



New South Wales

Legislative Council

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

**Fifty-Seventh Parliament
First Session**

Thursday, 21 November 2019

Authorised by the Parliament of New South Wales

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 21 November 2019

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

The PRESIDENT read the prayers.

Governor

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Presentation

The PRESIDENT: I report receipt of a message from the Official Secretary to Her Excellency the Governor regarding the postponement of the presentation of the Address-in-Reply.

Documents

PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS ANNUAL REPORTS

Reports

The PRESIDENT: I table the following papers:

1. Annual report of the Department of the Legislative Council for the year ended 30 June 2019.
2. Annual report of the Department of Parliamentary Services for the year ended 30 June 2019.
3. Report of the Parliament of New South Wales—Financial Performance 2018-2019.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

CHILDREN'S GUARDIAN BILL 2019

Messages

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

Business of the House

PRECEDENCE OF BUSINESS

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

1. That on Thursday 21 November 2019 Government business take precedence of general business following the conclusion of private members' statements.
2. That on Government business taking precedence, a Minister be permitted to move a motion without notice regarding Christmas felicitations.

Motion agreed to.

Budget

BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2019-2020

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That, further to the resolution referring the budget estimates and related papers to the portfolio committees for inquiry and report, adopted by this House on 8 May 2019, the further hearings be scheduled as follows:

Day One: Monday 2 March 2020

- PC 4 Agriculture and Western New South Wales
PC 6 Regional Transport and Roads

Day Two: Tuesday 3 March 2020

- PC 1 Special Minister of State, Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs and the Arts

PC 3 Education and Early Childhood Learning

Day Three: Wednesday 4 March 2020

PC 5 Counter Terrorism and Corrections

PC 7 Local Government

Day Four: Thursday 5 March 2020

PC 1 Finance and Small Business

PC 2 Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

Day Five: Friday 6 March 2020

PC 5 Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

PC 7 Energy and Environment

Day Six: Monday 9 March 2020

PC 1 Treasury

PC 6 Customer Service

Day Seven: Tuesday 10 March 2020

PC 1 The Legislature

PC 4 Water, Property and Housing

PC 5 Police and Emergency Services

Day Eight: Wednesday 11 March 2020

PC 3 Skills and Tertiary Education

PC 6 Transport and Roads

Day Nine: Thursday 12 March 2020

PC 1 Premier

PC 2 Health and Medical Research

Day Ten: Friday 13 March 2020

PC 5 Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic Violence

PC 7 Planning and Public Spaces

Day Eleven: Monday 16 March 2020

PC 1 Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney

PC 6 Better Regulation and Innovation

Day Twelve: Tuesday 17 March 2020

PC 4 Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade

PC 5 Families, Communities and Disability Services

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

BUSINESS LAPSED

The PRESIDENT: I advise the House that private members' business item No. 170 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Fang relating to Regional Tourism Awards expired from the business paper yesterday and can no longer be moved.

Documents

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Production of Documents: Order

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (10:05:19): I seek leave to amend private members' business item No. 297 outside the order of precedence by omitting paragraph (a) and inserting instead:

- (a) quality assessment reports dated 2014 and 2019 for the Early Childhood Education Service approval number SE-0009230.

Leave granted.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Accordingly, I move:

That, under Standing Order 52, there be laid upon the table of the House within 14 days of the date of the passing of this resolution the following documents in the possession, custody or control of the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning or the Department of Education:

- (a) quality assessment reports dated 2014 and 2019 for the Early Childhood Education Service approval number SE-0009230.
- (b) any legal or other advice regarding the scope or validity of this order of the House created as a result of this order of the House.

Motion agreed to.

*Motions***REGIONAL YOUTH TASKFORCE**

The Hon. WES FANG (10:06:32): I move:

1. That this House affirms its support for the inaugural Regional Youth Taskforce.
2. That this House notes that:
 - (a) the Regional Youth Taskforce was an election commitment made by the Deputy Premier in March 2019;
 - (b) the Regional Youth Taskforce's role is to inform and advise the Minister for Regional Youth, government agencies and Office of Regional Youth on policy decisions and issues affecting young people in regional New South Wales;
 - (c) the Regional Youth Taskforce comprises of 18 members, two from each region, and is a collection of young people, with a diversity of ages and backgrounds;
 - (d) the inaugural meeting of the Regional Youth Taskforce occurred on 12 and 13 October 2019;
 - (e) the following people are members of the task force:
 - (i) Allie Roberson, 18, from Moruya;
 - (ii) Amanda Reid, 22, from Warri Beach;
 - (iii) Ashish Thapa, 17, from Orange;
 - (iv) Ben Johnstone, 13, from Balranald;
 - (v) Caitlin Axelby, 17, from Port Macquarie;
 - (vi) Jack Antcliff, 22, from Lake Macquarie;
 - (vii) Jan Jaafr, 17, from Coffs Harbour;
 - (viii) Jasmin Hughes, 19, from Wyoming;
 - (ix) Josef Graf Cooper, 17, from Watanobbi;
 - (x) Katherine Sutcliffe, 14, from Scone;
 - (xi) Khawlah Albaf, 13, from Young;
 - (xii) Lachlan Page, 19, from Ulladulla;
 - (xiii) Laura Murray, 22, from Armidale;
 - (xiv) Luca James, 14, from Griffith;
 - (xv) Maddy Jerrett, 15, from Coonamble;
 - (xvi) Marina Gabra, 16, from Wagga Wagga;
 - (xvii) Nyokia Townsend, 17, from Walgett; and
 - (xviii) Ryan Dwight, 23, from Tamworth.
 - (f) task force members travelled via bus, train and aeroplane to attend the inaugural meeting of the Regional Youth Taskforce.

Motion agreed to.

*Documents***VICTIMS SERVICES****Production of Documents: Order**

The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK (10:07:38): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
 - (a) on 2 September 2019 Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs, following the budget estimates hearing into Attorney General and Prevention of Domestic Violence, resolved that the:
 - (i) committee write to the Secretary, Department of Communities and Justice to request that he provide the following document: *Review into concerns about bullying and harassment in Victims Services*;
 - (ii) requested document returned in response to this request be redacted to remove any complainant names, position details or any other identifying information; and
 - (iii) requested document be returned to the committee within 14 days.

- (b) on 18 September 2019 the committee received correspondence from the secretary, Department of Communities and Justice that declined the committee's request;
 - (c) on 19 September 2019 the Chair, Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Legal Affairs wrote to the secretary, Department of Communities and Justice to reiterate the committee's request and outline its common law power to compel the production of documents, subject to the provisions of Legislative Council sessional order—orders for the production of documents by committees, adopted 8 May 2019; and
 - (d) on 3 October 2019 the committee received further correspondence from the secretary, Department of Communities and Justice that again declined the committee's request.
2. That, notwithstanding the position of this House that its committees have the power to order the production of documents, that, under Standing Order 52, there be laid upon the table of the House within 14 days the following documents in the possession, custody or control of the Department of Communities and Justice:
- (a) review into concerns about bullying and harassment in Victims Services; and
 - (b) any legal or other advice regarding the scope or validity of this order of the House created as a result of this order of the House.
3. That documents returned in response to this order be redacted to remove any complainant names, position details or any other identifying information.

Motion agreed to.

WARRAGAMBA DAM

Production of Documents: Order

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (10:08:01): I move:

That, under Standing Order 52, there be laid upon the table of the House within 21 days of the date of the passing of this resolution the following documents in the possession, custody or control of the New South Wales Premier, the Minister for Water, Property and Housing, Infrastructure NSW, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and WaterNSW:

- (a) all documents created since 1 January 2016 regarding economic analyses of the benefits and costs of the proposal to raise Warragamba Dam wall;
- (b) the document, including appendices, entitled *Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Management Strategy Program Business Case*;
- (c) the document entitled *Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Taskforce Sensitive Document list*;
- (d) all other business case and cost benefit analysis documents that informed the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy (January 2017); and
- (e) any legal or other advice regarding the scope or validity of this order of the House created as a result of this order of the House.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

WATER MANAGEMENT

Mr JUSTIN FIELD (10:08:55): I move:

1. This House notes that:
- (a) as at 18 November 2019 Sydney's dam levels are at 46.3 per cent and are continuing to fall at around 0.5 per cent per week;
 - (b) Sydney Water's November 2019 Greater Sydney Operations Plan Report recognises:
"Rainfall across the Sydney catchment over the last 24 months has been below to very much below average. The current BoM outlook indicates a drier than average summer, with daytime temperatures likely to be warmer than average";
 - (c) the Minister for Water, the Hon. Melinda Pavey, MP, recently noted that the decline in Sydney dam levels since August 2017 was the biggest drop in storage ever recorded and that Sydney was on track for dam storages to be lower than during the Millennium Drought by the end of 2020;
 - (d) on 1 June 2019 the Government introduced level 1 water restrictions when dam levels were at 53.2 per cent, ahead of the Metropolitan Water Plan trigger of 50 per cent, which was reached on 18 August 2019;
 - (e) on 27 August 2019 the Government amended the Water Sharing Plan to allow additional transfers from the Shoalhaven when dam levels were just below 50 per cent, well ahead of the Metropolitan Water Plan trigger of 30 per cent;
 - (f) the data in the recent *Greater Sydney Operations Plan* report shows that water use in Sydney has been above the five year average for every month since October 2018 including for each month since level 1 water restrictions commenced;

- (g) in answer to a question by Mr Justin Field, MLC, in the Legislative Council in November 2019 the Government acknowledged that only 118 warnings for breaches of water restrictions had been issued with no fines issued; and
 - (h) despite dam levels continuing to rapidly fall and forecasts for a hotter and drier summer the Government has not moved to level 2 water restrictions ahead of the Metropolitan Water Plan trigger of 40 per cent.
2. That this House calls on the Government to bring forward level 2 water restrictions for Sydney and escalate the public campaign to save water.

Motion agreed to.

NSW COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE

The Hon. MICK VEITCH (10:09:18): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
- (a) the NSW Council of Social Service [NCOSS] held its launch for the 2019 *Mapping Economic Disadvantage in New South Wales* report on 24 October 2019 at Parliament House, with key note speaker Gabrielle Chan journalist and author of *Rusted Off – Why Country Australia is Fed Up*;
 - (b) the *Mapping Economic Disadvantage in New South Wales* report focuses on economic disadvantage and related social issues impacting communities across New South Wales;
 - (c) for the report NCOSS used complex modelling techniques and maps to examine where disadvantage occurs in New South Wales and those who are affected by it; and
 - (d) the report is intended to be used as an evidence base for policy and program development and to help see and understand how poverty affects our communities.
2. That this House:
- (a) acknowledges the valuable advocacy work that NCOSS does for people experiencing disadvantage in New South Wales; and
 - (b) congratulates NCOSS on the release of its 2019 *Mapping Economic Disadvantage in New South Wales* report.

Motion agreed to.

BELMORE ALL SAINTS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (10:09:52): I move:

1. That this House notes that 2019 marks the fifty-fifth year of the Belmore All Saints Greek Orthodox Church.
2. That this House acknowledges that the fifty-fifth anniversary was celebrated on Sunday 17 November 2019 at Belmore All Saints Greek Orthodox Church with His Eminence Archbishop Makarios Grinizeakis Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia, Father Apostolos, Father Christopher and local parishioners of the Belmore All Saints Greek Orthodox Church.
3. That this House congratulates the Belmore All Saints Greek Orthodox Church; its committee Chairman, Steve Rafeletos; Treasurer, Jenny Hantzopoulos; and Chris Constani, Lea Scalone and Father Apostolos for a wonderful fifty-fifth anniversary celebration.

Motion agreed to.

Committees

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE OFFICE OF THE VALUER GENERAL

Membership

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I move:

That Mr Veitch be discharged from the Joint Standing Committee on the Office of the Valuer General and Mr Moselmane be appointed as a member of the committee.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I move:

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

Motion agreed to.

Motions

PROFESSOR KEITH THOMPSON

The Hon. LOU AMATO (10:11:35): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
 - (a) on Tuesday 10 September 2019 a book launch of *Trinity and Monotheism, A Historical and Theological Review of the Origins and Substance of the Doctrine* written by Professor Keith Thompson, LL.B (Hons), Dip Export IMD (Hons), M Jur, PhD, was held in the Rogers Room of the John Woolley Building, University of Sydney and was attended by academic, religious and civic dignitaries;
 - (b) the keynote speaker was Dr Bernard Doherty, Course Director St Marks National Theological Centre, School of Theology, Charles Sturt University, Canberra;
 - (c) Professor Keith Thompson, who is the Associate Dean of the Sydney School of Law at the University of Notre Dame Australia, and teaches Constitutional Law and Law and Religion previously worked as International Legal Counsel for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints;
 - (d) in 2010 Professor Thompson published a book entitled *Regulating Confession Privilege and the Common Law* and has also published on insolvency, vicarious liability in tort, foreign corrupt practices and freedom of religion; and
 - (e) Professor Thompson's book *Trinity and Monotheism* traces the idea of monotheism from Egypt in the thirteenth century BC through Israel's Divine Council down into Greek and Roman times, and then the Trinity is traced through the Nicene Council in 325 AD, the schism between East and West and into Anglican Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's innovation of a God, "without body, parts or passion" in 1553 and ends with a discussion of the Christology of the Unitarian, Latter-day Saint and Jehovah's Witness faiths.
2. That this House congratulates Professor Keith Thompson on the launch of his book *Trinity and Monotheism* and commends him for his ongoing contribution to the study of law as well as his encouragement of rigorous theological research and debate.

Motion agreed to.

SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. WES FANG (10:12:05): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
 - (a) 2019 will mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the iconic Sydney to Hobart yacht race with over 170 vessels taking part in the race this year;
 - (b) the yacht *Helsal 3*, a divisional winner in three Sydney to Hobart events and owned by Gundagai rural doctor Paul Mara and Wagga Wagga orthopaedic surgeon Adrian van der Rijt, will bring a rural touch to this year's race;
 - (c) the *Helsal 3* will race under the hashtag #destinationrural and will include Junee general practitioner Darren Corbett and Wagga Wagga resident medical officer Ramandeep Kaur, as well as Dr van der Rijt and his children amongst its crew; and
 - (d) since acquiring the *Helsal 3*, Dr Mara and Dr van der Rijt have developed a program that allows medical students from Wagga Wagga to crew the yacht in races around Australia and show students that working and living in a rural or regional area does not limit professional or personal opportunities.
2. That this House recognises the importance of promoting regional and rural New South Wales and congratulates Dr Mara and Dr van der Rijt on representing the Riverina in this year's race.
3. That this House wishes the crew of the *Helsal 3* the best of luck for a safe and speedy race in the Sydney to Hobart.

Motion agreed to.

SPAGHETTI CIRCUS PERFORMANCE TROUPE

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (10:13:42): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
 - (a) Spaghetti Circus Performance Troupe presented a new and original show entitled *Bails of Hey!* during October and November 2019 at the Mullumbimby Showground;
 - (b) Spaghetti Circus has been part of the Mullumbimby community for over 25 years, and is one of Australia's leading youth circuses; and
 - (c) it is a not-for-profit charity organisation aimed at helping youth, families, and people with disabilities in rural, regional and remote communities.
2. That this House congratulates and acknowledges the exceptional talents of all the young performers:
 - (a) Miss Alita Rossmanith-Jones;
 - (b) Mr Jonathon Fox;
 - (c) Mr Riley Graham;
 - (d) Ms Ellen Bartlett;
 - (e) Ms Anais Stewart-Long;

- (f) Miss Aoife Gordos;
 - (g) Mr Aquila Porter;
 - (h) Miss Nelle Lovatt;
 - (i) Mr Jazz Lachish;
 - (j) Miss Indi Starbright;
 - (k) Miss Sumari Geitz;
 - (l) Ms Luella Fitzgerald;
 - (m) Miss Rosa Mordaunt;
 - (n) Mr Talizan Littleoak;
 - (o) Mr Phoenix Thomas; and
 - (p) Miss Mika Asherovitch.
3. That this House recognises and thanks Director, DJ Garner; Master Artist and Choreographer, Petrina Hutchinson; Stage Manager, Hetti Barry; Lighting Designer, Charlie Gill; Acting Development Officer, Harry Hackett; and General Manager, Alice Cadwell, for all their hard work and vision in bringing this wonderful and inspiring show to life.

Motion agreed to.

LAND ROVER 4X4 IN SCHOOLS TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

The Hon. WES FANG (10:14:15): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
- (a) the Land Rover 4x4 in Schools Technology Challenge is an international competition which takes in-class STEM learning, or science, technology, engineering and mathematics, to a whole new level;
 - (b) over two days in Sydney last week, the Land Rover 4x4 in Schools Technology Challenge saw teams from around Australia put their all-terrain four-wheel drive models through a range of driving challenges that involved navigating tunnels, suspension-testing bumps, driving up a-frame structures and the infamous rope bridge; and
 - (c) in their first year of the competition, the team from Wagga Wagga Christian College including Jack Graham, Caleb Hefren, Jye Hefren and Amy Combs claimed two of the national prizes with their model the only team to successfully complete the course.
2. That this House congratulate the team at Wagga Wagga Christian College on their win and wish them every success as they continue to pursue their passion for engineering.

Motion agreed to.

GRETA ARMY CAMP EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY

GRETA MIGRANT CAMP SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (10:14:40): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
- (a) 2019 is the eightieth anniversary of the founding of the Greta Army Camp and the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the Greta Migrant Camp;
 - (b) over 60,000 men of 6th Division of the 2nd Australian Imperial Force were trained at the army camp from 1939 to 1960;
 - (c) over 100,000 migrants from 18 war-torn countries called the migrant camp home between 1949 and 1960;
 - (d) a weekend of celebrations was organised by the Central Hunter Business Chamber and the Hunter Multicultural Communities Inc, held on 9 and 10 November 2019;
 - (e) the celebrations were officially opened by the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency General the Hon. David Hurley, AC, DSC, FTSE; and
 - (f) more than 8,000 people attended the anniversary celebrations which included military displays, multicultural dance, food, and culture, aircraft flyovers and Scottish pipes and drums.
2. That this House:
- (a) commends the work of the Central Hunter Business Chamber and the Hunter Multicultural Communities; and
 - (b) extends its best wishes to the migrant communities during this year's anniversary celebrations.

Motion agreed to.

*Documents***TABLING OF PAPERS**

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

1. Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985—Reports for year ended 30 June 2019:
 Department of Health
 Department of Premier and Cabinet
 Fire and Rescue NSW
 Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission
 NSW Crime Commission
 NSW Police Force
 NSW Rural Fire Service
 NSW State Emergency Service
 NSW Treasury
 Office of Sport
 Parliamentary Counsel's Office.
2. Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984—Reports for year ended 30 June 2019:
 ANZAC Memorial Building
 Barangaroo Delivery Authority
 Building Professionals Board
 Crown Entity Financial Statements
 Destination NSW
 Essential Energy
 Food Authority
 Forestry Corporation
 Greater Sydney Commission
 Health Care Complaints Commission
 Health Professional Councils of NSW
 Hunter Water
 Infrastructure New South Wales
 Insurance and Care NSW together with financial statements
 Landcom
 Local Land Services
 Mental Health Commission
 Multicultural NSW
 New South Wales Treasury Corporation
 NSW Architects Registration Board
 NSW Institute of Sport
 NSW Skills Board
 Port Authority of NSW
 Rice Marketing Board
 RSL NSW
 Rural Assistance Authority
 State Sporting Venues Authority
 State Super SAS Trustee Corporation
 Sydney Cricket and Sport Grounds
 Sydney Water Corporation
 TAFE NSW
 Trustees of the Parliamentary Contributory Fund
 Veterinary Practitioners Board
 Urban Growth NSW Development Corporation
 Venues New South Wales
 Water NSW
 Western City Aerotropolis Authority
3. Health Administration Act 1982—Report of New South Wales Health Foundation for year ended 30 June 2019.
4. Greyhounds Racing Act 2009—Report of Greyhound Racing NSW for year ended 30 June 2019.
5. Harness Racing Act 2009—Report of Harness Racing NSW for year ended 30 June 2019.
6. Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW)—Reports for year ended 30 June 2019:
 Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
 National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner.
7. Jobs for NSW Act 2015—Report of Jobs for NSW for year ended 30 June 2019.
8. Mental Health Act 2007—Report of the Mental Health Review Tribunal for year ended 30 June 2019.
9. National Health Reform Act 2011—Report of the Administrator National Health Funding Pool for year ended 30 June 2019.
10. Professional Standards Act 1994—Report of Professional Standards Councils for year ended 30 June 2019.

11. Public Finance and Audit Act 1983—Report of Crown Related Entities for year ended 30 June 2019.
12. Thoroughbred Racing Act 2009—Report of Racing NSW for year ended 30 June 2019.

I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.

AUDITOR-GENERAL

Reports

The CLERK: According to the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983, I announce receipt of a Financial Audit report of the Auditor-General entitled *Health 2019*, dated 21 November 2019, received out of session and authorised to be printed this day.

Irregular Petitions

WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD: I move:

That standing and sessional orders be suspended to allow the presentation of an irregular petition from 364 citizens of New South Wales concerning the negative impact of the proposed Wallarah 2 coalmine on the Central Coast water supply.

Petition received.

Petitions

PETITION RECEIVED

Wallarrah 2 Coal Project

Petition requesting that the Government stop the Wallarah 2 Coal Project and protect the Central Coast's drinking water supply, received from **Ms Abigail Boyd**.

Notices

PRESENTATION

[During the giving of notices of motions]

The PRESIDENT: I take the opportunity to welcome into the public gallery all of those present. You are most welcome to be here, but there are rules. Those rules are that you do not interject, you do not applaud and you do not take any action that can distract members. Again, you are most welcome, but I ask that you listen in silence.

Rulings

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT (10:26:31): I wish to bring three matters to the attention of members in respect of private members' business. My first point is about calling on items of private members' business postponed to a later hour. On recent private members' days some items of business have been postponed to a later hour and then called on at some point during the day. Although this has occurred with the consensus of members present in the Chamber, it is not an ideal practice. First, the items are being called on contrary to the order of business formally agreed to by the House on the motion of the Government Whip; and secondly, it runs the risk of a member missing the opportunity to contribute to a debate called on in this way.

The proper procedure for calling on an item of private members' business earlier postponed is for the House to agree to a motion that effectively amends the order of business already agreed to. To do so, a member can seek the call at any time there is no other business before the House and move a motion according to the sessional order for conduct of business or, by leave, to have the item called on at a particular point in the order of business, such as forthwith, or after a named item is concluded. This will ensure a degree of certainty and transparency around the order of private members' business, that any disagreement amongst members is resolved in an orderly and justifiable manner and that all members have an opportunity to consider each proposal. From now on, unless the House specifically agrees otherwise, an item of private members' business postponed to a later hour will be placed at the end of the order of business agreed to by the House and will only be called on when all items in the order of business have been dealt with.

My second point is about speaking twice on a motion. It is an established practice in this House that members can speak a second time on a motion if an amendment is moved to the motion after the member has spoken. It is important that members are able to put on record why they support or reject an amendment. However, when a member speaks a second time to an amendment to a private members' motion, particularly those which are conducted in the short format of 30 minutes, the impact on the number of members who are able to speak even for a first time can be considerable. Consequently, in order that all members get maximum opportunity to speak in debate, when an amendment to a motion is before the House, before giving the call I will be taking into consideration whether a member has already spoken, the number of members who wish to speak for a first time, and the time remaining in debate. My intention at all times will be to allow as many members from all sides of the House to speak in the time available, which remains to be a maximum of 30 minutes in short form and a maximum of two hours otherwise.

My third point is about points of order taken during short format motions. When points of order are taken during short and timed debates I expect members to make their points succinctly. I expect any contributions on the points of order to also be brief and to the point taken. In turn I intend to make my rulings in a similarly succinct manner. If I believe it is necessary to provide reasons for my rulings I will come back to the House with those reasons at a later time. It should be remembered that the member speaking has a maximum time of three minutes and that other members should not take points of order simply to take up the time of the member speaking.

Special Adjournment

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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) (10:30:17): I move:

That this House at its rising today do adjourn until Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 2.30 p.m. unless the President, or if the President is unable to act on account of illness or other cause, the Deputy President, prior to that date, by communication addressed to each member of the House, fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

The PRESIDENT: Before I put the question, I assure members that I will do my very best to ensure that I am always available. The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Business of the House

SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS: ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES: I move:

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

Motion agreed to.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Hon. NATASHA MACLAREN-JONES (10:31:06): I move:

That the order of private members' business be as follows:

1. Item No. 307 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Ms Boyd relating to the Central Coast Drinking Water Catchments Protection Bill 2019.
2. Item No. 139 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Revd Mr Nile relating to the Crimes Amendment (Zoe's Law) Bill 2019.
3. Item No. 383 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Mookhey relating to an order for papers concerning Revenue NSW investigations into payroll tax noncompliance.
4. Item No. 391 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Mookhey relating to an order for papers concerning the Parramatta Light Rail Project (Stage Two).
5. Item No. 387 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Ms Sharpe relating to disability advocacy.
6. Item No. 341 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Borsak relating to a further order for papers concerning Avocado Consulting Pty Ltd and testing for the NSW Police Force staged firearms and Licensing Information Management System.
7. Item No. 373 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Buttigieg relating to City of Sydney waste services workers.
8. Item No. 382 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Roberts relating to NSW Police Force strip searches.

9. Item No. 254 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Ms Faehrmann relating to the Pill Testing Bill.
10. Item No. 393 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Ms Jackson relating to domestic violence.
11. Item No. 205 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Pearson relating to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Restrictions on Stock Animal Procedures) Bill.
12. Item No. 357 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Borsak relating to the censure of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services due to answers given in budget estimates.
13. Item No. 384 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Shoebridge relating to an order for papers concerning the proposal for a cruise ship terminal at Yarra Bay.
14. Item No. 359 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Borsak relating to an order for papers concerning the NSW Firearms Registry.
15. Item No. 375 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Shoebridge relating to an order for papers concerning the investigation into the circumstances of a car collision involving the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.
16. Item No. 403 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Ms Faehrmann relating to an order for papers concerning Sydney water restrictions.
17. Item No. 400 outside the order of precedence standing in the name of Mr Field relating to an order for papers concerning the draft Barwon Water Sharing Plan.

I indicate it has been agreed that the private members' business items at paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will be considered in the new short form format. I indicate that an agreement was reached on item No. 307 at paragraph 1 relating to the Central Coast Drinking Water Catchments Protection Bill 2019 that a limit of 30 minutes will be given. Debate on other remaining bills will be 15 minutes. I thank all members of the committee for their assistance over the past several months, particularly the Opposition Whip and former Opposition Whip. Although the meetings are somewhat challenging, particularly for the committee staff, I thank everyone for their work and commitment to ensuring that we get through private members' days.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bills

CENTRAL COAST DRINKING WATER CATCHMENTS PROTECTION BILL 2019

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 24 October 2019.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW (10:35:40): I speak in opposition to the Central Coast Drinking Water Catchments Protection Bill 2019. Let us be clear about what this bill seeks to do. Its purpose is to cancel, without compensation, all exploration, mining and related planning approvals within a defined protected catchment area. The bill also prevents the grant of any future exploration, mining and related planning approvals within this area. Just think about some of the projects that the bill will cancel, either in whole or in part. They include the Wallarah 2 Coal Project, the Mandalong coalmine, the Chain Valley coalmine and the Boral Montoro clay and shale mine. What will The Greens say to the employees on those projects? How will they put food on the table for their families? Where do The Greens propose those people find alternative employment, especially in an area that is growing all the time?

The cancellation of these approvals would undermine confidence in the Government's resources and planning systems and generate significant claims for compensation. Do members opposite think that is the best use of taxpayer funds? At the stroke of a pen, a string of legitimately approved projects would be rendered obsolete. That will send a terrible message both domestically and internationally. Do those opposite care about our international reputation? Those projects are subject to the most stringent environmental guidelines you can imagine, and rightly so. Let us look at one of the approvals that will be affected by this bill and the chronology of events leading up to its approval. This is no simple process, despite what Ms Abigail Boyd might suggest.

In the case of the Wallarah 2 coalmine, over many years the department and the Independent Planning Commission, including its predecessor the Planning Assessment Commission, have rigorously and painstakingly considered the economic, social and environmental merits of the project. The Wallarah 2 application was first submitted in 2012. It was the subject of two merit reviews, in 2014 and in 2017, by the commission following referral by the then Minister for Planning. The project was reviewed by the Commonwealth's Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development. It was subject to advice from independent expert economic and groundwater assessors. Those investigations were in addition to the detailed submissions received by the department from a range of government agencies, including the Environment

Protection Agency, Crown Lands, Water, the former Office of Environment and Heritage, Subsidence Advisory NSW and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy.

They complemented the extensive opportunities for community consultation during the assessment for Wallarah 2, and were well beyond what is required by legislation. In making its determination, the Independent Planning Commission took account of those sources and considered the impacts and risks to the Central Coast water supply during the lifetime of the project, amongst a range of factors. I direct members to the detail of the commission's determination for further information on those matters. Significantly, the commission determined that impacts on water resources were acceptable, with no net impact on the Central Coast's drinking water supply catchment for the life of the mine. Wallarah 2 will be subject to a strict suite of consent conditions and require other approvals such as relevant mining leases, an environmental protection licence and approvals from the Commonwealth. Those conditions will be robustly enforced by the NSW Resources Regulator and the Environment Protection Authority.

These facts demonstrate the Government's commitment to triple bottom line assessments of major projects—protecting the environment, the community and local economy. They also reflect the Government's confidence in its landmark 2015 reforms to the New South Wales resources regulatory framework. The bill fails to recognise the significant protections delivered by those reforms. In 2015 the Government overhauled the regulatory framework for resources exploration and extraction in New South Wales to ensure that mining and petroleum operators are held to some of the highest standards in the world. Those reforms were delivered through five extensive bills. While the details and benefits of each of those bills are too numerous to cover in their entirety, I draw attention to some key elements.

First, the Government established the Strategic Release Framework for Coal and Petroleum Exploration, correcting the legacy of a previously haphazard approach to issuing exploration licences. This is because triple bottom line assessments are critical under strategic release. Areas first undergo an assessment of social, environmental and economic factors, including community consultation, before proponents are invited to participate in the competitive allocation of titles. The Government's strategic release framework already delivers the protections necessary should any new allocations in the Central Coast area be considered in the future. The bill's proposal to create a blanket ban on future exploration and mining in the Central Coast area is therefore redundant.

The second key element that is important is the changes made to the grounds on which titles can be granted, renewed or transferred. Industry and the community can be confident in the high standards that must be met for an application to be granted. For example, minimum technical, financial and work program standards and the applicant's environmental and compliance history are all considered as part of the assessment process. Current explorers must demonstrate their ability to meet relevant required standards and have a relevant and valid development consent before they can progress to a mining or petroleum production lease. Finally, I note that the reforms also created the ability for regulators to impose and amend conditions of mining and petroleum titles over the life of those titles.

Title conditions are a keystone of the regulatory framework to establish requirements on the way that mining activities can be undertaken in New South Wales. Conditions, for example, address and ensure sound environmental management. Circumstances can sometimes change over the life of a project, and the 2015 reforms enable the New South Wales Government to be responsive and, where warranted, existing conditions can be amended or new ones imposed. The bill undermines the Government's ability to respond, creating challenges for industry and communities on the Central Coast. The mining industry is a major employer, supporting more than 29,000 direct and 115,000 indirect jobs—many of those in regional New South Wales.

The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane): Order! It has been brought to my attention that some people in the public gallery have been interjecting or calling out. I ask them to desist.

The Hon. Taylor Martin: Get out! On your bike.

The Hon. Wes Fang: Go!

The Hon. Adam Searle: Point of order: While interjections from the gallery are not to be tolerated, members opposite speaking directly to people in the gallery does not assist. They should know better.

The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane): I concur with the Hon. Adam Searle; it should not have happened. Members of this House should not interject or interact with people in the public gallery. Such behaviour is not acceptable.

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: In the 2018-19 financial year mining royalties contributed \$2.1 billion to the New South Wales economy, with the bulk of the revenue coming from coal. In February this year the

New South Wales Government released the NSW Minerals Strategy, which outlines how we will help grow our minerals industry into the future. That will help promote investment in the sector. The Deputy Premier has made it clear that he wants New South Wales to become the number one mining investment destination—what this proposal would seek to do is make us the last place anyone would choose to invest in. That might suit the ideological position of The Greens, but what would it do to regional employment? The Central Coast needs and wants these jobs.

Think about the extensive process that mining projects must go through before they even start to take shape. It is no mean feat to get the projects approved—as we have already seen with the time line of Wallarah 2, which is about seven years from when approval was first sought—yet some of those opposite conveniently ignore this. For all the reasons I have outlined, the Government will oppose the bill.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (10:44:20): I lead for the Labor Opposition in debate on the Central Coast Drinking Water Catchments Protection Bill 2019. I indicate at the outset that the Opposition will not be voting for this legislation, and I will explain why. The New South Wales Labor Party has consistently opposed mining in the Central Coast water catchment, including refusing a mining application for this very project in 2010 during the term of office of the Keneally Government. Those opposite, the Liberals and The Nationals, in opposition promised to legislate to prevent mining in the Central Coast water catchment and stop the Wallarah 2 project proceeding. People with longer memories than that of a goldfish will recall images of Chris Hartcher and Barry O'Farrell wearing "Water Not Coal" T-shirts and promising to rule out this project—"no ifs or buts". But they broke that promise and they allowed a further application for the Wallarah 2 project. Consistently, the New South Wales Labor Opposition and its representatives on the Central Coast, ably led by Mr David Harris—now the member for Wyong—have campaigned against the project.

A disinformation campaign suggesting that Mr Harris actually supported Wallarah 2 caused him to lose his seat in 2011. He did not give up; he continued to campaign against the project and won back his seat in 2015. In the Legislative Assembly the member for Wyong, Mr Harris, representing the Labor Opposition introduced legislation, not unlike this legislation, to stop the project proceeding. I also introduced very similar legislation to the bill now before the House to achieve the same objective. In the lead-up to the last election we made it very clear that the election of a Labor government would see the Wallarah 2 project cease: it would not be given planning permission and would not proceed. We tried our hardest to stop the approval but we did not win the election. The Liberals and The Nationals won the election, the application proceeded and, surprisingly, the Independent Planning Commission has given planning permission, which fundamentally changes things.

It is one thing to legislate to cancel a process that is underway—which is what the Labor Party had proposed—but it is a very different circumstance once planning permission is given. To legislate now to cancel a planning approval, and to do so without making any arrangements for appropriate compensation, would, I think, create a sovereign risk problem for this State. That is something the alternative government of the State, the Labor Opposition, cannot support as a matter of process, notwithstanding the fact we do not approve this project. We recognise the unique geographical circumstances of the Central Coast water catchment, which supplies more than 320,000 residents and businesses with their water. It is expected to grow to more than 415,000 people by 2036 under the Central Coast Regional Plan.

We continue to have concerns about the potential impact of this project on the Central Coast water supply but we are committed to ensuring that every condition that has been laid down in the approval is met to a very high standard. We support a strong, safe, sustainable, responsible and well-regulated mining sector in New South Wales—we always have, despite what those opposite say. But we also recognise the pre-eminent importance of maintaining the safety and sanctity of water quality. We know that that issue has featured heavily in the 132 conditions of approval for the mine. We note that the entity itself has acknowledged that something like 970 megalitres a year will be lost due to the mining activity, which is close to approximately 400 Olympic swimming pools of water each year. We have held the view that the mine proponent has inadequately addressed the issues around water. We believe it is critical for the safety of the water supply on the Central Coast that all those conditions are now adhered to, to a very high standard, as the mine progresses.

The Central Coast has a very confined water catchment area by size, geography and sensitivity. As such, the loss of every litre is important. The Opposition believes the proponent must be held to account regarding all those conditions, particularly water. If they cannot adhere to them the project is a poor one. We note the Environmental Defenders Office NSW, the Australian Coal Alliance and the Central Coast Council challenged the approval of the licence in the NSW Land and Environment Court. That was not successful. We cannot ignore the existence of the planning approval, nor can we ignore the court's decision—no matter what our personal views of the project might be. We note that the planning process no longer has merit-based appeals. The Opposition will continue to oppose proposals for mining in the Central Coast water catchment and will continue to monitor closely the implementation of the approval conditions.

The Opposition does not think for a moment that the community will stop its activism against the project. I am sure Mr David Harris, the member for Wyong, will continue to stand with his community in trying to do his best to ensure that the project either does not proceed or, if it does proceed, proceeds to the highest standards required by law. There are 121 conditions to the approval given by the Independent Planning Commission. I believe there will be Federal requirements as well. The company must meet all of those requirements. It is regrettable that planning permission was given for the project. Our opposition to the project is no secret. I met with the relevant union and with the company on a number of occasions and made it clear that the election of a Labor government in March would have resulted in the proposal not proceeding. Given that approval has been given, we cannot tear it up without grappling with the compensation issues, as difficult or unsatisfactory as that may be.

A second issue with the bill relates to the Boral brickworks. Ms Abigail Boyd has indicated that she will move an amendment to address the Boral brickworks issue if the bill receives conditional approval on the second reading vote. I acknowledge the many visitors from the Central Coast who are in the public gallery. The Opposition understands their position and the pressure they will apply to the Government to review its support for the project. I hope they understand the difficult situation the Parliament is in now. Reluctantly, the Opposition opposes the bill for the reasons I have outlined. However, the Opposition maintains that mining in the Central Coast water catchment is not appropriate. At the last election the Opposition indicated that a moratorium should be imposed on further mining approvals in the water catchment more generally.

In the Illawarra a referral was made to an expert committee, headed by the NSW Chief Scientist, to look at mining issues associated with the Metropolitan and Dendrobium mines. In the past few weeks the State Government has taken Labor's policy from the 2019 State election and has implemented its own moratorium on mining approvals in the Illawarra, pending the report of the NSW Chief Scientist. To my knowledge, Australia is the only country that mines in water catchments. That has been occurring for over a century. Obviously we want to maintain the safety of our water supply as well as a safe, secure and well-regulated mining sector. The Opposition does not support the bill. However, it does understand the sentiments of The Greens in introducing the bill, and the concerns and strong views of the Central Coast community.

[Business interrupted.]

Visitors

VISITORS

The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane): I welcome to the gallery Mr Aidan Bottom from Merewether High School, Newcastle, who is a guest of the Hon. Taylor Martin.

Bills

CENTRAL COAST DRINKING WATER CATCHMENTS PROTECTION BILL 2019

Second Reading Debate

[Business resumed.]

The Hon. EMMA HURST (10:53:55): The Animal Justice Party supports the Central Coast Drinking Water Catchments Protection Bill 2019. I thank Ms Abigail Boyd for introducing this important bill. In a time of serious drought, sensible decisions must be made about water usage. The Central Coast drinking water catchment is a vital resource that provides for more than 350,000 residents on the New South Wales Central Coast and supplies over 480 megalitres of clean drinking water each week. However, storage capacities are falling. In those circumstances, cancellation of a mining licence for the proposed Wallarah 2 coalmine is the sensible decision.

The proposed coalmine, located within the Central Coast water catchment, will have significant impacts on the Central Coast's water supply and on local animal populations. In a 2017 submission about the proposed mine, the Nature Conservation Council identified 37 threatened and migratory native fauna species that will be impacted. I note the large number of emails sent by Central Coast residents to MPs. Those emails have not been ignored by the Animal Justice Party and I recognise the stress and risk to that community from the proposal. The Animal Justice Party supports the bill.

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (10:55:16): The Central Coast Drinking Water Catchments Protection Bill 2019, introduced by The Greens, will result in the cancellation of active, proposed and future mining and petroleum leases in a large area across the New South Wales Central Coast. The bill is a response to the granting of mining licences earlier this year for the Wallarah 2 coalmine. The approval for that mining project has been one of the most highly scrutinised approvals in the history of New South Wales. It has been ruled safe to proceed at every stage along the way. The project has been reviewed by independent scientific experts,

the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the NSW Planning Assessment Commission and the then Federal Minister for the Environment and Energy to get to the point we are at now. The validity of the approval issued by the NSW Planning Assessment Commission was challenged in the NSW Land and Environment Court. That challenge was dismissed earlier this year.

The mine dates back to 1995, when approval for exploration was first granted following a tender process. Then Premier Bob Carr wrote to congratulate the winning bidder, then known as Coal Operations Australia Limited, on its successful bid. I read that letter onto the record. It states:

Dear Mr Haraldson

I congratulate your company on its participation as lead company in the winning tender for the Wyong Coal Exploration Area. The tender featured excellent and highly professional responses to all the issues and the major commitment you have made should result in a very sound technical basis for the project approvals process. There is a very good possibility this project will be an operating mine early next decade.

As Premier of New South Wales, I am pleased to see the commitment of your parent company to investment in my State's coal industry. This industry is one of the mainstays of our economy, providing fuel for our own power and steel as well as the vitally important export trade.

I look forward to a fruitful partnership between Coal Operations Australia Limited, the other members of The Wyong Areas Coal Joint Venture and the Government of New South Wales.

Yours sincerely

Bob Carr

Premier

The letter was dated November 1995—a time in the not too distant past when the Labor Party supported mining jobs.

The Hon. Adam Searle: Point of order: The Hon. Taylor Martin is reflecting on the Opposition side of the Chamber. In my contribution I addressed the issue he is referring to. It does the honourable member no good to make cheap shots.

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN: To the point of order: I am not making a cheap shot. I am simply quoting a letter from former Premier Bob Carr, dated November 1995. I fail to see how a letter from a former Premier could be a cheap shot and how the Hon. Adam Searle could take that view.

The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane): Members will come to order. The Hon. Taylor Martin was making a general comment and was not reflecting negatively on a member. Members will respect the member with the call.

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN: I point out that the Hon. Bob Carr is no longer a member of this place. The bill before us will drastically undermine confidence in the New South Wales resources and planning systems, discourage investment and result in a loss of jobs due to the forced closure of operating mines and mining projects; not future projects but operating projects. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for referring to those consequences in his contribution. There is no doubt that that is the intention of The Greens to shut down those mines. That is what they want and that is the point of this bill. These points were underlined by one particular stakeholder who said:

Our industry needs fair rules that are consistently applied to give operators, investors and workers some certainty. We welcome the NSW Government's decision today which recognises the rigorous assessment process the Wallarah 2 project has been through. The community has been waiting for a long time for the jobs that will flow from this project.

That quote is not from anyone from Wallarah 2, not anyone from New South Wales mining or the NSW Minerals Council, and certainly not from anyone within the Government. That quote is from the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union's mining and energy division's northern president, Peter Jordan. It is clear that the CFMMEU is excited at the prospect of the jobs that will be created by this project. This bill goes a lot further than just cancelling the Wallarah 2 Coal Project. It not only risks the 1,100 direct and indirect jobs during construction, but also puts Boral Montoro's clay and shale mining operations and Centennial Coal's Mandalong coalmine at risk. This bill proposes no compensation or assistance to those who would lose their jobs—none at all. I will be listening closely to this debate to see if anyone addresses that point. If members are going to support this bill, the least they could do is acknowledge those who they are putting out of work.

The Boral clay mine is crucial to our domestic economy and vital to the affordable delivery of housing and world-class infrastructure in New South Wales. The mine supplies clay to an adjacent factory that manufactures terracotta roof tiles. That factory is one of only two Australian terracotta roof tile plants and the only one in New South Wales. The factory has been supplying roof tiles for building and development since 1988. It employs 45 local people who are responsible for the production of an estimated nine million to 10 million roof

tiles each year—enough to put roofs on thousands of new homes. This bill will result in the existing mine closing. The factory cannot continue to operate without access to the particular type of clay located at the adjacent mine. And so the ripple effect of the unintended—or dare I say it—intended consequences of this bill reverberate.

Ms Abigail Boyd: No, no. Read the amendment.

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN: You will get your chance later on. This should not be news to The Greens; it has been well canvassed in this and the other place before. Yet, the factory remains at risk because of this bill. I note that the Wallarah 2 coalmine will generate \$800 million in mining royalties that will be received by New South Wales over the life of the mine. Revenue received by the State government from mining royalties is used to fund school upgrades, hospitals, roads and services across the State. This is something else that those opposite do not want to admit. Which school upgrades, hospital upgrades, road projects will not occur as a result of this bill, should it pass this House?

To compound that effect, the bill would result in significant claims for compensation and resulting litigation, as discussed by the Leader of the Opposition. Thus, the impact of this bill on the State's revenue would be in excess of \$800 million. This bill is totally unnecessary. There are plenty of coalmines in the area. Up the road at Wangi Wangi the Myuna Colliery has operated safely for well over 40 years now, despite mining diagonally and directly under Lake Macquarie. I call on all members to consider the significant impact that this bill would have and join me in opposing it.

The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane): Order! Members will be heard in silence. There are too many interjections.

Mr JUSTIN FIELD (11:03:12): We should not be here today. We should not be here because the New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Coalition should have kept its word to the Central Coast community. Former Opposition leader Barry O'Farrell, in his red "WATER NOT COAL" shirt, stood up in that community and said:

The next Liberal-National government will ensure mining cannot occur here; will ensure that mining cannot occur in any water catchment area. And we'll ensure that mining leases and mining exploration permits reflect that commonsense. No ifs, not buts. A guarantee.

It is all well and good for the Hon. Taylor Martin to speak about letters from former premiers in 1995 and we could talk about what Chris Hartcher said about protecting water catchments on the Central Coast years after that, but the Government did not allow that to be tabled when this issue was previously debated in this place. So let us talk about what the former leader of the Opposition and then Premier of this State said and what the Government did—it went back on its word to the Central Coast community. It is little wonder that David Harris won back the seat of Wyong, after being betrayed by the Liberal-Nationals Coalition. He has taken a pretty clear position on this issue. I understand the position put by the Leader of the Opposition in this place, although I disagree with it.

We should not be here because we had an opportunity to address this issue back in 2014 when my friend and former colleague Jeremy Buckingham brought the first Central Coast Water Catchments Protection Bill to this place. We had an opportunity to deal with this before the Wallarah 2 coalmine was approved. We should not be here because this is about priorities. You would think that a smart and good government and a Parliament that has the interests of the public in mind would put water ahead of coalmining. When you are in the middle of a drought it becomes really obvious, but I think most people instinctively understand that you cannot eat coal, you cannot drink coal and—for the Hon. Taylor Martin—you cannot drink coal royalties either.

Let us be clear about how our planning system has let us down when it comes to mining in drinking water catchments. Just a week and a half ago we finally had an acknowledgement that the coalmining that is being allowed systematically under Sydney's drinking water catchments has ultimately led to cracking and millions and millions of litres a day being lost from our drinking water supply into coal voids. It has cracked creeks, increased the salinity of Sydney water supplies and increased the cost of treating our water. We mine in our water catchments at great peril. This bill seeks to address that issue and ensure that we are putting the needs of the community as they relate to water first and foremost in the decisions of the Government.

We have very little time here today, so I will quickly address another couple of points. This cannot be about ideology anymore. We are experiencing unprecedented droughts and water shortages. We are seeing climate change impact the community in the most severe ways. We cannot continue to make the argument all about jobs. The community on the Central Coast needs a jobs future. The arguments being made by the Government are the same arguments that were made by the whale oil industry in the previous century. We need a new plan for the future and we cannot have a jobs future if we do not have a sustainable environment. We can make all sorts of arguments about why specific parts of this bill may not work, but the fact is you cannot have jobs on a dead planet and that is the very circumstance we are heading to right now.

Finally, I support an independent planning system and I recognise that the Independent Planning Commission has supported this proposal—with substantial conditions. But here is a warning: Conditions have been given to individual mines time and time again in this State. We have seen Sydney's water catchments and years down the track we have realised the significant and collective impact of those mines. We are now trying to recognise and undo that impact. Let us not make the same mistake on the Central Coast that we made in Sydney. I urge members to support the bill.

The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane): I ask the public gallery to cease applauding and interjecting. I know that some guests have travelled a long distance but if the interjections persist they will be asked to vacate the public gallery. The proceedings will be heard in silence.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD (11:08:30): In reply: I thank the Hon. Adam Searle, the Hon. Scott Farlow, the Hon. Taylor Martin, the Hon. Emma Hurst and Mr Justin Field for their contributions to this debate. I am not surprised by the arguments that have been put forward today, but I am disappointed. I am getting really frustrated with the Government's approach. Earlier I sent an amendment around. It made it very clear that if this bill was passed we would be moving that no other existing mining operations would be impacted. To use that as a reason to not vote for the bill and then to seek an amendment is pretty lazy, in my view. Speaking of being lazy, the idea that there are jobs only in coalmining is an incredibly lazy argument. Industries that are dying or for which there are smarter, better options should not be propped up. There has been some rubbish about Wallarah 2 having 800 jobs. We know from the analysis done on the Adani mine that 800 jobs are very unlikely. The coalmining operator has already been caught out inflating figures for jobs and economics in previous mining applications.

There are no alternatives to water; there are alternatives to coal and jobs in coal. Once we ruin our water supply, once we deplete it and once we pollute it to such an extent that we can no longer drink it, there will be no other options. Some Government members may smirk but this is a very real danger. As Mr Justin Field pointed out, we now have examples of mining companies—surprise, surprise!—not doing the right thing and causing harm to our water catchments. Over 200 conditions have been placed on the mine because the Independent Planning Commission recognised that in its current form, without those conditions, the mine is not safe. The Hon. Scott Farlow talked a lot about the very stringent mining approvals process—the same approvals process that Minister Barilaro has admitted is designed to protect mining companies. It is not designed to protect the environment or the community. It is hugely weighed in favour of allowing mining approvals to go through.

I am very disappointed with Labor's approach. I understand the arguments; I think they are pretty flimsy. Yes, probably compensation would be payable if the mining company wanted to take us to court for this. But sometimes when you make mistakes, it costs money to fix them. Approving the mine was a huge mistake. Making that mistake over and over, instead of accepting that something must be done differently, is an incredibly irresponsible way to govern. We must accept that we must change course. The message that Labor has sent today is that it is all just too hard. You can oppose it but things must happen in order to change course. Yes, there could be cost of compensation to the mining company but it would be nothing compared with the cost of compensating the Central Coast community for the contamination of its water supply. I ask all members to reconsider their opposition to the bill. Instead, do the right thing for once—do what they said they were going to do 10 years ago—oppose the Wallarah 2 coalmine and pass the bill.

The ASSISTANT PRESIDENT (The Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane): The question is that this bill be now read a second time.

The House divided.

[In division]

The PRESIDENT: I again remind members in the public gallery that irrespective of the result of the division, they will make no comment and sit in silence whilst they are in the public gallery.

Ayes6
Noes32
Majority.....26

AYES

Boyd, Ms A (teller)
Hurst, Ms E

Faehrmann, Ms C
Pearson, Mr M

Field, Mr J
Shoebridge, Mr D (teller)

NOES

Amato, Mr L

Banasiak, Mr M

Borsak, Mr R

NOES

Buttigieg, Mr M (teller)
 Fang, Mr W
 Franklin, Mr B
 Houssos, Mrs C
 Latham, Mr M
 Mitchell, Mrs
 Moselmane, Mr S
 Roberts, Mr R
 Sharpe, Ms P
 Veitch, Mr M

Cusack, Ms C
 Farlow, Mr S
 Graham, Mr J
 Jackson, Ms R
 Maclaren-Jones, Mrs (teller)
 Mookhey, Mr D
 Nile, Revd Mr
 Searle, Mr A
 Taylor, Mrs
 Ward, Mrs N

D'Adam, Mr A
 Farraway, Mr S.J.
 Harwin, Mr D
 Khan, Mr T
 Martin, Mr T
 Moriarty, Ms T
 Primrose, Mr P
 Secord, Mr W
 Tudehope, Mr D

Motion negatived.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members in the public gallery heard my previous request. Standing there and saying the word "shame" is not complying with that request. If you cannot sit in silence I ask you to please leave.

CRIMES AMENDMENT (ZOE'S LAW) BILL 2019**Second Reading Debate****Debate called on and adjourned.***Documents***LANDCOM****Correspondence**

The CLERK: According to the resolution of the House of Wednesday 20 November 2019, I table correspondence from the General Counsel of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, dated this day, attaching the document considered by the Independent Legal Arbiter, the Hon. Keith Mason, AC, QC, not to be privileged, including the redactions recommended in his report, dated 13 November 2019, relating to the directors and chair of Landcom.

WAGE THEFT**Production of Documents: Order**

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I move:

That private members' business item No. 383 outside the order of precedence be considered in a short form format.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (11:24:13): I seek leave to amend private members' business item No. 383 outside the order of precedence for today of which I have given notice by inserting after paragraph 1:

2. That this House notes that the House and its committees have consistently maintained that so-called statutory secrecy provisions, that is, provisions in statutes which prohibit in general terms the disclosure of certain categories of information, have no effect on the law of privilege, including the common law power of this House to order the production of State papers, unless they do so expressly or by necessary implication.
3. That this House further notes that this position has recently been expressly accepted by the Solicitor-General and the Crown Solicitor in a legal opinion provided to the Auditor-General concerning the powers of parliamentary committees, in which the Crown Solicitor observed:

The Solicitor General expressed the general view that a statutory prohibition on disclosure of information will only be held to apply to disclosure to a Parliamentary committee if that is done expressly or by necessary implication.

I defer to the views of the Solicitor General ... I would only add that the principle applied by the Solicitor General - that legislation will be presumed not to diminish the "privileges" of Parliament or its committees, unless it does so expressly or by necessary implication - has been accepted in several Australian cases.

4. That notwithstanding the power of the House to order the production of State papers subject to statutory privacy or secrecy provisions, the documents returned to the House under this order of the House be redacted to remove information subject to the privacy and secrecy provisions of the Taxation Administration Act 1996.

Leave not granted.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I move:

That, under Standing Order 52, there be laid upon the table of the House within 21 days of the date of the passing of this resolution the following documents, created since 1 April 2015, in the possession, custody or control of the Treasurer, the Treasury, the Minister for Finance and Small Business, the Minister for Customer Service, the Department of Customer Service or Revenue NSW:

- (a) all documents relating to any investigation undertaken by Revenue NSW into the payroll tax compliance of the following companies, any franchise related to the following companies, or any other entity related to or trading as:
 - (i) Wesfarmers;
 - (ii) Bunnings;
 - (iii) Sunglass Hut;
 - (iv) Qantas;
 - (v) Rockpool Dining Group;
 - (vi) the Commonwealth Bank;
 - (vii) Michael Hill Jewellers;
 - (viii) Subway;
 - (ix) Woolworths;
 - (x) 7 Eleven;
 - (xi) Caltex Australia;
 - (xii) Domino's Pizza;
 - (xiii) Coffee Club;
 - (xiv) Foodco; and
 - (xv) Crust Pizza.
- (b) all correspondence, emails, briefing notes or House folder notes in the possession of the Office of the Minister for Finance and Small Business or the Office of the Minister for Customer Service related to wage theft, the underpayment of employees, or the payroll tax compliance of any business alleged or proven to have engaged in wage theft or the underpayment of employees; and
- (c) any legal or other advice regarding the scope or validity of this order of the House created as a result of this order of the House.

This matter has been extensively canvassed before the House, as recently as yesterday in question time and also last week. This call for papers relates to wage theft in New South Wales and across Australia and includes the issue of the underpayment of workers. It specifically seeks documents relating to any investigation undertaken by Revenue NSW into the payroll tax compliance of—and includes some of the most prominent cases in the public domain—Wesfarmers, Bunnings, Qantas, the Rockpool Dining Group and Woolworths. Wesfarmers, Bunnings and Woolworths, which are, other than the New South Wales Government, Australia's largest employers.

Wesfarmers admitted and has been convicted under the Fair Work Act of underpaying workers to the tune of around \$30 million. Woolworths has admitted underpaying workers around \$300 million. Of course, we look to the Commonwealth to lead in the policy response to the issue of wage theft under the Fair Work Act more generally. But the issue which is unique to New South Wales—as it is to all State jurisdictions that collect payroll tax—is that whenever there is an underpayment of wages, certainly to the magnitude of these cases, it does create questions around whether payroll tax obligations have been complied with.

Only the New South Wales Parliament can handle that matter. Only the New South Wales Government has the responsibility of ensuring that the money owed to taxpayers is collected. I have repeatedly made the point each time this issue has been canvassed that when wage theft or underpayment is engaged upon three people lose out. Firstly, the workers who rightly have earned income from the sale of their labour. Secondly, the small businesses and large businesses that obey the law and, finally, taxpayers who ought to be able to collect payroll tax and income tax that would be owed as a result.

I do not wish to revisit the full dimensions of this debate because we have debated this at some length. I will now turn to some of the considerations which the Government will flag. I accept that it is not the intention of the House to ever put public servants in a position of legal jeopardy. We all take seriously the obligations that public servants are under to obey the law. I understand that on matters of taxation that is especially important. The Minister has referred previously to certain matters I have pursued in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal on this issue, where I have sought to test whether documents can be provided under law.

I will say that none of those cases had anything to do with payroll tax but I will put that aside. The reason I am seeking to use Standing Order 52 powers in this regard is because that is the only way in which we can provide a legally safe pathway for public servants to provide this information to the Parliament so it can do its job of scrutinising executive performance. There is a reason why we have this privilege. There is a reason why the common law privilege to compel documents is not disturbed unless expressly done so by legislation. The Government is not arguing that the Taxation Administration Act expressly takes away this power and thus—as I sought to amend the motion to note—it does fall within our common law privilege to seek these documents.

I accept, of course, that if we do decide to adopt this, it should be with great care and concern. Whenever we decide to use one of the most aggressive powers available to this House, we should not be doing so recklessly. I make the point that I have pursued this through the Government Information (Public Access) Act, in budget estimates, in question time and I have encouraged the Government as much as it is possible to provide as much information as it can voluntarily, through all those forms. Every single time we do, we are told that the privacy of people who are perpetrators of wage theft, among other crimes, comes first. We do not necessarily accept that that is the position that should be taken and we do not accept that should prevail over our obligation to ensure that Revenue NSW is doing its job in this respect.

Thus we come to the point where we look at this power and are seeking to use it responsibly. I understand that another member will move the amendment I sought to move, to provide a bit of discretion to the Government in its compliance with this order—to do its best to ensure that we are not unduly overriding the Tax Administration Act. It is right and appropriate that Executive Government has that discretion when complying with this order. I look forward to the Government's contribution, should the motion be agreed to. I have had the opportunity to have some brief discussions with the Minister on this and I make it clear that we are doing this in a manner that is responsible. We are not seeking an unnecessary confrontation with the Government or the Executive in this respect. I commend the motion to the House.

The Hon. Don Harwin: Point of order: There are two reasons why the motion is invalid and should be ruled out of order. First, it is incompatible with the secrecy provisions under the Taxation Administration Act 1996. Part 9, division 3 of that Act makes it an offence for the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, or any other tax officer, to disclose any information obtained under or in relation to the administration of a taxation law, which includes the Payroll Tax Act 2007, except in prescribed circumstances, none of which presently arise. To require the production of the documents would therefore interfere with the operation of the statutory scheme established by the Act and would require public servants to commit an offence in order to comply with the order. Even the Ministers responsible for the administration of the Taxation Administration Act cannot call for the documents that are sought in this motion, which the High Court in *Egan v Willis* has said is the relevant test for the production of documents to this House. In such circumstances, the production of the information is either not lawful, or is not reasonably necessary, for this House to fulfil its scrutiny functions.

Second, the motion is incompatible with the New South Wales ministerial code of conduct and the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct. The High Court in *Egan v Willis* confirmed that responsibility for producing documents under Standing Order 52 rests formally with the Ministers who represent the Government in the Council, in accordance with the principles of responsible government and ministerial responsibility to Parliament. In order to comply with the motion, the responsible Ministers would be required to give unlawful directions to public servants to return documents contrary to their obligations under the Taxation Administration Act in contravention of their responsibilities under the ministerial code. Clause 5 (1) of the ministerial code provides:

A Minister must not knowingly issue any direction or make any request that would require a public service agency or any other person to act contrary to the law.

The ministerial code is set out in an appendix to the Independent Commission Against Corruption Regulation 2017. A substantial breach of the code is capable of being corrupt conduct for the purposes of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988. Staff of political office holders would also be required to breach the office holder's staff code if they were to direct public servants to breach the Taxation Administration Act. Clause 7 of the office holder's staff code provides:

All office holder staff ... [must] not knowingly encourage or induce a public official to breach the law, Parliamentary obligations or duties under an applicable code of conduct.

A breach of the Office Holder's Code may also constitute a disciplinary offence for the purposes of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act and may ground a finding of corrupt conduct under that Act. These are genuine issues which we raise by way of point of order as the appropriate first step in working out how they should be dealt with and I therefore place them within your purview.

The Hon. Adam Searle: To the point of order—

The PRESIDENT: I advise members that the clock will continue to wind down this 30-minute debate.

The Hon. Adam Searle: I will be brief. In relation to the unlawfulness aspect of the point of order raised by the Leader of the Government, there is a lot of assertion but there is not much detail. There is a lot of recitation about things breached but no compelling arguments about the resolution requiring unlawful acts to be committed as a result. Lest there be any concern about that, the amendment foreshadowed by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey would entirely resolve that matter. It was the Leader of the Government who indicated that leave was not granted, to move that amendment, so I think that is a bit of a furphy.

In any case, the motion can be amended and the Opposition will be moving an amendment so that the unlawfulness issue would recede entirely. In relation to it not being reasonably required for the activities or duties of the House, if members read *Egan v Chadwick* and cases associated with that, that is an issue of a ruling of the court. It is a matter for this House to assert what it believes is reasonably necessary to fulfil its duties. If the matter then ends up in court, it is a matter for the court to rule. The Government has not made any case, much less a compelling case, about this not being reasonably necessary for the fulfilment of the activities of the House. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey has indicated all the other anterior steps he took to pursue these issues through the other forms of the House, such as budget estimates, and has still not received any satisfactory material. This next step is very much within the purview of the ability of the House to call for State papers.

The PRESIDENT: The point of order taken by the Leader of the Government raises a number of complex issues to be considered. I am not in a position to rule at this time without further consideration of the matter. Initially, I indicate that I will probably require advice from Senior Counsel on the matters that were raised, not only by the Leader of the Government but also in a very distinct manner by the Leader of the Opposition. Both the Leader of the Government and the Leader of the Opposition argued their respective cases extremely well. On that basis I propose to reserve my ruling on the point of order. Realistically I do not believe that I will be able to come back today, so I will not be able to give the ruling until we return next year. However, I still believe it is important to allow the debate to continue for the remaining 18 or so minutes, because what members will contribute during that debate, as well as the moving of any amendments, will assist me in making that final ruling. On that basis, we will continue with the debate.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (11:38:35): I move the following amendment:

That private members' business item No. 383 outside the order of precedence be amended by inserting after paragraph 1:

2. That this House notes that the House and its committees have consistently maintained that so-called statutory secrecy provisions, that is, provisions in statutes which prohibit in general terms the disclosure of certain categories of information, have no effect on the law of privilege, including the common law power of this House to order the production of State papers, unless they do so expressly or by necessary implication.
3. That this House further notes that this position has recently been expressly accepted by the Solicitor-General and the Crown Solicitor in a legal opinion provided to the Auditor-General concerning the powers of parliamentary committees, in which the Crown Solicitor observed:

The Solicitor General expressed the general view that a statutory prohibition on disclosure of information will only be held to apply to disclosure to a Parliamentary committee if that is done expressly or by necessary implication.

I defer to the views of the Solicitor General ... I would only add that the principle applied by the Solicitor General - that legislation will be presumed not to diminish the "privileges" of Parliament or its committees, unless it does so expressly or by necessary implication - has been accepted in several Australian cases.
4. That notwithstanding the power of the House to order the production of State papers subject to statutory privacy or secrecy provisions, the documents returned to the House under this order of the House be redacted to remove information subject to the privacy and secrecy provisions of the Taxation Administration Act 1996.

I will not speak to the amendment. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey has outlined its purpose.

The Hon. MARK BUTTIGIEG: I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

The PRESIDENT: I reserved my decision on the basis that I will not put the question on either the motion or the amendment.

The Hon. Adam Searle: The President is now fully informed.

The PRESIDENT: The whole debate has been adjourned. The Hon. Damien Tudehope will have 15 minutes in which to respond. I will ensure that I give my ruling prior to the debate being resumed.

Debate adjourned.

PARRAMATTA LIGHT RAIL**Production of Documents: Order**

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: I move:

That private members' business item No. 391 outside the order of precedence be considered in a short form format.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (11:41:54): I move:

That, under Standing Order 52, there be laid upon the table of the House within 21 days of the date of passing of this resolution the following documents in the possession, custody or control of the Premier, Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Treasurer, the Treasury, the Minister for Transport and Roads, Infrastructure NSW, or the Department of Transport:

- (a) the final business case for the Parramatta Light Rail Project (Stage Two);
- (b) all documents specifying or containing:
 - (i) the cost of proceeding with construction of the Parramatta Light Rail Project (Stage Two);
 - (ii) any costs that may be incurred by the State if the Parramatta Light Rail Project (Stage Two) does not proceed to construction;
 - (iii) financial models for the Parramatta Light Rail Project (Stage Two).
- (c) all briefings provided since 1 January 2016 to the Transport for New South Wales Audit and Risk Committee regarding the Parramatta Light Rail project (all stages), and the meeting papers and minutes of any meeting of the Transport for New South Wales Audit and Risk Committee in which the Parramatta Light Rail project (all stages) was discussed;
- (d) all briefings provided since 1 January 2016 to the Transport for New South Wales Finance and Investment Committee regarding the Parramatta Light Rail project (all stages), and the meeting papers and minutes of any meeting of the Transport for New South Wales Finance and Investment Committee in which the Parramatta Light Rail project (all stages) was discussed;
- (e) all documents, created since 1 July 2017 in the possession of the Office of the Minister for Transport and Roads regarding the Parramatta Light Rail Project (Stage Two);
- (f) all monthly or regular project reports prepared for or by Transport for NSW regarding the Parramatta Light Rail project (all stages);
- (g) all regular project reports prepared by Infrastructure NSW regarding the Parramatta Light Rail project (all stages);
- (h) all reports arising from any "gateway review", "health check" or "deep-dive" review prepared for, or undertaken by Infrastructure NSW regarding the Parramatta Light Rail project;
- (i) all "review workbooks" prepared for or by Infrastructure NSW, and all reports prepared by any independent review team for Infrastructure NSW regarding the Parramatta Light Rail project; and
- (j) any legal or other advice regarding the scope or validity of this order of the House created as a result of this order of the House.

I thank the House for allowing this motion to proceed in short form format. This request for papers is far less contentious than the one we have just debated, I feel. Nevertheless, I anticipate the Government's opposition to it. This motion relates to the Parramatta Light Rail project. The order seeks the final business case for Parramatta Light Rail stage two. The Opposition knows that the document exists. We know that it is ready. There has been repeated reference to it made by the Minister in budget estimates and answers to questions taken on notice during budget estimates, but we just do not know what the document says. That is something that the Parramatta community would very much like to know.

I make the point that in the 2015 and 2019 State elections Parramatta Light Rail has been the subject of repeated election promises by the Government that it would build stage one and stage two. But since 2019 the matter surfaced in public debate that the Government is giving some consideration to whether or not it wishes to proceed with stage two of the project and that has catalysed a great desire from two organisations, among others, the Western Sydney Business Connection and the Property Council of New South Wales, who very much are campaigning for the Parramatta Light Rail second stage to be built. They among others would very much like to know what the strategic business case and what it says, given that previously the Government cited the project as the reason why spending \$3.5 billion is worthwhile. That is the first thing that this call for papers requests.

The second is that the Opposition would very much like to know how the Government intends to pay for the project. That also has been a matter of public debate. In 2016-17 documents were leaked from Transport for NSW showing that at the time of the anticipated cost of \$3.3 billion, only \$1.5 billion of New South Wales taxpayers' would be sourced and either one of two things would have to happen for the project to proceed: Either the Commonwealth Government would have to come to the rescue or, alternatively, the Government would have to consider the collection of special infrastructure charges on the Parramatta community. I will not get into a

debate about whether special infrastructure charges are good mechanisms or bad mechanisms, but I make the point about special infrastructure charges that they have not been a measure the Government pursued when it came to the CBD and South East Light Rail. However, apparently special infrastructure charges have been nominated as required in order to build the Parramatta Light Rail.

The collection of special infrastructure charges itself has surfaced as questions in the Parramatta business community among others as to why they might be subject to the charge whereas CBD businesses have not been subjected to that charge. Thus the Opposition also seeks the financial models behind the Parramatta Light Rail so that those communities can get answers to those reasonable questions among other things. In addition to that, on the basis of this Government's record in terms of construction of light rail projects, there is cause to want to scrutinise how well the Government is building this project in its first stage and how well geared up the Government is to build the project in its second stage. Thus the other aspects that this call for papers touches upon is the monthly progress reports that Transport for NSW ought to be producing or ought to have produced for them. That is the second of many dimensions of which the Opposition is making this call for papers.

Finally, the people of New South Wales have been told throughout that Infrastructure NSW is ever vigilant in the manner in which it discharges its obligations to ensure that public dollars are well being spent on infrastructure spending in New South Wales. Given that the Government always cites Infrastructure NSW's scrutiny to answer any criticism about how well the Government is spending taxpayers' dollars, the Opposition would very much like to see what Infrastructure NSW experts and the experts it has commissioned think of this project, how well they think this Parramatta Light Rail project is being built and whether or not their assurance framework is actually working to prevent waste or mismanagement or blowouts on the project. On the bases I have outlined, I commend the motion to the House.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Minister for Finance and Small Business) (11:45:38): Consistently the Government has adopted a position in relation to applications under Standing Order 52 in respect of the use to which they are being put for fishing expeditions. Notwithstanding the quite eloquent dissertation by the Hon. Daniel Mookhey, I do not think he has advanced an argument to justify this application by simply saying, "We want to look. We want to see." In my view he elicited no probative value for the purpose of this application.

In relation to the manner in which Standing Order 52 applications have been directed to the Transport cluster, this is the eighth order issued. Transport has spent more than 1,225 hours in responding to the call for papers in relation to the CBD and South East Light Rail, and 692 hours just responding to the Transport Asset Holding Entity order for papers. Transport also spent over 600 hours on responding to the Evolving Transport order for papers. To respond to the order for papers in relation to the Parramatta Light Rail, it is estimated it will take up to 1,000 hours of Transport time to produce those papers. The work involved in processing the frankly over-the-top and ever-increasing call for papers is diverting the resources of the Government away from working for the people of New South Wales and into warehousing Government papers for the Opposition.

This call for papers represents an unreasonable and substantial diversion of the House's time and resources. The House should not be a warehouse for Government papers. I reiterate that the probative value in relation to this call for papers should be based on establishing that all other steps have been taken and whether the call for papers, in conjunction with the budget estimates process, will become an abuse of the time of this House and the manner in which it House operates. With the extended budget estimates process, there is manifestly greater opportunity for public servants to be quizzed on the delivery of infrastructure projects. It is my continued submission that before making applications of this nature a member should demonstrate that every other avenue to obtain the papers has been exploited before this avenue is pursued. The Government opposes the motion.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY (11:48:48): In reply: I thank the Minister for his contribution to the debate.

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

The House divided.

Ayes 19
Noes 17
Majority..... 2

AYES

Banasiak, Mr M
Buttigieg, Mr M (teller)
Field, Mr J
Hurst, Ms E

Borsak, Mr R
D'Adam, Mr A (teller)
Graham, Mr J
Jackson, Ms R

Boyd, Ms A
Faehrmann, Ms C
Houssos, Mrs C
Mookhey, Mr D

AYES

Moselmane, Mr S
Secord, Mr W
Veitch, Mr M

Primrose, Mr P
Sharpe, Ms P

Searle, Mr A
Shoebridge, Mr D

NOES

Amato, Mr L
Farlow, Mr S
Harwin, Mr D
Maclaren-Jones, Mrs (teller)
Nile, Revd Mr
Tudehope, Mr D

Cusack, Ms C
Farraway, Mr S.J. (teller)
Khan, Mr T
Martin, Mr T
Roberts, Mr R
Ward, Mrs N

Fang, Mr W
Franklin, Mr B
Latham, Mr M
Mitchell, Mrs
Taylor, Mrs

PAIRS

Donnelly, Mr G
Moriarty, Ms T

Mallard, Mr S
Mason-Cox, Mr M

Motion agreed to.

*Motions***DISABILITY ADVOCACY**

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: I move:

That private members' business item No. 387 outside the order of precedence be considered in a short form format.

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (11:57:28): I move:

1. That this House notes that:
 - (a) the New South Wales Ageing and Disability Commissioner is undertaking a review of disability advocacy in New South Wales;
 - (b) there have been submissions to the review from people with disability, as well as the organisations who work with them, outlining the importance of a well-funded, specialised and independent disability advocacy sector;
 - (c) people with disability must be the decision-makers about their lives and advocacy can assist people with disability to be fully able to participate in decision-making; and
 - (d) while the NDIS has increased the need for advocacy, it only adds to the full range of work advocacy organisations do, including improving access to education, transport, housing, health, justice and more.
2. That this House calls on the Hon. Gareth Ward, MP, Minister for Disability Services, to commit to:
 - (a) releasing the New South Wales Ageing and Disability Commissioner's report into disability advocacy as soon as it is available; and
 - (b) two years of rollover funding for the disability advocacy sector to end the funding uncertainty being experienced by these crucial organisations.

The motion is self-explanatory. When we were establishing the Ageing and Disability Commissioner this Chamber had a big debate about the role of advocacy and the need for it to be properly funded. It is currently being reviewed and the review is due to be released before the end of this year. This motion calls on the report to be made public as soon as it is available, and I am pleased that the Minister has already agreed to that. The real issue in this motion is about support for the disability advocacy organisations, which are seeking a guarantee of two years' funding for the transition of everything that comes out of the review. I commend the motion to the House.

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD (11:58:09): We will support this motion, and we thank the Hon. Penny Sharpe for bringing it to the House. As time is short, I will not go into the reasons.

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (11:58:28): The New South Wales Government has an ongoing commitment to ensure people with a disability have the capacity to participate in the broader community and use mainstream services. We do this as an obligation under international law and under the New South Wales

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 and because it is the right thing to do. Formal and informal advocacy both for and on behalf of people with disability is critical to ensuring that people with disability are able to experience and protect the full spectrum of their human rights. Advocacy organisations exist to empower people with disability to speak and act on their own behalf. They build the capacity to mainstream service systems to accommodate the needs of people with disability by solving problems, supporting them and being the catalyst for change.

Under the National Disability Insurance Scheme many advocacy and information functions will be delivered under the Information, Linkages and Capacity Building framework. This includes advocacy and information services for the approximately 1.4 million people in New South Wales with a disability regardless of whether they qualify for support under the NDIS. An estimated \$6.5 billion has been invested into the disability sector for 2018-19 in New South Wales.

The Commonwealth contribution to this figure is an estimated \$3.3 billion and the New South Wales contribution is an estimated \$3.2 billion. One hundred per cent of the previous Family and Community Services budget for specialist disability supports of \$2.7 billion will contribute to supports for people with disability under the NDIS. The information, linkages and capacity [ILC] building strand of the NDIS is still maturing and not all New South Wales specialist disability advocacy organisations are funded under the ILC. To ensure that all people with disability in New South Wales continue to benefit from the critical work of disability advocacy organisations while the NDIS is being implemented, the Government provided additional funding of up to \$26 million for advocacy services until 2020.

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

Questions Without Notice

SCHOOL AIR QUALITY MONITORING

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (12:00:18): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. Given the poor air quality this week due to bushfires and temperatures of more than 30 degrees, what advice did your department provide to schools without air-conditioned classrooms which otherwise had to send their students outside into the smoky haze?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:00:43): I thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition for his question about our air quality and advice provided to schools and principals relating to the bushfires. The member would be well aware that I have canvassed extensively in the House that this Government takes the evacuation of our schools and safety of children very seriously. The department has sent a lot of information to principals about the measures to be taken during this time. Just this week I discussed the subject of air quality with representatives from the Primary Principals Association. I will take the substantive part of the member's question on notice which relates to the information that has been sent to schools. I will see what I can get for him by the end of question time, but if I cannot it will be given through the usual processes.

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (12:01:33): My question is addressed to the Leader of the Government. Will the Minister update the House on the achievements of the Liberal-Nationals Government?

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) (12:01:50): What a year it has been for New South Wales. It would take me hours rather than three minutes to summarise every achievement and promise delivered to the people of this State but I will give it a go anyway. The Government went into the March election—

The PRESIDENT: The Clerk will stop the clock. I have indicated before that I do not mind robust debate or attitudes during question time. However, I could not hear the Minister. There were as many interjections coming from members behind him as there were from across the Chamber. I remind the Minister of rulings of past Presidents, including President Harwin, that relate to not encouraging interjections. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Mr President, we—

The Hon. Adam Searle: Point of order: The question contained argument—that is, are there any achievements of this Government?

The Hon. DON HARWIN: It is a debating point. It is too late, I have already started.

The PRESIDENT: I indicate to the Leader of the Opposition that I thought about that when the question was asked. However, because the Minister had started his question and I had also stopped the clock to remind

members not to interject, the member's point of order is too late. I would have considered the point of order had the member raised it prior to the Minister commencing his answer.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: The Government has well and truly delivered. In 2019 we completed the Northwest Metro \$1 billion under budget. We finished the Bank West Stadium in Parramatta and what a venue it is. We have completed both widening tunnels and building new ones as part of the M4 WestConnex, which is delivering huge time savings to drivers. We have completed 90 new and upgraded schools and finished more than 120 major health projects with 100 more to come. Most importantly, the Government brought down a budget which showed that the Government will have a record \$93 billion spend in infrastructure over the next four years including \$10 billion in water, energy and housing; \$10 billion in health; and \$55 billion on public transport and roads. This year has been the year of delivery in New South Wales and as is evident from the budget, we have a lot more to look forward to.

The Government will be delivering more public transport. We are overseeing an increase in the capacity of Sydney's public transport system of almost 40 per cent. That is completely unprecedented in the history of any one government but this Government is delivering it. Further infrastructure development is on the way with the F6 extension, Sydney Gateway and Beaches Link Tunnels. We are slashing travel times which is enabling men and women who work in our city to spend more time with their families. I am incredibly proud that because the Government has handled and managed the finances of the State, it is able to respond to some of the worst drought conditions and natural disasters we have experienced with \$1.8 billion being allocated to drought support for farmers and communities, and emergency relief funds for the towns and regions being impacted by the incredible bushfire crisis we are facing. *[Time expired.]*

NAPLAN TESTS

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (12:06:21): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. Given that the New South Wales public schools are not currently equipped for all students to sit the NAPLAN test online, will she guarantee that all schools will have the necessary computers for each child to sit the online test next year?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:06:48): I thank the honourable member for her question relating to NAPLAN online. As the member would know and as has been canvassed in the House this year, New South Wales has not moved to the full rollout next year. The member is aware that all States and Territories agreed to the rollout. About 58 per cent of schools participated in NAPLAN Online. That figure is up from 15 per cent in 2018. The technology and devices that schools need for their students to be able to sit NAPLAN Online has not been raised as a concern with me by those who are sitting the test online. We are at about 58 per cent. We will be looking at the number of schools that will do it next year.

As I have said before and as communicated at the Education Council with all State, Territory and Federal Ministers around the table, given the massive issues that happened this year—I will even use the term "debacle" because that is what it was—we have agreed to pause and not go any further until we have more certainty and faith in the system. Yesterday I met with Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority [ACARA] representatives who are responsible for the system at a national level. We met to talk through those concerns and the work that ACARA is doing on the online platform. When the time comes and we move to being online, whether that is NAPLAN or another test, depending on what other work the Government is doing, it is clear we need to make sure that schools have the necessary technology. We are not progressing to the full online rollout next year and I have made that very clear. We will also work with schools to ensure that they have the technology at hand when the time comes.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE (12:08:40): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate her answer? Given that the Minister has confirmed that not 100 per cent of kids will be doing NAPLAN Online, what proportion is expected to be doing the online test?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:09:00): The Government will make decisions about that in the coming weeks and months. I expressed my view publicly when just over half of our schools did the test online this year and there were significant issues with the rollout. Problems were occurring at a national level which also affected other States and Territories. The consensus of education Ministers when we met to discuss those issues was that we would probably put a pause on it and do it at about the same number that we had this year. That will also depend on the information and advice we get from ACARA and similar bodies on fixing the issues that were raised this year. I do not anticipate doing any more than we did this year. We will set it at similar numbers, but we will confirm what that looks like over the coming months.

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (12:09:50): I ask a second supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate her answer? The Minister spoke about the need to upgrade technology at hand and also that 58 per cent of schools undertook NAPLAN Online this year. Did any of those schools raise concerns with the Minister about their wi-fi and internet technology?

The Hon. Wes Fang: Point of order: That is clearly a new question and I ask that it be ruled out of order.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: To the point of order—

The PRESIDENT: I do not need to hear from the Hon. Penny Sharpe. The Minister clearly spoke about "technology and devices" and that no schools raised it with her. The Minister also spoke about "having the technology". The second supplementary question ticks all three boxes. The Minister has the call.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:10:54): As I said in my answer, the concerns from principals with whom I spoke this year and more importantly from the peak bodies who also contacted us, particularly during NAPLAN week, and the events that were happening were much more to do with the online platform. They were the issues that were identified at a national level through ACARA. They were not issues unique to New South Wales because other States had the same problem on the same scale. Work has been done by ACARA and other bodies which has been presented to the Education Council. I am not sure I can go into the detail because of an issue concerning what can be put on the public register so that it does not in any way affect the security of the test and the online platform. I am sure the member can appreciate that. The concerns that were presented to me by the peak bodies and individual principals were much more about the national platform rather than any local technology issues.

ENERGY PRICES

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS (12:12:02): My question is directed to the Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts. Yesterday discussion in this Chamber related to the document *NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint*. Regardless of it being a blueprint or Government policy, New South Wales Chief Economist Stephen Walters stated in the document, "We need to secure water and energy supplies at the lowest possible cost." What is the Government doing to secure cheap and reliable energy to drive us towards 2040?

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) (12:12:49): I am so glad to have a chance to speak on an energy matter. Many members of this House have heard me talk about my transmission strategy, which is now the transmission strategy of Minister Kean, and how that will help us connect more energy to the grid. The Hon. Rod Roberts and the Hon. Mark Banasiak have not, so I am happy to go back to it. Because of closures of dispatchable capacity in other States, particularly with Hazelwood and the Northern Power Station in South Australia, we have seen again and again that the amount of dispatchable power is narrowing and not being replaced.

Fortunately the Federal Government with Snowy Hydro is making the biggest contribution it possibly can because it is enormous in terms of new dispatchable power that is being built in New South Wales. Even when Snowy Hydro is built, as well as the very large number of other proposals for building renewable power or other dispatchable power in New South Wales, the big problem we have is constraints on the electricity grid and the capacity to connect. A lot of people are not investing in New South Wales because they simply cannot connect, and other States also have this problem. Fortunately with our transmission strategy we are doing our very best to remove some of those constraints and when they are removed more power will be generated in New South Wales.

That is the biggest contribution we could make to get our power prices down because it just becomes a simple matter of supply and demand. If demand remains constant or is increasing and supply is static or reducing, as it was in the past two years, then prices will go up. The most important thing we can do is to make sure supply goes up. I also say that Minister Kean is working very closely with the Federal Minister through the Liddell Taskforce which has ensured that the Liddell Power Station will stay in operation longer. It will present some challenges because it is an old plant but that will be another important thing that will maintain dispatchable supply, which also puts downward pressure on prices.

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS (12:15:40): I ask a supplementary question. I thank the Minister for his answer. I cannot quote the Minister word perfect so I do not want to take this out of context.

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Verbal him.

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: I will not verbal him, Trevor. That was the old days, so I have been told. The Minister said something along the lines of there being constraints on the system at the moment. Will the

Minister elucidate his answer? The Minister said the Government is working towards removing those constraints? What is it doing?

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) (12:16:11): I will tell the member exactly what we are doing. There are large parts of regional New South Wales where new proponents of renewable energy cannot—

The PRESIDENT: The Minister will resume his seat. The Clerk will stop the clock. I am not being critical of the Minister but I literally heard three words in that answer because of the interjections coming from the Opposition. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey had interjected about five times when I stopped counting. The next time he interjects he will be called to order. I know this is the last sitting day but I would hate to call a member to order and then wish them a merry Christmas. The Hon. Daniel Mookhey will cease interjecting.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Those constraints are on the capacity of renewable energy proponents to connect in particular parts of regional New South Wales, which is where they generally want to build new facilities. There are enormous capacity constraints west of Wagga Wagga on the Hay Plains where people want to build. There are capacity constraints in the New England area and in northern New South Wales where there is a big capacity for wind and some solar as well. The other capacity constraint is that we cannot use Snowy as well as we would like. We certainly will not be able to use it as well as it could be used when Snowy 2.0 is built unless other transmission work is done to support it.

That is why we have taken a number of measures to ensure that we have better transmission, such as working with the private sector. We will have energy zones and do work on them to ensure that the new investment is supported and that it can connect. By ensuring we have more dispatchable power for system security, plus more renewable power—which is essential for keeping power costs down because it is such low-cost power, but it is critical to have both—we need to have a transmission system that can supply us with both. In that way there will be downward pressure on prices.

The Hon. MARK BUTTIGIEG (12:18:51): I ask a second supplementary question. The clear implication from the Minister's answer was that generation and multiplicity of generation is the main contributor to higher electricity prices. What is the Minister's view on the monopolistic nature of the retail market and price gouging?

The Hon. Scott Farlow: Point of order: The question is out of order because it asks for the Minister's opinion.

The PRESIDENT: The second supplementary question does not meet all the requirements of a valid supplementary question. A member is required to refer to, and seek elucidation of, part of an answer given by a Minister. The member is making an inference from the Minister's answer and is asking the Minister to express an opinion. For both those reasons the member's second supplementary question is out of order.

AGRICULTURE SYLLABUS

The Hon. WES FANG (12:20:29): My question is addressed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. Given it is National Agriculture Day, will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is ensuring students learn about agriculture?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:20:49): Today is National Agriculture Day, which is a day to celebrate our farmers and their amazing work. Agriculture sits at the heart of our economy. It is connected to the stability of our regions and, most importantly, it is linked to the health and wellbeing of our population. Modern agriculture is sophisticated and highly technical. In New South Wales it is one of our most innovative and efficient industries. Our farmers remain competitive in the global food market. In fact, Australia is one of only a handful of countries that are net food exporters. Given the crucial importance of agriculture, both now and in the future, it is important that we ensure that all students learn about agriculture at school, including those in the city. Too often, people living in capital cities buy food from the supermarket or clothes from the shops and give little thought to the food and fibre processes and practices that led to those products appearing on the shelf.

Our education system aims to change that. At the end of 2018 agriculture was added as a compulsory unit in the year 7 to 8 technology syllabus. It is currently being rolled out for year 7 students across the State and will be implemented for students in year 8 from the beginning of 2020. The two components of the unit are agri-food and fibre production and fuel technologies. Agri-food and fibre production focuses on the investigation of managed environments, such as farms and plantations. Students learn about the processes of food and fibre production and investigate the innovative and sustainable supply of agriculturally produced raw materials.

Students develop knowledge and understanding about managed systems that produce food and fibre by designing and producing solutions.

The food technologies component focuses on the use of resources produced and harvested to sustain human life. Students learn about the characteristics and properties of food and are provided with opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding about food selection and preparation, food safety, and how to make informed choices when experimenting with and preparing nutritious food. Students will finish the agriculture unit with knowledge and skills that will provide them with the foundations for a future career in agriculture, should they so choose. By the end of the unit students will have designed and planned a product associated with agricultural production, researched the legal requirements associated with agricultural production, investigated ideal conditions for growth and development of an agricultural plant or animal, developed a schedule or calendar for ongoing care of a plant or animal species associated with an agricultural project and investigated how a recipe can be improved to enhance nutritional value.

Given the importance of agriculture to our economy, to our regional communities and to our nation more broadly, it makes sense that it takes a prominent spot in our education system. The Government understands the importance of agriculture and the importance of incorporating the study of it into a child's educational journey. I am very excited about the initiative. I hope even more students take up agriculture as an elective as a result of the curriculum change.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (12:23:51): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. It is reported in the media today that 43 of the State's 2,200 public schools have less than 10 square metres of play space per student. What is the Minister's Government doing to ensure that all schools across the State are meeting minimum play space requirements?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:24:20): I thank the member for his question. Ensuring that students learn in world-class environments with adequate play space is a priority for the Government. As the member mentioned in his question, the NSW Department of Education has an extensive property portfolio with over 2,200 schools. It is one of the largest for an education system anywhere in the world. Such a large property portfolio reflects a system that has grown from more than 100 years. As the member would be well aware, the building practices that existed when the older schools in the portfolio were built were very different to those in place now for the building of new schools.

Schools that have a small area of play space tend to be older schools in densely populated areas where space is at a premium. The Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines set a range of considerations for schools. The play space guideline was introduced in 2016. The department works with schools to optimise the amount of play space available to students and the guidelines assist with that objective. On restricted grounds a range of measures are considered to maximise play space, including rooftop play areas, enclosed sports courts and joint use of facilities with councils or neighbouring properties. That information is held locally within the schools. Some schools use staggered recess and lunch breaks for different year groups to maximise student play space. Forty-four schools—less than 2 per cent of all New South Wales public schools—do not meet the student play space guideline. All but one of those 44 schools were built before the introduction of the Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (12:26:01): I ask a supplementary question. I thank the Minister for her answer. Given that optimisation plans exist, is there a structured or dedicated program targeting those schools that do not have a minimum play space? If there is such a program, does that program report to the Minister on how or whether it is achieving its goals?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:26:22): I thank the member for his supplementary question. I will seek advice as to whether a targeted program exists. I consult with the department regularly on the issue. I talk about the issue on a local level when I visit schools that might have split recess breaks or that use a council facility for additional play space, for example. Although only a small number of schools fit into this category I will seek further advice as to the existence of any overall, statewide program and provide a response to the member.

The Hon. ANTHONY D'ADAM (12:27:11): I ask a second supplementary question. In her answer the Minister referred to ratios. Will the Minister clarify whether demountable classrooms are taken into account in determining the 10 square metres of play space?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:27:31): I did not refer to ratios in my answer. However, for the member's benefit I am happy to take the question on notice and provide detailed information on how the calculation is made.

NAPLAN TESTS

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON (12:27:58): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. Has the Minister's department considered the move to full online NAPLAN testing, including the introduction of a specific typing subject as part of the New South Wales curriculum review?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:28:21): I thank the member for her question. As I said earlier in question time, the Government has put on hold the rollout of a fully online NAPLAN. The Government has determined not to go down that path. The original proposal was to roll out NAPLAN fully online in all States by next year. The decision has been made not to do that. The member's question conflates the issue of a fully online NAPLAN and the New South Wales curriculum review. The curriculum review is looking specifically at what is taught in New South Wales schools. It will examine the syllabuses and the work being done by Professor Geoff Masters. As I have said before, it is focused on matters such as decluttering senior secondary pathways.

I also point out that New South Wales is spearheading a review into NAPLAN in conjunction with other States, including Queensland, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. For the three professors who are doing that work for us, part of it may well be looking at the relationship between things like online testing and the curriculum. Indeed, I think you can make some comparison between what NAPLAN is testing and how that relates to the curriculum. One of the criticisms of NAPLAN is that it is not properly linked to the curriculum so we run into the issue of teachers teaching to the test. There is some anecdotal information around that issue. There is no doubt there is some synergy and correlation between all those issues. However, in terms of the specifics of the curriculum review, how it relates to NAPLAN online and how it relates to the review of NAPLAN that we are conducting, while they are interlinked, they are also separate bodies of work.

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON (12:29:56): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate her answer in relation to the synergies and relationships between the online rollout of NAPLAN, the review of NAPLAN and the curriculum review and whether she would consider further delays to the rollout of online NAPLAN as a result of concerns about typing speeds?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:30:24): I thank the Hon. Rose Jackson for her question. I have spoken about the reasons we are doing this work, and particularly the NAPLAN review work that we have spearheaded and want all States and Territories to get involved in. The four major States on the eastern seaboard, representing about 80 per cent of students in our school system in Australia, are part of that review. We have asked the professors who are doing that work for us to look at people's concerns around NAPLAN. As I mentioned in my earlier answer, people are concerned about things like how well NAPLAN is linked to the curriculum. There are also questions about how the online rollout, the writing test and the typing test will play out. That is something stakeholders are raising.

As part of that review, the three professors doing the work have already consulted not only with State Ministers such as me, but also with other stakeholders to get that feedback. The member is correct in her question: People do ask about typing skills and the writing test and how they relate to results. Those are the sorts of issues we want this review to ventilate. We want to hear from people about what they see and how we can move forward. Clearly, going to an online testing system in time makes sense. But the platform has to work. There has to be the right allocation and collection of data, and it also has to operate in a way that allows us to get that data back to our schools quickly so it is of most use to principals and to teachers in the classroom.

Those are the issues we are looking at as part of the NAPLAN review and that is why New South Wales is leading on this. We think it is important and timely because I feel everything is coming to a head—the curriculum review, the NAPLAN online rollout and our NAPLAN review. It is time to have that discussion and to look at all the issues in conjunction.

The Hon. WALT SECORD (12:32:08): I ask a second supplementary question. Will the Minister elucidate her answer in relation to the NAPLAN review that she referred to? Will that NAPLAN review also look at why New South Wales is behind Latvia, Belgium, Taiwan, the United States of America and other international jurisdictions?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:32:30): I thank the Hon. Walt Secord for his question. It is an interesting one because some of the criticism that has come to us in doing the NAPLAN review is that the data shows certain things and people have asked, "Do you only want to have another look at the test because you don't like what the data is saying?" That is not the case. It is important that we have clear, valuable and reliable data. We rely on it as a government. We need to look at what we are doing if we are to lift our standards. I accept that. I have said in this place before that we want to

focus on literacy and numeracy. That is why we are doing this work. It is why we have established the Bump It Up program and set targets to help schools improve in a range of areas, particularly literacy and numeracy.

I make no apologies for the fact that we are dedicating a lot of resources, effort and energy to lifting literacy and numeracy skills. It is essential and crucial for our children in terms of their outcomes. That is very important. We want the NAPLAN review to look at issues around the test itself. I have spoken about that before in the House and also publicly. Regarding the quality of the test, is it the best possible test when it comes to world's best practice? Is it giving the data we need and is it reliable? Is it measuring what we want it to measure? NAPLAN is over 10 years old and it was originally supposed to be a diagnostic test. We are not the only State that feels that, as a process, NAPLAN has lost its way a bit. We want to look at things like the timing of the test. We want to look at how quickly the data comes back to schools.

Students sit the test in May and we are not getting results back until September. That data lag in this day and age can and should be improved. We are looking at a range of issues. This is not about hiding from the figures or being unaware of the fact that we need to lift. Other States need to lift as well; this issue is not unique to New South Wales. We want to have the best possible testing regime we can have in this country so that we can get the data and know where to target improvements and lift results, particularly in core measures like literacy and numeracy that children need in their education.

MENTAL HEALTH NURSES

The Hon. LOU AMATO (12:34:34): My question is addressed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is supporting our mental health nurses to do what they do best in caring for people with a mental health illness?

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women) (12:34:53): I thank the Hon. Lou Amato for his question. Mental health nurses in New South Wales do vital work in a highly specialised field. As the mental health Minister, I have had the privilege to meet many of the 5,320 mental health nurses who work for NSW Health all around the State. I have seen just how much passion and commitment our nurses have for their profession and how much they care about the people they support. I acknowledge the Hon. Mark Pearson—I am sad that he is not in the Chamber—who trained as a nurse and worked as a clinical acute adult psychiatric nurse specialist and as team leader of the Newcastle Community Mental Health Service before he entered this place.

As a former nurse myself, I know that nursing can be challenging at times. But it is also enormously rewarding. NSW Health has a statewide strategy to support the recruitment, retention and professional development of mental health nurses. The Transition to Mental Health Nursing Program provides educational support for nurses entering mental health and is widely implemented throughout New South Wales mental health services. The NSW Government's Health Education and Training Institute offers a range of scholarships for mental health qualifications for nurses and other health professionals. Postgraduate scholarships are available each year to support mental health nurses to continue to build their skills and knowledge. Applications for those scholarships are being accepted at the moment. They close tomorrow, so if members know anyone who is interested they should tell them to get their application in.

I acknowledge Paul de Carlo, NSW Health's principal adviser for mental health nursing, both for his leadership of the sector and for his work driving programs such as the Productive Mental Health Ward Program. He has been a wonderful asset to me—he is great because he knows what is happening on the ground. We value his input. This initiative has been empowering nursing staff to create locally designed productivity measures, which result in nurses being able to spend more therapeutic face-to-face time with patients—which we all know is paramount. The Productive Mental Health Ward has now been delivered to a total of 74 mental health units, reaching almost half of all inpatient mental health beds across New South Wales.

In 2019, 22 mental health units previously engaged with the Productive Mental Health Ward began stage two of the program, which will continue to develop and sustain improvements and support staff wellbeing. The NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association administers the Bob Fenwick Mentoring Grants Program with funding and support from NSW Health. These grants enable mental health nurses to work in a mental health service different from their own for up to five working days. Since 2011, 232 mental health nurses have been involved in what is universally acknowledged as a highly successful and popular program. I have spoken about this program in the House previously. It is a wonderful initiative that came out of an unfortunate circumstance. I thank all our mental health nurses for the important work they do every day. This Government is so supportive of their work.

FORMER MEMBER FOR GOULBURN

The Hon. MARK BANASIAK (12:38:01): My question is directed to the Leader of the Government, representing the Premier. Given that section 10 of the ministerial code of conduct imposes an obligation on former members around the misuse of information acquired in office for private benefit, what assurances can the Premier give that the former member for Goulburn and Minister of this Government has not breached section 10 by making representations on behalf of Mr Peter Kampfner regarding development of a Bulahdelah service centre?

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) (12:38:40): That is a very detailed and precise question, so I will refer it to the Premier and seek an answer for the Hon. Mark Banasiak.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT POLICY

The Hon. MARK BUTTIGIEG (12:38:54): My question is directed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. How many schools have had or will have their catchment boundaries reviewed due to the ongoing pressure on enrolment numbers?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:39:20): I thank the Hon. Mark Buttigieg for his question. The reviews of catchment boundaries happen periodically through a process when there are areas of growth in different parts of the State. I do not think the member referred to a particular time frame of how many catchment boundaries have changed. I will seek some advice on how many have happened, potentially this year—unless the member wants more information—and come back to him with an answer.

The PRESIDENT: Does a Government member have a question?

The Hon. Walt Secord: Mr President—

The Hon. Peter Primrose: Mr President—

The PRESIDENT: When members have not sought the call, I have made it clear on a number of occasions that I intend to follow the list that I have in front of me, which applies to Government members, Opposition members and the crossbench. I thank the Government Whip and the Opposition Whip for providing me with the list of questions to be asked during question time. I know, for example, that the Hon. Walt Secord is not the next questioner for the Opposition. If I had to give an Opposition member the call, I would have given it to the Hon. Peter Primrose, but I will give it to the Deputy President.

STATE ECONOMY

The Hon. TREVOR KHAN (12:41:08): My question is addressed to the Minister for Finance and Small Business. How is the New South Wales Government ensuring a resilient and flexible economy, and identifying opportunities for further growth through the Chief Economist's economic blueprint?

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE (Minister for Finance and Small Business) (12:41:50): I thank the Hon. Trevor Khan for his important question. Like every business and organisation, government should ask itself, "Where do we want to be in 2040?" We still want to be in government, no doubt, because members opposite never even think what it will be like in 2040. The only government agency they are interested in promoting is the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The PRESIDENT: The Minister should either continue his answer or call a point of order.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: After 16 years of Labor's neglect and a \$35 billion infrastructure backlog, the Liberals and The Nationals have turned the economy of New South Wales around, as was quite prominently and eruditely articulated by the Leader of the Government. We have a healthy budget surplus, a \$93 billion infrastructure program, an affirmed triple-A credit rating, low unemployment and negative net debt for the fourth consecutive year. We are the engine room of the nation, with the biggest population, the highest incomes and the lowest unemployment. We have the highest standard of living, abundant natural resources and the most educated people.

We know that there are challenges to be met and opportunities to be realised. That is precisely why the Treasurer commissioned the New South Wales Chief Economist to prepare the NSW 2040 Economic Blueprint, a projection of the likely trends of the economy over the next 20 years. According to the Chief Economist, we face challenges such as disruptive technology, climate change, an ageing population, an inefficient tax system and high energy costs. But we as a government are aspirational for this great State—and so too is the Chief Economist. By 2040 the Chief Economist's blueprint sets out actions and priorities to meet the aspirations of the people of

New South Wales. We are looking to achieve a trillion-dollar economy; healthy, productive people; liveable and connected cities; productive, vibrant regions; innovative and world-class businesses; sustainable environment with reliable and affordable energy; and an enhanced performance of government. Instead of looking for more ways to increase tax and cancel infrastructure projects, I encourage members opposite to talk up New South Wales—

The Hon. Bronnie Taylor: Talk it up.

The Hon. DAMIEN TUDEHOPE: Yes, talk it up. Get on board and work with the Government to ensure that in 2040—when the Liberals and The Nationals will still be government and I will probably still be here—New South Wales remains the best place to live, work and raise a family. I commend the Chief Economist's blueprint to the House. [*Time expired.*]

FORMER MEMBER FOR GOULBURN

The Hon. MARK BANASIAK (12:45:02): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women, representing the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. What representations has the former member for Goulburn and former Minister of this Government made to the planning Minister, his office or his department regarding Mr Peter Kampfner in relation to the Bulahdelah service centre? Will the Minister explain how the former member for Goulburn and former Minister of this Government had information that the proposal would only be a desktop review by the Joint Regional Planning Panel, as she outlined in her reply to Mr Peter Kampfner dated 30 October 2019?

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women) (12:45:35): I thank the Hon. Mark Banasiak for his question. As it is very detailed and is directed to the Minister in the other House whom I represent here, I shall take it on notice. I will come back with an answer in a timely manner.

PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE (12:46:09): My question is directed to the Minister for the Public Service and Employee Relations, Aboriginal Affairs, and the Arts. Given the 12 November release of the *State of Our Libraries Report* by the NSW Public Libraries Association, will the Minister guarantee that his Government will honour its election commitments on library funding? Will the Minister guarantee current funding levels to our State's library system?

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) (12:46:42): I am delighted that over four years from July 2019 the New South Wales Government is providing an extra \$60 million in funding, as promised, to transform New South Wales public libraries. It is in the budget and it will be delivered. This year \$36.5 million is being provided to the State's public libraries, including over \$27 million in direct subsidy payments, \$6 million in capital grants, \$2 million for public library connectivity and \$200,000 for the Outback Letterbox Library, which provides services to isolated communities in far western New South Wales.

The \$60 million committed by the Government is the single biggest funding increase to New South Wales public library funding since the Library Act was introduced in 1939. The increases to the funding over the next four years are well above the consumer price index. The *State of Our Libraries Report*, which the Hon. Peter Primrose referred to in his question, states:

The additional \$60 million in public library funding will make a massive difference to the contribution that NSW libraries can make to their constituents until 2023. Already, there is talk of additional opening hours, staffing, collections, programs and services to be funded by the 'new money'.

That is what the Public Libraries Association is saying, not me. It is a huge endorsement of what the Government has done because it is the biggest single funding commitment to the library system since the Library Act was introduced in 1939. The Library Regulation was amended this year to ensure that the per capita annual subsidy increases annually until 2022-23, as the Government promised. Importantly, it will continue after 2022-23 at \$2.85 per capita of the population. It is entirely appropriate that the New South Wales Government govern the provision of the subsidy in legislation and then set the amount through regulation.

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE (12:49:33): I ask a supplementary question. Will the Minister further elucidate his answer in relation to the comments of the NSW Public Libraries Association? Mr Dallas Tout, the president of that organisation, has expressed concern that only half the State Government funding that the Minister indicated is protected by the Library Regulation. He has expressed concern that New South Wales councils will again find themselves providing an increasingly disproportionate share of library funding unless it is fully indexed at cost-of-living increases.

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) (12:50:07): The concerns expressed by Mr Tout are unfounded.

ARTS AND CULTURAL PROJECTS

The Hon. SAM FARRAWAY (12:50:19): My question is addressed to the arts Minister. Will the Minister update the House on progress across the Arts portfolio 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) (12:50:38): I most certainly can. A total of \$871 million is being invested this year to deliver on the New South Wales Government's budget promise of creating a world-leading arts, screen and culture sector. A record \$61 million is going directly to hundreds of independent arts and cultural organisations, benefiting thousands of practitioners and millions of patrons. Ten new Artform Advisory Boards, made up of a diverse pool of experts and practitioners, are assessing funding applications and providing strategic policy advice to the Government, to great acclaim in the sector. New South Wales continues to be the number one State for screen production in Australia, with two new Marvel productions—*Thor: Love and Thunder* and *Sang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*—to be produced in New South Wales next year. The Government's decision to provide a 10 per cent rebate for the post, digital and visual effects sector will have enormous economic and reputational benefits for New South Wales.

This has secured Sydney as the home of Disney's Industrial Light & Magic, which will employ 500 people over the next five years. It will provide world-leading training for hundreds of people in the sector and will also assist in growing local post-production businesses. We have also delivered record investment in our public libraries and saved the National Art School and guaranteed its tenure at the historic Old Darlinghurst Gaol site into the future. In cultural infrastructure, we have commenced construction of the Sydney Modern Project at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, we have commenced construction of the major upgrade of the Australian Museum, and 29 of the 136 funded projects under the Regional Cultural Fund have opened during the year, boosting investment and accessibility to arts and culture in our regions. Indeed, I am looking forward to opening a thirtieth tomorrow, at the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery.

Work is also progressing at the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct on Wharf 4/5 and now on Wharf 2/3 as well. The design competition for the Powerhouse Museum at Parramatta will be completed very soon and the redevelopment of the Concert Hall in our iconic Sydney Opera House will commence next year. It has been a wonderful year and a record to be proud of—and I certainly am.

The Hon. John Graham: It will be opened by the Hon. Damien Tudehope in 2040.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: He is probably in better health than I am so he may be in with a good chance.

FOOD INSECURITY

Ms ABIGAIL BOYD (12:53:29): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women. The Foodbank report released this week states that one in five people in New South Wales have experienced food insecurity in the past 12 months, with women 1½ times more likely to experience it than men. More than half of food-insecure women have direct experiences of domestic and family violence. Does the Government think those figures are acceptable, and what is it doing to address them?

The Hon. BRONNIE TAYLOR (Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women) (12:54:00): No statistic about people not being able to get the nutrition they require is acceptable so I am not going to say I think it is. We need to ensure we have programs, access, transparency and support for women, men, children or anyone else who feels they are not getting the nutritional requirements they need. I recently visited a program related to the question. The Two Good Co. is based in Redfern or Alexandria—it is in the street my daughter lives in so I should know the suburb. It is a terrific initiative and I spoke to many women there who had been victims of domestic violence.

One of the tremendous things about this program is that every meal prepared or purchased—and any member in this House can purchase lunch from the Two Good Co., as my office did recently—provides a meal for a woman in a domestic violence shelter in New South Wales. It is an incredible program being run out of a building with a commercial kitchen that used to belong to the New South Wales Government. Under the program, women who have suffered domestic violence are trained in cooking or as baristas and such. I met this terrific lady from the regions who had had a terrible time. The program has completely rebuilt her life following her horrendous experience of domestic violence. She has completed an internship at Two Good Co., and said they are pretty harsh

on interns. There is a sous-chef and it is a very realistic situation. She now has a full-time job with a Marrickville butcher.

Programs like this are helping women get their lives back on track. In terms of nutrition, I spoke to another woman who told me that when she left her relationship—where she was experiencing domestic violence—she had no fresh food for a week. Her children had no access to fresh food and were eating two-minute noodles. The Two Good Co. delivered meals to the shelter she was staying in, allowing residents to have fresh food. I encourage every member of this House to visit and to order a lunch from the Two Good Co. It is doing great stuff that makes a difference. I thank the honourable member for her question.

STUDENTS AND DIGITAL DEVICES

The PRESIDENT: Before I call the Hon. Anthony D'Adam, I take this opportunity on behalf of honourable members to welcome into the President's gallery Maureen and Bruno D'Adam, his parents.

The Hon. ANTHONY D'ADAM (12:57:33): My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. Given reports that schools are increasingly requesting iPads and devices for classrooms, what is the Minister's response to parent and teacher concerns that this trend is creating increased difficulty in monitoring the online activities of students? What is the Government's response?

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (12:58:03): I thank the Hon. Anthony D'Adam for his question and, on behalf of all members, say hello to your mum and dad. Your son is doing a very good job. It is Christmas.

The Hon. Bronnie Taylor: You are a good person, Sarah.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: He is a lovely addition to the upper House. Now I have forgotten what the question was. It was about devices. It is an important question. Obviously, students need to use devices from time to time in school. Regarding personal devices, we have policies in place—particularly in relation to mobile phones. We are rolling out that there is no place for mobile phones in our primary schools. Our high schools have their own policies in terms of sensible use. It is an issue we need to work through because—as the member will know and as he implies in his question—technology is important. Children need to know how to use it and it can be a powerful tool when it comes to their education. I have visited schools where kids have been using iPads linked to coding machines or using them in science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses. It is quite impressive. It is important that our children are equipped with those technological skills. They need it for the future.

We also need to be careful of the risks that technology presents. In his question the member referenced some of the things that can happen online. That is why it is important to monitor the use of those devices at schools and why we use them for educational purposes. I make the point that although it is important to have safeguards in place in schools, as a society and as parents we need to be aware of what our children are doing with devices outside the classroom and outside the school gates as well.

Often issues with technology are symptomatic of broader issues within our society and are not only confined to what happens in the classroom and within the school gates. It is about getting that balance right: Making sure that students have access to technology and can learn to use it appropriately in a way that benefits their education without ending up in potentially harmful situations. It is something I watch closely and talk to schools about when I visit because we need to make sure that we get that balance right.

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

SCHOOL AIR QUALITY MONITORING

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (13:00:40): Earlier in question time the Leader of the Opposition asked me a question about information that had gone to schools in relation to air quality. As I said in my original answer to the member, all school principals have received advice this week on protocols for dealing with poor air quality, particularly as triggered by bushfires. I can inform him that all principals have been sent a fact sheet entitled, *Air Quality Considerations for Schools During Bushfires*. It has been created for staff as a resource to provide guidance during these times of poor air quality. It lists advice and ways for schools to minimise exposure to the adverse effects of bushfire smoke. It also provides advice on the signs and symptoms schools should look for and, in particular, how they should monitor any students exhibiting those signs and symptoms, or students who have a diagnosed health condition that may be affected when air quality is poor due to bushfires. There is also information and links for support. That has gone out to all our principals this week.

*Supplementary Questions for Written Answers***SCHOOL ENROLMENT POLICY**

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (13:01:52): My supplementary question for written answer is directed to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. Will the Minister provide a list of the schools that have had or will have their catchment boundaries reviewed as a result of the new enrolment policy in 2018, 2019 and 2020? Will the Minister include the dates that those have commenced or will commence?

*Questions Without Notice: Take Note***TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I move:

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

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE**STATE ECONOMY****ARTS AND CULTURAL PROJECTS**

The Hon. WALT SECORD (13:02:39): My contribution to the take-note debate relates to three answers to Dorothy Dixers: the Leader of the Government's answer to the question about the year in review, an answer from the Minister for Finance and Small Business and another answer from the Leader of the Government in his capacity as the arts Minister. In those questions, those Ministers took the opportunity to spell out in detail what they thought were the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government's achievements of the past year. All three were disappointing answers because they failed to mention many things that occurred in the past year. For example, they forgot to mention the referral of the member for Drummoyne to ICAC for property dealings at Rouse Hill and Five Dock; they forgot to mention the activity of the better regulation Minister and the release of personal and private information involving hundreds of members of the community; they forgot to mention the issue of water thieves in the National Party; they forgot to mention the activities of the police Minister, David Elliott, and his intimidation of a poor P-plater—

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Point of order: The take-note debate is not an opportunity for personal reflections on a member either of this place or the other place. The Hon. Walt Secord is engaging in a scurrilous attack upon other members and should be sat down.

The PRESIDENT: It is clear that the member was making imputations against other members. He started slowly and was walking the line, so to speak. He clearly made imputations against the last two members from the other place to whom he referred. The member should know better. If he continues, I will sit him down.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: Thank you. I agree with the President's ruling. They also failed to mention the broken promise on free parking at The Tweed Hospital; they forgot to mention blowouts on the CBD light rail and Walsh Bay projects; they failed to mention massive cuts to bushfire services, which left the community vulnerable; they forgot to mention that New South Wales lags behind many international jurisdictions when it comes to literacy; they failed to mention unemployment—

The Hon. Catherine Cusack: Point of order: I question the relevance of the member's statements—

The PRESIDENT: There is no point of order. I gave a ruling earlier this morning that I will not accept points of order. The member has the call.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: They also failed to mention that 11,742 jobs were lost in the month of October; they also failed to mention that the Premier has failed to apologise to the former Leader of the Government, Mike Gallacher.

The PRESIDENT: The member's time has expired. I call the Hon. Walt Secord to order for the first time.

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

The Hon. LOU AMATO (13:06:06): I take note of the Leader of the Government's response to the achievements of the Liberal-Nationals Government. It is a pleasure to praise the wonderful work the Government is doing for the people of New South Wales. The Government is delivering across so many portfolios and areas in New South Wales that we could easily use this entire take-note debate to remind members opposite how lucky New South Wales is. I focus particularly on the achievements of the Government in western Sydney.

The Hon. Peter Primrose: We lived through the Lou coup. You tried to get rid of the Premier.

The Hon. LOU AMATO: I am trying to give you some good news here. We have new and upgraded hospitals being delivered in Blacktown, Concord, Penrith, Westmead, Ryde and Canterbury. We have begun work on western and south-western metro projects. We have delivered expansions to the M4—

The PRESIDENT: Order! There are too many interjections. The Hon. Lou Amato will continue.

The Hon. LOU AMATO: We have begun work on the western and south-western metro projects. We have delivered expansions to the M4 with new tunnels—delivering what Labor never could—and real relief to traffic congestion from the west. We are delivering for western Sydney like never before with infrastructure and world-class sporting venues, such as the new Bankwest Stadium. I acknowledge the Minister's response, which highlighted some of these wonderful projects that are coming to western Sydney. We all acknowledge the cost-of-living stress on families, particularly in western Sydney. They are receiving the excellent service they deserve from Government. That is why this Government has acted to ensure more than 70 rebates and savings are available to everyone in New South Wales.

With these rebates New South Wales residents and households have saved over \$1.6 billion. I will repeat that for the benefit of honourable members: \$1.6 billion has been given back to residents and back to families to spend in our great State. Over 34,000 Cost of Living appointments have been made through Service NSW, with an average of \$556 saved at each visit. We are providing free vehicle registration to drivers who frequently use tolls and putting the power back in the consumer's hands through mobile apps such as FuelCheck. There is no State better than New South Wales and no better government for New South Wales than the Liberal-Nationals Government.

The PRESIDENT: I am so pleased that I made the statement this morning about the take-note debate, since it has been so effective. Maybe it is my fault for bringing interjections to members' attention. This is the last take-note debate for the year and constant interjections are unfair to members who only have three minutes. I am concerned that when one side of the Chamber starts to interject, the payback starts and it gets out of hand. I do not want to be calling members to order so can members please control themselves during the rest of the debate.

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

The Hon. TAYLOR MARTIN (13:09:31): Earlier in question time, the Leader of the Government outlined just some of the achievements of the Government over the past year, which I wish to add to. Members may be aware the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, recently set herself a challenge to outline her Government's achievements in two minutes. I was reminded during the earlier answer given by the Leader of the Government of that very video and make the point that I have three minutes so I will do my best. The Government has begun construction of the redevelopment of the Wyong Public Hospital, construction of the new Maitland Hospital and planning of the redevelopment of the John Hunter Hospital. Construction of the Central Coast Medical School and the Health and Research Institute at the Gosford Hospital is underway where more than 600 students will commence studying in 2021.

The Government opened the new ambulance station at Hamlyn Terrace and completed construction of the new Rutherford ambulance station, which currently is being fitted out and will open early in the new year. This Government installed lifts at Waratah station and has begun installation of lifts at Wyee station, and the work required for lifts at Narara, Niagara Park, Ourimbah, Lisarow and Tuggerah stations. The Newcastle Light Rail began operation and is now regularly undertaking more than 100,000 journeys per month. The Government unveiled Museum Park, which is a new park in the old rail corridor, as part of the Newcastle CBD revitalisation. We cut the Opal Card cap down to \$50, which will save commuters more than \$600 per year.

We began construction of stage 3B of the Pacific Highway Upgrade between Ourimbah Street and Parsons Road at Lisarow, which will improve safety and travel times for 30,000 motorists every day. We delivered \$1.4 million to provide traffic lights and improve safety at the Government Road and Raymond Terrace Road intersection at Thornton. This year's budget included \$37.3 million to deliver improvements to Nelson Bay Road and planning for future duplication between Williamstown and Bobs Farm as part of a \$205 million commitment. We have begun initial investigations on the future upgrade of the Central Coast Highway between Wamberal and Bateau Bay, which will benefit 25,000 motorists each and every day.

We secured the long-term environmental security of the Pasminco smelter site in Lake Macquarie, unlocking the potential of the site and meaning it will once more be a site of significant employment and economic activity. We funded upgrades at Ashtonfield Public School, Belmont High School, Bolwarra Public School, Brooke Avenue Public School, Callaghan College Jesmond Campus, Hunter River High School, Hunter School of Performing Arts, Irrawang High School, Newcastle East Public School, Nulkaba Public School and among others Rutherford Public School. To be continued. [*Time expired.*]

NAPLAN TESTS

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (13:12:35): In question time today the Labor Opposition asked a number of questions about the rollout of the online NAPLAN. As the Minister declared, it was a debacle because last year 15 per cent completed it and this year just over 50 per cent of schools completed it. By 2021 the Minister has committed to rolling out online NAPLAN to all of our schools in New South Wales and there are important matters that need to be considered before that comes into effect. I have been informed of one school that had only 20 computers in its computer room so the school was forced to purchase additional computers for students to complete NAPLAN. Those students were forced to complete the test on iPads. That is hardly capturing the important data so that it can be effectively used by teachers and parents.

Other parents have raised concerns with me about typing speeds and particularly the ability of year 3 students in a test environment to find "e" or "f" on the keyboard instead of contributing to the test in a meaningful way. Today I asked a supplementary question about the issue of technology and whether the Minister had been informed of schools that require other technological upgrades including wi-fi and internet. I have heard reports of entire schools having their wi-fi network maxed out by the NAPLAN process, which blanked out smart boards in other classrooms that were not completing NAPLAN. That is because the schools do not have the requisite infrastructure to allow students to complete NAPLAN simultaneously. This is an important rollout. The NAPLAN tests can be used in a meaningful way, but to move to NAPLAN without considering the issues of both educational outcomes and infrastructure associated with the process will have important implications.

Parents have raised with me the issue of heightened anxiety of students if these issues are not addressed appropriately. My colleague the Hon. Rose Jackson asked rightly whether the Minister would further delay the rollout of NAPLAN. That is an important consideration if the issues I have outlined are not addressed in an appropriate manner. Today the Minister said there was a conflation of issues between the curriculum review and the NAPLAN review. The Opposition wants to know how they are interacting, if they are interacting and whether the future NAPLAN, in whatever form it takes, will interact so that we can use it as a diagnostics tool in the best way possible for the students of New South Wales.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (13:15:39): I take note of the Minister's answers in relation to the amount of open space that students have in public schools across New South Wales. It is essential, especially for primary schoolchildren but also for high school students, that there is adequate open play space in a public schools. The facts are that 43 of the State's 2,200 public schools have less than 10 square metres per student. What is particularly troubling is that 31 of them are primary schools. Indeed there are seven schools, the majority of which are primary schools, that have less than five square metres per student of open space. I know this from the experience of my own children. They went to the Woollahra Public School, which is an excellent school. However, in the last decade the school experienced a surge of enrolments.

The last time I checked the school had more than 800 students and there is approximately 4.4 square metres per student of open space at that school. Much the same can be said for the Campsie Public School, which has 4.91 square metres per student. That means that the students cannot all gather together at the same time for recess and for lunch. They have stated recesses and staggered lunchtimes, which create major pressures on timetabling and on teachers, but it also means that there simply is not sufficient open space for the kids to have sporting activities. Kids at those schools regularly have to go for a walk of up to 500 metres to find a piece of green open space so that they can play sport. I know that much of this is a historical problem. I accept it is expensive buying real estate in Sydney. I also accept that this is an expensive program, but we need more than just basic statements of concern and generic answers.

We actually need a comprehensive and well-funded program so that we get adequate green open space for our students for play and sport activities while they are attending public schools. The Greens are committed to having free-range chickens but we are equally committed to having free-range students as well. We talk about having adequate space in which chickens can exercise and live their lives, but we do not actually have adequate space for a number of our kids in public schools to do the very same thing. Addressing this problem requires more than just general statements of concern. Resolving the problem needs a fully funded government program that the Minister is on top of and drives so that we finally get adequate open space for our kids.

SCHOOL AIR QUALITY MONITORING

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (13:18:31): I will make a brief contribution related to the answer given at the end of question time by the Deputy Leader of the Government and Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning. The question was an important one relating to what advice the department is giving to schools in areas where there are high temperatures and bushfire haze. I thank the Minister for her answer but I do not think the

answer addressed what advice is being given when a school is, shall I say, caught between a rock and a hard place—where temperatures are soaring, where the school does not have air conditioning and the circumstances inside classrooms are such that, whereas in the ordinary course of events students would be sent outside, to do so would expose the students to bushfire haze, and where the students' health conditions may suggest that that would be a problem. The question goes to the rollout by the Government of its air conditioning of schools program. In her response I would like the Minister to address the gap in that advice. What is the advice given to the schools where they are caught between those two contending forces? If the Minister is not equipped to respond today we look forward to revisiting this issue on the next occasion.

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

AGRICULTURE SYLLABUS

The Hon. SAM FARRAWAY (13:19:51): I take note of the Leader of the Government's response to questions regarding the achievements of this Government since the election, and of my colleague Minister Mitchell's response to a question relating to National Agriculture Day today. I particularly take note of the achievements of the Government in our regional areas. The Leader of the Government referenced in his response the Government's action in supporting farmers and communities with \$1.8 billion in drought support. This support includes \$800 million in practical support measures, rebates and subsidies for farmers and related industries; \$170 million in drought stimulus packages supporting 22 projects, with more on the way; and nearly \$450 million in loans to keep stricken farmers on their land and working for the State's economy.

But it is more than just a drought response. This Government passed historic right to farm legislation protecting farmers from protesters, not only breaking and entering and vandalising property but also murdering the animals protesters purport to protect. We are providing water security to our regions with a massive investment of \$4.2 billion towards the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund. This package will allow the development of regional dams, weirs and pipelines that will directly deliver more storage capacity to regional communities. Further legislation was also passed to fast-track the delivery of this essential water infrastructure.

The New South Wales Government is delivering on its promises to the regions and is recognising their important position, with \$500 million to the Growing Local Economies fund; \$300 million to the Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism Fund; and \$400 million to the Stronger Communities fund. The Liberal-Nationals Government is providing opportunity to our regions and is delivering real achievements in combating drought and natural disasters affecting this State.

The PRESIDENT: When Opposition members have made their contributions to the take-note debate there really have been no interjections from Government members, or certainly nothing to the level of interjections from Opposition members during the Government's contributions. There has to be a level playing field. I do not want to be in a position, especially today, where I have to call members to order on the last sitting day of the year. There will need to be a real change in attitude when we come back next year.

[Business interrupted.]

Visitors

VISITORS

The PRESIDENT: I welcome to the public gallery students from the Child Care Centre, Port Vila, Vanuatu, who are here as guests of the Nepean Christian School. You are most welcome.

Questions Without Notice: Take Note

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

[Business resumed.]

The Hon. WES FANG (13:23:13): I take note of the answer given by the Hon. Don Harwin in relation to the Government's achievements and how the Liberal-Nationals Government is continuing to support regional New South Wales for a third straight term. I note that the Minister was hoping to fit his answer into three minutes, which is virtually impossible. I imagine that the Minister was going to mention some of the investments in the regions, such as the \$4.2 billion for the Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund to back more investment in regional dams, pipelines and weirs, as well as projects that reduce evaporation and seepage in priority catchments. This once-in-a-lifetime fund will build the infrastructure that will carry our State into the future and fulfil the bold legacy left by the Snowy Hydro scheme. There is a \$500 million investment in the Growing Local Economies fund, which continues to pump out local economic activation projects across regional New South Wales.

The PRESIDENT: I call the Hon. John Graham to order for the first time.

The Hon. WES FANG: There is \$300 million for the Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism Fund, which recognises the economic lifeline tourism provides in times of drought.

The PRESIDENT: I call the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane to order for the first time. I call the Hon. Daniel Mookhey to order for the first time.

The Hon. WES FANG: The Stronger Country Communities fund has been topped up to \$400 million, with \$50 million for regional youth projects. We passed the historic Right to Farm Bill, which protects our farmers. We are preparing to roll out the Regional Seniors Transport Card to give those who travel long distances a helping hand. We launched the successful Buy Regional program in time for Christmas. We have given \$16 million to country university centres. We have announced the Regional Youth Taskforce. We have returned air services to western New South Wales and we have commenced digital connectivity roadshows to support our unprecedented \$400 million investment.

This is in contrast to Labor, which did its very best to drive New South Wales into the ground. Labor had hospital projects that were abandoned and unfunded throughout the State, waiting lists that skyrocketed and sick people with nowhere to go. We saw a period of higher unemployment, more taxes, low business confidence and debt. Labor neglected country roads, promising to duplicate the Pacific Highway and completing less than half the job. I look forward to many more years of a New South Wales Liberal-Nationals Government at the helm of our State as the good people of New South Wales continue to put their faith in our team.

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Point of order: Mr President, you made a ruling before in regard to interjections. The performance that is going on is just outrageous. Those opposite set the rules in regard to these take-note debates and yet it would appear that having created this monster they are not prepared to allow Government members—

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: Don't reflect on the decision of the House.

The PRESIDENT: I uphold the point of order. I call the Hon. Penny Sharpe to order for the first time. What a terrible example the House is setting for our guests. Hopefully the Hon. Mark Buttigieg can be heard without his colleagues interjecting.

ENERGY PRICES

The Hon. MARK BUTTIGIEG (13:26:43): I am more than happy to inject some decorum into this Chamber, Mr President. I take note of an answer given by the Hon. Don Harwin in respect to the electricity market and the contributions of generation in particular, which he suggested was, by and large, contributing to higher electricity prices, and the great things that the Government was allegedly doing in that area. I point out that the market that we now have is characterised by three or four big players, who are essentially vertically integrated and dominate the generation and the retail markets as a result of successive years of privatisation. I am talking about companies such as Origin Energy, Energy Australia and AGL. I will quote the figures: Origin Energy dominates 32 per cent of the retail market, Energy Australia 27 per cent and AGL 24 per cent.

Mr David Shoebridge: Oligopoly.

The Hon. MARK BUTTIGIEG: Oligopoly it is called, correct. On the generation side, Origin contributes 22 per cent to the market, Energy Australia 12 per cent, AGL 27 per cent and Snowy Hydro 17 per cent. So there are essentially two oligopoly markets, one on the wholesale generation side and one on the retail side. The network portion of the charges of an average electricity bill has come down dramatically as a result of the Australian Energy Regulator ensuring that networks cannot charge more than they should because their investment in the poles and wires has dropped dramatically.

So the answer is not to gloat about how good the generation market is and what the Government is doing in it; the answer is to introduce more competition by proactively investigating a multiplicity of generation sources, including the opportunity that the movement to renewables in this economy provides us, instead of sitting back pretending it does not exist and not investing in that area; and also to re-regulate the retail market. These companies are gouging the retail market and making profits hand over fist. If we want to bring down electricity prices we should invest in generation to cause more competition on that side and we should re-regulate the retail market, which the Labor Opposition suggested in the lead-up to the election, and then we might talk about how to bring down electricity prices.

TAKE NOTE OF ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning) (13:29:30): I make a contribution in relation to the comments made by the Hon. Courtney Houssos on the NAPLAN online full rollout. She indicated that the Government has set a full online rollout by 2021. For the

benefit of the House and the member, when the NAPLAN online plan was originally put into place there was a time frame of full rollout by 2020. With the issues this year, we agreed with all Ministers at the Education Council to delay that by at least one year to 2021 at this stage. A communiqué came out of our meeting in June 2019 and is available on the website. It says clearly:

Education Council agreed to extend the current plan for schools to transition to NAPLAN Online by one year to 2021, with further consideration by Education Council of the transition arrangements

This will be on the back of the independent review that is happening into the disruptions this year—once it has concluded, made findings and recommendations. Most importantly, it will happen after the implementation of those recommendations. My view is that a time frame was set but it clearly was not ready for full online rollout by 2020, which is why it was extended. The Ministers agreed that it would be extended by at least one year. We moved from 15 per cent to just over 50 per cent.

We will see how it goes with the online rollout next year. We will see if there are things the Education Council needs to consider in terms of further delays, if that is appropriate. If it goes well next year, we can look at those figures in respect of how many go on. I note that some jurisdictions that have a smaller number of students have already gone to full online rollout. It is a moving feast. The Leader of the Government likes to talk about the House being the master of its own destiny. States and Territories are the masters of their own destiny for the online rollout. It is important that we get it right. We have delayed it by at least a year and we will consider what it looks like in the future.

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

Motion agreed to.

Written Answers to Supplementary Questions

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

In reply to **the Hon. ANTHONY D'ADAM** (20 November 2019).

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

The member has not provided a source for the figures listed in this question. However, given previous questions on this day related to information from ACA NSW, it is assumed that the member is referring to figures listed on the ACA NSW website.

Those figures purport to represent the number of three year olds in community preschools, claiming "in theory" this should be 21,699 children. There is no data source or verification for this figure by ACA NSW. The figure is incorrect.

All three year old children enrolled in a community preschool in New South Wales are eligible for funding under Start Strong, in line with the Government's election commitment.

The PRESIDENT: I will now leave the chair. The House will resume at 3.00 p.m.

Private Members' Statements

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS (15:00:54): I want to speak about the amazing job of the Rural Fire Service in New South Wales. The Rural Fire Service has over 2,000 brigades in 108 local government areas comprising of 72,491 volunteers. Last week, with New South Wales facing catastrophic fire conditions, the Premier declared a state of emergency and placed the State's defence in the hands of the Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, AFSM. The One Nation Party commends the incredible work of the Rural Fire Service and its volunteers for their service, sacrifice and tireless efforts to protect people, homes, property, the environment and wildlife in this great State. We also highly commend and praise the employers of the volunteers.

Without these great employers, the RFS volunteers would not be able to protect us. Employers provide exceptional assistance by releasing volunteers to attend incidents and other Rural Fire Service activities during work hours, without financial disadvantage. However, there remains financial and productivity disadvantage to the employer. Volunteers continually dedicate their time to protecting communities across the State and this could not happen without supportive employers allowing them to do the things they do. One Nation honours businesses that have gone above and beyond to help their volunteer firefighter employees protect the community.

We live in a time of great drought, which has led to fewer volunteers and engagement in volunteer services. The impact of the drought in New South Wales means people are moving away to cities, towns, universities, mines et cetera because farms do not have the income to support them. As legislators, we need to rethink the way firefighting resources are organised in the State. In saying this, we need to ease the financial burden of employers and volunteers who get no recompense for their tireless efforts. Consideration should be

given to incentivise and reward employers and volunteers with tax breaks and sufficient funding. Fuel vouchers for volunteers are imperative given some of them have to travel more than 40 kilometres to get to their local RFS station. Again I reiterate our immense gratitude for the Rural Fire Service in New South Wales, which goes beyond the call of duty to protect us. Today I acknowledge it.

SENIORS' STORIES BOOK LAUNCH

The Hon. LOU AMATO (15:03:32): On 18 November 2019 the *Seniors' Stories - Volume 5* book launch was held in the Strangers Dining Room. *Seniors' Stories* is sponsored by Seniors Card NSW. The initiative gives our seniors the opportunity to write short stories and have them published. I have a copy of the fifth edition of *Senior's Stories* and its pages are filled with fantastic stories written by those who have attained wisdom that only life experience can give. The theme for this edition was "Love your life". The stories are not fictional, but literary works of real-life experience. The writings share a common theme: lived experience. But there was something else that I found inspiring—many of the stories were not tales of distant memories. The lessons of the past were entwined with the present. Many of the writers spoke of new and wonderful adventures. The message in all the stories was clear: life is wonderful, though at times it is intermingled with sadness and loss.

As a child I had a great love for the elderly, as children often do. I can recall the kindness and tolerance of an older person as I asked many questions. As a young child hearing a lifetime of tales was simply awe inspiring for me. I spoke to diggers from both world wars and would hang off every word. I suspect I also bombarded those war heroes with never-ending questions. But as was the great trust that once existed between the young and the old, all my questions were answered. One of the great lessons I have learned in life is that wisdom is something that cannot be taught. Wisdom is the culmination of a lifetime of giving and receiving. Wisdom requires the experience of sadness and loss, and also the joy of life.

In these latter days many of us turn to the Google search engine for knowledge. Knowledge is a great tool in all of our lives. However, knowledge is only the beginning of wisdom. We have much to learn from our senior citizens as they have truly walked the path of life, and the imprints of their footsteps is the evidence of their journey to find wisdom. I thank all those who participated in the fifth edition of the *Seniors' Stories* book launch. I especially congratulate all those who were successful in getting published in this great book. I encourage everyone to get a copy to read. The pages are filled with stories of love and life.

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES SCHOOLS

The Hon. ANTHONY D'ADAM (15:06:14): Migration is an essential part of the Australian story, starting more than 60,000 years ago with Australia's First Nations people. We are a proudly multicultural society and what that means in practice is that we respect and encourage diversity. Shared language is the foundation for the development and maintenance of culture. That is why supporting community languages is a core part of the strategy to maintain our multicultural identity. Last week I was pleased to attend two events relating to community language schools. The first event was sponsored by the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools. At an event held in Parliament House on Tuesday 12 November it launched its report entitled *What are languages worth? Community Languages for the future of NSW*. The report is a joint initiative with the Multilingualism Research Centre at Macquarie University.

In New South Wales 2,925 teachers teach 37,340 students in 62 different languages in 561 locations. The report outlines the substantial economic, social and cultural benefits of community language schools. In light of their evidence, I am persuaded that the Government must adopt a more robust strategy for the maintenance of language in migrant communities. The report highlights some key challenges in relation to the provision of community languages in schools and outlines how New South Wales is lagging on the provision of mandatory language education in primary schools. The report also touches on the phenomena of language loss among migrant communities.

My family's story is a case in point. My father is a second-generation migrant born in Australia in the 1930s to Italian parents. He grew up in a time before multiculturalism was the official policy of the land. Strong forces for assimilation and the absence of the structures to support the retention of language meant that he lost fluency in Italian. He had to relearn the language as an adult. Neither I nor any of my siblings speak Italian despite us all being very proud of our Italian heritage. This is a not uncommon part of the migrant experience. That is why community language schools perform a vital role. They assist migrant communities to retain their language and maintain strong social and cultural connections.

On Saturday 16 November I participated in an awards event for one of the member schools of the federation, the Sydney Urdu Language School, which operates under the United Subcontinental Language Schools of New South Wales. The Urdu school operates in two locations at Auburn and Lakemba. The event was organised by my friend Ali Khan, who has been the driving force behind the establishment of the Urdu school. It was also

attended by my Labor parliamentary colleagues Julia Finn, Lynda Voltz and Jihad Dib. Also in attendance was Lucia Johns, the President of the NSW Federation of Community Language Schools. The occasion was an opportunity for the Urdu speaking community to come together to mark 12 months of the school's operation. It was a pleasure to be part of the presentation of the certificates of achievement to the many students of the school. It was also an opportunity to recognise and thank the teachers and other volunteers who have made this fantastic initiative possible. I congratulate Ali and the others involved in organising the day.

NSW POLICE FORCE STRIP SEARCH PRACTICES

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (15:09:15): Teleaha Rose Bower is 22 years old. Last month she and her partner were approached by two male undercover police officers who, straight out, asked to strip search her. Teleaha was outside a hock shop in the Sydney suburb of St Marys when the two police officers demanded that she undo her bra and lift her shirt. Teleaha said:

When they were just walking to the shop and they came out of nowhere and told me they wanted to strip search me. It's disgusting honestly, especially to young kids but regardless, it's still so wrong.

She continued:

When they take their jacket off and take their badge off, they're just another human being like everyone else so what gives them the right to do that to me?

Tragically, Teleaha's appalling public humiliation on a main street of Sydney is not an isolated case. The NSW Police Force has conducted thousands of strip searches—hundreds of them on young children and often in deeply humiliating circumstances. Just this week the New South Wales Commissioner of Police, instead of responding to the growing community concern about strip searches, said in an interview with *The Daily Telegraph* that strip searches are designed to create fear of the police force. He said that young people "need to have ... a little bit of fear of law enforcement."

In defence of the widespread abusive practice of strip searches by the NSW Police Force, the commissioner went on to say, "people need to know there are consequences", and strip searches are aimed at people "on the verge of being criminals". Teleaha was not on the verge of being a criminal. She was just trying to go about her business in Sydney with her partner. She was identified without proper cause, strip-searched in public and humiliated by a police force that does not seem to feel bound by the law or basic decency, led by a commissioner who is openly saying he wants to have young people fear the police.

What have we heard from the police Minister? Instead of the police Minister calling the commissioner to order and directing that the police comply with the law, the police Minister effectively volunteers his own kids to be strip-searched. We have a major problem in New South Wales with strip searches. But we also have a major problem in New South Wales where we have a police Minister who wants to be a cop and a police commissioner who wants to be a politician. That is a recipe for the continued abuse of people's rights.

FORBES CULTURAL PROJECTS

The Hon. SAM FARRAWAY (15:12:12): Last week I visited the historic town of Forbes in the Orange electorate. Forbes is everything you expect a regional New South Wales community to be—full of character, charm and passionate locals. Historically famous for its bushrangers and buildings, Forbes will soon be known for its arts and culture with the announcement of \$5.7 million to establish the Somewhere Down the Lachlan sculpture trail. That funding will deliver an iconic sculpture trail with 20 commissioned artworks—some up to 10 metres tall—along with a new cultural centre and three new bird hides at Gum Swamp to view local birdlife. Those initiatives will open up the region to new tourism opportunities. The sculpture trail will be a unique, permanent installation, unlike anything else in regional New South Wales. It will provide visitors with an amazing nature-viewing experience that will rival other great local attractions like the Grazing Down the Lachlan food festival, which won the gold award last week in the Festival and Events section of the 2019 NSW Tourism Awards.

The new cultural centre will have an exhibition space, workshop areas and an events space, giving artists a place to unleash their creativity. The bird hide redevelopment at Gum Swamp will be a paradise for birdwatchers. The project is a great example of what happens when a community rallies together with the creativity to think outside the box and united by a passion to reinvigorate its town. Forbes Shire Council, Lachlan Shire Council, Forbes Art Society and Evolution Mining are all contributing financially to the project. That shows how strong and broad the local support is for the project and the benefits it will bring to the region for years to come.

There is no doubt that the Somewhere Down the Lachlan sculpture trail will become a must-see on the itinerary of all visitors to the Central West. Regional New South Wales is open for business and ready to be explored. More than 67 million people have visited in the 12 months to March this year. Clearly tourists want to travel to our regions, meet the friendly locals and immerse themselves in different cultures. Not only the tourism

industry will benefit. The new infrastructure will also have a positive flow-on effect for the local community by creating ongoing work for locals as chefs, tour guides, pub and hotel staff who service the tourists. I congratulate Forbes Shire Council, Forbes Art Society and everyone involved in advocating for this project. I look forward to joining the community in taking a stroll along the Somewhere Down the Lachlan sculpture trail in the near future.

OH! DAY

The Hon. COURTNEY HOUSSOS (15:14:55): When reflecting on the achievements of Greece and the Hellenic people, many focus on ancient times: the inventions and innovations in maths, science and the arts; the philosophy of the likes of Plato and Socrates, including the creation of democracy; the incredible architecture and structures, including the Acropolis; or even the military achievements of the Spartans or the Athenians. The modern-day heroics of the Greeks must be remembered too.

On 28 October 2019, the Greek community celebrated Oh! Day. The Greek word "ohi" means "no". Oh! Day celebrates and commemorates the day, 79 years ago, when the Greek people said "oxi" to the invading Italian forces. In 1940, as the Nazis marched through Europe, that was incredibly courageous. Despite being outnumbered two to one, the Greeks fought ferociously, forcing the Italians back and taking parts of Albania. That was the first defeat for the Axis powers in World War II. The bravery of the Hellenic people proved to be a turning point in the war. They did not take the easy path. They stood for what they believed in, despite the immediate threat to their country.

Ultimately, the Germans were forced to send reinforcements to Greece and the Greek people suffered enormously during the occupation. Importantly, that delayed the Germans' planned Russian invasion. The delay to the winter months meant it was doomed to fail. President Franklin D. Roosevelt said:

When the entire world had lost all hope, the Greek people dared to question the invincibility of the German monster raising against it the proud spirit of freedom.

Winston Churchill said:

Hence we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks.

As part of the Sydney commemorations, I attended two events. The first event was organised by the Australian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association [AHEPA] and was held at the newly refurbished Anzac Memorial at Hyde Park on Sunday 27 October 2019. The second event was organised by the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW and was held at its headquarters in Lakemba on Monday 28 October 2019. AHEPA's commemorative service focused on the long military history between Australia and Greece. Indeed, Australia and Greece have always fought together. They have never fought on opposing sides during wartime. AHEPA celebrated that history in a beautiful and symbolic ceremony featuring performances from the Australian Hellenic Choir. I thank AHEPA's president, Bill Skandalakis, and its secretary, Dr Panayiotis Diamandis, who is a tireless worker for the Greek community and Greek causes. I also thank Harry Danalis, president of the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW, and his organisation's committee on another lovely service to celebrate and commemorate Oh! Day.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION HEALTH AND SAFETY DIRECTORATE

The Hon. MARK BANASIAK (15:17:58): How can we expect New South Wales teachers to give their all to our children when so many of those teachers are being neglected by the system that is supposed to support them? Stringent measures exist to deal with kids that bully in schools. I am sure we are all familiar with the NSW Department of Education's catchery "zero tolerance for bullying", yet it seems to me that bullying within the staff circles is more prevalent and most in need of discipline. The health and safety directorate sits within the Department of Education. In theory the directorate exists to ensure the wellbeing of students and staff.

Many of my questions to the education Minister this year specifically asked about the health and safety directorate. I asked how many complaints had been made to the directorate that cited bullying and harassment from executive staff since 2007 and how many of those complaints had been dismissed or found true and subsequently acted upon. I was directed to an online report that would, I was told, provide the answers. It did not. In fact, the information I was seeking was noticeably absent. When I asked the Minister again, she said that the most common reason for teachers leaving is retirement and that the department does not keep records of bullying and harassment complaints. The State Records Act 1998 requires documents relating to staff grievances be retained for seven years before being destroyed. Reasonable searches, which is a subjective term, could identify only eight written complaints alleging bullying or harassment by current or former executive staff since 2007, yet we know there are many more because of the 140-page document that I tabled in budget estimates. If complaints are being collected and stored centrally, it is unacceptable that the department does not know they exist.

There is a tragic irony in a health and safety directorate that has complaints of rampant bullying against its own staff. It is shocking that many of the teachers who made complaints to the directorate and then subsequently quit their jobs have not had their complaints fully investigated, which means no outcome has been

reached. Many of the issues that have landed on my table are about repeat offenders, particularly principals who are shuffled from school to school, leaving trails of resignations behind them. One teacher counted nine complaints within the past two years. That blows the directorate's apparent eight complaints in the last seven years out of the water. Those reasonable searches that the directorate claims were conducted must have been done blindfolded.

The people who work there have no faith in either the department or the health and safety directorate. There are many cases of teachers who cannot tell their full stories because the Department of Education will not let them. They have signed their rights away to cover the bureaucratic arses of the department. There is an underlying belief among many older and more experienced teachers that they are being bullied out of their jobs to make way for younger, cheaper and casual staff. I received an email a few weeks ago that outlined this scenario. The author was told staff numbers in the directorate were going to rise from approximately 200 to just over 300. A later email stated:

My two friends found out that their positions were being downgraded. As far as they know, no other positions are being downgraded. They are advised that their positions will be "job-matched" but they are sure there is no other similar position in which they can be matched.

These two teachers have been bullied in the past and feel they are being targeted. If the department had a zero tolerance approach to bullying, it would have sacked the executive officer and the former director of the health and safety directorate instead of covering this up.

AUDREY KENDELL

The Hon. WES FANG (15:21:01): In all parts of regional Australia we rely on a strong air service. Whether through our commercial airlines getting us in and out of home or through the air ambulance transporting people to or from health services in cities, rural and regional Australia must always have a reliable and steadfast air service to overcome the tyranny of distance. As a former pilot, aviation has always played a big role in my life. I know how it can get in your blood. I read an article in *The Daily Advertiser* last week which reminded me of the passion that people have for aviation in our regional areas.

Audrey Kendell has made her start in the aviation industry as a flight instructor at the Regional Express Australian Airline Pilot Academy at Wagga Wagga Airport, which is just a short distance from where her grandparents founded Wagga Wagga's own airline 54 years ago. Don Kendell, along with Audrey's grandmother, Eilish, started the company that became Kendell Airlines as a small charter and flying school business in 1965. It traded as Premiair Aviation from 1967. The company underwent significant expansion in the 1980s and was renamed Kendell Airlines in 1983. The Kendell family departed the airline in 1990 when it was sold to freight company TNT and News Limited. In the collapse of Ansett in 2001 Kendell Airlines was incorporated into the Rex group, where Audrey has started her first job in aviation.

Don Kendell was a trailblazer when it came to rural aviation and I was so pleased to hear that his granddaughter is involved with and intends to graduate with Rex's Australian Airline Pilot Academy. Although following in her family's footsteps, Audrey is forging her own path. With women currently accounting for only 3 per cent of pilots and 1 per cent of aircraft engineers globally, Audrey is setting a powerful example for regional women who might one day want to be involved in the aviation sector. It is so important that we do everything we can to encourage and promote pathways to success for all women in this industry. Whether they be in the cockpit, in engineering or in broader aviation support, we need to help ensure that women like Audrey are given every opportunity to reach their goals. I wish Audrey the very best of luck as she embarks on her aviation career.

NEWSTART ALLOWANCE

The Hon. WALT SECORD (15:23:19): For a single person without children, a Newstart payment is \$277 a week. That is slightly less than \$40 a day and it has not had a real increase since 1994. The Australian Council of Social Service, the Business Council of Australia, KPMG, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, National Seniors Australia and Federal Labor have all called for an increase to Newstart. Today, I publicly add my voice to those calls. Sadly, the Morrison and Berejiklian governments have characterised pleas to increase this basic cost of living support as "unfunded empathy". Furthermore, Federal social services Minister Anne Ruston stunned the community when she claimed that Newstart was a waste of money. This was based on her apparent belief that each recipient is a substance-abusing bludger. She said:

Giving [people] more money would do absolutely nothing ... probably all it would do is give drug dealers more money and give pubs more money

Indeed, many in the Morrison Government seek to portray Newstart recipients as willingly being in their predicament. The Morrison Government view is designed to support a stereotype pushed by hardline conservatives that a Newstart recipient is just a young person lying on a sofa watching Netflix and refusing to work, but if we drill down behind the debate on Newstart we will find some startling figures.

In July 2019, 428,505 Australians received Newstart or the Youth Allowance job seeker payment. Overall, more than half of people on Newstart are over the age of 45. Furthermore, almost a quarter—105,393—were over the age of 50. That is 52,682 men and 52,711 women. Recently, the Council on the Ageing told a Federal inquiry that the current system did not work for older people given the reluctance of businesses to employ people over 50. They reported that 27 per cent of older workers reported experiencing ageism. Some 30 per cent of human relations professionals reported that their organisation was reluctant to employ people over a specified age and almost 70 per cent of those said they would be unwilling to employ someone over 50. People aged 55 and 64 years of age spent an average of 36 weeks looking for work, compared to 14 weeks for all age groups. The median time people aged 55 to 64 were unemployed was 166 weeks.

Those statistics provide a whole new perspective. Those men and women have worked their entire lives, paid their taxes and relied on the idea that if there was ever a time when they were jobless, some decency and dignity would be shown them by their government. A Minister with any sense of what is really happening in the community and in our economy would know why more than 100,000 mature Australians are on Newstart. We need a partnership between business and government that looks to support and reskill workers who find themselves on the wrong side of the changing economy. Unfortunately, that line falls disproportionately on women and men over 50 and in regional communities. I acknowledge that retraining for older workers is complex and difficult. That is why we have to look at the whole Newstart debate and how we provide training and assistance to those over 50. We have a duty of care to those workers. We need to invest in retraining or helping to supplement their training gaps and we need to do this with dignity, not demonisation. I thank the House for its consideration.

OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK (15:26:19): As we draw closer to the end of year, as daylight savings take hold and as we start spending balmy evenings outside with our families enjoying local attractions, I am reminded of a few family activities that may not be available for much longer this summer because of government disinterest and neglect. Earlier this month we heard that the Dapto Dogs may close. This institution has been operating for 82 years. It put Dapto on the map by providing families in the surrounding regional suburbs with entertainment for generations. Now it may shut.

This brings me to the Valvoline Speedway, or Parramatta Speedway as it is probably more commonly known. It is another New South Wales institution for those that love the outdoors and motorsports. The directors of Parramatta Speedway do not want to see the speedway move from its current location. This speedway has a 42-year history in its current location in Granville. The sport of speedway was invented in New South Wales. Recently the directors invested millions of dollars into the speedway to upgrade it. They negotiated over two years to extend their Crown lease to 2026. The sport injects millions into the local economy and receives no funds from this Government or any other.

In 2023 the sport of speedway will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. But it will not be celebrating at this most famous speedway that has just had millions invested into it because the Government has swept in and will take that site by compulsory acquisition. The site will better serve this Government as a marshalling yard for the Sydney Metro West train line. The speedway will be demolished by 2021. Transport Minister Andrew Constance has assured Valvoline Speedway that he will provide it another site to transition to. However, his department is still unable to provide it within the desired timeline. The transport secretary was quizzed in budget estimates hearings about sites and timelines but he could not provide a guarantee it would be done by 2021. The Minister responded by saying:

The bureaucracy is in no uncertain terms getting the message "build it", because quite frankly there's a good site at Eastern Creek.

Those are empty words that were said just to get this issue out of the news. The Minister's theatrics do not provide comfort to those whose lives are invested in the speedway. To begin with, directors were not told throughout their two years of Crown lease negotiations that they would not have access to the site past 2021. The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party is well aware of this Government's aversion to all things outdoors such as shooting, fishing, farming, greyhounds—the list is endless. However, it is still bitterly disappointing for us when another community-operated organisation that provides wholesome healthy outdoor entertainment is targeted and shut down.

Thousands of stakeholders are awaiting some form of certainty from the Berejiklian Government. We are not waiting for a "get on with it, champ," from the transport Minister, but an actual assurance. So far a \$40 million budget has been earmarked for a suitable relocation and development. The directors have located a suitable site for redevelopment. They are somewhat resigned to their fate, but they will not allow this Government to escape its obligations and nor will we. This Government lacks compassion for the community and it lacks imagination to think outside of its own gilded box. Instead of prioritising communities— [*Time expired.*]

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Hon. SHAOQUETT MOSELMANE (15:29:34): In a few hours the first event on the elimination of domestic violence against women will be held at Parliament House. The event has been organised by Vincent De Luca, who has done so much work on the White Ribbon event. Domestic violence against women is so prevalent that United Nations has voted for the elimination of violence against women and made 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. On average, one woman a week is murdered in Australia by her current or former partner.

One in three Australian women has experienced physical violence since 15 years of age. One in five Australian women has experienced sexual violence. One in four Australian women has experienced emotional abuse. That is why it is important to have events such as the one at Parliament House today. The money raised will go to Brewarrina Women's Safe House and Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre at Redfern. The Brewarrina Homelessness and Housing Support Service supports young people, adult men and women, and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those experiencing domestic and/or family violence in the Brewarrina township.

Announcements

AUSTRALASIAN STUDY OF PARLIAMENT GROUP

The PRESIDENT (15:31:20): As members are aware, the Australasian Study of Parliament Group [ASPG] is a nonpartisan body that seeks to encourage and stimulate research, writing, teaching and discussion about parliamentary institutions. The ASPG operates in all States and Territories of Australia and in New Zealand. Membership consists of parliamentarians, parliamentary officers, academics, teachers, journalists, students and other interested individuals. I draw to the attention of members to two forthcoming events which are being held by the New South Wales chapter of the ASPG. On Friday 22 November two long-serving and esteemed former members of this Parliament, the Hon. Ron Dyer and the Hon. Kevin Rozzoli, will deliver a session on civility in politics. The session will focus on the current state of political discourse, what is meant by civility in politics, and how the rules and frameworks of Parliament can be used to ensure civil discourse. Hopefully, they will teach about not interjecting when the President is speaking.

On Tuesday 3 December a screening of the film *Peterloo* will be shown. The film is an account of the Peterloo massacre, which saw a number of pro-democracy activists killed at a protest in Manchester in 1819. *Peterloo* will be introduced with a talk delivered by Professor Kirsten McKenzie of the Department of History, School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, University of Sydney. Professor McKenzie's talk will consider the consequences of Peterloo in the British colonies, including Australia, in the years immediately leading to the establishment of the New South Wales Legislative Council in 1824. Members wishing to attend the excellent events should contact the Legislative Council Procedure Office for further information.

Documents

TABLING OF PAPERS

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

1. Law Enforcement and National Security (Assumed Identities) Act 2010—Reports for year ended 30 June 2019:
 Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
 Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
 Corrective Services NSW
 Law Enforcement Conduct Commission
 NSW Crime Commission.
2. Report of the Department of Families, Communities and Disability Services entitled *Child Deaths 2018 Annual Report: Learning to improve services*, for year ended 31 December 2018.

I move:

That the reports be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Motions

CHRISTMAS FELICITATIONS

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) (15:33:54):

I move:

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

I will start with some personal remarks. Today marks five years since I found some words in this House about the importance of living true to oneself and I publicly acknowledged my sexuality. I can honestly say that the past five years have been personally and professionally the best years of my life. It is well known that when people bring their whole souls to work, they are more productive, they are happier and everyone benefits. I believe I am trying to show that in the way I do my job and live my life.

Election years are often difficult and stressful as we farewell colleagues. We see the election results and we have to accept them—for better or for worse—and then we have to consider our ongoing contributions to this place. It is never easy, particularly when it does not go the way we want. In my experience, sometimes the first six months of a parliamentary term can be an unsettled and difficult period. This year we had a somewhat different experience because we have used that period as an opportunity to consider how we can do our job as a House of review better. Many of the things that we have started doing since then have made our Chamber more able to do its job for the people of New South Wales. I hope most members have that view. I will not say that everything we have done has been in that category, but I will have the opportunity to return to that subject on another occasion.

Mr President, the commencement of this Parliament saw your re-election as President. You have been a great President. You are doing a wonderful job. I hope that you, Mary and your growing family have a wonderful Christmas. I hope you use it as an opportunity to celebrate your many achievements, including your recent elevation as the Vice-Chair of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association executive committee, and that you rest and recuperate. I thank you for everything you did for the House, Mr President. I extend those best wishes to the Deputy President, who is also very good in the Chair and does his best to lighten the mood every now and then. I would encourage him to leave the shirt he had on yesterday where it belongs—that is, not in public sight.

I also thank the temporary Chairs for their efforts, particularly my very good friend the Hon. Shayne Mallard, who stepped up and did a wonderful job during the lengthy committee stage on the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill. I thank all of the members of the House, including the Opposition. In the years 1999, 2003 and 2007 I was on the receiving end of some election defeats. It is not much fun. After the election the Opposition has come back determined to do its job in the best way it can. I congratulate it on the year it has had. It has always been a pleasure dealing with the Leader of the Opposition. We have managed to cooperate on many occasions for the good of the Chamber.

I also congratulate the new Deputy Leader of the Opposition. She has had the great opportunity to be the interim leader of NSW Labor. She filled that role with absolute distinction. Welcome back to a different role and congratulations. Some really good new members have been elected to the Labor Opposition. The party has used the election as an opportunity to refresh its ranks. I congratulate Labor and the crossbench as well. There are some new faces, and some familiar faces have returned. It has been really good getting to know them all. The new members are certainly approaching their responsibilities with some alacrity and making for an interesting Chamber.

Naturally I turn now to my colleagues. First, my ministerial colleagues are a tremendous support in this Chamber particularly the Deputy Leader of the Government, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, in her role as Leader of The Nationals in this House and her ministerial roles. The Hon. Bronnie Taylor has had the blowtorch applied to her belly on several occasions this year in a way that perhaps only I know. She has been magnificent and she has my admiration. I will also mention our one new Liberal member in the Chamber, the Hon. Damien Tudehope, who has had a wonderful first year. He has my admiration and congratulations. I was a Whip for eight years. It was an interesting job being Opposition Whip; I am not sure that being Government Whip is as interesting. If it were not for the very good work that the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones has done as the Government Whip supporting me, my life would have been very much harder and I really am very grateful for all her work. I am glad she is back in the Chamber for another eight years.

The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones: As am I.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Indeed. We worked very hard to get that outcome and I am sure she will be extending her thanks to the Hon. Wes Fang later. We are, of course, very much looking forward to the contribution the Hon. Sam Farraway will be making in future. I have given 36 years of my life to the Liberal Party and it is an extraordinary honour to serve in the Government of Gladys Berejiklian. She has been a great friend for a very long time. All of us in the Liberal and National parties feel deeply that we have an opportunity that no Liberal-Nationals Government has ever had before—that is, to serve beyond 11 years, which is the longest time we have ever served in government. Hopefully we will keep delivering for the people and inspiring the confidence they showed us in March. I thank all the Liberal and National members of Parliament who are an enormous part of that. I am very grateful for all the work they have done in the Chamber.

I turn now to the Parliament staff. Having sat in your chair for six years, Mr President, I am sure we share the same insights. Every member of the House relies on the Clerks, the Deputy Clerks, all of the Clerks at the table and all of their staff. We are incredibly lucky to have David Blunt as our Clerk and Steven Reynolds as our Deputy Clerk. I have the utmost respect for them. I also congratulate all of the members of the Department of the Legislative Council, including the other two Clerks at the table and the Usher of the Black Rod. They have the admiration of the whole House for their work.

To the Department of Parliamentary Services staff, led by the excellent Mark Webb. They keep the oldest public building from the period of European settlement in Australia going. They keep us safe, clean our workplaces, provide us with food and drink and inform us. They take down what we say in here, making us sound far more erudite than how we express ourselves. Thank you Hansard. The Hon. Peter Primrose forever deserves congratulations for ambushing the Legislative Assembly and setting up the Department of Parliamentary Services during his period as President. I thank all of them. It has been a busy year. We have had 844 questions on notice and 696 questions without notice.

The Hon. Mick Veitch: Sorry about that.

The Hon. DON HARWIN: Some of them have even been answered. The House has passed 52 orders for the production of documents. We have had quite a lot of legislation, including 529 amendments of which 140 were successful. I personally thank members of my own staff, who I have relied on and without whom I could not achieve anything—in particular Matthew Yeldham—Rick Haines, Jack Pinczeski, Jason Ardit, Chris Lawrence, Patrick Moore, Charles Barden and Stuart Grant and my Department Liaison Officers Daniel Teudt, Dina Moreton and Jan Sullivan, who support our office. Jan is one of Australia's best bakers. The waistlines of too many of our staff members, and mine, reflect that. In particular, I acknowledge my Deputy Chief of Staff Sam Tedeschi. I think there is general agreement in the House that he helps this Chamber function properly. I rely on him enormously. He is a wonderful person and I thank him for everything he does. I also thank my Chief of Staff Andrew Kirk, the evil genius. I literally could not do my job without him.

There were so many highlights for me this year. Declaring Calga as an Aboriginal place was an extraordinarily emotional and wonderful day. I turned the first sod at Sydney Modern, which is a truly groundbreaking project for the visual arts in this State. I saw the Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps for the first time, which is the oldest man-made structure on the planet and is just extraordinary. I sat down with the Tribal Wave Assembly at Coffs Harbour and I am looking at a new way of dealing with Aboriginal affairs with the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Regional Alliances, which is emerging as a result of what was put in place by my predecessors as Aboriginal affairs ministers. A regional agreement is making major progress and has so much potential in the future. Earlier in the year I also made the wonderful decision to give a long-term lease to the National Arts School.

All of those things have been wonderful and 2019 has been a truly memorable year. I wish every member of the House and their staff and every staff member of this Parliament a wonderful Christmas and a relaxing holiday season so that they can come back refreshed to do a great job in 2020. Thank you.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE (15:49:04): On behalf of the Labor Opposition, I associate members on this side of the House with the sentiments of the motion moved by the Leader of the Government. I commence by thanking the Clerks of the Parliament. I particularly express our gratitude to the Clerk of the Parliaments, Mr David Blunt. It is fair to say that, without his support, members of this Chamber could not perform their duties—at least, not as well as they do. I also thanks Steven Reynolds, Stephen Frappell, Beverly Duffy and everyone in David's team who perform under great pressure to an amazingly high standard. The constant guidance, support, wisdom and good humour of David and his team are extremely valued. Without their tremendous work throughout the year and their care, attention to detail and unrelentingly high quality of work, this House and its members would not be as effective. Perhaps the Government might wish that to be so, but we will keep disappointing it.

We also express our gratitude to all the workers in the Parliament who assist us in carrying out our day-to-day responsibilities: the catering staff, whom the Leader of the Government noted keep us fed; the special constables; the information and technology staff; the cleaners, whom we could not do without; the attendants; in fact, everybody—the fact that they are not named specifically should not indicate that we do not value their service. We also value and appreciate the work of the library, particularly the research service. I commenced my association with the parliamentary library as a junior Opposition staffer in 1994, and I look forward to being their client for many more years to come.

In light of the recent and unanimous resolution of this place of 14 November regarding the resourcing of the Parliament, I sincerely thank the Hansard staff. The Legislative Council greatly values their prompt and efficient service, which allows members to receive complete transcripts of both its own proceedings and that of

the Legislative Assembly soon after sittings have concluded. Hansard staff carry out their roles with great skill, and the quality of their reporting is highly esteemed. I say to the Government, whose own members agree with what I have just said, please do not keep cutting the resources of Hansard. Do not make their employment insecure. Give them the respect that their function and their work deserve. I note that the Speaker in the other place has now shelved his reform agenda in this regard. We shall be keeping a close eye on this matter.

I also acknowledge the significant work of the Legislative Council committee secretariat staff. The continued production of quality work in the face of an immense, and this year a significantly increased, workload allows our House to continue to deliver important and high-quality reports on crucial subjects of public interest, making an important contribution to public debate and government decision-making. That function of our House should not be overlooked. It is a key factor in shaping the more collegiate nature of this place when compared with the other place. Yes, we still have the Government-Opposition dichotomy and structure and partisan disputes across all the parties, but the collaboration required of the committee processes has fostered a more intimate, and dare I say, less combative approach to discussing and resolving issues.

Additionally, I thank the staff of the Legislative Council Procedure Office. We acknowledge that there has been a record number of Standing Order 52 motions—not always passed, but certainly drafted—with many more to come in 2020. We thank the staff of the Procedure Office for serving the House in this respect. Their drafting skills and guidance on how to frame requests and motions is also greatly appreciated.

It is also important to acknowledge those who are no longer with us. I note the passing of Stuart Lowe on 25 February this year after a long illness, surrounded by family. Stuart commenced working with the Parliament in 1992 in the catering team. In 1993 he moved to the Department of the Legislative Council, working in a number of roles in members' entitlements, corporate support and the usher's office. Stuart was a Clerk at the table, providing high level procedural advice to members during sittings of the House. When the Department of Parliamentary Services was established in 2009, Stuart moved into a senior role in DPS to manage the Members' Entitlements unit. His role in providing expert advice and guidance to members from both the Council and the Assembly was greatly valued. During his 27 years of employment, Stuart made a significant contribution to the Parliament, its members and staff. He will be greatly missed.

I also note the passing of the wife of Tass Miroforidis, senior manager in Members' Entitlements. Tass has kept us all on the straight and narrow and out of trouble more times than we have had hot dinners. This will be his family's first Christmas without her and we offer our condolences to him and his family.

I thank all members for their contributions during the year and wish them the best. On behalf of this side of the Chamber, I sincerely thank the President. Labor members appreciate his fair direction on deliberations in this place and he continues to have the respect of us all. I acknowledge and thank the Hon. Trevor Khan, in his positions as Deputy President and his role—more often than not—as Chair of Committees, when he has to maintain order, sometimes late into the night. We appreciate his—mostly—good humour in those circumstances. I thank the Leader of the Government for his continued professionalism, even with the trials and tribulations of more and more Standing Order 52 debates. There will be more to come. Being Leader of the Government in this place is not always easy. The Government has not had a majority in this place since 1998, although it must be said that it has had a pretty easy run over the past four years. The election has brought a changed dynamic and I will return to that later in my speech. The Leader of the Government fulfils his duties with a great deal of grace and we appreciate his contributions.

I also thank the new Deputy Leader of the Government, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, for her humour, grace and, above all, sense of practicality in her role. As the new Leader of the National Party in this place, she has big shoes to fill, following as she does the legendary Duncan Gay and, more recently, Professor Niall Blair. Despite strongly held policy differences by our party and no doubt by others, Niall Blair enjoyed our high esteem and a good reputation with all quarters of this Chamber, and continues to do so. We wish him all the best in his current endeavour. I thank all my Labor colleagues for their advice, assistance and support in my role as Leader of the Opposition in this place, not only before the election but also since the election. I acknowledge that I could not fulfil my duties in the role without their support and active engagement.

I am extremely proud to have led a team that works as hard and as effectively as it does. It is an enormous honour to lead the Labor Party in any Chamber of any Parliament. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this wonderful and highly effective team. I thank my deputy and colleague, Penny Sharpe. I have known Penny for more years than either of us care to reflect on. She is a progressive champion for social justice and change, and I am grateful for her support and advice. Like the Leader of the Government, I acknowledge that it is one year and 11 days since she was elected Deputy Leader of our party—a role she has fulfilled with great skill. I also acknowledge the role she played as our interim leader between the State election and the leadership ballot. She did so in circumstances of great difficulty, not only in leading the Labor Party—which is very difficult for any

person—but also in leading it from this place in those difficult circumstances. I acknowledge the skill, the dignity and the grace that Penny brought to that task.

I acknowledge our former Deputy Leader, the Hon. Walt Secord, now shadow Treasurer. It is fair to say that Walt keeps me on my toes, and I am sure he will continue to do so. I acknowledge the hard work of all my shadow Cabinet colleagues and all the members who work so diligently in carrying out their responsibilities in this place, in addition to their efforts on committees and inquiries. Of course, some of the newer members, such as Tara Moriarty, are also new shadow Cabinet members. Shadow Ministers in our system do not receive any additional entitlements or pay. There is some prestige associated with the position, but it is mostly additional hard work.

Our whole team works tirelessly—not only the frontbench members. One of the benefits of having a relatively small group of 14 is that there is plenty of opportunity for participation. There is also nowhere to hide if you are not contributing. I am happy to say that they all are. I acknowledge the role of the relatively new Opposition Whips, the Hon. Mark Buttigieg and the Hon. Anthony D'Adam. They are both newly elected to this place and have carried out their new duties in a superb manner. I also acknowledge the role of our former Whips, the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, who is now Assistant President of this Chamber, and the Hon. Greg Donnelly, MLC, for his work as Deputy Whip.

There is no doubt that 2019 has been a hard year for the Labor Party, both in New South Wales and nationally. This is not the year we had expected, nor the one we had hoped for. However, in the wake of the State election, when the Labor Opposition was not even allowed to elect its own leader because we had to wait for the Federal election, my team, rather than sitting around moping, put their shoulders to the wheel, engaged with the Government and the non-Government parties and embarked upon an unprecedented program of reforming the mechanisms and processes of this place: changes to question time, the direct relevance rule, take-note debates, supplementary questions, significantly extended and enhanced budget estimates and other changes that I believe are working well.

The Hon. Trevor Khan: Just say sorry.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: I acknowledge that interjection. We do not say sorry; we make no apologies. We took that time to work really constructively with the Parliament. I think the outcomes of those deliberations and the experiences that we have had in using them have shown Parliament at its best, and not just in this Chamber. I think the impact the reform agenda has had on government as a whole has been small but perceptible. We certainly used that opportunity well, and I am very proud of our work and the outcomes we have been able to achieve.

I thank my long-time friend and staff member Rob Allen. I am incredibly lucky to have him and I am grateful for all the work in his office. I know he terrifies me; I do not know about anybody else. He certainly keeps me on the straight and narrow. As Leader of the Opposition in this place, I do not get too many staff. I get 1.5 full-time equivalent staff so I have a few part-time staff. They include Felicity Wade; Cara Punch, who I know also works for the Whip; and Jessica Sparks, who does not work in this building but does work for me. The work they perform for me, individually and collectively, supports me in my role and I could not do without them. I acknowledge their contribution and give thanks for it.

I also acknowledge the work of a former staff member of the Hon. Walt Secord, Michael Baker. Although Michael has left this place to return to studies, we wish him well. I also give my thanks to Trish Marinozzi for her work in the Whip's Office and Amanda McCormack, who works for Peter Primrose and who has been highly engaged around the issues of budget estimates and the like. I thank them and all the Labor staff members, many of whom have joined our team since the election. Your diligence and sheer hard work allows each of us to undertake our duties. There are too many to name individually, but the work that each staff member performs in supporting our members is essential for us to function well. We do not have too many of them and they are not superbly paid for the hours they put in. We are lucky to have such a dedicated group of people. We acknowledge their work. I was once an Opposition staff member so I know what it is like, but we look forward to their continued service.

I thank the crossbench members from The Greens; the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; the Christian Democratic Party; the Animal Justice Party; One Nation; and Mr Justin Field for the work we have strived to do to advance the institution of Parliament this year during legislative deliberations and in our committee work, which is an essential element of this place. The ability for us as members to work across party lines on significant issues that lead to findings and recommendations is vital. Our capacity for working with one another, despite important philosophical differences, is highly important in our system of parliamentary democracy. I referred earlier to breathing new life into the processes and mechanisms of this place through which we fulfil our function as a House of review and hold the Executive to account.

Of course that extends to members of the Government. We often have partisan differences. Government members have a job to do and Opposition members have a job to do, but quite often—and the public does not see this—we work across party lines to get good results for the community whom we strive to represent. That is in the finest traditions of this place. I think it works better here than it does in other Chambers, and I look forward to that continuing. The government of the day may not always thank us for it, but they know that the role of the House of review is vital to a properly functioning liberal democracy governed by the rule of law. Often this House will save governments from themselves. I have seen that from the inside, and of course Labor will continue to make it a reality from the outside.

I wish all members and workers in this building all the best as we enter summer—or continue summer—even though it is a time of high bushfire danger. I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable festive season and a happy new year. I hope you find it restful, and I look forward to you all returning in good spirits for what I am certain will be an even more lively 2020.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL (Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)
(16:04:15): As the Leader of The Nationals in this place, I am very pleased to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Government, the Hon. Don Harwin. This is my first opportunity to speak as the Leader of The Nationals in this House. Given that it is our 100th year as a party—as everyone in the Chamber knows—it is a great honour to do so on behalf of our Nats team. I have to say that it is a great feeling to be at the end of another year in Parliament. I begin my Christmas felicitations obviously by thanking the Clerks and the staff of the Parliament. Put very simply, this place would not function without you. I think some days it would function better without the politicians, but certainly not without you—the people who keep this place running, day in day out, and advise us all so diligently, particularly when it comes to procedure and process.

On behalf of The Nats, I particularly mention and thank the Clerk, David Blunt; the Deputy Clerk, Steven Reynolds; Stephen Frappell; Beverly Duffy; Susan Want; and all of your respective teams. I do have to single out and make special mention of Kate Cadell, who is one of the smartest people in this place and definitely the nicest. I also thank our Chamber support staff—John, Mark, Richard, Jodi and Diane—who work hard to keep this Chamber functioning and always manage to do so with a smile.

Thank you to the Hansard staff—Karen and her team. As other members have said, thank you for making us sound far more articulate, eloquent and intelligent than we actually are. I am sure I am not the only member who looks back at *Hansard* and says, "Yeah, I said that really well", knowing that it has far more to do with Hansard's ability to translate what we say in this place than the way we deliver it. We know you work very hard and thank you for everything you do to support us. Thank you also to the team in the procedure and table office. They are always very gracious and helpful to all members, but particularly on behalf of my office and my team I say, "Thank you".

To the committees team: As the Leader of the Opposition said, it is pretty fair to say that you have had a busy and interesting year with the workload, but you have managed incredibly. As a Chamber and indeed as a Parliament, we are all very lucky to have each and every one of you. No-one can do what you do with the level of quality and service you provide. It really is outstanding—and particularly so this year, given the heavy workload that we know you have all had. I also associate The Nationals with the remarks that other members have made thanking Mark Webb and the Department of Parliamentary Services staff—those in catering, the cleaners, the library, the special constables and all who keep us supported in this place.

To you, Mr President: Thank you. You have continued to do a fabulous job this year, although you have probably let those opposite get through with a few too many supplementary questions in my view. But in all seriousness, you have the respect of us all in this place and thank you for another great year with you in the chair. I turn to my colleagues and friends in the Liberal Party. First, to the Hon. Don Harwin: Thank you for all you have done as leader in this place this year. It has been great to work alongside you. Thank you also to your office staff, and in particular I acknowledge Sam Tedeschi. I think you have really stepped up into your role and it has been great for us to watch you shine. The Minister for Finance and Small Business, the Hon. Damien Tudehope was in the Chamber but has left so I will say in his absence what an introduction to this place he has had. Between us, we have managed to take some of the Legislative Assembly rough and tumble off him and given him some of the elegance and restraint that members of the Legislative Council are much better known for.

The Hon. Don Harwin: A work in progress.

The Hon. SARAH MITCHELL: We will keep working on that. He can be a work in progress. To the Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones, our Government Whip: Thank you for keeping us all in line and thank you to all our Liberal colleagues for what, on the whole, has been a pretty great year. To members of the Opposition—the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Adam Searle; Deputy Leader, the Hon. Penny Sharpe; and the rest of your team and your staff—I would like to say that, although it is obviously the nature of the Opposition to oppose,

working with you all this year has been very collaborative. You have been very considerate. You and your team certainly have thrown a few interesting questions our way—not just to me but to others on the Government side of the Chamber as well. But, again, I think the collegiate atmosphere of the upper House is reflected in the working relationships we have. Ultimately, that is a good outcome for the people of New South Wales whom we all represent.

I also acknowledge all the crossbench parties and members in this House—the Christian Democratic Party, One Nation, The Greens, the Animal Justice Party, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers, and Mr Justin Field. It has been great to work with all of you. I particularly mention both the Hon. Mark Latham and Mr David Shoebridge—two names that do not usually appear in the same sentence. In all seriousness, both of you have a particular interest in education—often coming from, I would say, diametrically opposing viewpoints. You come to me to raise issues that matter to you on behalf of the communities and the people you represent. Sometimes we agree and sometimes we disagree, but I really respect the manner in which you both have worked with me and my office throughout this year. To the new members—the new class of 2019, who have come in across all parties—I hope you have enjoyed your first year. Strap in—only seven more to go. I look forward to having you back in 2020.

I acknowledge my Nationals friends and colleagues in the other place, our leader, John Barilaro, and our deputy leader, Paul Toole, who do a lot to support us. I particularly acknowledge The Nationals in the Legislative Council. The first is our deputy leader and fellow Minister, Bronnie Taylor. You have had an outstanding year. Congratulations on the way you have handled your portfolio. The passion that you have for the area you are working in shines through when you are on your feet in this place and in the work you do outside the Chamber. Thank you to you and your staff, particularly your chief of staff, Dan Newlan. Well done on a cracking year and thank you, on a personal level, for our friendship and the support that you give me; it is really important and I value it incredibly.

To Trevor Khan, Deputy President and Chair of Committees: As always, you have carried out the role with dignity and respect. Now we have just got to work on bringing those sentiments to the rest of the work you do when you are in here—that would be a good start. This year you became our longest-serving Nat—our source of wisdom, which is probably a little terrifying in some ways. But you are most definitely a source of friendship for us all, so thank you for everything you have done.

Ben Franklin, I am going to put it on the record: I am happy that "Ben for Ballina" did not work out because it means we have kept you in this place. The work you have done and the responsibilities you have taken on as a parliamentary secretary have been outstanding and it is wonderful to have you here. Wes Fang—Wes the former Whip—has worked really hard this year, both in this place and on committees. In taking on the committee role, he has assumed a massive workload on behalf of our team and he has always done it with a real willingness to be a part of what we do. I would say that his strike rate on points of order is getting slightly better—again, another area of progress that we can work on next year.

Sam Farraway is our newest Nat and our new Whip. It is fabulous to have you as part of the team. You have really stepped up in just a few short weeks. We know that you have a big future and it is great to have you on the benches with us. I also acknowledge our former colleague Niall Blair, who started the year as a member of our team but who has now moved on to other things. As Nats, we certainly miss him as a friend and colleague, and I am sure that all in the Chamber miss his wit and decency. I know that Niall is enjoying embarking on his next chapter as Professor Blair, but I place on record our thanks to him for everything he did during his time in this place.

Speaking of former colleagues, in the great tradition of my predecessor Duncan Gay, and like the Leader of the Government, I have a few statistics for the year to do with questions. My staff told me before I came into the Chamber today that this year I have had 239 questions without notice, 266 questions on notice asked across the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, 18 supplementary questions for written answers and, during budget estimates, 632 supplementary questions and 258 questions on notice. Given those numbers, now is a good time to thank my staff. I will not name them all, but I acknowledge my chief of staff, Meghan Senior; my private secretary, Sally-Anne Giliam; and all of the crew, in particular Shannon Hall and Cameron Dunger. They are the two who come down every day to question time, lugging those giant folders back and forth—I know everyone has seen them—and who are essential to me for the work they do, but particularly during question time every day. I thank them and also the department liaison officers who have been in our office throughout this year.

It has now been eight months now that I have had the privilege to be the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning and, while the role certainly has its challenges, I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every single day. I acknowledge the staff of the Department of Education for the work they do, particularly those in School Infrastructure, but also the secretary, Mark Scott, and his team. They have a big job to do. Of all the government departments, it is probably the most important because I do not think there is anything more

worthwhile we can do than educate our children and the next generation. I also pay tribute to the tens of thousands of teachers and staff of the NSW Department of Education, who do a fantastic job around the State in all our schools each and every day.

I conclude by thanking and acknowledging all our families. As members know, for those of us who live outside Sydney, it can be pretty tough to spend time away from our partners and our children. Even for those members who live in the city, the long nights can certainly take their toll—when you are not home for dinner or to help put your kids to bed or to see them off to school in the morning. We sign up for this gig in a way that our loved ones do not, yet they are often the ones who bear the brunt of the realities of this job just as much as we do. So thank you to all the families and the loved ones of all members in this place who support us.

On a personal note, I thank my own family, whom many of you know. I could not do this job without my husband, Ant—whom many of you know—and the support he gives me, so I will take this public opportunity, which I rarely get, to say thank you very much and I love you very much. I hope that gets me some brownie points from now until the end of the year. He is amazing, as I know many other members' spouses are, and it is important to acknowledge them. I also mention my two girls. First, Annabelle: We are so proud of you. She started kindergarten this year and has taken it all in her stride. She is a kind and clever young lady, and I am loving the opportunity to be her mum. I apologise for not always being there for school pick-up but I guarantee that I will not miss your end-of-year presentation day. Matilda is our youngest daughter. I realised today that I was not in the Chamber for felicitations two years ago because that was the day she was born. It is lovely to watch her grow and become the little character that she certainly is. I cannot wait to celebrate her birthday with her on Saturday. I can say definitely, Tilda, as per your only birthday request, I promise you there will be cake.

I will conclude by saying that I am really looking forward to being able to spend a bit more time with my family over the break, as I am sure all members are. I hope all of you take the chance to do that because it is important. I also acknowledge that, particularly for those living in regional areas, it has been a pretty tough year—not just because of the heartbreak of the drought that continues to bite but also because of the fires that are currently raging. I think we need to look out for each other. It is important we do that always, but particularly at this time of year—which can be quite emotionally challenging at the best of times and not least at the moment when things are a bit tough in the bush. I wish everybody a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. I look forward to seeing you all again back at it in 2020.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE (16:15:26): On behalf of The Greens, I wish everybody a safe and happy holiday season. I start with those people whom we work with in this building. First there are the cleaners. I admire how they manage to keep the acres of glass and brass clear for us all. When you come in here early in the morning you see them getting here at dawn, keeping this place clean and making it functional for all of us. I appreciate their work and, on behalf of The Greens, I thank them.

I also thank Hansard and particularly reflect upon the observations of the Leader of the Opposition in this place in that regard. We respect the work they do. We acknowledge that they need the resources to do that work and we also acknowledge the importance of having longstanding senior Hansard staff, who are essential to not only keeping that department making us look good but also allowing the public to see what goes on in these proceedings. That is a matter we are concerned about going forward. But we absolutely acknowledge and thank Hansard for all their work, and express our commiserations to them for having to listen to us for so long.

I also thank all the Department of Parliamentary Services [DPS] staff and the Facilities staff. I especially thank the crew, who at very short notice, came up and put everything aside and assembled the standing desks in my office. We spent three days without desks in my office, working on the floor, and when they saw that we were in a pickle they just dropped everything and helped, without flinching and without asking for any favours or assistance. Again, I am extremely grateful that the staff of this place have a sense of service and duty, which The Greens very much appreciate. We thank the IT staff as well and everybody in DPS.

I say to the Legislative Council staff: We are sorry for the long sittings and we are sorry for all the extra work that has come about this year, but we are so grateful to have you assist us in all that work. Whether it is the attendants, the committee staff or the procedure and table office, we are extremely grateful for the work you do. I thank the Clerk, David Blunt; the Deputy Clerk, Steven Reynolds; and all the team—and, of course, the professional calm and considered leadership of that team by Kate Cadell is something we always appreciate. I especially say to David: Your impartial, considered and extraordinarily wise advice is something that I deeply appreciate and, on any view of it, it has been essential for us in bedding down the reforms that this House has made. I also thank all the Legislative Assembly staff, especially when we put on functions, for their willingness to communicate with the people we work with to set up things at short notice. The Legislative Assembly staff have our gratitude and appreciation for that work.

As for the special constables, what we really wish for them is that they have a lovely, safe holiday season and a great big pay rise. We appreciate the work they do, and we do not believe they are properly valued for that work. They put themselves on the line to protect us and we should collectively do our bit to make sure they are paid properly for their work. They are always good natured and they always try to assist. My office, in particular, has many demonstrations out the front where we work with people. The professionalism shown by the special constables in treating people as valued members of the community and policing by consent is, I think, a lesson for anybody in the New South Wales police on how to deal with the public. I appreciate the work of the special constables.

I thank the catering staff, especially the crew down at Café Quorum. On those long, late sitting nights, members go down to not only get a cup of coffee, they go down to have an actual human interaction with somebody who is not a politician. We appreciate their good nature and also the quality of the food and service they provide. I think all MP staff members are undervalued because they have to put up with MPs. No MP can be effective and functioning unless they have loyal, competent, intelligent staff behind them. We are blessed across the Parliament with the staff we have assisting us. I especially thank my team: Kym, Lauren, Nicky and Xiaoran. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with each and every one of them. Mr President is unfailingly fair; sometimes I do not appreciate that but I cannot recall a ruling that he has given that I could genuinely critique in terms of its fairness and the manner in which he has delivered it over the past year.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe: I have got some.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Actually, on reflection there is probably a couple. We do appreciate it. His mixture of sternness and good nature is a hallmark of the way he presides over the Chamber. The Greens appreciate the work he does. We also appreciate the work that the Deputy President does, particularly on committees. Whilst his very narrow definition of what is in and not within the definition of the debate can sometimes be a little irritating, it is probably all for the best on reflection. We thank him again for the work that he does. I turn to the Opposition, in particular Adam Searle and Penny Sharpe. It has been a hard year for all of us who would have appreciated a different government after the election. As Leader of the Opposition said, notwithstanding the election loss, we have been able to cooperate together. To the crossbench, I pay particular regard to Robert Borsak from the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party—

The Hon. Robert Borsak: I am in trouble now.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Robert Borsak, who, for the record, I fundamentally disagree with on so many policy points. He is dead wrong on so many policy points. I personally view the reform agenda that we managed to bed down as an extremely important achievement. It has made private member's day become so much more effective and efficient; dealing regularly with 19 or 20 items of substance because of a series of procedural changes that we put in place. It was only because of a mixture of experience and trust and a joint project that we delivered that. I appreciate all of that work. I say to the rest the crossbench that it has been an interesting time.

I thank the collaborative approach on procedural points, on questions of openness and making this Parliament function. Being able to work collaboratively with the Animal Justice Party and the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party and to consistently have that sense of trust that we will back each other on questions of openness and transparency has been really critical. That sense of trust is essential in politics; I appreciate it. It is rare that you can trust somebody's word unambiguously in politics. It is extremely rare to know you can trust somebody and they are not going to flip on you, they are not going to change their position when it becomes a marginal political benefit; that is when you can rely upon people and get proper reform through. We have managed to do that.

I thank my colleagues, both Abigail Boyd and Cate Faehrmann. We have had a huge workload this year. All of us have felt the workload, but I am extremely grateful for the collaboration, advice and friendship of my two colleagues in the upper House. I look forward to many more years working with each of them. To my three most special constituents: my partner Patricia and my two daughters Jess and Han, I am extremely proud to be part of their family. I really do look forward to spending a significantly greater amount of time with them over the coming months. I hope all members have a safe and happy holiday season. I say one final thing in terms of the leadership team, the Ministers opposite. We have had two new Ministers in this House, Sarah Mitchell and Bronnie Taylor. I acknowledge the integrity and frankness with which they go about their duties. It is appreciated. It is a part of this Chamber that we can have a genuine acknowledgement of people's qualities regardless of political differences. I wish them well in the coming years.

The Hon. ROBERT BORSACK (16:25:26): This time of year is also a time when we have to be thankful for all the blessings that we have. It is an important time of year as the school year and the Spring sittings come to an end. I was not going to get up and say much, but I would like to thank Mr President for his friendship and his fairness. I only got one call to order all year which shows how biased he is.

The PRESIDENT: I will do better next year.

The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK: Without Walt Secord here to entertain us, we would have much to laugh about during the day. It has been a tough year for the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers, but it has been a good year for us. When I got up and said a few words last year, I said I appreciated the hard work that the Government had allowed me to do in that four-year period. Some of it, if not all of it, paid off in the election in March. The backing up of the Federal election straight after it did not do us any good. I am sure it did not do anyone else in this place any good either. Like David Shoebridge was saying with Adam Searle, I thought it was an excellent opportunity to rearrange of the business of the House when we came back in May. It got a little bit strenuous in the negotiations and I got done over two to one. Anyway, it worked out for the better.

As David rightly said, private members' day is a good day now. We get through a lot more business. We are seeing the Government being held to account a lot more than it ever was. We are seeing a lot of business being dealt with that needs to be dealt with—not just from a pure private members point of view. We are seeing the Parliament open up to more debate, more interest. Private members' statements are interesting and very important too. I have found the overall level of debate added to by my good friend Mark Latham. He just attacked me because David Shoebridge said he was my friend and Mark said, "Aren't I your friend?" I said, "See what you have done to me already?" Honestly, it is really good to see One Nation in here. I know there are plenty of other people here who would not think so. If you take their vote and the 46 per cent increase on our vote, there was a significant change in what people wanted to have in this place. That is a step forward for the future.

It has been a tough year for the Government. The next three years are not going to get any easier for the Government, especially if the Labor Party and the crossbench have their way, but we will end up in a situation with better governance in this State. We will watch what happens in the Lower House in the next year or so with bated breath. It will also be very interesting. On balance, the Government is doing a reasonably good job but the economy is slowing, Mr Harwin, so you had better get on with it. We want to see more money spent on infrastructure. We want to see money spent on water infrastructure and communications. You name it—we need everything done in this State. It is important.

Even more importantly, we need money spent outside of Sydney. We need to encourage people to move out of Sydney because there are good jobs there. The lifestyle is better, the education facilities are just as good and the health is even better, but we are not seeing that right now. It is difficult. We need to work as hard as we possibly can to see that everyone in this State has the same opportunity as the people living in Sydney. I am sorry to say I do not believe that is actually happening at the moment. That is not because of just this Government; it has been a long, slow steady downward decline in the relativities of living standards in Sydney as opposed to the rest of the State. Of course, that includes Newcastle and Wollongong.

I repeat what Mr David Shoebridge said earlier, it is good to be able to work with people you can trust on some issues—not always on policy—and to be able to come to an understanding. From time to time we get there. Certainly from the Labor Party, it is good to talk to the Hon. Adam Searle and the Hon. John Graham. If we do business, we do it, and if we cannot, we cannot, and that is it. At least we know once they have said something their word is their bond and they get on with it. That is something I have not always experienced in this place and I am coming up to 10 years here. It is really good to see.

I thank everyone very much. I thank the Clerks. The service and support we get in this Parliament is fantastic. Indeed, without it I would not be able to do the work I do. I have a fantastic staff team around me in Senada, Holli, Robert Despotoski, and Steve Larsson, my chief researcher in firearms-related matters. As well as all our team in the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, led by our director Filip Despotoski. We have a growing young team who are very keen and we are looking forward to a couple of by-elections in the next 12 months I hope—it will be a bit of fun. All have a fantastic family-oriented holiday break, come back refreshed and ready for another go in the New Year.

The Hon. EMMA HURST (16:31:05): On behalf of the Animal Justice Party, I extend seasonal felicitations to the President, honourable members of this House and the incredibly hardworking staff who keep this Parliament running day in, day out. In particular, I thank the Clerk of the Parliaments, David Blunt, the Procedures Office and the committee teams. As a new member of this place, their advice and support has been invaluable, particularly with the significant number of inquiries I have been fortunate enough to be involved in. I thank them for their tireless efforts. For the Animal Justice Party it has been an exciting year. We now have two members elected to the Legislative Council. I am honoured to be here as the second elected representative for non-human animals in this place.

It has also been a difficult year, particularly with the recent bushfires that have devastated people's lives, and killed and injured countless animals. They are all in our thoughts today and throughout the Christmas season. On behalf of the Hon. Mark Pearson and myself, I thank our hard-working parliamentary staff who support our

work and keep our offices running: Louise Callaway, Rosie Rayns, Tess Vickery, Bernie Brennan and Angela Pollard. Our office would not run without them. We would collapse without their hard work and efforts behind the scenes. We thank them for everything they do. I also thank our New South Wales State Office, run by our State Director Louise Ward, and all the Animal Justice Party volunteers and supporters who make our work possible. Finally, I wish all Government, Opposition and crossbench members a safe and happy festive season. All the best for the New Year. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

The Hon. MARK LATHAM (16:32:58): On behalf of One Nation we join with the other party leaders who have passed on best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. In particular, we want to thank the many people in this building who have helped us settle into our parliamentary role as two representatives and to fulfil our election objectives and policies. We thank the Clerks and their staff have been wonderful, the Procedure Office, the attendants, security and library staff. We thank all the parliamentary services: Hansard who do such a good job to try to decipher our words, only occasionally calling on the Rosetta Stone and other instruments to try to figure out what we really meant; the committee staff who are excellent and diligent in everything they do; and the cleaners who are not always overlapping with our workday but are a foundation stone of making sure the building functions.

I have a special spot for the catering staff and for head chef Vanessa who asks me from time to time how I am going. I knew Vanessa before I arrived here. I always say to her, "Looking at my career path, it is only a matter of time before I get kicked out. Can you help me with a job in the kitchen." She says because I have a cookbook I have got a start there—they will need a few food tasters around the Parliament if that should come to come to pass. I have learnt over the years that you do need a back-up carer in my case and a few others. I thank all the parliamentary staff who have been so good to us. We thank the members of Parliament in this Chamber, headed by Mr President, who have made us very welcome and helped to settle us into the role. We thank the party leaders and everyone we have negotiated with.

Hopefully along the way we have surprised a few people about the nature of One Nation NSW and dispelled a few myths. Probably on our track record everyone was betting there would be chaos, division, disaster but I can honestly say that the Hon. Rod Roberts and I are tight as a drum. I thank the Rod for his role as a new member of Parliament because he is very solid. He is widely respected around the Chamber and when he speaks here people listen. For all those who bet on division and chaos, you have done your money cold and the bookmakers are dining down at Rockpool tonight. We are happy to have dispelled those myths and we look forward to continuing with our logical, hopefully rational, constructive role as parliamentarians.

I have said previously this is a good debating Chamber because you have got to work hard in the Legislative Council to be successful with your propositions. You just cannot wonder in with the weight of numbers. You have to do your research and be diligent. You also have to rediscover the lost political art of persuasion, which counts from time to time. I have welcomed the opportunity to be here. Rod and I have been well served by our personal staff. I pay tribute to Nella, Marie, Gary and Asha for their work in helping us to settle in and helping us to fulfil all the things that we want to achieve for the people of New South Wales. Most importantly, to the people of this State we express our gratitude and best wishes for the future. It is a privilege to serve in this Parliament on behalf of those people.

Members of Parliament have very important roles to play. I was at the seminar earlier in the day conducted by the Speaker about professional development for the Parliament. Most of the complaints were about adversarial comments, nasty comments, division, too much noise and controversy in the Legislative Assembly. It would be terrible to be in a Chamber like that. In the Legislative Council the standards are higher and the debate is always constructive. The review functions are fulfilled effectively, particularly with the role of the very good committees, and I thank everyone for those opportunities.

Finally, I pay tribute and give thanks to my family, some of whom did not expect I would be in for a second parliamentary stint. I thank them very much for their patience in that regard. To my wife, Janine—now Magistrate Lacy, the very best appointment this Government has made, I can assure you—and my children: Oliver, Isaac and Siena, I look forward to spending the very good time we have ahead in this well-earned break. It is unusual in Australia to have a double election year—I think we go back to 2007 and 1984—so to some extent we are limping to the finishing line. The Christmas and New Year period will be good for recharging the batteries. I wish every single person who works in this Parliament, members and their families all the very best. Hug your loved ones, value them, always put family first. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (16:37:56): Like other members, I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I extend that wish on behalf of my staff members, Edwin and Kat. I normally take this opportunity, with the indulgence of the House, to read the Christmas story because I am not only a member of Parliament but also a Christian Minister. I will do a brief reading of "The Birth of Christ" in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 1, verse 18:

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

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

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

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

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

Isaiah—

saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

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

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

That is a summary of what we celebrate at Christmas—the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Like other members have done, I thank the President, the Hon. John Ajaka, for his assistance during the year. I also thank the Deputy President and the Hon. Scott Farlow. I also thank all those who have helped members with the various committee inquiries. On the Labor side, I thank the Hon. Adam Searle and the Hon. Walt Secord.

That reminds me of a phone call I took some years ago from Bob Carr when he was Premier. Mr Carr made a joke when I was first elected back in 1991 during a speech about me. He never expected a non-member to be elected after the 1981 reforms. In his speech about me after my election he said, "Anyhow, Fred Nile—he won't last." I am still here 38 years later and he has moved on. To balance the record, I recall one day my phone rang and it was Bob Carr calling on his car phone. He said, "Look, Fred, I am just on my way to the airport. I heard a journalist at 2GB making fun of you. I am just ringing you up to say, 'Don't let them get to you. Keep up the good work that you're doing.'" That was encouraging because members do make friendships in this place across party lines—between the Government and the Opposition and so on. I have endeavoured to do that over the years. I thank everyone for their cooperation and help during the year. May God bless each one of you. I hope you have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The PRESIDENT (16:41:31): I take the opportunity to thank all members. It is an incredible honour and a privilege to serve as the twenty-first President of this House. I thank you for your continued trust in my presiding over this Chamber and for your continued "silent" cooperation. I greatly appreciate the support of the Deputy President and Chair of Committees, the Hon. Trevor Khan. For members who may not know, Trevor and I came into Parliament together. We were elected in 2007—part of the class of 2007—and we have served together on numerous committees. I am honoured to have him serve as Deputy President and Chair of Committees and I am grateful for the great work that he does. The Hon. Trevor Khan is also the Acting President when I am outside the jurisdiction. I thank him and his staff for all their great work.

I thank the Assistant President, the Hon. Shaoquett Moselmane, and all the Temporary Chairs: the Hon. Shayne Mallard, the Hon. Taylor Martin, the Hon. Courtney Houssos and former Temporary Chair, the Hon. Niall Blair. I thank the leaders of this Chamber: the Leader of the Government, the Deputy Leader of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I thank all Government and Opposition members. I thank the crossbench: the Animal Justice Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, The Greens, One Nation Party and the Independent. I listed them in alphabetical order so I did not get into trouble.

I thank the Government Whip, the Deputy Government Whip, the Opposition Whip and the Deputy Opposition Whip. As presiding officers and members, we are all too aware that the success of the Parliament is only possible because of the contributions of all staff. I thank all my staff, capably led by my chief of staff, Tom Anderson: Lisa Andersen, Tina Daniels, Barry Heyder, Haris Strangas and Amer Nasr. I thank the Clerk of the Parliaments, David Blunt, who marks eight years in the role this year and serves the Parliament with great distinction each and every day; the Deputy Clerk, Steven Reynolds; the Clerk assistants, Beverly Duffy and Stephen Frappel; the marvellous Senior Council Officer Kate Cadell, as I refer to her; and the Usher of the Black Rod, Susan Want.

I thank our Chamber support team led by Jodhi, comprising Mark, Richard, John and Diane. They always seem to know what is required and when it is required, without ever being asked. I thank the entire staff of the Department of the Legislative Council. There are almost 45 of them, so forgive me for not naming each and every one. I thank the Chief Executive of the Department of Parliamentary Services, Mark Webb, and his team of directors: Julie Langsworth, John Gregor, Robert Nielsen, Mike Price, Lee Kwiez, and, of course, our wonderful chef, Vanessa, and her wonderful team—especially for bringing back the carvery and so much more.

Much has been said about the amazing work of Hansard. I thank the Hansard Editor of Debates, Scott Fuller, and the Deputy Editor, Karen Turner, and all the Hansard team of reporters for their outstanding service, including their timely turnaround of members' speeches and the transcription of all of our committee hearings, notwithstanding the increased workload associated with additional budget estimates and committee hearings. I note that the trial changes to the production of Hansard transcripts for the Legislative Assembly—they did not apply to the Legislative Council—have now been dispensed with and it is business as usual. We look forward to your continued professional service.

I also thank the Special Constables and the staff of building services, information technology, the library, finance, human resources, catering, education and the cleaners. That list demonstrates the enormous amount of work they do to ensure everything runs smoothly in this place. I thank the entire staff of the Department of Parliamentary Services. There are almost 200 of them, so forgive me for not naming each and every one. I assure members that one does not truly appreciate the work they do until one reads those enormous folders before budget estimates, showing what each and every staff member undertakes during the year. Again, I thank them.

I take this opportunity to thank my family, especially my beautiful wife Mary. I thank my daughters—Natacha, Chanel, Holly, Maddy, Isabella and Gabrielle. Sometimes I joke that it is easier to simply number them one to six, rather than try to remember their names. *Star Trek* fans will understand when I say one of six, two of six, three of six and so on. I thank my beautiful son-in-law, Salvatore Urbano, my grandson, John Urbano, and my beautiful new granddaughter, Violet Urbano, who is named after my dear late mother, Violet Ajaka. This will be the second Christmas that mum will not be with us.

It has been a huge year for me personally. As many members would know, I am currently managing some medical issues. I could not have coped were it not for the love, caring and strength of my beautiful wife and daughters. I thank each and every one of you for your many kind wishes and support and for the care shown to me over the last few weeks. This year has also been an immensely rewarding one for me personally—being re-elected as President of this Chamber and elected Vice Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, a role that I will continue in until the sixty-fifth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to be held in Canada in January 2021.

It is important to note that whilst Christmas is a time of joy and gratitude it is also a time to reflect upon members of our society in less fortunate circumstances. New South Wales has been in severe drought for some time, with no good rain forecast. Our regional citizens are strong and resilient but the extended drought has tested their resolve, as it would test anybody's resolve. To make matters worse, the recent bushfires in much of our State have compounded the hurt. Many of those fires remain an ongoing threat. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members when I say that our thoughts go out to the emergency service personnel and volunteers as well as to the victims of those tragic fires and their families. We must hold our farmers and regional communities in our thoughts over Christmas and we wish them a brighter year ahead.

I urge members and families to show some favouritism toward our regional communities by doing their Christmas shopping through the Buy Regional online shopping hub. I wish each and every member a merry Christmas. I wish you, your families and your staff a safe Christmas and happy new year. Again, thank you for all of your support.

The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Bills

DIGITAL RESTART FUND BILL 2019

Received

Bill received from the Legislative Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: According to the resolution of the House of 12 November 2019, as the message on the bill has been received from the Legislative Assembly, the bill now stands referred to Portfolio Committee No. 6 - Transport and Customer Service for inquiry and report.

*Documents***COOLER CLASSROOMS PROGRAM****Return to Order**

The CLERK: According to the resolution of the House of 14 November 2019, I table documents relating to an order for papers regarding the Cooler Classrooms Program, received this day from the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, together with an indexed list of the documents.

*Adjournment Debate***ADJOURNMENT**

The Hon. DON HARWIN: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

PETTING ZOOS

The Hon. EMMA HURST (16:50:20): To the untrained eye, petting zoos might seem harmless. But the reality for these young, vulnerable animals who are taken from their mothers and transported great distances to be held in small enclosures with up to 30 children inside at any one time is quite different. Petting zoos use baby animals as a commodity. The animals are often chicks and ducklings, only one or two days old, or young goats, calves, lambs, guinea pigs and rabbits. These young, distressed animals are not used to being handled—and nor should they be—yet they are handed over to children who, through no fault of their own, do not understand how to handle these animals in an appropriate manner. After a few weeks when they are no longer considered cute, fluffy and cuddly they are replaced with more baby animals and likely sent off to face the brutal reality of Australia's animal agribusiness industry. That is, if they manage to survive.

Just four years ago a New South Wales petting zoo owner was sentenced to 150 hours of community service and given a \$2,700 fine after it was found that many of the animals in his care were sick, crippled, emaciated, covered in lice and living in darkness. In 2017 the owner of Hunter Valley Minifarm was found guilty of animal cruelty after he failed to provide sufficient food and veterinary treatment to a severely emaciated, anaemic and parasite-ridden male dromedary camel in his care. He was also found to have not provided sufficient water and veterinary treatment to Honey the cow, who was found emaciated, with a bloated abdomen and unable to stand following birthing paralysis.

In 2018 children were left traumatised after a severely malnourished six-month-old baby goat at Kindifarm petting zoo in Melbourne died in front of them. It was suffering from a severe, untreated parasitic infection. The same petting zoo had also faced charges a year prior after the RSPCA found a number of animals in the zoo's care were suffering from severe malnutrition, dehydration and infection. Similarly, last year the same company was brought before the courts in New South Wales to face 10 animal cruelty charges following an RSPCA investigation which found that many of the baby animals were severely dehydrated and malnourished and had developed diarrhoea and infections.

However, it is not just animals who are at risk at petting zoos. These mobile animal establishments also pose a risk to the young children taken to visit them. Q fever is a serious infection which easily spreads from animals to humans. It causes fevers, chills, sweats, severe headaches, muscle and joint pain, and severe fatigue. In extreme cases it can lead to hepatitis or pneumonia. Hundreds of cases of Q fever are reported in New South Wales each year. Young children are some of the most vulnerable to this illness and experience the worst symptoms. In 2015 a toddler in New South Wales developed Q fever, likely contracted from interacting with a baby goat at a travelling petting zoo. Given the child's young age, the symptoms were incredibly severe and required the child to undergo 12 surgeries and face a lifetime of recurrent Q fever symptoms.

While incredibly dangerous, Q fever is not the only disease that can be transferred to children visiting petting zoos. Young children also risk contracting E. coli, salmonella poisoning and ringworm, all diseases that can cause serious complications to their health and wellbeing. The risks faced by children visiting petting zoos are not even limited to disease—bites, scratches and kicks from stressed and frightened baby animals, which are trapped in an enclosed space, can also lead to significant injury.

Petting zoos are not a source of education. They do not provide a meaningful or natural interaction. Rather, they have the unintended consequence of teaching children that it is okay to keep animals confined for our own entertainment. They discourage empathy towards the animals who are frightened in such an intense environment. With myriad community events being held this summer, I urge the House to think twice before allowing petting zoos to be included during the holiday celebrations. Traumatizing animals is not and should not

be considered a source of enjoyment. We should be teaching our children and our communities to respect and value animals as the living sentient beings that they are.

CHILDCARE SERVICES

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK (16:54:53): My childcare policy background dates back to 1988 when the Greiner Government was elected. Bob Hawke was Prime Minister and members may remember that "no child would live in poverty". Federal money was pouring into programs for children. Labor had been in office for some years at both State and Federal levels when Virginia Chadwick arrived in New South Wales as the new Liberal Minister for Family and Community Services, and we found an utter mess. Funds had been allocated but not one child care centre had progressed and now Treasury wanted the money back.

Fast forward to today. Child care continues to be an ethical issue. At that time supporting women to return to work was often portrayed as denigrating stay-at-home mothers. This made the debate really emotional and was a gigantic red prawn that has been very unhelpful both to our tax system and the economy. Another push which related more to the Liberal Party was income splitting. That debate was enormous and distracted great energy from the journey towards a feasible solution. Child care has been framed as a women's rights issue, a moral issue, a child protection issue, an education issue and even a criminal issue thanks to the rorting that is taking place even as I speak. But I want to step away from those debates and focus rationally on work-related child care as an economic issue.

At the Melbourne Institute's economics summit I experienced a convergence of thinking by the best brains in the country about the next big micro-economic reforms to grow our economy. They all said we have to focus on the low hanging fruit, the politically realistic reforms that also yield significant benefit to the economy—in other words, the reforms that will make Australia thrive and put money into everyone's pockets. For many years the lowest of the low hanging fruit has been female participation in the workforce. It sticks out because Australian female participation is amongst the lowest in the OECD. It is particularly low for full-time employment.

Economists say that if we could just bring female participation into line with countries similar to Australia and allow these trained, educated and experienced women who want to work back into the workforce, it would be the single best boost to our economy of all the available opportunities at the moment. This is the approach I take on the issue. I am not asking for more money or handouts, just an effective policy that more than pays for itself. The benefits include reducing the gender pay gap and addressing serious problems like lack of retirement savings. Just 10 years out of the workforce can impact a woman's superannuation by \$450,000 by the time she retires.

We have vast stress on families. Grandparents are undertaking a huge amount of child care. Although it is intended as a contribution to their children and grandchildren, I argue these older Australians are subsidising the economy with this unpaid work. Child care is the biggest obstacle to female participation. Surveys show 40 per cent of Australian women say they would like to work more but caring for children and its cost are the main reason they cannot. They sit down and do their maths as I did in 1997 and discover they can make it work for the first three days, but not for days four and five. The culprit is our progressive tax system and complex web of rates and subsidies which are delivering perverse outcomes.

The Grattan Institute reports a woman in low income household loses 85c to 95c of every dollar she earns on days four and five. For middle income women on days four and five they can lose even more. In my own case in 1999 I would break even on day four—in other words, on Thursday I effectively received no income for that day of work—and on Friday I would actually lose money. The advice at the time was to think of my financial losses as a financial investment in my further career. The bottom line was that my family borrowed money in order for me to work on day five, because we had a big mortgage and I wanted to keep my job.

I am stunned that 20 years later very little has changed. Yet, massive public investment is being made in child care. It has been perversely consumed by services for women who do not work. Its policy goals have been diverted into child protection, social equity, education outcomes and valuing stay-at-home mums, which is all fine, but this money should not be announced to improve female workplace participation and then diverted into child care for women who are not working. Tax-deductible child care always has been and always will be the eloquent solution. Yes, it gives more money to higher income women but there is a reason for that: They pay more tax. Surely, it is better for them to pay a bit less than the alternative, which is to be taxed out of the workforce altogether. Taxpayers as well as families lose money when that happens. If a group of businessmen flying business class to the United Kingdom were to be told, "Sorry, you cannot deduct that airfare", there would be a riot. Yet, that is exactly what we have done for child care.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE

YEAR IN REVIEW

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON (17:00:07): As the House will not get to all of the private members' business today, I start by reflecting on the motion that I would have moved relating to 10 days of paid domestic violence leave. In the spirit of Christmas and goodwill to all, I acknowledge how fantastic it is that the New South Wales Government has acted to ensure that workers in the New South Wales public service have access to 10 days of paid domestic violence leave. That is a great initiative. The problem is that it should be available to all working people. Yesterday I attended the "See what you made me do" speech by the author and investigative journalist Jess Hill, which the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians put on. Hearing her talk about the pernicious role of coercive control in violent intimate relationships drew attention to why such initiatives are so important.

It is incredibly difficult for women to leave those relationships. It is incredibly difficult to escape violent and controlling partners. It takes hours and hours, days and days, weeks and weeks—and thousands of dollars. Doing that without worrying about losing your job or getting your shifts cut, having access to paid leave for court appointments, to visit new property and to take care of kids is important. I call on the Federal Government to introduce the leave as a national employment standard so that all working men and women can have access to paid leave to escape violent relationships. It can be the difference between leaving and not leaving.

I encourage the New South Wales Government to advocate to its Federal counterparts to ensure that all working people have access to this leave. But if the Federal Government continues to drag its feet and not move on ensuring that this is an employment standard available to everyone, let us work together on the great work that the New South Wales Government has already done for public servants and ensure that all working people at least in the State can have the confidence that they can leave violent relationships and not put their employment status at risk because they are taking too much of other forms of their leave.

I also make some brief reflections on the year gone by. Somehow I had the unfortunate draw on the short straw of speaking in the adjournment debate on the last sitting day of Parliament this year. I do not know quite how that happened, Mr Opposition Whip.

The Hon. Catherine Cusack: That's a privilege!

The Hon. ROSE JACKSON: That's right: silver lining. It's a privilege. The year 2019 has been a bit of a mess for Labor. Obviously, the result of the State and Federal election was not what it wanted. NSW Labor has had its fair share of drama in the latter part of the year. My reflection in this final debate on the final day of Parliament this year is that it is time to abandon 2019—let us put 2019 in the bin. It has been a bit of a year of lost political opportunity for Labor, of disappointments for me and my family, but more broadly of disappointment and another lost year of climate inaction.

The devastating bushfires have been an incredibly difficult part of 2019. The devastating drought dominated so much of the year. Despite expert report after expert report—now backed by the Deputy State Coroner—there has been a disappointing lack of action in drug law policy in the State. We can do much better. There has been increasing unemployment and weak retail spending. Wage growth is still stagnant. Wage theft is still rampant and economy-wide. Let us just draw a line under 2019, personally and politically. It is in the bin—and I am setting the bin on fire.

It is time to look forward to 2020. Let us be hopeful about the opportunities for next year. We can take action on climate change. It does not have to be haphazard and crisis-driven; it can be smart, skilled and planned. We can have a vision for the State for a clean economy, new jobs, and clean water and air. We can take action on the recommendations of the Deputy State Coroner, on which there has been no action. The Premier's own committee into the drug ice will recommend a range of similar things. I put that on the record; members can hold me to it. We can act on those recommendations to save lives and help protect young people by changing the way we look at drug law reform policy in the State. I am a new MP. I am not sure if the end-of-the-year back-patting is standard practice but I say that pride comes before the fall; overconfidence precedes carelessness. With humility and goodwill to everyone, I abandon 2019—it is in the bin—and I look forward hopefully to a better 2020.

TEACHING METHODS

The Hon. MARK LATHAM (17:05:05): I say to the Hon. Rose Jackson that there is no need to be depressed about 2019 from Labor Party's perspective: Geoff Corrigan's horse won the Melbourne Cup. How good is that! If that can happen, surely one day Labor can even get back into government—miracles are possible. I present to the House a tale of two schools, both government schools and both north of Sydney Harbour. Their experiences tell a big story and an instructive account of what has gone right—and what has gone wrong—in the New South Wales school education system. With the upper House Portfolio Committee No. 3 - Education, I was

privileged recently to visit the Balgowlah Boys Campus of the Northern Beaches Secondary College, which, through the adoption of evidence-based, proven teaching methods, has achieved a sharp rise in its NAPLAN results.

The committee sat in on a senior English class and watched a truly remarkable and effective teacher engage and inspire his students in the writing of essays analysing a well-known Australian poem. He was practising direct instruction—a teacher who was teaching—explaining to his students what needed to be done and drawing out of them a rich interchange of ideas, concepts, knowledge and inspiration. He stood at the front of the class and had complete command of the students in front of him. Every eye was set on him, his instruction and his whiteboard. It was fast-moving, powerful and incredibly impressive teaching. It was a classroom alive with the imparting and absorption of new knowledge. Balgowlah Boys is an evidence-based high school that is determined to implement teaching methods that have been studied extensively and are proven to work.

That is why it engages in direct instruction and rejects constructivist approaches to teaching, where all knowledge and history are said to be socially constructed. It also rejects so-called inquiry-based learning, where teachers no longer explicitly teach, but act as so-called facilitators, guiding groups of students who are expected to be self-starters, who find their own information. Balgowlah Boys has achieved an outstanding result in HSC English Advanced, a standout achievement in the entire New South Wales education system. It has ranked fourth in HSC English Advanced, behind James Ruse Agricultural High School, Kincoppal-Rose Bay School and Redham House School. It is a remarkable achievement for a regulation New South Wales government high school. It is ahead of all the New South Wales selective schools, barring James Ruse, and many non-government schools where parents are paying tens of thousands of dollars a year in tuition fees. As John Hattie and other serious researchers have found, direct instruction works. It has a high positive impact on student results. Schools moving away from it is one of the great tragedies of not just education but also our entire society.

I now move to my second tale. Mention has been made of the system of collaborative classrooms, which usually involve open space buildings, learning pods, co-teaching and inquiry-based learning. There is an example of it on the website of the Department of Education, when in early 2017 the Premier and the then education Minister, Mr Rob Stokes, opened an expensive new building. That has been a colossal waste of money and yet another failed educational experiment, coinciding with the collapse of the school's NAPLAN results. The open plan classroom is photographed on the department website, with students lying on the floor and sitting in small groups in their learning pods. There is barely a teacher inside, no-one actually teaching and directly instructing the students. Teachers walking around with cups of coffee, acting as so-called facilitators or lying on the floor is a losing educational strategy. All the data, research and studies show this, so why has the New South Wales Premier and Government gone down that path? It is a tragedy for the students and an unnecessary waste of young human potential.

We know what works in our schools: It is in the classrooms at Balgowlah, not in open plan, so-called collaborative experimental nonsense. We want school students to learn, most certainly, but the bigger question is when will the New South Wales Government learn across the system? When will it insist on all New South Wales schools adopting learning programs and teaching methods that assist students instead of sending them backwards? Only once this question is answered in a proper and comprehensive fashion, can we turn around the disappointing NAPLAN results in New South Wales.

Only when this question is answered can we guarantee that every classroom is a quality learning environment in this State, guaranteeing that every school is a successful school in New South Wales. The challenge is there for 2020. I have got great confidence in the education Minister, the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, who is doing a tremendous job. I am confident that she will follow the evidence, we will upscale the success, we will do things based on the data and we will get moving with the educational success in New South Wales that our young people truly need and deserve.

ARTSTATE

The Hon. BEN FRANKLIN (17:10:12): Artstate, the annual regional arts conference and festival, was held this year in Tamworth from 31 October to 3 November. Artstate was created after the extraordinary success of the national regional arts conference Artlands in Dubbo in 2016. Regional Arts NSW, led by the magnificent and indefatigable Elizabeth Rogers, wanted to continue the momentum created by Artlands and developed a four-year plan of annual events in regional New South Wales to be called Artstate. This concept, which I was proud to advocate for from day one, was strongly supported by the previous arts Minister, Troy Grant, and then funded by the current Minister, Don Harwin, who continues to show—through this project, his passionate advocacy of the Regional Cultural Fund and his encouragement of so many individual artists and organisations around the State—just how committed he is to supporting the artistic and cultural life of our regions. It was wonderful to have him in Tamworth to officially open the event.

This year's Artstate was the third in the successful series, with the 2017 inaugural event being held in Lismore and the 2018 conference in Bathurst. This year's two-day conference explored two themes arising from last year's event which were On Country - In Country: Respect for Country that deepens knowledge of arts, culture and regional practice; and Arts in the Age of Uncertainty, looking at how the arts address the big issues of our day. There were keynote addresses, engaging panels and afternoon breakout sessions which drilled further into specialist areas. An arts festival was held concurrently with the conference, which included exploration and activation of public spaces, community engagement, film, visual arts, theatre and music across multiple genres.

This year's Artstate was an extraordinary success, highlighting the depth of artistic talent and creative thinking in our regional communities. The program included keynote speakers from across Australia and overseas, including Emma Hogg of Wildworks in the United Kingdom, who specialises in landscape-based theatre; Canadian artist and storyteller of Haida ancestry Patrick Shannon, who tackles important First Nations topics; and CEO of the Australia Council Adrian Collette, AM. The exciting arts program was open to the public and included an amazing open-air concert, Girrabul Murris, featuring country music legend Roger Knox—also known as the Koori King of Country or Black Elvis—alongside local musicians; an eclectic mix of contemporary musicians; and Pulitzer Prize winning play *I am my Own Wife*, performed by Tamworth actor Daniel Gillett.

A particular highlight for me was officially launching the Exploded textiles and Art Word Place exhibitions at Tamworth Regional Gallery. Tamworth Regional Gallery has a long history and association with textile art going back to the 1970s. Exploded textiles was held in collaboration with the Art Gallery of NSW and showcased extraordinary Australian textile pieces from both collections. Art Word Place, curated by Caroline Downer, was a brilliant concept where 18 writers across the New England were commissioned to create a short poem or piece of prose based on their home landscape. Some 18 selected artists then drew on these compositions as the basis and inspiration for a new work capturing the identity and sense of place in the New England. The two works were then presented side by side.

It was a profoundly moving exhibition and many of the works were inspired by the devastating drought tearing at the heart of so many communities in that part of the State. The other highlight was the finale concert performed by the NSW Regional Youth Orchestra. This orchestra showcases the musical talent of regional youth from 17 regional conservatoriums based in country towns across the State and it was magnificent. I particularly loved their renditions of Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4* and Sibelius' *Finlandia*. Congratulations to Anita Belman, President of the Association of NSW Regional Conservatoriums, and the whole team for the development of this brilliant initiative. Regional Arts NSW presents Artstate each year in partnership with the local Regional Arts Development Organisation, which this year was Arts North West under the leadership of chair Anna Watt and executive director Caroline Downer.

This year core funding support came from Create NSW, Destination NSW and the Australia Council for the Arts. Artstate's local government partner always provides a combination of financial and in-kind support and this year was no exception thanks to Tamworth Regional Council Mayor Councillor Col Murray and the other councillors and staff. Other supporting partners for 2019 were the University of New England, ABC New England North West and the NSW Regional Conservatoriums Association. I sincerely thank a range of individuals critical to this event: Julie Briggs, the chair of Regional Arts NSW; Professor Michael Whilmore from the University of New England; the inspirational Peter Ross; arts program director Greg Pritchard; Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council chair Aunty Yvonne Kent; CEO Fiona Snapp and—the driving force of the whole event—Elizabeth Rogers. I had the privilege during the Saturday evening dinner to announce that next year's Artstate will be held in Wagga Wagga. I cannot wait to see what the 2020 version has in store.

CITY OF SYDNEY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

The Hon. MARK BUTTIGIEG (17:15:08): The City of Sydney Council is privatising its waste collection services. It is disgraceful that the long-term and loyal workers who have been employed for decades by the council to provide services for the community are seeing their work being overtaken by outsourcing. Council management and the City of Sydney Council failed to have an open tender process for this privatisation. The council did not adequately notify or consult employees and the United Services Union about outsourcing jobs to Cleanaway. Despite not following adequate procurement procedures, Lord Mayor Clover Moore and the City of Sydney Council voted nine to one to privatise the jobs of long-term council workers on 18 November.

Labor councillor Linda Scott voted against the measure, having fought alongside the United Services Union for these workers to rightfully keep their jobs. My colleague the shadow local government Minister, the Hon. Greg Warren, is also appalled by the treatment of these workers. Many of these long-term employees have worked for the council for decades. Lord Mayor Clover Moore and her independent councillors claim to be a progressive voice for the City of Sydney. But it is clear by their actions they are not interested in ensuring that loyal, dedicated and well-trained workers keep their careers. They would rather outsource and privatise. They are additionally outsourcing to a company where questions have been raised about underperformance with its service

standards in its current contracts with the council. Outsourcing to private companies undercuts the wages and conditions of all council employees. Council management refused to meet the workers and the reasonable and legitimate questions of impacted staff were ignored after failing to conduct an open tender process.

Workers have been exceedingly distressed with their lack of job security. On Monday night when councillors expressed an interest in talking to workers prior to voting, the council's CEO refused to allow a consultation, claiming it contradicted the workers' contract and that a vote needed to occur on the contracting out of the workers' jobs first. The United Services Union disagreed with this and Industrial Relations Chief Commissioner Kite also disagreed with the CEO, noting there was nothing to prevent the council from consulting with workers. The majority of councillors voted to outsource these workers' jobs without any consultation. It is clear that the council has not followed good governance and procurement practices.

An open tender process did not transpire. Rather, during a tender process for another project, tenderers were told about outsourcing these workers' jobs. This method can be seen as pre-empting a council decision. It also raises serious questions about whether there was a breach of section 55 of the Local Government Act regarding tendering processes. The measures that council used to justify privatising these jobs have been dubious. Council's costing—which they refused to make public—was not undertaken using the standard methodology and therefore the integrity of the costings can be challenged.

It is not clear that this offers the best value for money either. In evaluating costings of services, the council did not use the industry standard of the current workers demonstrating their routes and their collection processes. Council instead used the private contractor Cleanaway's unusual methodology. Without industry standard costing, it is impossible to conduct proper cost comparisons and future audits. Lord Mayor Clover Moore and her independents are justifying their outsourcing of these jobs by saying council workers will not lose their employment with the council and they will work in other areas.

What the Lord Mayor fails to understand is these workers had careers. They had worked their way up to operating the trucks and delivering waste management services to the community. They do not want to be forced into cleaning jobs. These workers are rightfully proud of their careers that they worked extremely hard to build in their area of expertise and the Lord Mayor voted to take those away. Council management failed to follow proper procurement processes with the absence of a proper tender, an absence of worker consultation, the dubious costings and using untrained strikebreakers. None of this passes the pub test and we will be pursuing this matter.

TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR COLIN TATZ, AO

The Hon. WALT SECORD (17:19:57): As Deputy Chair of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Israel and Deputy Chair of the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Armenia, I pay tribute to the late Professor Colin Tatz, AO, who passed away on 19 November 2019 at the age of 84. Professor Tatz was a pioneer in genocide and Aboriginal studies. His funeral will be held on Sunday at 11.00 a.m. I first encountered Professor Tatz in 1988 when I was a young journalist at *The Australian Jewish News*. Members are well aware of my interest in genocide studies and genocide prevention. My late father was a Mohawk-Ojibway First Nation person and my childhood mentor was a Holocaust survivor who lived through the horrors of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Since 2012 I have visited Yad Vashem and made pilgrimages to sites around the world commemorating the Shoah, the Armenian genocide and the Iraqi-Kurdish genocide. In addition I have attended commemorations of the Appin and Myall Creek Aboriginal massacres. Born in Johannesburg, Professor Tatz hated the apartheid system in South Africa and was an unwavering supporter of the recognition of the Armenian genocide, taking principled stands on many occasions.

Professor Tatz fought racism and repeatedly warned of the consequences of the failure to confront and combat racism. He was also the founding director of the Centre for Comparative Genocide Studies and served as a professor at the University of New England in Armidale as well as at Macquarie University. Professor Tatz was warm, giving and a kind educator. In short, he was a humanitarian. He leaves behind more than 25 books on a diverse range of subjects, including apartheid, the Shoah, Aboriginal history, migration and sport history. Professor Tatz will be missed by the Armenian, Jewish, Kurdish and Assyrian communities, First Nation peoples and other communities that were devastated by genocide. He will also be missed by the academia and sport communities, his family and wife, Sandra. I note that the Armenian National Committee of Australia, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry have all formally paid tribute to the passing of Professor Tatz. NSW Jewish Board of Deputies CEO Vic Alhadeff said:

He leaves a massive gap in Holocaust scholarship specifically and genocide studies more broadly.

Executive Council of Australian Jewry co-CEO Peter Wertheim said:

His abhorrence for apartheid in his native South Africa brought him to Australia, where he won admiration for his publications on the effects of discrimination against our Indigenous communities, and the successes of Indigenous Australians in the face of adversity.

Genocide educator and Armenian community member Meher Grigorian said:

Professor Tatz was considered the doyen of genocide studies in Australia and was loved and respected in the Armenian and Indigenous communities, as well as his own Jewish community.

Vale Professor Colin Tatz. I thank the House for its consideration.

The PRESIDENT: The question is that this House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 17:24 until 25 February 2020 at 14:30.