
 - (iii) the old growth forest remapping and rezoning program; and
 - (iv) the 2016 land management reforms, including the Local Land Services Amendment Act 2016 and associated regulations and codes.
 - (c) the effectiveness of State Environmental Planning Policy 44 - Koala Habitat Protection, the NSW Koala Strategy and the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, including the threatened species provisions and associated regulations, in protecting koala habitat and responding to key threats;

- (d) identification of key areas of koala habitat on private and public land that should be protected, including areas currently at risk of logging or clearing, and the likely impacts of climate change on koalas and koala distribution;
 - (e) the environmental, social and economic impacts of establishing new protected areas to conserve koala habitat, including national parks; and
 - (f) any other related matter.
2. That the committee report by 15 June 2020.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Reference

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I inform the House that in accordance with paragraph 5 (b) of the resolution of the House establishing the committee, the Public Accountability Committee resolved on 4 July 2019 to adopt the following terms of reference:

1. That the Public Accountability Committee inquire into and report on the regulation of building standards, building quality and building disputes by government agencies in New South Wales, including:
 - (a) the role of private certification in protecting building standards, including:
 - (i) conflicts of interest;
 - (ii) effectiveness of inspections;
 - (iii) accountability of private certifiers; and
 - (iv) alternatives to private certifiers.
 - (b) the adequacy of consumer protections for owners and purchasers of new apartments/dwellings, and limitations on building insurance and compensation schemes, including:
 - (i) the extent of insurance coverage and limitations of existing statutory protections;
 - (ii) the effectiveness and integrity of insurance provisions under the Home Building Act 1989; and
 - (iii) liability for defects in apartment buildings.
 - (c) the role of strata committees in responding to building defects discovered in common property, including the protections offered for all strata owners in disputes that impact on only a minority of strata owners;
 - (d) case studies related to flammable cladding on New South Wales buildings and the defects discovered in Mascot Towers and the Opal Tower;
 - (e) the current status and degree of implementation of recommendations of reports into the building industry including the Lambert report 2016, the Shergold/Weir report 2018 and the Opal Tower investigation final report 2019; and
 - (f) any other related matter.
2. That the committee table an interim report as soon as practical and its final report by 14 February 2020.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 3 - EDUCATION

Reference

The Hon. MARK LATHAM: I inform the House that in accordance with paragraph 2 (b) of the resolution of the House establishing the portfolio committees, the Portfolio Committee No. 3 - Education resolved on 3 July 2019 to adopt the following terms reference:

1. That Portfolio Committee No. 3 - Education inquire into and report on measurement and the proposal for outcome-based funding in New South Wales schools, and in particular:
 - (a) New South Wales school results relative to other States and other countries and what these trends show about schools policy;
 - (b) the existing state of measurement in the New South Wales education system and the measurement systems and data requirements that would be required to implement outcome-based budgeting in the New South Wales education system;
 - (c) consequences of the introduction of outcome-based budgeting for New South Wales schools with particular regard to:
 - (i) the needs of and impact on disadvantaged schools and students from a disadvantaged background;
 - (ii) the needs of and impact on students with a disability;
 - (iii) parental/community involvement in school accountability;
 - (iv) the development of the status and quality of the New South Wales teaching profession;

- (v) establishing international best practice for teaching methods, performance measurement and school management in New South Wales; and
 - (vi) the effectiveness of the Local Schools/Local Decisions policy.
- (d) how schools should be funded into the future and whether New South Wales growth funding, including from Gonski and other sources, should be linked to outcomes and performance;
 - (e) reporting and accountability measures for all schools in regard to State government funding;
 - (f) the provision of wraparound services to support educational outcomes; and
 - (g) any other related matters.
2. That the committee report by 20 December 2019.

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Reference

The PRESIDENT: I inform the House that, according to standing order, on 20 June 2019 I referred the following terms of reference to the Procedure Committee:

That the Procedure Committee inquire into and report on:

- (a) the broadcast of proceedings resolution of continuing effect, adopted on 18 October 2007; and
- (b) any other related matter.

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 - HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Reports

Debate resumed from 18 June 2019.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (17:45): I contribute to debate on the report of Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health and Community Services entitled *Implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the provision of disability services in New South Wales*. I say at the outset that the NDIS is an iconic Labor reform program. Unfortunately, as our inquiry found—which I am deeply concerned by—it is simply not living up to its promise. The committee made two findings. The first was:

That, while the National Disability Insurance Scheme is a transformative, once-in-a-generation, person-centric reform with the capacity to significantly improve the lives of Australians with disability, its potential has not been realised for many individuals in New South Wales to date.

The second finding was:

That, while many people have and are expected to benefit from the National Disability Insurance Scheme, there are many more people with disability in New South Wales who are not eligible for the Scheme and who will require access to ongoing appropriate services to meet their needs. The committee acknowledges that the NSW Government has implemented some transitional arrangements to manage the risks of service gaps and issues during the early years of the full scheme.

I thank the incredible people with disability and their carers who appeared before the inquiry. I particularly thank the Council for Intellectual Disability and the amazing young man who appeared before us—his name escapes me at the moment. I also particularly thank Amber Curry. Amber was at the time a 20-year-old woman who had completed school. She had plans for what she wanted to do after school, but she was forced to wait six months to get her plan approved. She has a great plan in place now, but even the most basic errors took months to address. These are simple bureaucratic issues that had an incredible effect on a young woman at a formative time of her life.

It is an example of what we heard time and again, which shows us what is wrong with the way the NDIS has been rolled out in New South Wales. In 2012 New South Wales was the first State to commit to a full scheme. In 2013 it was the first jurisdiction to roll out the NDIS trial. In May 2018 it was the first State to sign an enduring, full scheme agreement. In July 2018 it was the first State to complete the rollout. The problem with being the first, as we heard time and again, is that it has been a rushed process.

I thank Uniting for its very powerful analogy. In their testimony to the committee, Uniting witnesses said that the NDIS was not fully mature and that it was like building an aeroplane as it was taking off. We heard similar evidence over and over again. This rushed rollout has had disastrous effects on people with disability in New South Wales, who have not been fortunate enough realise the full benefits of the NDIS. That is particularly the case for children. Early Childhood Intervention Australia told us—

The Hon. Greg Donnelly: Point of order: There should be respect for the member with the call. Members who wish to have private conversations should leave the Chamber.

The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane): Members who wish to have conversations should leave the Chamber or carry out those conversations at a lower volume. The member should be able to deliver her speech without interference.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS: Early Childhood Intervention Australia told the committee that a six- to 12-month delay for children can be devastating and arresting. Such a delay is not unusual when further reports are required. There is a window within which support can be provided. If the support is not provided within that time some children will never realise their full development. The request for more reports, a shortfall in funding or a delay in funding may mean that families are faced with a Hobson's choice: They either pay for services themselves and hope that they may be reimbursed or go without the support, which can be truly devastating. As Uniting said, there is a two-tiered system of those who can advocate for themselves and those who cannot. The effect, particularly for children with autism, is that it exacerbates the problem. There are clearly unrealistic expectations on parents who act as primary deliverers of therapy and as advocates on behalf of their children.

I mention the case of Kim Flowers, which highlights another key aspect that was uncovered by the inquiry. The limitations of the NDIS—where it starts and ends—are currently being fought in a range of different forums on a day-to-day basis by individuals battling with government departments, and sometimes by government departments battling with each other. Kim is a young woman who receives coverage under the NDIS but, as a result of additional requirements for her support, she was forced to live in a hospital. She did not need to live in a hospital for months on end, and it is certainly not the most efficient or appropriate place for a young woman to live. But because of fighting between the New South Wales Government and the NDIS, Kim Flowers was forced to live in a hospital and New South Wales taxpayers were footing the bill. This is not an example of effective rollout of the scheme. I pay tribute to Kim and to her parents, who are amazing people. I also thank Maryanne Stuart, our Labor candidate for Heathcote, who advocated for months on her behalf. An appropriate solution has now been put in place for Kim; a bed has been found for her. Similar stories of delays were reported constantly to the committee.

As my time is limited, I will raise three final points. The first is the importance of trained staff in the rollout of the NDIS. I thank the Australian Services Union for its submission. The committee made a recommendation around the importance of a portable training scheme. Difficulties arise out of the need for staff to continue to train in best practice. We rely on those staff, who are sometimes reduced to individual contractors with no provision for training, to encapsulate best practice. The Ombudsman said, "We need to put the puzzle together," but we need to bring the right people together to make those decisions. Certainly the committee found that a person's experience in the NDIS could be fundamentally different if they had a good planner, a trained planner, an effective planner or someone who was familiar with their particular disabilities, as opposed to a less effective planner. The lucky-dip approach is clearly inappropriate in this situation.

There is a need for flexibility in plans, but that is not happening at the moment. Even week to week, people may need different supports. For example, people with multiple sclerosis—even those at the same point in their diagnosis—need dramatically different supports, and their needs change over the course of the year. Flexibility in plans is incredibly important. The final point I touch on is the question of the provider of last resort. The committee made a recommendation that the New South Wales Government should become a provider of last resort, which is what other States have done. The fundamental premise of the NDIS is simply that the market will provide the solution, but in practice that is not happening. It is not happening in rural and regional New South Wales. It is not happening where there are complex, interacting disabilities.

It is particularly not the case for people who are unable to advocate for themselves. They are the people who require the Government to step in and be the provider of last resort. If the Government does not step in as a provider of last resort, State services will provide them anyway—whether it be the prison system, our hospital system or some other service. There needs to be a more comprehensive approach to disability services than simply walking away from it now that the NDIS is in place. I commend the report to the House. I thank the committee chair. I also particularly thank the Hon. Paul Green for his contribution. This was a very important committee inquiry, and I hope that the Government will implement its recommendations.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (17:56): Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health and Community Services inquired into and reported on the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the provision of disability services in New South Wales. The inquiry came at a critical time in disability reform, and the New South Wales Government has a strong record of backing the NDIS in providing accessible mainstream services and an inclusive community for all people with disability, including those who are not eligible for the NDIS.

I thank the individuals, groups and organisations that submitted the 352 submissions that were received for their important contributions to the inquiry, and I note the heartfelt evidence that was given by many members

of the community to our inquiry. That evidence helped in the committee's deliberations. It is worth noting that New South Wales was the first jurisdiction to commit to the full NDIS scheme, in 2012; the first jurisdiction to roll out the NDIS trial, in 2013; the first State to sign a full scheme agreement, in May 2018; and the first State to complete the rollout of the NDIS, in July 2018.

As of 31 March 2019 nearly 102,000 people with disability were accessing the scheme, including more than 34,000 people who had never received support previously. Of those, 95 per cent rated their satisfaction with the process as very good and good. The committee found that the NDIS is a transformative, once-in-a-generation, person-centric reform with a capacity to significantly improve lives through a positive experience with the scheme. The New South Wales Government remains committed to ensuring that the scheme delivers on its potential for all participants.

The New South Wales Government, as an active member of the Commonwealth of Australian Governments Disability Reform Council and other NDIS governance reforms, has taken and continues to take an active role in resolving the issues for New South Wales scheme participants, which is outlined in recommendation 7. As indicated in its response, the New South Wales Government has actively advocated and continues to advocate for the resolution of scheme implementation issues as outlined in recommendation 1, and strengthened and streamlined planning processes as encapsulated in recommendation 2 of the committee's report. The Government continues to advocate for the resolution of issues related to early childhood intervention and their approach, which is outlined in recommendation 3.

The Government advocates for the better recognition of the needs for carers as part of the planning process. It was very clear from the evidence that was provided to the committee that, while the NDIS is centred around the needs of the individual, the role of carers is pivotal. It is very interesting to see that carers are also transforming with the process. Evidence before the committee was that some carers felt guilty for taking part of an individual's package under the NDIS, but that package is for carers to make use of as well. That is very important because carers played a key role before the NDIS and will continue to play a key role in supporting those with a disability under the NDIS. I commend the carers who care for so many with a disability in our community. We heard their very inspirational stories throughout the committee's deliberations. There is an agreement on the boundaries between the NDIS and the health system, as outlined in recommendation 11 and supported by the Government. Recommendation 16 of the report calls for improved training for the NDIS workforce, which is needed.

Recommendation 17 outlines a strategy to address thin markets—such as in regional, rural and remote areas—and a review of pricing structures. It is important to differentiate between the NDIS in a market such as Sydney, where there may be many providers in a geographical region, and those in rural and regional communities where there is potentially one provider. Some of those providers are providing a service in a particular area but may not be awarded contracts for that area in the future. Those areas have experienced some transitional issues as well. Recommendations 19 and 20 advocate appropriate oversight mechanisms to ensure compliance with the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework and the review of the deaths of people with disability in residential care. This is very important. We heard quite a lot of evidence with respect to the quality and safeguarding framework and the needs of individuals. Recommendation 21 outlines the inclusion of official community visitors in the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework.

It is noted that recommendations 12 and 13, which relate to funding responsibility as a provider of last resort and providing a safety net for participants, are appropriately handled by the Commonwealth Government. While in the past New South Wales has been the primary disability care provider, under the arrangements of the NDIS that responsibility has transferred to the Commonwealth. There was some interest in the State Government undertaking an inquiry into what is effectively a Commonwealth Government service. However, we acknowledge the transitional nature of the NDIS, the State Government's responsibilities and what we have achieved. This Government has a continuing role in supporting those with a disability in New South Wales. Recommendation 23 has been addressed with the establishment and appointment of the New South Wales Ageing and Disability Commissioner, which was supported by this House in the last session of Parliament. Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald, AM, will apply strengthened protections for those with a disability and older people in our community. The Hon. Greg Donnelly has had an interest in elder care in the past so I am sure he supports this recommendation.

New South Wales was a leader in disability reform over the past decade and was the first State to transition to the NDIS. Those reforms have made a significant improvement to the lives of people with disability, their families and carers. This Government remains committed to the National Disability Insurance Scheme to empower people with disability to live fulfilling lives and achieve their potential. I commend the Hon. Greg Donnelly for his work in shepherding this inquiry as committee chair and for the reasonable way in which he allowed all members to make a contribution and his undertaking to hear all voices. I commend him for this and, in particular, for his ability to listen to the Government witnesses. I thank the committee secretariat and all

committee members. We all approached the matter with a very open mind and put those with a disability and their carers first to come up with positive solutions so that the Government could be proactive. The committee's report was received by the Government in that fashion.

I pay tribute to Mr Ray Williams, the member for Castle Hill, for his stewardship of this transition program when formerly the Minister for Disability Services. His department assisted the committee and made a comprehensive submission. His staff at the time, particularly his chief of staff Rommel Varghese—who now works for the Premier—and his disability adviser, Stuart Bicknell, supported Government members in our understanding as we approached the committee's deliberations. The work of the Minister in transitioning more than 100,000 people to the NDIS was tremendous and has made a difference to the lives of those with a disability.

While there are some teething problems—I will go further and say there are some systemic problems with the NDIS and its rollout to this stage—it was evident in the committee's deliberations that those living with a disability had great hope and optimism for the NDIS and what it could provide in the future. One question often asked was: Do you think your situation is better with or without the NDIS? Overwhelmingly the view was that situations had improved for those with a disability. The committee heard strong evidence that people with a disability had great belief in what the NDIS could realise. That hope and optimism can still be realised and the committee's recommendations and the Government's approach support this. I thank all the committee members for their constructive approach.

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD (18:06): I speak on the committee report entitled *Implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the provision of disability services in New South Wales*. The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 21 June 2018. Portfolio Committee No. 2 - Health and Community Services inquired into and reported on the provision of disability services across New South Wales. I note some of the terms of reference: the implementation of the scheme and its success or otherwise in providing choice and control for people with a disability; experience of people with complex care and support needs in developing and enacting their NDIS plans; the accessibility of early intervention supports for children; the effectiveness and impact of privatising government-run disability services; the provision of support services, including accommodation and respite care; workforce issues impacting on the delivery of disability services; and challenges facing disability service providers and the sustainability under the new model. The committee also inquired into incidents where inadequate disability supports resulted in greater strain on community services such as the State's justice and health systems.

The committee received 352 submissions and five supplementary submissions. It held two extensive public hearings at Parliament House in Sydney. I commend the witnesses and those who provided submissions. Other committee members have spoken about the passion expressed in those submissions and how they contributed to our understanding of those at the coalface who deal with and care for people with a disability. As the Hon. Scott Farlow indicated, more than 100,000 people are now cared for under the NDIS in New South Wales. The assessment of satisfaction with the scheme is at about 95 per cent.

The committee focused on that remaining 5 per cent but it should be zero. We focused on a group that the system is not picking up. We made recommendations to steer us into holistically realising the promise of the NDIS, which has bipartisan support. The Government has received most of those recommendations positively. I will not list them all but some of the groups that presented to us included the New South Wales Council for Intellectual Disability, People with Disability Australia and the Disability Advocacy Alliance. Those peak bodies have a huge store of life experience in this field.

The NDIS is the largest social reform since Medicare. It was established by the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act in 2013. The NDIS is an Australia-wide scheme and New South Wales was the first State to sign a full scheme agreement with the Commonwealth Government. It has been described as a once-in-a-generation reform that is aimed at improving the lives of people with disability across Australia while providing for greater choice and control in their lives as well as changing the way disability supports are funded. It is important to note that the NDIS represents a fundamental shift in the way disability services are delivered in future. The new generation of people who move into the NDIS will have an easier process because they have not had the confrontation of transitioning from the State system to the Federal system; they will know only one system. Our report and other reports and inquiries will have ironed out some of the bugs and it will be a better life experience for those people and their carers.

The committee report provides an important source of lessons as New South Wales continues to work to provide outcomes for people with disabilities, their families and their carers. The report comes at a critical time in disability reform. While New South Wales has moved to the full scheme, the NDIS will take many years to become fully functional. The inquiry was an important source of information and analysis for New South Wales as we continue to work to successfully implement the NDIS and ensure that it delivers its intended benefits. In 2012 New South Wales was the first jurisdiction to commit to the full scheme of the NDIS and in 2013 it was the

first jurisdiction to roll out the NDIS in a trial. In May 2018 it was the first State to sign an enduring full scheme agreement and in July 2018 it was the first State to complete the rollout of the NDIS. All honourable members in this place can be proud of the leadership of our State and those milestones. As of 30 November 2018 over 100,000 people with disabilities were accessing the scheme, including more than 38,000 people who had never received support previously, and over 2,600 children were accessing early childhood intervention.

It is expected that the NDIS will more than double specialist disability service funding in New South Wales to over \$6.5 billion per year. This Government is committing more than \$3.2 billion per year to the NDIS and additional funding is being provided by the Commonwealth Government. That is a big change. The NDIS replaced the previous New South Wales disability support system. Prior to the NDIS, disability services were provided by the Department of Family and Community Services [FACS] and non-government organisations. There was a mix of block funding and individual funding arrangements for specialist disability services with non-government organisations delivering 60 per cent of disability services. Government-funded disability services for eligible participants has progressively transferred to non-government providers. The NDIS marks a shift away from the welfare model to an insurance-based approach which is informed by actuarial analysis to provide support funding for people with disability. The NDIS also shift away from the block funding of disability services to one in which participants choose the services and support they need. It empowers the participants and their carers.

Prior to the development of the NDIS the National Disability Agreement outlined the Australian Government, State and Territory responsibilities to the disability sector. Previously the role of States and Territories was to deliver specialist disability support services, including support accommodation, community support, respite, case management and early childhood intervention. All honourable members are familiar with what the State provided. Prior to the NDIS this Government had begun reforming the disability sector, which complemented the ethos of the NDIS and helped pave the way for the introduction of the NDIS. New South Wales became the first jurisdiction to fully agree to the scheme. Secretary of the Department of Family and Community Services Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter suggested in his evidence that New South Wales played an important national role in the success of the NDIS. He said:

Arguably, if New South Wales had not committed to the NDIS there would not be an NDIS. It was the frisson of a Coalition Government committing to a then Labor Commonwealth Government reform that, I think, locked it in. New South Wales would not have been in a position to do that if it had not been in line with a continuum of reform. Also, New South Wales had the financial ability to make that commitment, in part because we are getting out of the direct delivery of disability services. That has freed up around \$200 million a year that was formerly consumed, quite appropriately, inside my agency in management, policy and corporate and administrative support. That has all gone into the National Disability Insurance Scheme. So we are able to commit, without drawing money in from other services ...

That is evidence from the leading bureaucrat about the money we have saved and the leadership our State took. Other committee members have acknowledged the issues concerning implementation of the NDIS and that is what the committee was looking at. While acknowledging the benefits of the scheme, stakeholders told the committee that the NDIS rollout has raised various challenges and concerns, which in turn have impacted significantly on people with disabilities and their families.

Key concerns raised by inquiry participants about the implementation of the NDIS include that the scheme is unclear and incredibly difficult to navigate, which is overwhelming the people it is intended to assist. Given the scale and complexity of the scheme the committee noted that many people with disabilities, their families and carers are having trouble navigating it. Committee members understood how some people are overwhelmed and frustrated as a result of their interaction with the scheme and it made some recommendations, which the Government has largely welcomed. I will not go through all the recommendations.

The first recommendation states that we should use our role in the Commonwealth Council of Australian Governments Disability Reform Council to look at those challenges in detail and advocate for them for the whole of Australia. We were concerned about the dramatic change in the disability workforce but we noted it was expected to generate 30,000 new jobs in New South Wales. There is a transition from the public sector to the private sector. Following the transfer of FACS disability service providers to the private sector, non-government organisations now deliver 95 per cent of disability services to New South Wales. I will leave members to consider the other recommendations.

Although the findings of the inquiry pointed out the shortcomings of 5 per cent of care plans for people with disability, it celebrates the goal, ambition and promise of the NDIS. We are getting there and this report, which I suspect is the first report on implementation in Australia, is an important part of this State's NDIS journey. The Hon. Greg Donnelly is in the Chamber and I compliment him for chairing the inquiry in a professional and compassionate manner, as expected. I thank fellow committee members: the Hon. Paul Green, the Hon. Scott Farlow, the Hon. Courtney Houssos, the Hon. Bronnie Taylor, and Ms Dawn Walker. I acknowledge the secretariat and committee staff for their tremendous work; we do not take it for granted.

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY (18:16): In reply: I thank the Hon. Courtney Houssos, the Hon. Scott Farlow and the Hon. Shayne Mallard, who in all of their contributions elucidated and teased out a number of the most significant aspects of the inquiry. They gave insight into how the NDIS arrangements are being implemented in the State. We can all share in the pride that New South Wales is taking a leading role in bringing this extraordinary life-transforming scheme to fruition, delivering it to some of the most worthy individuals one could imagine. In addition to teasing out the scheme they elucidated concerns that were brought to the inquiry about some matters, which I am sure this Government and the Commonwealth Government will work assiduously to address.

I thank in absentia the Hon. Paul Green, a member of the Christian Democratic Party, who was the deputy chair. He is very passionate about this area and in his own right oversaw inquiries of disability concerns not just with respect to children and young people but also adults with disability. His voice is deeply missed from this take-note debate and forthcoming sessions of Parliament. All members are poorer for not having the Hon. Paul Green with us. It was a shame that he was not able to secure a seat in this Fifty-Seventh Parliament. I also thank Ms Dawn Walker from The Greens. She also has not returned to this Parliament. It is fair to say all who knew Dawn were well aware that she was not a person who observed and commented from the sideline. She took a deep personal interest in disability matters and advocated for and on behalf of people with disability, particularly with respect to the upper north coast region of New South Wales.

I thank the Hon. Bronnie Taylor, who was also a member of the committee and played a most important role. We know that she has advocated very strongly on behalf of people with disability. Now that she is a Minister I am sure she is very busy and could not make it to the Chamber to make a contribution on this report. I appreciate the collegiate way in which committee members worked and I thank all members who made contributions to this take-note debate. I commend the report to the House.

The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane): The question is that the House take note of the report.

Motion agreed to. PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 - INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT

Reports

Debate resumed from 18 June 2019.

The Hon. WES FANG (18:20): From the outset of my contribution I thank my fellow committee members—the Hon. Mick Veitch, the Hon. Rick Colless, the Hon. Courtney Houssos, the Hon. Scot Macdonald, the Hon. Mark Pearson and, in particular, committee chair, the Hon. Robert Brown, for their work on the committee's important inquiry entitled *Sustainability of the Dairy Industry in New South Wales*. At times it was hard to hear the stories of some of our State's farmers and the hardships they have had to endure in a tough industry. I thank those farmers and all stakeholders for their submissions and for appearing before our hearings.

I reiterate the comments of the Hon. Mick Veitch, who delivered his contribution on behalf of the Hon. Robert Brown, that the committee found that the major retailers had a reluctance to provide information and attend the hearings. However, I thank Woolworths for participating in the inquiry but express my disappointment that the other major retailers chose not to attend the hearings. I was very pleased to participate in this inquiry as for too long our dairy farmers have not received their fair share. The report found that a retail price of one dollar per litre for drinking milk has removed considerable value from the value chain. This has contributed to financial pressure on New South Wales dairy farmers. Even more so the fact that retailers have been charging one dollar per litre for private label milk since 2011 was particularly concerning to the committee, given the number of CPI increases and increases in the cost of production over the past seven years.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission concluded that this does not directly impact the price paid to dairy farmers for their milk supply. The committee, based on the evidence provided, disagreed. Though the committee found one dollar per litre milk a significant determinant to the industry, the committee also concluded that there is a considerable power imbalance between the dairy farmers and processors and that the current farm gate price for raw milk is inadequate to cover cost of production and allow for a reasonable profit margin. During times of drought this power imbalance is exacerbated. As noted in the report, the relationship between dairy farmers and the processor is characterised by an imbalance of power that gives the processor a considerable advantage and, without any effective bargaining power, a farmer's place in the value chain is one of pure price-taker.

The report supported 10 recommendations and I am pleased to say that in its response of 22 February 2019 the Government supported the majority of the recommendations in principle. I draw attention to a couple of findings. During the inquiry I was particularly concerned to hear testimony that in some cases the so-called drought levy by the major retailers has minimal impact at the farm gate. One farmer noted that out of the extra

10c that was being charged retail price, he received less than one-tenth of a per cent. Recommendation 2 of the report therefore proposed that the New South Wales Government work with retailers to consider expanding mechanisms to ensure that the retail price of milk takes into account ongoing increases in cost of production and that the levy is returned to farmers in full. The Government in its reply supports this recommendation in principle but notes the valid point that additional levies or charges, in isolation from other States, can lead to a less attractive marketplace. However, the New South Wales Government will convene a roundtable to discuss options that will benefit the dairy industry without creating market distortion. I am pleased the Government acknowledges this issue and will seek a balanced response.

Recommendation 3 stated that a mandatory code of conduct be implemented and the New South Wales Government agrees in principle with this recommendation. It is important to note that on 15 March 2019 the Hon. David Littleproud, then Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources for the Australian Government, announced the Government will progress a mandatory code of conduct. The principles that the code cover include but are not limited to a good faith arrangement, prevention of unilateral changes to agreements and retrospective price step downs, prohibition of exclusive supply arrangements in combination with two-tier pricing and the introduction of a dispute resolution process. The New South Wales Government does not seek to pre-empt the outcome of the consultation process by the Federal Government but supports any initiative to increase the understanding, transparency and collaboration along the supply chain. This Government will work with the Commonwealth and industry to implement the code once approved by the Commonwealth Parliament.

An important recommendation was that an independent NSW Commissioner for Dairy be established. In March 2019 then Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Niall Blair, announced that a fresh milk and dairy advocate will be appointed to lead a dedicated dairy business advisory unit within the Department of Primary Industries. The advocate will coordinate a task force to identify immediate and necessary actions for the sector. I put on record that the Government supports recommendations 8 and 10, being promotion of the Farm Innovation Fund and further research to develop the industry respectively. The committee did not make any findings in relation to factors inhibiting the ability of dairy farmers to access the Farm Innovation Fund.

This Government has committed \$1 billion to the Farm Innovation Fund under the Emergency Drought Relief Package 2019-20. From 1 July 2019 farmers can borrow up to a maximum of \$1 million per project, with a total of \$1 million outstanding at any one time to build on-farm infrastructure, including stock containment areas. In addition, interest charges on Farm Innovation Fund loans for the 2019-20 financial year will be waived. At the time of the Government response, 38 dairy farmers had accessed \$7 million in loans under the fund to assist in drought preparedness. Furthermore, since July 2018, 181 New South Wales dairy farmers, or around 29 per cent of the industry, had applied for emergency drought relief transport subsidies, of which 177 received grants.

I note that in July this year Aldi, Coles and Woolworths raised the price of their home brand milk by 10c a litre. This follows the abolition of the one dollar per litre pricing on milk by the major retailers. Whilst I congratulate the retailers on that move, I acknowledge questions still arise as to whether those price increases will be felt at the farm gate. I thank those who participated in the inquiry. I echo the sentiments of the Hon. Mick Veitch in congratulating the Hon. Robert Brown on his handling of the inquiry. It was tough but I believe the committee did some very productive work in a short space of time. There is always more to do but I believe this report will be a catalyst for important reforms in the industry. I commend the report to the House.

Debate adjourned.

Adjournment Debate

ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

LIFE CYCLES

The Hon. LOU AMATO (18:28): Some years back I stood in the midst of a cool temperate rainforest in the World Heritage Barrington Tops National Park. Before me were Antarctic beech trees and pristine streams bubbling over rocky cascades. The air was cool and I was engulfed in the stillness of nature. My mind was calmed and I became keenly aware of the life cycle of the forest. In the midst of this enchanted forest stood a huge specimen of an Antarctic beech. It was old beyond living memory and in its shapely form was written many seasons. Moss and lichens adorned its trunk and branches, which towered above the rainforest canopy. As I sat upon the banks of a stream in the presence of this giant tree I thought about the tiny seed that once drifted upon the cool breeze, fated to fall upon fertile soil.

I imagined the first root emerging and taking hold on the rainforest floor. I saw the first true leaves appear in my mind. I imagined the struggle of the years and changing seasons as this tree slowly grew to its potential. Then my mind drifted back to ages long past and I imagined the story of this tree. I heard the sigh of a cool breeze and the rustle of leaves as a single wind-borne pollen grain was received by a mature Antarctic beech. I saw fertilisation and the ripe fruit open and set free the seed that was to become the magnificent testimony to the potential I was blessed to behold.

My mind was brought to the present. I became acutely aware of the terrible hypocrisy that exists in our society. I wondered what reaction I would get if I had somehow developed a time machine and travelled back to the very moment when the seed of our Antarctic beech had first fallen to the ground and I deliberately crushed it beneath my feet, destroying its potential to grow into a mighty tree. What would some say if they had seen this great tree but, due to my time travel adventure, now in its place only noxious weeds grew? I would be looked upon as something undesirable—a killer of trees—and, even more heinous than that, a destroyer of potential. I would deserve nothing less than their scorn.

Beautiful beyond reckoning is the Antarctic beech that stands in the ancient Gondwana forest of the Barrington Tops National Park, but it does not equal the greatness or splendour of even the most humble or, if I may use the term, wretched human being that has ever lived. Yet if I sported the same smirk upon my face as those who achieve a new low in the proliferation of abortion, because I stamped out the potential of a tree, I would be judged contemptible—a destroyer of life. I wonder what would have happened if someone on the Left side of politics, who developed their own time machine and travelled back to 24 September 1898, had convinced Bertha Mary Florey to abort her child just before delivery.

I am aware that abortion was not acceptable then and time machines do not exist, but for the sake of this argument let us assume they do and abortion was practised in 1898. Imagine if that abortion took place and the child was killed and never allowed to reach its potential. Imagine if no-one ever again was born into this world destined to reach the greatness of this now destroyed human being. Imagine if one of your loved ones is now dying in agony as infection ravages their body because we have no way of stopping the progression of a bacterial contagion that was introduced into their body from a simple scratch.

In case anyone has not yet got the point, the person who thankfully was allowed to be born on 24 September 1898 was Howard Walter Florey, the Australian who discovered the method to manufacture antibiotics from penicillin mould. I often wonder how much potential has been lost to the heinous act of abortion. Maybe somewhere discarded on a rubbish dump lies the unnamed and unloved remains of an aborted child, who, if allowed to reach their potential, may have discovered the answer to all our environmental problems. Maybe they could have paved the way to world peace. The sad thing is we will never know.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

The Hon. WALT SECORD (18:32): As the deputy chair of the New South Wales Parliamentary Friends of Israel, and shadow Treasurer, I make a contribution on the malicious debate surrounding Federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and his suitability to serve in the Federal Parliament due to vicious claims that he might be a dual citizen of Australia and Hungary. I believe the attacks and claims that the Treasurer is a citizen of Hungary are scurrilous and deeply offensive. It is important to note that one of the key figures behind the recent push is lawyer Trevor Poulton and it is no surprise that he is being cheered on by notorious Adelaide-based Holocaust denier Fredrick Toben. It is also no coincidence that Trevor Poulton is the author of a 2012 so-called piece of fiction *The Holocaust Denier*.

I believe that Trevor Poulton's motivation and his pursuit of the Federal Treasurer has nothing to do with public policy or with section 44 (i) of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. Sadly, it reminds me of the disgusting so-called "birthers" in the United States in 2008. Those were the odious ultra-Right wingers who claimed that former United States President Barack Obama was born in Kenya rather than Hawaii and was therefore ineligible to serve in the White House. The claims were outright lies. The birthers' attacks on Barack Obama were based in racism. At first they demanded that he release his birth certificate and, when it was subsequently released, they then claimed it was a forgery. Put simply, the attacks on Josh Frydenberg are in a similar vein.

I believe the dual citizenship claims against Josh Frydenberg are deeply rooted in anti-Semitism. I also agree with Scott Morrison, who has expressed similar views. For the record, I visited Israel in January 2012 with Josh Frydenberg where we both attended the Australia-Israel-UK leadership dialogue group, and visited Jerusalem and Ramallah as part of a State and Federal delegation. Furthermore, members would be aware that I worked as a journalist at *The Australian Jewish News* from 1988 to 1991, where one of the proudest times at that publication was defending myself against British revisionist David Irving, who took legal action against me for appropriately

describing him in print as a Holocaust denier. Let me say, I make no apologies for doing that. Denying the Holocaust is not just offensive: It is evil.

Members would be aware that Josh Frydenberg's mother, Erica Strausz, was born in Budapest during World War II. Her family spent time in the Budapest ghetto. She arrived in Australia on a ship in December 1950 at the age of seven after being in a refugee camp. His mother was made "stateless" by the Nazis and Hungarian collaborators for a sole reason: It was because she was Jewish. They robbed her of her citizenship. It is absolutely disgusting to claim that she had Hungarian citizenship when it was ripped away from her and her family during the Shoah. Josh Frydenberg has actually produced immigration entry documents from 1950 that describe his mother as "stateless".

I have also seen copies of the documents, which are publicly available and were held in the National Archives of Australia. It is also a matter of public record that the Federal Treasurer lost many of his relatives on both his mother and father's sides in the Shoah. As I said earlier, anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial have no place in Australia. That is why I add my support to calls from newly elected Federal Labor MP for Macnamara Josh Burns to have Trevor Poulton expelled from the Australian Labor Party for orchestrating this disgusting exercise against the Federal Treasurer. I thank the House for its consideration.

WALGETT WATER SUPPLY

Ms CATE FAEHRMANN (18:35): In late June I visited the small town of Walgett in north-west New South Wales so that I could see firsthand the impact the drought, the mismanagement of the Murray-Darling and climate change has had on the people of that community. For more than a year Walgett has been forced to rely on bore water because the rivers that people have relied on—the Namoi and the Barwon—have run dry for the first time in living memory due to the extreme drought, climate change and the Government's disastrous management of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Many argue that the bore water that residents have been forced to rely upon as drinking water is not fit for human consumption. The bore water contains high levels of sodium that exceed the aesthetic taste limit set by the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*. These guidelines have no health-based sodium limit, but residents of the town told me that drinking tap water led to stomach aches and potentially kidney stones. Some people even showed me the rashes that had developed from showering in the bore water. High sodium levels in drinking water is affecting regional towns across New South Wales and is having a drastic impact on the health of many residents. Too much salt in the diet increases blood pressure, and that is one of the key contributors to premature death from heart disease and stroke in Australia. Indigenous communities are disproportionately impacted as they already suffer high rates of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease—all conditions that are made far worse by increased salt consumption.

Locals have taken to buying bottled water because of the health risks. At \$2 to \$3 a bottle, relying upon bottled water places strain upon a community that is already struggling, which means often hard choices need to be made between clean drinking water and other household essentials. This situation became even more difficult when Walgett's sole grocery store, the local IGA, burnt down, which meant bottled water became even more difficult and expensive to come by. The town has now become reliant on community groups who truck in bottled water and groceries to donate to the community, providing clean drinking water where the State Government has failed to do so. However, what I saw and heard during my visit to Walgett was how resilient the community is.

I met with the elders from the Dharriwaa Elders Group who told me that I was the first politician who had come to meet them since this water crisis hit the town. One of the members of the group, Vanessa Hickey, showed me the equipment that she used to test the quality of drinking water in the town and the drone equipment that she uses to monitor conditions in the Namoi and Barwon rivers. The Dharriwaa Elders Group also have taken a lead in distributing donations of food and water to the 1,100 residents of Walgett who are relying upon them. They use their deep community ties and knowledge to make sure each household gets the food and water it needs to survive. That is all done on a volunteer basis.

The Dharriwaa elders told me how they felt that they had been abandoned by the Government long before the drought, and that this water crisis was the latest in a long line of betrayals. They told me how they felt intimidated by the construction of a police and community youth club at their local primary school with a permanently stationed police officer. They also told me they had a local community-organised youth club that was far more preferable to them, but that was rejected.

They told me how locals are imprisoned for possession of small quantities of cannabis while the town is ravaged by the ice epidemic. There are no treatment or harm minimisation services within travelling distance of Walgett, which means those who are dependent on drugs have no option when they seek help. It is unacceptable that the residents of Walgett have had to rely on the goodwill of community groups for clean drinking water and

groceries. It is unacceptable that residents cannot expect the same quality of life and quality of health that is provided to the residents of Sydney. The State Government has well and truly failed the town of Walgett.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

The Hon. NATALIE WARD (18:39): From generation to generation there are few moments that make the world freeze. In New South Wales we pride ourselves on being a harmonious, multicultural society and as such we are usually fortunate enough to be far from danger when terror strikes around the world. Unfortunately, on 15 March this year that all changed with the Christchurch terror attacks in our sister Commonwealth nation, and the home of our Anzac brothers, New Zealand. Community and religious groups around the world watched in horror as two mosques in Christchurch were struck, leaving 51 people dead.

A visit to your local place of worship—in this case, a mosque—suddenly becomes a nightmare. Fifty-one men, women, children and families walked without fear into their mosque that day to pray. Now there are families out there who may never walk into their place of worship without fear again. At the tragic time of the attacks, people united across New Zealand and all over the world to stand with the Muslim community. In a moment of understanding, a gesture of goodwill and a symbol of unity, four months following the attack the Jewish community from Australia and New Zealand gathered in Christchurch to support the grieving Muslim community. They listened to the imams at the Al Noor and Linwood mosques as they recalled the horrific details of the 15 March massacre.

In late 2018 the Jewish community experienced a similar attack at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, which left 11 Jewish congregants dead. It is the great injustice of our time that these hate crimes are not foreign to the Jewish or to the Muslim community. The response from the Islamic Centre of Pittsburgh was to form a coalition under the banner "Muslims Unite for Pittsburgh Synagogue". Together they raised US\$180,000 for families affected by the shooting. Communities stand together in solidarity during these times, as Mr Vic Alhadeff, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies CEO, articulated as follows:

The most practical way of advancing this most fundamental of ideals is to cast aside our differences where we can meaningfully support each other as members of a shared humanity ...

As Mr Alhadeff spoke these words of support and unity, he presented a cheque for \$69,980 to the Christchurch Muslim community, which was crowdfunded by the New South Wales Jewish community. He said:

We all want our loved ones to return home safely each day, without being abused or worse because of their race, religion, gender or sexual preference.

There is no replacing the loss of these lives, and nothing can ease the pain of this terrible injustice. A horrific event like this is not easy to rebuild from. However, these funds and the support they symbolise might assist those families impacted by the tragedy. Mr Alhadeff said:

Today we walk in the skin of the Muslim community of Christchurch.

Together, two religions that have suffered from the worst of humankind step up when tragedy strikes. Together they represent the best of humankind. Juliet Moses from the New Zealand Jewish Council said:

The Jewish community has experienced its own share of attacks against it, so we understand the pain that the Muslim community of Christchurch would be going through. Our hearts beat as one—we feel your pain.

This display of respect, unity and solidarity helps people and communities overcome hate. I thank the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Vic Alhadeff and everyone who donated to the crowd source fund. Whether it was \$5 or \$5,000, they have made a difference to the lives of people going through troubles that no-one ever expects to experience. They are truly the best of humankind, and we stand with them.

AUSTRALIAN CENSUS

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE (18:44:0): While many of the concerns expressed about big data are justified—in particular, how it is administered by this Government—few people can question the value of one of the oldest forms of big data, the Australian census. As a data tool it shows us where we have come from, where we are at the moment and it also helps us project forward and see where we may be going. But when I look at the most recent census data for New South Wales, I have difficulty in conceiving what over 5.2 million citizens of voting age would actually look like—although, when I occasionally catch a train, thanks to the budget cuts made by successive Coalition governments, it can seem as though there are precisely that many people waiting on the platform. But I digress.

The NSW Electoral Commission confirms that there were over 5.2 million people listed on the electoral roll and over 4.5 million people cast a formal vote for the Legislative Assembly at the most recent State election in March. Just over 160,000 people voted informally, while over 550,000 people did not vote at all. I find this information easier to understand when it is broken down into a representative group of 100 people. In that group

of 100 people, 86 voted formally, three voted informally and 11 did not vote at all. Of the 89 representative New South Wales people who got their name marked off the electoral roll in March, 49 of them live in the Sydney Basin and one person would come from the electorate of Barwon, which covers around 44 per cent of the New South Wales land mass.

When we look at age breakdowns, there would be 19 people in the 18- to 29-year-old bracket, 18 people in the 30- to 39-year-old bracket and a further 18 people in the 40- to 54-year-old bracket. It is clear that the biggest age cohort in our representative group of 100 people are those in the 55-years-plus cohort, which comprise 37 people. When we look at religious affiliation, 25 people identify as having no religion, while nine do not state anything. The biggest cohort of people who identified a religious affiliation were those who specified no religion at all. That segment is growing; it has increased by over 7 per cent since 2011. Sixty-six people would identify their country of birth as Australia, three from China, three from England, two from India, two from New Zealand and one from the Philippines.

Of these 100 people, three can speak Arabic, three can speak Mandarin, two can speak Cantonese, one can speak Vietnamese and one can speak Greek. Twenty-seven people live in a household where a non-English language is spoken. Forty-five people have parents who were both born in Australia, while 37 have parents who were both born overseas. When we look at ancestry we see an interesting mix. Of these 100 people from New South Wales, 23 identified their ancestry as English, 23 as Australian, seven as Irish, six as Scottish and five as Chinese. One important issue that comes to the fore is the rise of lone-person households—of 100 people, 24 would identify that this is their living arrangement. When I affirmed my pledge of loyalty in this place a few months ago, it was directed to an ever more diverse cohort of people of all ages, interests and talents in New South Wales who can trace their ancestry from virtually every country on earth. This diversity in our population is not something to be regarded as a problem but as a resource. It is a fundamental strength that we can draw on to meet the challenges that we face, and we should loudly proclaim it as such.

KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

Mr JUSTIN FIELD (18:48): Over winter I spent a couple of days down at Kosciuszko National Park. I am sure many of us did. I did not go skiing. As a young man I spent a couple of winters down there skiing and working in ski hire at Jindabyne. It is a beautiful place. That is what a lot of people think of when they think about Kosciuszko National Park. But the parts of the park that I visited were a lot different. I went to the north of the park to an area called Long Plain, and then to the really steep slopes that cradle the Snowy River as it meanders in the southern part of the park.

I went there to see the extreme damage being done by feral animals, particularly horses, to one of our most-loved and treasured national parks; an iconic place in Australia. The beautiful, crystal-clear creeks that people are familiar with in the alpine country run muddy brown, creek banks are trampled and the steep hillsides in the south have been absolutely and utterly stripped of vegetation. It is not an exaggeration to say that horse and deer shit blanket parts of the park. The erosion is extreme. In New South Wales feral animal management is a problem for all land managers not only in national parks but also in State parks and on private land. Pigs, goats, deer, dogs and horses are an issue in the alpine area, but horses are the only animals subject to some form of protection—protection given to them by this Parliament. It was driven through Parliament by the Government, particularly the member for that region, and the Leader of The Nationals, the Hon. John Barilaro.

Other animals are subject to management and controls, including lethal management. The consequences of our failure to act include an exploding population of horses—as many as 10,000 in the alpine region—and the damage they are doing is commensurate with that explosion in numbers. The politics around this issue has halted the effective management of horse numbers. Despite the fact that the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act does not remove the responsibility of the environment Minister to execute his duty to protect our national parks, internal Coalition politics has seen management cease. Another winter—which is the ideal time for management of the horses—is almost over. The problem is getting worse and the challenge to fix it is getting harder. The park is in real trouble; it needs help.

But Kosciusko is more than just a park. It is the headwaters for the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers, which provide the water needed to keep communities and ecosystems in the south-west of this State alive. It is also more than just a water source. This iconic alpine national park is home to species that exist nowhere else on earth. Those species rely on healthy ecosystems to survive, but they are being well and truly undermined by invasive feral animals, particularly horses. More than that, Kosciuszko National Park is our responsibility. We have a collective responsibility to the future, not the past. The Leader of The Nationals, John Barilaro, is the man behind the Act that is being used to destroy the park.

As I said in my contribution to debate on the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill, the Minister is much less like *The Man from Snowy River* and more like *Mulga Bill's Bicycle*—he is behind the wheel of a machine he

does not understand and cannot control. But the consequences of the inevitable crash do not belong only to the Deputy Premier; they are also being visited on Kosciuszko itself. Surely the real heritage worth protecting through our actions in this place is the living rivers of the mountains that have their headwaters in the park, including the Snowy River—a country that few have ever sought to truly understand. I thank the people who took the time to show me around the park. I was taken to parts of the park that many people do not see and do not understand. That helped me to realise what needs to be done to fix the issue. I encourage all members to visit there. The Kosciusko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018 should be repealed. If the Act is not repealed, then we will get to the point where the ability for Kosciuszko National Park to be a truly iconic natural place will be undermined for all time.

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

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 18:53 until Wednesday 7 August at 11:00.