

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday 20 June 2024

The Speaker (The Hon. Gregory Michael Piper) took the chair at 10:00.

The Speaker read the prayer and acknowledgement of country.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2024

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2024

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the resolution of the House of 5 June 2024, the Leader of the Opposition will now speak on the Appropriation Bill 2024 and cognate bills. I remind all members to extend the usual courtesy to the Leader of the Opposition during his budget reply, which will be delivered without interruption.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (10:02): I begin by acknowledging the Gadigal of the Eora nation and the traditional owners of all of the lands in members' various electorates. This is a budget that fails New South Wales. It is a bad budget from a bad government. This is a budget from which the Government will collect far more revenue than any government in the history of New South Wales, yet it does not offer a cent for new cost-of-living support. This is a budget in which the Government has lost control of the finances. This is a budget that risks the State's economic security, delivering more deficits, more debt and all but decimating the State's triple-A credit ratings. How on earth has this happened?

Before the election the Premier said that his union wage deals would not cost the people of New South Wales one cent and would be fully offset by productivity savings. Instead, he has broken that critical promise, already costing the budget over \$9 billion and, potentially, another \$6 billion on top of that. The Premier's broken promise means that even though the Government is raking in record revenue, there is no new cost-of-living support and there are cuts to schools, hospitals, other frontline services and infrastructure. The Premier's broken promise means more pressure on stretched family budgets; more pressure on renters and first home buyers; more pressure on schools, with school budget cuts; and more pressure on hospitals, with emergency departments overwhelmed and support for the dying cruelly cut. Yet the Government hides behind smoke and mirrors, taking no responsibility and blaming everyone but itself. This is a Labor budget through and through. There are more taxes, more deficits, more debt, financial mismanagement and squandered opportunities.

I will address the budget position that the Government inherited; the Government's claims about GST revenue cuts; the revenue windfall that the Government has received; what the Government's broken promise on the funding of union wage deals is costing the taxpayer; what the Government's budget mismanagement means for the future state of New South Wales's finances; what the budget mismanagement means for cost-of-living support; what the budget mismanagement means for health, education and other frontline services; what the budget mismanagement means for housing; what the budget mismanagement and a lack of vision mean for future infrastructure; and, finally, some concluding remarks.

I start with the budget position that the Government inherited. Government members like talking about the past, so let me set the record straight. At the end of 2018-19, the budget showed a \$4.2 billion surplus and no net debt. Notwithstanding the once-in-a-lifetime COVID-19 pandemic and the unprecedented natural disasters that followed, the outgoing government left a budget signed off by the independent Treasury secretary as being back in the black by 2024-25, with ongoing surpluses after that. Complaints from members opposite about the State's debt reek of hypocrisy. Labor supported every measure delivered in response to COVID-19 and natural disasters, and supported infrastructure programs financed through debt. Despite all the challenges, New South Wales retained two triple-A credit ratings.

I turn to the Government's claims about GST revenue. The Coalition agrees that the current GST distribution system is unfair to New South Wales. For decades New South Wales has subsidised mendicant States and Territories, and the rip-off should stop. But that is not the cause of the Government's mess, even though the Government claims that it is. The Premier has said, "The Government has little room to offer any major cost-of-living relief due to unprecedented cuts to the revenue the State was expecting to receive from Canberra." That claim is farcical when one looks at the size of the GST revision and the other revenue that is more than offsetting it. In *The Australian Financial Review*, John Kehoe rightly identified a big forecasting error by the Government as the secret reason behind the claim.

The Government blames Canberra for an alleged \$11.9 billion GST rip-off, but the budget papers instead confirm that "over the four years to 2027-28, GST revenue has been revised down by \$6.2 billion". The State's percentage share of the GST cake fluctuates year by year. It has fallen but, when allowing for the growth in the size of the overall cake, the budget papers accept that the downward revision in the erroneous forecast is \$6.2 billion, not \$11.9 billion. The budget papers say that the GST revenue revision, and other revenue reductions, will only partially offset increases in land tax revenue, transfer duty revenue, certain Australian Government funding and mineral royalties.

Under this Government, the take from State taxation will grow over four years, from \$39.7 billion in the 2023 financial year to \$53 billion in 2027. That is an increase of 33 per cent.

That is more than \$3,500 per household per year. Total revenue over the four years to 2027-28 is now expected to be \$10.7 billion more than forecasted in the 2023-24 half-yearly review. As the *Australian Financial Review* editorialised after the budget, "The truth is that NSW doesn't have a revenue blackhole." To paraphrase another commentator's observations into slightly more parliamentary language, "The Government has been hit in the backside by a revenue rainbow." But this revenue rainbow is not being used for debt reduction, more funding for schools and hospitals, or new cost-of-living relief. Instead, it is all being handed over to the Premier's union masters.

Before the election the Premier said his union wage deals would not cost the people of New South Wales one cent. He said they all would be funded by productivity offsets. That was an absolutely critical promise, at the core of budget management. But the Premier has betrayed the people of New South Wales and broken that promise. The Premier has handed over the keys to the Treasury to his union masters. Not a cent in productivity offsets has been identified. Instead, there is already a \$9.5 billion hole for that broken promise, and that figure and the budget do not provide for any further wage deal beyond 10.5 per cent over the next three years. Yesterday during question time, the Minister for Industrial Relations was asked:

Police are demanding 25 per cent wage increases; nurses and midwives, 15 per cent; rail workers, 36 per cent; and firefighters, 20 per cent. The budget provides for 10½ per cent over three years. In the biggest taxing budget on record, is 10½ per cent the limit of what those unions can hope for ... ?

The Minister replied, "We have made an offer of 10.5 per cent as a baseline to negotiate." We know there is a further \$6.4 billion in union demands unfunded and unaccounted for in this budget. That is a massive liability that our State simply cannot afford. The Government still will not come clean on the true costs of its union wage deals. Instead of doing what it promised in the election to fund wage increases from productivity offsets, this Government has used the revenue windfall to fund union wage deals. It has squandered the golden opportunity to maintain and improve cost-of-living supports, improve health infrastructure and services, and support home seekers and small business.

The Government's financial mismanagement results in deficits and debt as far as the eye can see. This Government will add more than \$11.5 billion in deficits over the next four years. Net debt is expected to grow from 11.9 per cent of gross domestic product to 14.2 per cent in June 2028. And because of the Government's mismanagement, interest expenses are forecast to grow at 9.1 per cent every year for four years. This will take interest payments to \$8.6 billion for 2027-28, more than double the \$4.2 billion paid under the previous Government in 2022-23. Due to the Government's mismanagement, New South Wales faces the severe risk of losing its prized AAA credit rating.

What does the Government's budget mismanagement mean for cost-of-living supports? Households across New South Wales are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. The cost of electricity is up, the cost of groceries is up and rent and interest repayments are up. But this budget confirms what we already knew—this Government has no plan to address the cost-of-living crisis. There is not a cent for new cost-of-living supports. There is a shameless attempt to window dress a welcome addition to not collect payroll tax from doctors in circumstances where it has never been collected before. It would be comical if it were not so insulting.

We all know who will foot the bill for the Government's failures. Families and households across New South Wales will pay the price, as they are already doing under this Government. Active Kids was slashed.

Creative Kids was slashed. First Lap was slashed. Energy relief was slashed. The back-to-school vouchers were axed. The regional travel card was axed. We would have kept all those programs. This month, the Premier wrote about the impact social media is having on children. We all worry social media is having long-term adverse impacts on our State's children. The Premier said:

... research has found that kids who spend more than three hours per day on social media are twice as likely to experience poor mental health, depression and anxiety.

He went on to say, correctly:

We have to ask whether this is a healthy way for kids to grow up and mature into healthy adults.

If only there was something that the New South Wales Government could do to get kids off screens and into healthy and active lifestyles. In 2022, the last full year before Labor took the axe to Active Kids and stopped publishing the data, more than 1.3 million Active Kids vouchers were created. The Opposition would immediately restore Active Kids and Creative Kids and support families to encourage kids into active and healthier lifestyles. If the Government was serious about children's mental health, it would too.

Then there is the great tax take from households. As mentioned, it includes an extra \$3,500 per household per year by 2027. Our State deserves better. What does the Government's budget mismanagement mean for health, education and other frontline services? For health, Labor's cruel cuts mean that we are going backwards for the second year in a row. At the time of last year's budget, former Australian Medical Association [AMA] NSW President Dr Michael Bonning said:

At a time when the health sector and medical services need an urgent investment of cash, this budget provides almost nothing. Traditionally governments increase health investment, this government has effectively slashed it, when health inflation is taken into consideration.

...

It is the people of NSW who will suffer. This means less access to emergency departments, less urgent surgery and non-urgent surgery ...

Labor's cuts are hitting palliative care, frontline services and emergency departments, including in regional New South Wales. The most recent Bureau of Health Information data shows a hospital system under immense strain because of Labor's existing cuts. People are waiting longer to be seen and their health is at risk. Labor's cuts have seen March quarter elective surgeries down 6.6 per cent from the same quarter last year, and down 13.9 per cent on the December quarter. The number of patients spending less than four hours in emergency departments is the lowest since 2010. There is a 16.9 per cent increase in the number of people leaving emergency departments without treatment. AMA NSW President Dr Kathryn Austin described that as a catastrophe waiting to happen. She said, "The New South Wales health system is straining under the weight of increased demand and complexity at a time when budgets are being slashed."

The Minns Government announced a surgical taskforce to reduce elective surgery wait times, but the funding had already been put in place by the Perrottet Government. Now the Perrottet Government funding has ended, elective surgery numbers have fallen dramatically. These figures reflect a system that is experiencing continuing decline under the Minns Government. Austin called on the Government to immediately reinstate critical health funding and stop putting politics and photo opportunities before the health of our State. In response, the Government has cut health spending again. AMA NSW Vice President Dr Fred Betros said that this budget falls below the health consumer price index, meaning that after health inflation it is an effective loss. He said:

As a surgeon in Western Sydney there is little comfort in this budget for my patients and for thousands of the sickest patients across New South Wales.

This is bad news for anyone on the elective surgery waiting list ...

This is a budget of smoke and mirrors—no more so than when it comes to education. The Government has embarked on a so-called infrastructure blitz that has less funding than was allocated by the former Liberal-Nationals Government.

In fact, it provides less funding than the budget handed down last year. The Treasurer's claim that \$1.08 billion is a record pipeline for maintenance and minor capital works is simply wrong. The Liberal Party and The Nationals allocated \$1.3 billion in its last budget to support the same types of projects. So what we have is a cut of \$220 million to schools. That means schools have less money to spend on facilities for our children. That is on top of Labor's decision to rip \$150 million out of public school budgets midway through last year, forcing school principals to cut staff and programs to fund savings. The budget papers show a cut this year of \$196 million. That is 7.5 per cent, even before inflation, in non-staff operating expenses for school education. As with health, total expenses are being cut in real terms. The Government has lost control of the budget and our children are paying the price.

The Government is also making real cuts across the board to spending on other frontline services. This year the budget papers show cuts in non-staff operating expenses of \$181 million for police and \$101 million for Fire and Rescue NSW. What does the Government's budget mismanagement mean for housing? We welcome the announcement of new social homes, including priority homes for victim-survivors of domestic violence, a welcome addition to the Core and Cluster investment by the Liberal Party and The Nationals. But given the Government's revenue bonanza, it is the least it can do.

The SPEAKER: The member for Newtown will come to order.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: Let us put an end to Labor's deception about Opposition policy, which Labor peddles to hide its own failures. We support ramping up housing supply in metropolitan and regional New South Wales. We support greater density and we recognise that transport hubs will commonly be the best place for it. But with State targets for each local government area, and with appropriately strict time limits and sanctions, the Government should first let communities have a say in how and where in their local areas they want that density delivered.

The SPEAKER: Members will listen to the Leader of the Opposition in silence.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: This is a government of grand announcements and little follow through. Last year, with great fanfare, the Premier announced housing targets of 75,000 per year for five years, yet within months he had thrown in the towel. We need explicit estimates and targets from the Premier about numbers of annual completions going forward. Ramping up supply down the track is welcome, but in a crisis we expect immediate action. House prices and rents are determined not just by supply but also by demand, and easing demand is something that can be done far more quickly. But the Premier refuses to stand up for New South Wales, take on Anthony Albanese and demand further cuts to immigration to ease demand. If the Queensland Labor Premier can do it, why can't Chris Minns? But that sort of failure seems to be part of the Premier's DNA. It is not just immigration. He also will not pick up the phone to Anthony Albanese on GST revenue or federal infrastructure funding. If the Premier will not even pick up the phone to the Prime Minister, how can we expect him to fight for New South Wales households? We reiterate our offer to work with the Premier on a bipartisan approach to Canberra on immigration.

Returning now to supply, despite the rhetoric and the targets, the Premier leads a government with a one-size-fits-all approach that is failing. We have seen completions approvals go backwards by 11 per cent under this Government. We have seen supply held back by a new \$12,000 tax on every new home. We have seen a lack of funding to support essential infrastructure required to drive development. We are still waiting for the outcome of the land audit, and we are still waiting for the Government to deliver on its rental reform. This budget will only make matters worse. The budget reveals yet more taxes on homes and properties right across New South Wales. The decision to freeze indexation of land tax thresholds is a tax grab by stealth. The last thing to do in a housing and cost-of-living crisis is push up taxes on property owners, which will be passed on as higher costs for renters and struggling small businesses. It is a desperate tax grab because this Government has lost control of the budget and has handed the keys to the Treasury over to its union masters. The Property Council says:

Subjecting even more Mum and Dad investors to land tax will not reduce rents or provide urgently needed new housing – in fact it will do the opposite, it will act as a brake on housing affordability.

The Real Estate Institute says removing indexation would have "severe ramifications" for commercial tenancies, in particular:

Given the high cost of holding a residential property, adding to the tax burden will only place additional pressure on investment returns, leaving landlords two undesirable options.

And what are they?

They can either pass the extra cost onto tenants or sell their investment property, taking more homes out of an undersupplied rental market.

Governments can increase social housing but, overwhelmingly, the main driver of housing supply is private investment, which has to be financially viable. The Government's announcement of targets and rezonings is the easy part. It can announce all the targets and up-zonings in the world, but that will not produce more housing unless it is financially feasible to build. But the Government continues to increase fees and charges that are crippling the financial feasibility of new housing projects. It can also throw all the money in the world at creating new infrastructure tsars and the worthwhile speeding up of approvals, but if it is too expensive to buy and build, it will not matter.

The Property Council says the Government's recently released new housing targets for Sydney, the Illawarra, Hunter and Central Coast "will remain a pipedream without fixes to the delivery pipeline," and it tells us that new taxes and charges will make the construction of up to 50,000 new homes financially unfeasible for

homes built west of Homebush over the next five years. Instead of squandering the revenue bonanza like this Government, the Opposition would have used it to help home buyers, home seekers and renters in New South Wales. We would have removed the burden of stamp duty on young people by reintroducing the First Home Buyer Choice program. We would have provided stamp duty exemptions for older people looking to downsize to free up larger homes for families.

We would have established a program of at least \$2 billion, funded through the windfall stamp duty that this Government squandered, to support local councils meet and beat their housing targets. The Government was too arrogant to engage with that idea and it dismissed it. Yet, months later, it announced a similar program with a paltry \$200 million—a drop in the ocean that is an insult to local councils and a reflection of no money in the kitty because it has been diverted to union wage claims. The Opposition would keep indexing the land tax thresholds and easing taxes and charges that are making developments unviable. Our offer remains for the Government to work constructively with us to solve the housing crisis rather than pursue its failing approach which is making matters worse. Because of its utter financial incompetence, this Government is borrowing more but building less.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wollongong will come to order.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: The Government has announced no transformational projects like those we saw under the Liberal-Nationals Government. The infrastructure revolution will soon be over. Once the infrastructure pipeline left by the Liberal Party and The Nationals dries up, infrastructure investment falls off a cliff. By 2027-28 total infrastructure investment will be almost 12 per cent less than this year, plus the effect of inflation. In transport, the fall will be 34 per cent; in health, 36 per cent; and in education, 41 per cent, plus the effect of inflation. This Government has no vision for infrastructure and will be failing commuters, patients and students and failing to build the transport and other infrastructure we need to support the extra housing that the Government claims it wants.

To sum up, this budget lets the people of New South Wales down. It is a bad budget, and the Government is to blame. It is a budget out of control, but the Government is unwilling to take responsibility for its decisions. There is a lot of blame, but no vision; a lot of targets, but no plans; record revenue, but not a cent in new cost-of-living support; and higher taxes, but cuts to schools, hospitals and infrastructure. None of the Government's attempts at smoke and mirrors, none of its cherry-picking of individual projects, and none of its ribbon cutting on Coalition projects can disguise the Government's cuts to investment in health, education and infrastructure and its failure to address the cost of living. The people of New South Wales deserve better. We will hold this bad government to account. Instead of a government focused on union mates in Canberra or on union masters in Sussex Street, we will offer a responsible alternative government focused squarely on delivering for the people of New South Wales.

The SPEAKER: The question is that these bills be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Third Reading

Mr PAUL SCULLY: On behalf of Mr Chris Minns: I move:

That these bills be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Budget

BUDGET ESTIMATES AND RELATED PAPERS 2024-2025

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (10:30): I move:

That this House take note of the Budget Estimates and Related Papers for 2024-2025.

The SPEAKER: In accordance with the resolution of the House of 5 June 2024, I set down debate on the Budget Estimates and Related Papers 2024-2025 as an order of the day for a later time.

[Notices of motions given.]

Bills

ROAD TRANSPORT AMENDMENT (DRIVING THROUGH FLOODWATERS) BILL 2024

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Gareth Ward, read a first time and printed

Second Reading Speech

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (10:47): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to present to the House the Road Transport Amendment (Driving Through Floodwaters) Bill 2024. The object of the bill is to amend the Road Transport Act 2013 to prohibit people from deliberately or recklessly driving through floodwaters and to require penalties for breach of the prohibition to be paid into the New South Wales State Emergency Service fund to support the hardworking men and women of the SES. I acknowledge the presence of the Parliamentary Secretary for Roads in the Chamber and thank her for being here.

Mother Nature is angry. Climate change is wreaking havoc across communities, particularly regional communities. My region is one of the worst hit by natural disasters, and many of those events have involved significant rainfall which has damaged roads, property and infrastructure. To be blunt, the State's drains and wastewater networks were not built to withstand such large volumes of water. It is resulting in the SES receiving more and more call-outs to flood events, and this includes to rescue people from floodwaters. I emphasise that this bill is about people who deliberately or recklessly drive through floodwaters. It is not about people who innocently find themselves in an accident, unwittingly trapped through no fault of their own. This bill is about those who put other's lives at risk because of their own deliberate recklessness.

I hope no-one is fined. That is not the intent of this bill. This bill is about sending a message and a reminder that not all risk comes with return: It could cost you money but, more sadly, it could cost lives.

Police will exercise their discretion, as they do in all things. For anyone found guilty of the offence, the proceeds of that revenue will feed directly back to a NSW State Emergency Service fund. Every flood season, we hear emergency services and leaders plead with people not to drive through floodwaters, but people ignore the warnings and obvious dangers. Every year, we hear more and more how flood events and natural disasters will increase in frequency and ferocity. The result will be more volunteers and emergency workers risking their own lives in coming to the rescue for an incident that should not occur. This is simply unacceptable. We need a deterrent as community awareness and education programs can only do so much.

If people, particularly young men and risk-takers, understand that this is a crime, they will think twice about taking the risk. Just this month emergency services were again urging people not to drive through floodwaters. Seven motorists were rescued in the Shoalhaven following a deluge on 6 June—in the last sitting week. The Kiama and South Coast electorates were hit yet again. Just last month, I met with SES volunteers who said this bill, this concept, is a no-brainer. This does not need to be my bill. I am happy for it to be a government bill. I just want to save lives and I know this bill will do that. If, for whatever reason, the Government, the crossbench, the Opposition, any member of this Parliament, do not support this bill, they can feel free to take it forward and improve it—make it their own. I would be only too happy to see that.

We have seen this Government introduce tougher laws for not wearing seatbelts. In the second reading speech on the Road Transport Legislation Amendment (Automated Seatbelt Enforcement) Bill 2023, which has now been assented to, the Minister rightly pointed out that the effects of road trauma have an enormous impact on communities. If the bill I present today stops just one person from driving through floodwaters, risking their lives and the lives of others, it is worth supporting. People would not drive into a bushfire, so why do they feel the need to drive into floodwaters? They do not know anything about the depth or the velocity of the water, or what debris may be under the water. As people say, "If it's flooded, forget it."

Many countries have surcharges in place when people require rescuing. If there is a penalty involved with a degree of risk-taking behaviour, this will make people think twice. Up to 90 people die from driving through floodwaters in the United States every year. Texas has enacted the "Turn Around, Don't Drown" law, which imposes a fine of up to \$2,000 and potential jail time for drivers who bypass barricades and enter flood areas. That amount is a lot more than I am proposing. I am keen to hear from my colleagues if the penalty I propose is sufficient and adequate. Arizona has a "Stupid Motorist Law" and also fines drivers the cost of their rescue, if they ignore barricades and get trapped in floodwaters. Japan does the same thing. Back home, the SES reminds us that the major cause of death during floods is from people entering or travelling through floodwaters. According to a report by Lucinda Coates from Risk Frontiers which analysed the 2011 to 2021-22 floods, two-thirds of deaths were due to cars driving through or being engulfed by floodwaters. Even a small amount of moving water can carry away vehicles, putting drivers and passengers at severe risk.

Whilst authorities consistently warn against driving through floodwaters and urge the public to heed all safety warnings during flood events, people still do it, which takes critical emergency resources away when people need them most. Royal Life Saving reports that between 2004-05 and 2014-15, 159 drowning deaths were known to have involved flooding across Australia, and half of those deaths resulted from driving through floodwaters.

Even driving a vehicle through 15 centimetres of water can cause it to become unstable, explains Dr Kyra Hamilton of the Griffith University-Menzies Health Institute Queensland. The report went on to state that driving a vehicle through 60 centimetres of water can make a vehicle buoyant with the potential for it to tip over and consequently submerge its occupants. The report concluded that, despite the risk, people make self-efficacy judgements. People believe they have the skills and knowledge to drive safely. They believe they have the ability to assess and mitigate the risk posed by floodwaters, and they believe in the ability of their vehicle—for example, four-wheel-drive, diesel-powered, larger vehicles. A report in the Australian Journal of Emergency Management by Dr Melanie Taylor states:

This behaviour is considered high-risk and avoidable. However, for emergency services personnel performing their duties, there may be additional pressure to take on such risks.

The Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub, in which that report was published, also reviewed motorists' behaviour during the 2015 Shoalhaven floods, reporting that over 20 years to 2014, 81 people died by attempting to drive through floodwaters. Andrew Gissing stated:

Despite Australian emergency services agencies mounting behavioural change campaigns and urging people not to enter floodwater, the behaviour persists.

Their fieldwork found that:

... 84 per cent of drivers at a monitored site, notably males and four-wheel-drive vehicles ... dismissed road closure signs and drove into floodwater.

The report called for a holistic approach, including education, regulation—which is what I am seeking to do today—and engineering measures to reduce the frequency of motorists entering floodwaters. Flooding is the second deadliest natural hazard. The report stated that, until 2018, driving into floodwaters accounted for 43 per cent of all fatalities.

On 6 April this year in Dapto, in the electorate of Shoalhaven represented by my friend the member for Shellharbour, Fire and Rescue NSW from Berry and Kiama teamed up with the SES in a dramatic rescue saving a driver. Members can watch that video online. I know the member for Shellharbour has spoken about it in this place. It was a truly dangerous situation, not only for the driver but also for the rescue teams. After the heavy rainfall in May this year, there were 240 incidents reported in 24 hours with the NSW SES State duty commander, Assistant Commissioner Nicole Hogan pleading with the community to heed the advice of emergency services and "never take risks like this". Sadly, we hear this again and again. We need more campaigns and educational programs but, importantly, regulation that deters this behaviour. The penalty to ensure that we protect the lives of people who take unnecessary risks and drive through floodwaters, and those who have to save them, is appropriate. This bill is simple:

- (1) A person must not deliberately or recklessly drive a motor vehicle on a part of a road covered by floodwaters.
Maximum penalty—5 penalty units.
- (2) The following must be paid into the New South Wales State Emergency Service Fund—
 - (a) a penalty paid or recovered for an offence against this section,
 - (b) an amount paid under a penalty notice issued for an alleged offence against this section.

The fine is \$550 currently to make someone think twice about driving through floodwaters. I am pleased there is a provision to support the SES in recognition that volunteers do not just spend countless hours working when there are flood risks but also the time they have to put in to preparing for those flood risks and training for those flood risks.

This is a very simple bill. We all proudly stand with our SES crews on Wear Orange Wednesday. We all proudly pose for social media photos when we have been able to secure grants for our SES. We all happy to be there for the good times. Will legislators in this place, will members of Parliament be there for our SES when they are asking us to do something that will save lives? Will members vote for a bill that will ensure greater deterrent? Will members stand with their SES units? When members go to their next meeting or zone meeting, will they tell SES personnel that they did something that will back them in? If members are prepared to do that, vote for this bill because it will save lives. That is its intent. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

REGIONAL COMMUNITIES (CONSULTATION STANDARDS) BILL 2024

First Reading

Bill introduced on motion by Mr Roy Butler, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading Speech

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (10:59): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I introduce the Regional Communities (Consultation Standards) Bill 2024. The importance of this bill for regional communities cannot be underestimated. Some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in New South Wales are in Barwon, so, when public money is invested in projects in these communities, it is critical that the communities understand the investment and are central to the projects' outcomes and that there is accountability for just how that money is being spent. Unfortunately, we find time and time again that that is not the case. Communities become victims of DAD consulting—that is, "decide; advise; defend"—and government projects intended to do good cause division. There are so many examples of government decisions causing division in Barwon. The tyranny of distance means it is harder for agencies and government officials to engage meaningfully with many of our towns. Rather than attempts at meaningful engagement, we see links to "Have your say" websites.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Sonia Horner): It being 11.00 a.m., pursuant to standing and sessional orders, debate is interrupted for question time. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later hour.

Members

MEMBER FOR THE ENTRANCE

MEMBER FOR TAMWORTH

MEMBER FOR MANLY

MEMBER FOR RYDE

MEMBER FOR BATHURST

MEMBER FOR ROCKDALE

The SPEAKER: The member for The Entrance, the member for Tamworth, the member for Manly, the member for Ryde, the member for Bathurst and the member for Rockdale will have birthdays in the near future. I hope they have wonderful celebrations.

Announcements

IAN DELAHUNTY

The SPEAKER (11:03): I wish a happy birthday to Chamber supervisor Ian Delahunty. He had the day off; his wife sent him in. That is all there is to it.

Visitors

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: On behalf of the Chamber and especially the member for Cabramatta, I extend a warm welcome to the Venerable Abbott Por from the Khmer Krom community; the Venerable Soumpholphakdy from the Lao community; Sawathey Ek, founder of Australian South East Asian Network; and members of the Burmese, Vietnamese, Hazara, Filipino, Indian and Indigenous Australian communities, who are all guests of the member for Cabramatta. I welcome members of the Scone branch and Parkville branch of the Country Women's Association, who are guests of the member for Upper Hunter, to the Chamber. I welcome school leaders and teachers from Warilla North Public School and their principal, Nicole Riley, all of whom I saw being shown around earlier, who are guests of the member for Shellharbour.

I welcome Lydia Hall, a guest of the member for Maitland. I acknowledge Benjamin Graham, a guest of the member for Wollondilly. I welcome Frank Chiment, the principal of Patrician Brothers' College, Blacktown, who is a guest of the member for Blacktown. I welcome a delegation from the Assyrian National Council of Australia, including Mr Hermiz Shahen and the Reverend Dr Ron Susek, who are guests of the member for Prospect. And I welcome students, who are mostly in the upper gallery, who are participating in the parliamentary education program. Welcome to Australia's first Parliament and, of course, the most important part of that Parliament, the Legislative Assembly.

*Members***REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS ABSENT DURING QUESTIONS**

Mr RON HOENIG: On behalf of Mr Chris Minns: I inform the House that the Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Sport will answer questions today in the absence of the Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Youth Justice.

*Question Time***STATE BUDGET**

The SPEAKER: The member for Hornsby will come to order. It might be his last question time; we will just see how he goes. I remind the member that I still have not seen his resignation.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (11:08): My question is directed to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance. *Budget Paper No. 01* states that increased land tax revenue, transfer duty revenue, certain Australian Government funding and mineral royalties will more than offset GST revisions; that State tax revenue will grow \$14 billion in four years; and that total revenue to 2028 is \$10.7 billion higher than forecast at the half-yearly review. Does the Minister agree that New South Wales does not have a revenue black hole?

Mr MICHAEL DALEY (Maroubra—Attorney General) (11:08): The Leader of the Opposition would like me to use his language and his words. He wants me to use the words "black hole", but I have plenty of words of my own. I do not need to use any of the words that he has given me. The revenue figures are as they have been set out in the budget. They are as the Treasurer has portrayed them publicly both in the lock-up with the media and subsequently in many, many discussions in press conferences and media interviews over the past few days. The Premier has gone into that. No amount of wishing that the numbers were different will change the black-and-white figures on the page.

The fact is that New South Wales is more transparent than other States and shows an additional year comparison with the half-yearly review over the comparable four years 2023-24 to 2026-27. This year's budget showed revisions to revenue have been \$5.1 billion in New South Wales, \$9.2 billion in Victoria, \$14.8 billion in Queensland, \$27.4 billion for the Commonwealth. In an inflationary environment there will be some revenues that will increase because they will be needed to cover the growth in expenses and the decrease in GST payments that New South Wales is getting from the Commonwealth due to the revisions of the Commonwealth Grants Commission. That is the directly relevant answer. I have been in this place for quite a number of budgets and I have seen—

Mr Dugald Saunders: Too long!

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order. The member for Dubbo will come to order.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Too long? Then come and get me. Run at me in Maroubra. Bring Michael Feneley out of the grave and run him again. Let him have a thirteenth go at me. I have never seen a capitulation by a Leader of the Opposition like the one we saw today. Basically, Leaders of the Opposition in their budget reply speeches at least offer up a number of—maybe two or three—new policies, offer some vision for the future. But today the Leader of the Opposition offered only one policy, and it is an old one: Cut wages. That is his policy.

[Opposition members interjected.]

Members opposite do not want to hear the truth.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order: It is under Standing Order 129, direct relevance. The question is about revenue.

The SPEAKER: The Attorney General is completely in order. He satisfied that test very early in his answer.

Mr MICHAEL DALEY: Everybody in Australia should be afraid of the Leader of the Opposition because we saw what happened when Mike Baird cut wages in New South Wales and dragged down public sector and private sector wages all over the country. Bye, bye to you, mate.

The SPEAKER: The member for Port Macquarie is being disorderly. She will come to order.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Mr CLAYTON BARR (Cessnock) (11:12): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on community reaction to nuclear power in New South Wales?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:12): That is a very good question from the member for Cessnock. On the front pages of the newspapers there is a range of views. I make it clear that the New South Wales Government will not be repealing the ban on nuclear-produced energy in New South Wales. There is a very good reason for that. According to the New South Wales Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, it is estimated that large-scale nuclear reactors would cost \$70 billion to replace the 8,300 megawatts produced by coal-fired power stations and for small-scale, modular nuclear reactors the number would increase to \$211 billion. The CSIRO said, "Small-scale nuclear is \$230 to \$380 a megawatt hour. Large-scale nuclear is up to \$230 a megawatt hour, and wind and solar is between \$90 and \$120 a megawatt hour."

At the end of the day, we have a situation where the only large-scale nuclear program in the world currently being undertaken is in the United Kingdom. It is called the Hinkley Point C nuclear reactor. In 2008 its initial project cost was \$17 billion, in 2013 that increased to \$34 billion, in 2017 that increased to \$59 billion, in 2023 it increased to \$64 billion and in January 2024 the total cost of that project was estimated to be \$92 billion. So in the space of a decade it has gone from costing \$17 billion to \$92 billion. That is the stated policy of the Commonwealth Opposition, but it has drawn distinct opposition from many respected stakeholders in the community.

The Daily Telegraph reported today that Bathurst MP, Paul Toole, said he would not support a nuclear reactor in Mount Piper under Dutton's proposal. He accused his Federal colleagues of blindsiding his community and called the plan a "work of fiction". The member for Upper Hunter, David Layzell, said the same thing: "I do not accept the Federal Government's decision to lob a facility in the community of the Upper Hunter." The member for Willoughby, Tim James, was also in the article this morning, but he went the other way. He said, "This is leadership."

[Members interjected.]

I have got it here. He calls for strong leadership. There is obviously division within the Opposition. So enter Mark Speakman. He was asked about it this morning on 2GB and there was the following exchange:

Good morning, Ben. How are you going?

Then Fordham asked:

Why don't you just come out and say, "I'm supporting it."?

Speakman replied:

Well, I haven't got the detail.

That is decisive leadership. [*Extension of time*]

And then he said, "Well, the first time we heard of these sites was yesterday, and I look forward to much more detail." He does not need any more detail. The sites have been nominated. That is it; they are going ahead. Is he for it or against it? He has got division in his own party so today is the day to stand up and have his say. Clearly he is not calling the shots; he is not the brains of the operation. So it goes to old mate Dugald. He weighed in on Sarah Macdonald's program. He said, "Look, I think one of the things that can definitely be looked at is small-scale modular nuclear reactors."

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Dugald Saunders: What a desperate display. What about talking about the budget?

The SPEAKER: The member for Dubbo will resume his seat. I call the member for Dubbo to order for the first time. That is not how to take a point of order.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: He said, "One of the things you can look at is storing waste on the site for many years"—on the site in the Upper Hunter and on the site in Bathurst. Then Sarah Macdonald says, "So you think they should store nuclear waste on the site in New South Wales as well?" He goes, "Look, when you go to the beach you've got exposure to radioactivity on the sand. You've got it in rock. You've got in material. It's everywhere." What is he talking about? Sarah Macdonald says, "Hang on, you're saying there is more radioactivity at the beach than in a nuclear reactor?" Who is the brains of the operation? Who is really pulling the strings? The

member for Dubbo sorts it out; he gives us the answer. He says, "Look, just listen to what Barnaby Joyce has been saying." Professor Joyce is on the case.

In all seriousness, Matt Kean is leaving politics. We have had our disagreements with the member for Hornsby but he has been completely consistent on this and on renewable energy for his entire public life. The truth of the matter is that there is no future for nuclear energy in New South Wales, and there will not be under Labor.

The SPEAKER: The member for Hornsby does not want to give a supplementary answer?

ACTIVE SUPER FUND

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (11:18): My question is directed to the Minister for Local Government. The member for Penrith failed to recuse herself from a Penrith council vote on a Mirvac development in Glenmore Park despite being a director of Active Super, which held millions of dollars worth of shares in Mirvac. Last night Labor members in the other place opposed a motion calling on the Minister to refer the matter to the Office of Local Government. Will the Minister support a referral of the member for Penrith to the Office of Local Government?

Mr Alister Henskens: Not much integrity.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wairoonga will come to order.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (11:19): If anyone has an integrity and credibility problem, mate, it is you. Fair dinkum. I have credible evidence.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wairoonga will cease interjecting. Opposition members will cease interjecting.

Mr RON HOENIG: It is a wonder you are not hiding your head in shame, comrade.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will answer the question.

Mr RON HOENIG: The member for Penrith continues to serve her community as a councillor until the current local government term of office expires in September of this year, as do the member for Ryde, the member for Drummoyne and the member for Castle Hill.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Wairoonga to order for the first time. The member for Hornsby will come to order.

Mr RON HOENIG: The member for Hornsby had his head in his hands during the answer to the last question. As members would be aware, it is quite commonplace and entirely lawful for sitting councillors, when first elected to this place, to continue serving as councillors until the overlapping term—

Ms Kellie Sloane: Point of order—

Mr RON HOENIG: If it is on relevance, you are kidding me.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat. The member for Hornsby will cease interjecting. The member for Vaucluse rises on a point of order.

Ms Kellie Sloane: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question was about conflict of interest, not about members of Parliament having another job. It is directly about conflict. The Minister is not answering the question.

The SPEAKER: It is relatively early days, but the Minister will be directly relevant to the question.

Mr RON HOENIG: Those overlapping terms preserve the continuity of elected councils and save the ratepayers money by not triggering a possible by-election for a vacated council position. I am advised that councillors who are members of the Active Super board have been appointed to and hold those positions as employer-nominated directors. I am advised that the member for Penrith has declared her board positions on her council declarations of interest and her parliamentary declarations. Both the member for Penrith and the member for Leppington have resigned from their Active Super directorships. Regarding the specific dealings of Active Super, I am advised that the fund has a dedicated investment committee that engages various external investment fund managers with discretion to invest on behalf of the fund.

Ms Kellie Sloane: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume his seat. The Clerk will stop the clock. The member for Vaucluse rises on a point of order.

Ms Kellie Sloane: I ask for an extension of time. The Minister is running out of time and he has not even come close to answering the question about whether he supports a referral to the Office of Local Government.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Minister has not yet been directly relevant to the last part of the question. An extension of time is granted.

Mr RON HOENIG: The member for Penrith has never been a member of the investment committee. The external investment fund managers collectively have hundreds of companies in their portfolios, which constantly change. According to Active Super's interactive investment tool, its holdings in Mirvac appear to be somewhere in the range of 0.13 per cent of total funds. I inform the House that the member for Goulburn has written to me advising that she has written to the deputy secretary—

Ms Kellie Sloane: Point of order: Why is this Government so afraid of transparency that the Minister will not answer the question?

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I call the member for Vaucluse to order for the first time.

Ms Kellie Sloane: Can I have another try?

The SPEAKER: The member for Vaucluse will resume her seat. The Minister has the call.

Mr RON HOENIG: I advise the House that the member for Goulburn has written to me advising that she has written to the Deputy Secretary of the Office of Local Government seeking an investigation under the Local Government Act. The deputy secretary discharges the responsibilities of the department's chief executive under the Act. I will not seek to interfere in the statutory function of the deputy secretary.

Mr Matt Kean: Oh!

Mr RON HOENIG: Despite the Opposition's interjection, to do so would be grossly improper. He will be free to consider the member for Goulburn's letter, independent of the Executive Government, which is entirely proper. It is not uncommon for councillors, or administrators performing the functions of councillors, to wear multiple hats. Even the previous administrator of Hilltops appointed herself to the Goldenfields Water facility for an additional fee, which nobody suggested was a conflict of interest.

STATE BUDGET AND HEALTH FUNDING

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (11:24): My question is addressed to the Minister for Health, and Minister for Regional Health. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales budget supports the Minns Labor Government's election commitment to recruit and retain essential workers?

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (11:25): I know that the Parliamentary Secretary is very excited today because the Government has awarded the tender for the Eurobodalla hospital. I congratulate him. He is a terrific community advocate. Multiplex Constructions will be engaging in that work. This Government is more interested in the people than the plaques. Over the past 12 years, the former Government was obsessed with building things but not properly staffing them. In hospitals, that can have dire consequences.

Some members in this place might not understand that the challenge around hospitals is not building them; it is properly staffing them. The real commitment of dollars comes from inappropriately staffing our hospitals. That is where the services are delivered to our community. This budget has fixed a number of ghost hospital issues. What is a ghost hospital? It is when the former Government built hospitals with inadequate staff to operate the services that it committed to the community to provide. The budget makes a major investment of around \$274 million to try to correct some of those issues across New South Wales. Places like Bowral, Cowra and Cooma have all had their hospitals developed, but they were missing the staff to deliver the services.

Ms Eleni Petinos: Like your palliative care ward at Wollongong.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Miranda to order for the first time.

Mr RYAN PARK: Don't panic—Sutherland is getting a reactor. Do not worry about it. There is lots of water down there.

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order. The Minister was doing so well until that point.

Mr RYAN PARK: He has identified a location: Shark Park. It is beautiful—smack bang in the middle.

Mr Paul Scully: There is water.

Mr RYAN PARK: There is access to water and sand—lots of water and lots of sand. The football team is blue, so that is reasonable. The Government is investing \$274 million to make sure that those new developments have the health services and the staff to deliver them to the community. [*Extension of time*]

But the Government is doing so much more. To make sure that we focus on the people, not the plaques, we are also rolling out \$200 million to fund key health worker accommodation. It is absolutely critical. During my time as shadow Minister, as I travelled the length and breadth of this State, I consistently heard that the reason health workers were not able to stay in or move to regional, rural or remote locations was the lack of housing and the type of housing that was available. The Government is investing in communities across regional and rural New South Wales to make sure there is accommodation there. Around 125 new spaces will support around 500 healthcare workers and their families. It is all about delivering more healthcare workers to those communities. It is not just about the bricks and mortar; it is about delivering the health services that those communities need and deserve.

This is an important initiative and it is on top of what we are doing to support additional healthcare workers for our communities, like \$12,000 each for 12,000 new healthcare graduates, paying for their HECS debt to get it done; rolling out safe staffing and ratios in our hospitals; 500 new paramedics for the bush, targeted for those communities that often lose paramedics who have to travel long distances to hospitals after picking up patients. The Government now has more than 143,000 healthcare workers in the system—a record number in New South Wales. We are determined to deliver the health services our communities need and deserve, because we are a government that is focused on the people not the plaques.

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN WATER BUYBACKS

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray) (11:30): My question is directed to the Premier. The Premier could commit to help solve New South Wales's devastating water buyback crisis by adopting the Menindee solution. He has the information about that. Will the Premier robustly instruct government departments to adopt the Menindee solution and sort the water mess out once and for all?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (11:30): I thank the member for her question and acknowledge her passion and advocacy for water and land management issues, particularly, in the southern part of the State. I have been given the so-called Menindee solution, which has been drafted by stakeholders and those interested in water management issues, particularly as it relates to the Murray-Darling system. I cannot commit the State to signing up to it, but I am prepared to look at it. The implications of a change in policy would be profound for the State.

The other problem is that New South Wales is not solely responsible for the administration of the Basin Plan. For those who do not have a working knowledge, it is a very complex intergovernmental arrangement in a very dense market. New South Wales and Victoria share the Murray system and both States are responsible for dilution flows and water flows to South Australia. In effect, we would need the agreement of the Commonwealth Government and the South Australian and Victorian governments to adopt either the Menindee solution or a major alteration to water management between the States. However, the Minister for Water is at a ministerial council next week and I will ask her to raise that at that meeting with her corresponding colleagues in those States to see if there is a better way to manage water relations between the States.

The implications of the Menindee solution, as it is called, would see the State hand over the Menindee Lakes effectively to the Commonwealth water holder and not take, or reduce the take, from the Murray system. I do not know what the implications would be for the lower Darling. I am not sure what the implications would be for communities that are located north of the Menindee Lakes, or the ecology and communities that have grown up around that existing community. But I am prepared to look at solutions that can see us progress the issue without resorting to buybacks. We have made it clear that we do not support buybacks in New South Wales. We accept the rationale put forward by the member for Murray that it does rob productive economic growth opportunities from regional communities. It is a blunt instrument, and we have to be creative when we tackle these complex issues.

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (11:33): My question is addressed to the outstanding Minister for Education and Early Learning. Will the Minister update the House on how the Minns Labor Government is building better communities by delivering vital school infrastructure in rapidly growing parts of Western Sydney and regional New South Wales?

The SPEAKER: Before I call the Deputy Premier, and Minister for Education, I take the opportunity to acknowledge the second tranche of student leaders who have joined us in the Cooper Gallery today. I welcome them and hope they have a wonderful day here in the New South Wales Parliament.

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney) (11:33): I also welcome the visiting school students and their incredible teachers. I thank the similarly outstanding member for Riverstone for his question. He well and truly knows how important, in fact essential, it is for governments to deliver basic infrastructure needs, basic maintenance needs for our public schools in Western Sydney and regional New South Wales. That is something dear to both our hearts on behalf of the people who we represent in the growing parts of suburban Western Sydney.

Over the past few days we have heard from the Premier and the Treasurer that, amongst other things, this budget is about the must-haves for the State of New South Wales in a difficult fiscal environment. It might not sound very glamorous to harp on and on about this, but there is nothing more important—no greater must-have—than proper working toilets in our schools, let alone toilets that are not sinking into the ground. It is a novel idea. That is what was left for the students and the staff at Bonnyrigg High School, some of whom I believe are in the gallery today. I am reliably informed, and I have been there several times and seen it with my own eyes, that the school has never had every cubicle working at the same time. That would seem pretty basic, would it not?

Members can understand that a parent, teacher or student at the school would be a little bit quizzical or surprised to hear the Liberals and The Nationals crow about their supposed record investment in infrastructure and maintenance. Even in that bedtime story of a budget reply that we heard this morning, the Leader of the Opposition also talked about record allocations. The thing about allocations of money is that you can say you are going to deliver unicorns flying in the sky, but if you do not actually fund it or do it then who cares what was allocated? It is incumbent on this Government—a government that is more focused on public education than any other government in living history—to fix those basic requirements for schools. As I said yesterday, we are doing that with a record spend on maintenance and minor works of \$1.5 billion, which is higher than the Opposition's budget allocation when it was in government. I am talking about repairs and replacements of roofs, fences, carpets, and doors. [*Extension of time*]

We will deliver those basic things all the way to classrooms and specialist science laboratories—things that we need to deliver curriculum for the students in our public schools. Of course, that comes on top of the pipeline of new and upgraded schools that we are delivering in the growing parts of Western Sydney and regional New South Wales. I can talk about that every day of the week because as a government we will hang our hat on what we are doing to clean up the mess left by those opposite. They can bemoan all they like, but the facts do not lie. The former Government left with fewer schools than it started with. That is what the statistics show. I am not even talking about maintenance. If we go to the community of Huntley, even during the election campaign the Opposition said Huntley did not deserve a school.

The SPEAKER: The member for Oatley will cease his conversation with the member for Monaro.

Ms PRUE CAR: If we go to communities like The Ponds, which has Riverbank Public School and The Ponds High School, the population was exploding without any sort of commitment from the former Government to upgrade.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Oatley to order for the first time.

Ms PRUE CAR: When we go to Marsden Park, Jordan Springs, Schofields and Tallawong, we are building the upgrades and the new schools that the former Government should have done decades ago for new communities.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Oatley to order for the second time.

Ms PRUE CAR: That is the record that the Opposition is supposedly so proud of when it comes to public education. It drove down the wages of teachers, did not build the schools where they were needed, and they wonder why there is a problem with educational outcomes. I can tell members that is what the problem is, and we have a government in New South Wales that is solely focused on fixing it the best way possible.

STATE BUDGET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (11:38): My question is directed to the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading. What measures does the New South Wales budget contain to stamp out greenwashing and misleading or deceptive conduct in the State?

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG (Macquarie Fields—Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections) (11:39): I thank the member for the question. I have been peppered with a lot of questions from the Opposition, but finally I have been asked a question by my counterpart in the shadow Ministry. I have always thought that the member for Willoughby is very popular amongst his progressive

colleagues. The question is about greenwashing, which the Minister for Local Government has just answered. When the member for Vaucluse actually answered, I would have thought—

The SPEAKER: Opposition members will come to order. The Minister has the call.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: Given that the shadow Minister has a portfolio that deals with one of the most important issues facing the people of New South Wales, which concerns housing—

Mr Matt Kean: What are you doing? Consumer protection, mate.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: —and protection. We do a lot for consumer protection, that is certain.

The SPEAKER: The member for Hornsby will come to order. The member is ignoring me.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: One would have thought that given—

Mr Tim James: Point of order: It is Standing Order 129, relevance. The question was about greenwashing and misleading and deceptive conduct. The Minister has made no attempt to address either topic.

The SPEAKER: I uphold that well-articulated point of order. The Minister will be directly relevant.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: I thank the member for his interest in this question. The New South Wales Government is certainly committed to protecting consumers from dodgy operators.

The SPEAKER: Members will come to order.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: NSW Fair Trading protects consumers by administering and enforcing Fair Trading legislation and Australian Consumer Law. The ACL provides consumers with a number of guarantees, including that the goods and services they accept are fit for purpose. New South Wales consumers also have additional protection against specific harms under the Fair Trading Act 1987.

Ms Eleni Petinos: Point of order: It is Standing Order 129. The Minister should be directed to the question and not deliver an education on what Fair Trading does, which he should know by now.

The SPEAKER: I have already ruled on that point of order. I directed the Minister to be relevant.

Mr ANOULACK CHANTHIVONG: The Government is absolutely about consumers. That is the purpose of Fair Trading. Am I supposed to talk about consumer protection without talking about Fair Trading? How does that work? The Government is always committed to protecting consumers and has budgeted for Fair Trading to do that.

Mr Tim James: In the absence of an answer, I seek an extension of time.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has concluded his answer.

STATE BUDGET AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (11:43): My question is addressed to the hardworking Minister for Transport. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales budget is keeping the State connected by investing in essential transport infrastructure?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (11:43): I thank the member for Heathcote—a very hardworking member—for her commitment to reliable public transport services, particularly for her community. I am very happy to update the House on what the budget contains for the good people of New South Wales when it comes to the essential public transport infrastructure and services they need. Let us start with the \$2 billion investment to deliver the second stage of Parramatta Light Rail—a critical public transport link that those opposite promised 17 times.

Ms Yasmin Catley: How many?

Ms JO HAYLEN: Seventeen times. How long did it take us? We promised it once, and it has been delivered in this budget. The budget also delivers \$450 million to upgrade the Tangara fleet and build the replacement fleet right here because we believe in domestic manufacturing. Unlike those opposite, we will not be buying stuff from overseas. The Government is also investing an extra \$400 million in a rail improvement plan so that more people have reliable train services more often. It is also investing in transformative future infrastructure, including the metro. There is \$6 billion in this year's budget alone and \$20 billion over the four years for the Metro City and Southwest—a project that those opposite were going to cancel—the metro for the new Western Sydney airport and Metro West.

The Government is also building seven new ferries in Australia, updating the fleet and providing more services. It is also providing the option for people to walk and ride in their communities. There is \$120 million in the budget for safe infrastructure. There is \$500 million in the budget for bus services, including zero-emissions buses and new services to the growing communities of Western Sydney. They desperately need it. This builds on the work that the Government has already done. From our very first day in government when we announced the rail review, we have been dealing with the maintenance backlog. We have repaired thousands of defects across the rail network. Thousands of defects have been repaired because of this Government's investment and commitment to reliable public transport services.

The Government has brought back the Freshwater ferries, as promised. It has increased ferry services and extended the light rail hours of operation. There are also more services along those lines. The Government has worked to get the new intercity Mariyung fleet on the tracks. Those trains will begin to carry passengers this year. We are using existing money in the budget to install platform extensions, train stopping markers and signalling equipment to suit the 12-carriage trains. One would think that is a commonsense decision. [*Extension of time*]

One would think that is commonsense, but according to the shadow Minister for Transport it is not. She was quoted in a very good article by my favourite transport editor, Matt O'Sullivan, in *The Sydney Morning Herald*. The article is entitled, "Final price tag for long-delayed intercity passenger trains to top \$4 billion". On the subject of the Mariyung trains, the shadow Minister said, "At some point enough is enough, and taxpayers need to stop paying the bill while receiving no services." Ironically, taxpayers have been paying the bill for years because of the former Liberal Government. Let us remember that. Who drew up the contracts to buy the trains overseas? The Liberal Government. Who oversaw the cost blowout and delays? The Liberal Government. Who spent years at war with its own workforce—

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: My point of order has two parts.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. What is the member's point of order?

Mr Alister Henskens: Firstly, the Minister is reaching across the Chamber and not addressing her comments through the Chair. Secondly, the question is about the New South Wales budget. It has nothing to do with things prior to the New South Wales budget.

The SPEAKER: I do not uphold the point of order. The Minister's actions demonstrated general excitement and were not out of order.

Ms JO HAYLEN: I am always excited to speak about new public transport services and the money in this budget to get them on the tracks. Unfortunately, the shadow Minister thinks that we should let \$3.5 billion worth of trains rust in sheds at Kangy Angy or Lithgow. Perhaps they can sit next to the new nuclear reactor there. That is the plan from the Opposition: rusting trains and new nuclear reactor. That is not the Government's plan. Our plan is to get the trains on the tracks, and that is exactly what we will do.

STATE BUDGET AND NSW POLICE FORCE

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst) (11:48): My question is directed to the Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism. The police budget this week shows a cut of \$180 million in non-staff operating expenses for police this year. Where are the cuts going to be made?

Mr Michael Daley: You had police wage cuts, because there were 1,500 fewer police.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter) (11:49): I thank the Attorney General. I am always perplexed when I get a question about the staffing of the NSW Police Force.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will direct her comments through the Chair.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: It is extraordinary that the shadow Minister for Police is asking me about police numbers in the NSW Police Force.

Mr Paul Toole: Point of order—

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I assure him that the Government is not cutting one position from the NSW Police Force.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume her seat.

Mr Paul Toole: It is taken under Standing Order 129. The question was not about police numbers; it was about a cut of \$181 million to the police budget.

The SPEAKER: The member for Bathurst will resume his seat. I uphold the point of order. The Minister will be directly relevant to the question relating to cuts in the budget.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: There are no cuts. There you go; I am being very relevant. The member for Bathurst left the NSW Police Force in the worst position it has been in in the history of this State, and he has the audacity to come to this Chamber and talk about cuts.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: It is an absolute fantasy.

Mr Alister Henskens: My point of order has two parts. The first is taken under Standing Order 128 (1); the question cannot be debated. The second part is that she is not being relevant.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: You can stop calling me and every other woman in this place "she".

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Minister has been relevant in answering the question. The member for Wahroonga will address the Minister by her proper title. The Minister has the call.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I will not be lectured by any of you on that side of the Chamber about the state of the NSW Police Force.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will direct her comments through the Chair.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: The best thing for the police is the Labor Government, which backs them 100 per cent. The Government is focused on making sure that the police are at full strength.

Mr Dugald Saunders: Point of order—

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Tomorrow I am going to be the attestation with the Premier. We will be there congratulating the new recruits that have come in and that were paid by the Labor Government.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will resume her seat. The Clerk will stop the clock.

Mr Dugald Saunders: The point of order is taken under Standing Order 129. The question was directly about budget cuts, not numbers that the Minister is fantasising about.

The SPEAKER: I brought that to the Minister's attention earlier. She is being directly relevant.

Mr Paul Toole: I seek an extension of time.

The SPEAKER: I grant an additional two minutes.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: Tomorrow at the attestation the Premier and I will welcome hundreds of new recruits that have been paid after doing their training. In December, we will have 350 recruits who will be attesting.

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: That capacity number is an extraordinary achievement for the NSW Police Force and the Government.

Mr Mark Speakman: It is taken under Standing Order 129, direct relevance. There is \$180 million of cuts in the budget. Where are the cuts going to be made?

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition heard my earlier ruling. The Minister has addressed the question directly.

Mr Mark Speakman: She has not mentioned it.

The SPEAKER: The Minister may not have used the words that the Leader of the Opposition wishes to hear, but she used the words that I needed to hear to rule that she has been directly relevant in answering the question. The Minister has the call.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: I am so proud of this Government, which is making sure that the New South Wales police are resourced with the resources they need.

Mr Paul Toole: Point of order: It is taken under Standing Order 129. The Minister said that there are no budget cuts of \$181 million. That means that our police will have the protective gear, the vehicles, the infrastructure and the maintenance that they require to do their job.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Bathurst to order for the first time.

Mr Paul Toole: If she backs them in, she should stand up and tell us that there are no cuts.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Bathurst to order for the second time.

Ms YASMIN CATLEY: The greatest threat to the New South Wales police is the candidate for Calare.

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (11:54): My question is addressed to the Minister for Lands and Property. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales Government is utilising public land to address the housing crisis to provide well-located, affordable homes close to where people work?

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (11:55): I thank the member for Campbelltown, who is an exceptional member of Parliament. He is an exceptional representative for his community and is fixated on fixing the housing crisis. This Government is focused on solving the housing crisis. Members opposite spent 12 years sitting on their hands. They have numb hands. Today you will not find them offering solutions. I am waiting on the budget reply from the shadow Opposition leader. We will see what he has to offer.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Opposition members are dog whistling to the tune of Peter Dutton. We heard that today, blaming a decade of housing policy failure, at all levels, solely on migration. Opposition members in the other place are tearing down significant reform with no alternative. Those NIMBYs have become numpties—which of course stands for "no useful methods, policies or thoughts". But do not worry about the numpties; the Government is getting on with solving the crisis. As part of the responsible budget announced on Tuesday, the Government announced the first tranche of land identified by the audit that will soon be made available. Property and Development NSW has identified 44 sites suitable for housing in the first tranche, with many more tranches to come.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Oatley to order for the third time.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Those sites will aid the delivery of 30,000 new homes as part of the landmark \$6.6 billion Building Homes for NSW program. Homes NSW and Landcom, the Government's developers, will have the first choice of sites for the delivery of social, affordable, essential worker and market housing. Other sites will be developed into housing in partnership with the private sector. As I touched on earlier, it is the first of many tranches that the audit will deliver to assist in addressing the housing crisis. As part of the budget, the Government announced an additional \$5 million to continue the great audit work of Property and Development NSW. [*Extension of time*]

At the first sign of delivering more housing through the land audit, who was there to oppose it? It was the member for Ryde. He was furious. The claws were out. Even spending time with his beloved tabby could not calm him down. "Puss in Boots" will oppose housing at every turn. It does not matter if it comes from the New South Wales Government or from his own Liberal-controlled council, he will oppose it. That is what he does.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Ryde to order for the first time. I call the member for Ryde to order for the second time.

Mr Kevin Anderson: Point of order: The Minister should refer to members by their correct titles.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: I retract the "Puss in Boots" comment.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: The Minister showed great disrespect to the Speaker's ruling when he made that comment. He is making a mockery of the Speaker. He ought to be called to order.

The SPEAKER: It was inappropriate but I am reasonably thick-skinned. I am okay with it. There is too much jest in the answers and interjections. Members will come to order.

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER: Their Federal colleagues are outraged. Senator Bragg said, "We need to be unambiguously on the side of supply and development." The Federal member for Hughes said, "We are in a crisis and we have to throw everything at this problem." But the State representatives are totally opposed to more housing. The shadow Minister for Planning is trying to create chaos with his ludicrous bill, which he should withdraw.

STATE BUDGET AND REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (12:01): My question is addressed to the exceptional Minister for Regional Transport and Roads. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales budget increases regional connectivity for essential services and infrastructure?

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (12:01): I thank the great member for Gosford. I am so pleased to answer this question. This budget delivers an increase in regional connectivity to essential services and infrastructure in places such as Gosford. The member for Gosford is a tremendous advocate. That is because we are the party of the bush. We have prioritised regional road recovery. We have to fund our flood-affected communities to get them back on their feet. That is what we are doing with a record-breaking \$3.3 billion for disaster recovery on our roads. Those opposite allocated just \$190 million a year for flood recovery; we have got \$3.3 billion going out over the next four years. As I have said time and again, transport and roads in regional areas are social determinants of health, education, opportunity and jobs. We are delivering not only better connectivity to essential services and infrastructure, but also more essential services and infrastructure than those opposite could even hope to dream of.

Our \$11.1 billion regional transport and roads spend this year will get the littlest learners to the new preschools that the Minister for Education and Early Learning and Deputy Premier announced. There is a \$769 million package for preschools, which were never built by those opposite. There will be 49 new preschools in the regions of Albury, Ballina, Barwon, Cootamundra, Goulburn, Kiama, Monaro, Murray, Myall Lakes, Northern Tablelands, Orange, Oxley, Port Macquarie, Shellharbour, South Coast, Tamworth, Wollondilly and Wyong. Those Opposite should say thanks. There will be new and upgraded schools at Huntlee and Calderwood. We are rebuilding Willyama High School in Broken Hill and upgrading Googong Public School. There are new school halls for Griffith's high schools and a Nowra East Public School upgrade.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Port Macquarie will cease interjecting.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I love this announcement so much: We are building the road to get to Jindabyne Public School and Jindabyne High School. Those opposite never allocated funding for the road, bike path or even electricity for that school—they forgot. They built a school but no one could get to it. Those opposite cannot do connectivity. We are getting more teachers to our regional schools by expanding the priority recruitment support program, with incentives of up to \$28,000 per teacher.

The SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Port Macquarie to order for the first time.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: We need to remember that members opposite are all a bit sad. Budget day was a bit of a disaster for them. Their best headline was that the member for Hornsby was leaving. That was the best they could do. The member for Northern Tablelands has jumped ship. He came with us to our budget party. He will probably come to our election party too. He has got the right tie and is nice and ready in his uniform. The former Premier and Treasurer, the member for Epping or Hawkesbury—where is it again?

Mr Matt Kean: Hornsby.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: No, you were not there. Hornsby, are you going again? Righto. I thought Natalie would be going for that. Is that how we are doing that? [*Extension of time*]

Where was the member for Dubbo in all of this—the member for Fukushima? If the NSW Farmers Association is favourably comparing the Treasurer to a farmer, surely the member for Dubbo must be Hanrahan. He is out there applying for his regional seniors travel card. Given the projected length of his leadership, I can understand that he is looking at retirement options. But with the \$390 million that was spent on that card, we could have built the Muswellbrook bypass by now. It could have been done years ago.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Dubbo will come to order.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: The member for Upper Hunter—Dr Strange Love over there—has got some other things on his mind.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Upper Hunter will come to order.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: When asked if he was pro-nuclear, he said he was open to the idea. I wonder what his electorate thinks.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Point of order: There have been at least three occasions when the Minister has not referred to members by their correct titles.

The SPEAKER: If that is the case, I uphold the point of order. All members will use the correct titles when referring to other members.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: I do wonder about the member for Upper Hunter and what the Country Women's Association ladies from Scone will think about having a nuclear reactor in their backyard. There is a \$16 billion cost for each of the seven plants. Was Chernobyl Sam over there so keen to get half a tunnel through the Blue Mountains so he can put one in Lithgow? That will go down well in Calare. Government is full of hard choices.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Point of order: My point of order relates to Standing Order 129. This has got absolutely nothing to do with the question that was asked. The Minister should return to the question.

The SPEAKER: I appreciate the sentiment but there is no point of order. The Minister has satisfied the requirement for direct relevance.

Ms JENNY AITCHISON: Government is full of hard choices. We have to prioritise community good over expensive election stunts and harebrained schemes. Those opposite have the intellectual weight of a lettuce leaf. They are all sizzle and no sausage. We are the party of the bush. We are rebuilding communities one road at a time.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND NDIS WORKER CHECKS

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (12:07): My question is directed to the Minister for Families and Communities. This Government is raising the cost of a Working with Children Check and a NDIS Worker Check by more than 30 per cent this year, with more increases every future year. Why is the Minns Labor Government penalising first-year graduate teachers, paediatric nurses and disability support workers in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis?

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will come to order. The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces will come to order. Members will listen to the Minister's answer in silence.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion) (12:08): I congratulate the Opposition on being really consistent in coming into this place every day to criticise the difficult decisions we are making to fix the mess they left us. I will be very clear about what we are doing and why we are doing it. First I will explain the why. The best way to illustrate the why is to relay a couple of conversations I have had recently. The first was with a young man who had just turned 18. He has recently come out of the care system.

He went into the system when he was nine years old, and he went into high-cost emergency arrangements. He went into hotels and motels over the course of almost a year, when he was nine and 10 years old, and he had 24/7 shift workers. He did not just go into one place; he moved around to numerous places. After that he went to residential care, where he felt unsafe the entire time. He told me he has left the care system and is finally feeling safe for the first time in his life. In other conversations I have had recently with case workers in Inverell, Glen Innes and Tamworth, they talked about how they feel about the children they are trying to protect who are suffering in the situations they are in.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: It is under Standing Order 129, direct relevance. This is a question about the cost of Working with Children Checks.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga will resume his seat. The Minister has been directly relevant. I will not entertain another point of order on direct relevance.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON: When they go home at night, those case workers are most concerned about the kids that they cannot see. Kids in high-cost emergency arrangements skyrocketed within the child protection system under the former Government. Case workers walked out the door because the former Government slapped a freeze on their wages, so there are hardly any on the ground. Those are the decisions that the former Government made, and do not forget the \$800 million blackhole it left in the system. Yes, the Government is raising the cost of the Working with Children Check to \$105. That is \$21 every year over five years, which is the lowest in the nation. That will mean that the Office of the Children's Guardian can do the critical work it must do. It also means the Government can redirect some resources towards fixing the broken system that the former Government left.

BOAT LICENCE FEES

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (12:11): My question is directed to the Minister the Transport. Recent increases in licence fees for boats and personal watercraft have far exceeded the consumer price index. For personal watercraft registrations, it is an increase of 88 per cent to \$1,961 over 10 years. A general boat licence is up 30 per cent to \$679 for 10 years. With a backdrop of a cost-of-living crisis, what can be done to ensure that boating does not become unaffordable for people?

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport) (12:11): I thank the member for Barwon for his question. He is a passionate and effective advocate for boaters, including in his role as the co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Aquatic Recreation, which holds excellent events. I look forward to going to the Sydney International Boat Show with the member and the group in August. Those fee increases to general boat and personal watercraft or jet ski licences from 1 July will help us keep our waterways safe through enforcement operations and delivering essential infrastructure. The Government and I understand that no-one likes a fee increase, but it is necessary to make sure that NSW Maritime can continue to conduct safety-critical activities on our waterways. In making those changes, we have, of course, tried to balance the need to make our maritime operations sustainable, but we also need to meet our legislated safety obligations.

Over 90 per cent of boat licence and registration holders will experience a price increase of less than \$35 per year, and every single one of those fees will go directly to a range of maritime activities, including those that benefit boaters and jet ski users. That includes the on-water safety and compliance operations. It also goes into the Waterways Fund, which has been under significant pressure due to three things. Firstly, I refer to the transfer of assets into that fund. The Waterways Fund needs to fund critical activities—for example, it has responsibility for dredging to make sure our waterways are safe. Secondly, there has been an increase in the asset portfolio and asset management responsibilities for those ageing assets. Thirdly, there are general cost increases. In particular, jet ski licences and registrations have increased by more than 40 per cent since 2018.

Sadly, jet skis have been heavily overrepresented in boating incidents over the past 10 years, especially those with serious injuries. The fee changes mean that our boating safety officers can continue to make sure that jet ski drivers, particularly new and young ones, have the skills to keep safe on our waterways. We need to be running those compliance and enforcement campaigns. I have been out on the Georges River with the member for East Hills to see our boating safety officers in action. It is critical work. I acknowledge that those fees can impact people in different ways. I thank the member for Barwon for highlighting that inland communities like his are impacted, particularly as it is pretty tough to undertake boating activities when there is no water in your rivers or lakes. I have asked my department to investigate the impacts on those communities. I have requested they look at systems like the Fair Go for Safe Drivers Scheme, which offered discounts on licence renewals when there were no offences over time. I commit to coming back to the member with more information, and I again thank him for his commitment to safe boating.

STATE BUDGET AND SKILLS TRAINING

Mr STEPHEN BALI (Blacktown) (12:14): My question is addressed to the Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education. Will the Minister update the House on how the New South Wales budget is building better communities by ensuring skills and training opportunities are accessible across the State?

Mr STEVE WHAN (Monaro—Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education) (12:15): I thank the member for Blacktown for his question and his strong interest in skills development in New South Wales. It was a challenging fiscal environment for this budget, but I am pleased that we have been able to provide \$2.5 billion for TAFE in New South Wales over the coming year, which will help us to address some important issues as we move through the process of completing the VET Review and rebuilding TAFE to make sure that we can train the people that we need to address the skills shortages and the priorities that this Government has in housing, health care, community services and human services.

It is a really important component to have TAFE as the heart of that system, and it is something that the Government will be delivering. I am proud that part of the \$83.1 million over the next four years is to support the conversion of casual and temporary TAFE teachers to permanent positions. TAFE teachers have been in uncertain employment for many years. In fact, almost a majority of TAFE teachers were in temporary or casual positions because the previous Government was simply not interested in building TAFE to provide the educational services that we need.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wahroonga will come to order.

Mr STEVE WHAN: We saw a 45 per cent decrease in the number of TAFE teachers, we saw enrolment numbers declining by around 28 per cent, and we saw a drop of 33 per cent in apprenticeship and traineeships over the term of the previous Government.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Port Macquarie to order for the second time.

Mr STEVE WHAN: That is why it is important to invest in TAFE teachers. I listened to the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply this morning, in which he berated the Government for providing workers with more money. I am very proud of the fact that, under this Government, TAFE teachers have seen their biggest pay rise since we were last in government. It is an amazing situation to have the Opposition bleating away on the other

side of the Chamber about vouchers when the Government knows the best way to help people deal with the cost of living is to give them a living wage. That is the key part of it.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Dubbo to order for the second time.

Mr STEVE WHAN: As part of our commitment to TAFE this year, the Government is investing \$300 million in capital funding to continue the process of \$190 million worth of maintenance to address the backlog that we were left by the neglect of the Opposition. We have also extended Fee Free training for apprentices and trainees, which is a really important incentive to ensure employers take them on. I am pleased to say that a small but important allocation is to extend the Get Back in the Game program for another year. That is a program which helps young people who are disengaged from school to engage with employers and educational services to make sure that we are not leaving them behind and are giving them the educational opportunities that they deserve.

Committees

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Membership

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That:

- (1) Pursuant to clause 2, schedule 2 to the Advocate for Children and Young People Act 2014, Ms Lynda Voltz be appointed to serve on the Committee on Children and Young People in place of Ms Charishma Kaliyanda.
- (2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE ON THE HEALTH CARE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

Membership

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (12:19): I move:

That:

- (1) Pursuant to section 68 of the Health Care Complaints Act 1993, Mr Tim Crakanthorp be appointed to serve on the Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission in place of Ms Charishma Kaliyanda.
- (2) A message be sent informing the Legislative Council.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Wahroonga) (12:19): The Opposition has only just been given the suspension of standing orders and we oppose it, because Tim Crakanthorp was found by the ICAC to be in breach of the ministerial code, which is a finding of corruption. He ought not to be appointed to this committee position. This Government may try to slip these sorts of things through to the keeper at the last minute—as the Leader of the House has done by giving us this suspension of standing orders only a few moments ago—but, as a matter of principle, if this Government stands for integrity in any way whatsoever, it ought not to be appointing to a parliamentary committee a member against whom the ICAC has made adverse findings.

Do members remember "A fresh start for NSW" at the election? The fresh start was about integrity in politics, and yet the Government is trying to appoint someone who has been the subject of adverse findings by the ICAC. He should be resigning from Parliament; he should be out of the Labor Caucus. Instead, he is still in the Caucus, and they are now seeking to appoint him to parliamentary committees and rely upon him. There is no problem with the first motion, with regard to Lynda Voltz being appointed to the Committee on Children and Young People. But we do object to Tim Crakanthorp being appointed to any position. He ought to be sitting on the crossbench. He ought to be kicked out of the Labor Caucus. To seek to appoint him to a committee, as the Government is trying to do, is an abrogation of the clear integrity measures that it should have undertaken.

It really annoys me. Remember the Government's funny ads with the big zing and the fresh new start and how it is all about integrity? What is going on? The ICAC made clear findings. There is no way that a government worth its salt on integrity would propose to appoint Tim Crakanthorp to this committee. The Opposition opposes it. It ought not to be done. Government members should be embarrassed and ashamed of themselves for even trying this stunt, and this Parliament should not agree to it.

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (12:22): If anyone has no credibility in this House, it is the member for Wahroonga.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I am seeking clarification from the Clerk. The Leader of the House is not speaking in reply. Other members may contribute to the debate. I will hear the point of order from the Manager of Opposition Business.

Mr Alister Henskens: The Leader of the House was starting to make a direct attack on me and my integrity—he does it every time. There is a clear ICAC finding. This matter is about the appointment of the member for Newcastle, not an attack on me. My point of order is taken under Standing Order 73. If the Leader of the House wants to move a substantive motion, he should do so.

The SPEAKER: The Manager of Opposition Business will resume his seat. He has made his point, and he may be correct about the need to move a substantive motion. However, the Leader of the House had just begun his contribution. The Leader of the House has the call.

Mr RON HOENIG: If anyone has no credibility in this House, it is the member for Wahroonga.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: The Leader of the House is doing it again.

The SPEAKER: The Manager of Opposition Business will resume his seat. The threshold has not been met.

Mr RON HOENIG: The member for Wahroonga has launched a personal attack in debate on a motion that is not a suspension of standing orders. He does not even have the brains to understand that it is not a suspension of standing orders. It is simply a routine motion to replace a member of this House on two committees, because the member for Liverpool is no longer eligible to serve on those committees. The member for Wahroonga does not even understand the procedures of the House. There is no point in relying on Standing Order 73. Under that standing order, credibility becomes relevant when the member raises it.

Mr Alister Henskens: You have given us two minutes notice. Is it any wonder? You have no courtesy.

Mr RON HOENIG: The member for Wahroonga can keep interjecting, but it will not matter. He is the man who stood in this House and said, "I have credible evidence of corruption by planning officials", and who has exposed himself as a fraud.

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order—

The SPEAKER: I will hear the point of order. But that statement, in itself, does not give rise to a point of order.

Mr Alister Henskens: The Leader of the House has moved on to irrelevant material. He is not debating the matter of the appointment of Tim Crakanthorp. He is making a personal attack on me about a matter unrelated to the motion.

The SPEAKER: The Manager of Opposition Business will resume his seat. I uphold the point of order. This debate can be conducted without members making personal reflections.

Mr RON HOENIG: The member for Wahroonga cannot attack the credibility of another member of this House without opening up the issue of his own credibility. He is telling this House—

The SPEAKER: I have ruled that the debate can be conducted without personal reflections. I understand the points of order raised by both members.

Mr RON HOENIG: Anything that the member for Wahroonga says about the member for Newcastle has no credibility at all and should be ignored.

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order: The Leader of the House is now flagrantly—

The SPEAKER: Flagrantly.

Mr Michael Daley: It's his aftershave.

Mr Adam Crouch: The smell is not that great from over there. He is flagrantly ignoring your ruling yet again, Mr Speaker. You have now asked him three times not to do it, and he is completely ignoring you.

The SPEAKER: We will move on and have a robust debate without any further personal reflections. We now have a context for the debate. The Leader of the House has the call.

Mr RON HOENIG: It is not a personal reflection when the member for Wahroonga tries to put a matter before the House that impacts his own credibility. It cannot be.

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order: How many times must we go through this? Mr Speaker, this is the fourth time the Leader of the House has ignored your ruling.

The SPEAKER: I remind the Leader of the House that we—

Mr Adam Crouch: Put him on a call.

The SPEAKER: I will not put him on a call. This is a robust debate. Both members have made strident comments about the issue and about other members. The Leader of the House may have strayed somewhat from my ruling, but he has not done so egregiously. I ask the Leader of the House to assist the Chair.

Mr RON HOENIG: How dare the member for Wahroonga suggest that a person who is entitled under the Constitution to be a member of this House, having been elected by his community, is not a fit and proper person to serve on a joint committee of this Parliament, particularly when the member for Wahroonga has disgraced his office of senior counsel?

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: Mr Speaker, I ask that you exercise your powers under Standing Order 59. When a member persists in irrelevance or tedious repetition, you are entitled to direct that he discontinue his speech. The Leader of the House has now transgressed your rulings on five or six occasions. It is time for Standing Order 59 to be brought into play.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Manager of Opposition Business, but we have not reached that stage yet.

Mr RON HOENIG: This is just a routine matter. If the member for Wahroonga believes there is some reason, under the New South Wales Constitution or the standing orders, why the member for Newcastle should not sit in this House, he should say so. The member for Wahroonga has used a routine motion to embark upon a personal attack on someone who has not been subject to a serious corruption finding. Whatever might have occurred in the commission's preliminary investigation, the Premier asked the member for Newcastle to resign from Cabinet, and that occurred quite some time ago. In my view, it is a gross contempt of this House for the member for Wahroonga to assert that a democratically elected member of this Parliament, a member who serves constituents of the Newcastle electorate seven days a week, should not sit on a committee.

When those opposite were in government, they sought to have the member for Kiama expelled from the House. I pointed out then, and it has been repeated in this House since, that the 93 members of this House are a cross-section of the community from across this State, and there will be plenty of times when one of them will err. The question is: Does the presumption of innocence apply? Do we apply the fundamental principle that until a person is proven to be guilty beyond a reasonable doubt they are presumed to be innocent? Should we allow a disgraceful attack on a person's integrity by a member who is poorly regarded in this House? The member for Wahroonga has no credibility and his opinion should be given no weight.

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order: This is about the seventh time the Leader of the House has flagrantly ignored your ruling.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order. The Leader of the House will not make personal reflections on members.

Mr RON HOENIG: This is childish conduct. It is an attempt to grandstand and single out members of this House who are constitutionally allowed to sit in it. It is a waste of time. What legitimate, forensic purpose is served by the member for Wahroonga raising this issue, other than for him to make a gratuitous attack on the member for Newcastle under the protection of parliamentary privilege, as he has with planning officials? Why does he not go outside the Chamber and say the same thing about the member for Newcastle?

Mr Alister Henskens: Point of order: He is again attacking me. Mr Speaker, I ask you to use your powers under—

The SPEAKER: I do not consider that was a personal attack that offended against the standing orders. Has the member for Heffron concluded his contribution?

Mr RON HOENIG: No. Why does the member for Wahroonga not go outside this Chamber and make the same statement? Mind you, Mr Speaker, I never heard him say the same thing about Gladys Berejiklian, who was found to have engaged in serious corrupt conduct—

Mr Adam Crouch: Point of order—

Mr RON HOENIG: —whether you agree with that or not. I never heard him say anything about her. I never heard him say, "She shouldn't be in this House."

The SPEAKER: I will hear the point of order.

Mr Adam Crouch: Mr Speaker, I think that is the eighth time that the Leader of the House has flouted your ruling. We are going through this over and over again. I ask you to draw the member back to the motion.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the House will return to the substantive motion and restrict the breadth of his comments.

Mr RON HOENIG: Members have no problem applying the presumption of innocence to the member for Kiama to ensure that he votes with them. I apply the presumption of innocence to him. This is a grubby, disgraceful misuse of the time of this House. It is a poor effort by the member for Wahroonga, who has no credibility. The House should deal with him appropriately. Mr Speaker, you should probably consider censuring him for his conduct in this House.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (12:34): What we have just seen is the ultimate—

Mr RON HOENIG: I move:

That the member be not further heard.

The House divided.

Ayes41
 Noes31
 Majority.....10

AYES

Aitchison, J
 Atalla, E
 Bali, S
 Barr, C
 Butler, L
 Car, P
 Catley, Y
 Chanthivong, A
 Cotsis, S
 Crakanthorp, T
 Daley, M
 Davis, D
 Donato, P
 Doyle, T

Finn, J
 Harris, D
 Harrison, J
 Haylen, J
 Hoenig, R
 Holland, M
 Hornery, S
 Kaliyanda, C
 Kamper, S
 Kirby, W
 Li, J
 McDermott, H
 McKeown, K
 Mehan, D

Minns, C
 Park, R
 Quinnell, S
 Saliba, D
 Scully, P
 Stuart, M
 Tesch, L
 Voltz, L
 Warren, G (teller)
 Washington, K
 Watson, A (teller)
 Whan, S
 Wilkinson, K

NOES

Amon, R
 Anderson, K
 Ayyad, T
 Clancy, J
 Cooke, S
 Coure, M
 Cross, M
 Crouch, A (teller)
 Dalton, H
 Davies, T
 Di Pasqua, S

Griffin, J
 Henskens, A
 Hodges, M
 James, T
 Kean, M
 Kemp, M
 Lane, J
 Layzell, D
 Perrottet, D
 Provest, G

Saunders, D
 Singh, G (teller)
 Sloane, K
 Speakman, M
 Thompson, T
 Toole, P
 Tuckerman, W
 Williams, L
 Williams, R
 Wilson, F

PAIRS

Dib, J
 Hagarty, N
 O'Neill, M
 Saffin, J
 Vo, T

Taylor, M
 Preston, R
 Petinos, E
 Roberts, A
 Williamson, R

Motion agreed to.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ: I move:

That the question be now put.

The House divided.

Ayes44
 Noes32
 Majority.....12

AYES

Aitchison, J	Finn, J	Mehan, D
Atalla, E	Greenwich, A	Minns, C
Bali, S	Harris, D	Park, R
Barr, C	Harrison, J	Quinnell, S
Butler, L	Haylen, J	Saliba, D
Butler, R	Hoenig, R	Scully, P
Car, P	Holland, M	Stuart, M
Catley, Y	Hornery, S	Tesch, L
Chanthivong, A	Kaliyanda, C	Voltz, L
Cotsis, S	Kamper, S	Warren, G (teller)
Crakanthorp, T	Kirby, W	Washington, K
Daley, M	Li, J	Watson, A (teller)
Davis, D	McDermott, H	Whan, S
Donato, P	McGirr, J	Wilkinson, K
Doyle, T	McKeown, K	

NOES

Amon, R	Griffin, J	Singh, G (teller)
Anderson, K	Henskens, A	Sloane, K
Ayyad, T	Hodges, M	Speakman, M
Clancy, J	James, T	Thompson, T
Cooke, S	Kean, M	Toole, P
Coure, M	Kemp, M	Tuckerman, W
Cross, M	Lane, J	Williams, L
Crouch, A (teller)	Layzell, D	Williams, R
Dalton, H	Perrottet, D	Williamson, R
Davies, T	Provest, G	Wilson, F
Di Pasqua, S	Saunders, D	

PAIRS

Dib, J	Taylor, M
Hagarty, N	Petinos, E
O'Neill, M	Preston, R
Saffin, J	Roberts, A

Motion agreed to.

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

The House divided.

Ayes45
 Noes32
 Majority.....13

AYES

Aitchison, J	Finn, J	Mehan, D
Atalla, E	Greenwich, A	Minns, C
Bali, S	Harris, D	Park, R
Barr, C	Harrison, J	Quinnell, S
Butler, L	Haylen, J	Saliba, D
Butler, R	Hoenig, R	Scully, P
Car, P	Holland, M	Stuart, M

AYES

Catley, Y	Hornery, S	Tesch, L
Chanthivong, A	Kaliyanda, C	Vo, T
Cotsis, S	Kamper, S	Voltz, L
Crakanthorp, T	Kirby, W	Warren, G (teller)
Daley, M	Li, J	Washington, K
Davis, D	McDermott, H	Watson, A (teller)
Donato, P	McGirr, J	Whan, S
Doyle, T	McKeown, K	Wilkinson, K

NOES

Amon, R	Griffin, J	Singh, G (teller)
Anderson, K	Henskens, A	Sloane, K
Ayyad, T	Hodges, M	Speakman, M
Clancy, J	James, T	Thompson, T
Cooke, S	Kean, M	Toole, P
Coure, M	Kemp, M	Tuckerman, W
Cross, M	Lane, J	Williams, L
Crouch, A (teller)	Layzell, D	Williams, R
Dalton, H	Perrottet, D	Williamson, R
Davies, T	Provest, G	Wilson, F
Di Pasqua, S	Saunders, D	

PAIRS

Dib, J	Petinos, E
Hagarty, N	Roberts, A
O'Neill, M	Preston, R
Saffin, J	Taylor, M

Motion agreed to.

*Petitions***RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

The CLERK: I announce that the following Minister has lodged a response to a paper petition signed by 10,000 or more persons:

The Hon. Ryan Park—Manning Rural Referral Hospital—lodged 15 May 2024 (Mrs Tanya Thompson)

*Bills***REGIONAL COMMUNITIES (CONSULTATION STANDARDS) BILL 2024****Second Reading Speech**

Debate resumed from an earlier hour.

Mr ROY BUTLER (Barwon) (12:55): As I said earlier, the tyranny of distance means it is harder for agencies and government officials to engage meaningfully with many of our towns. Rather than attempts at meaningful engagement, we see links to "Have your say" websites. We see drop-in sessions that are poorly advertised on social media and, frankly, designed to divide and conquer. Social media advertising does not work out west. Connectivity is often fraught with blackspots, outages and ageing telecommunication infrastructure. Many people who would be impacted by a project do not know that the information drop-in sessions are happening, because they are advertised only on social media. They find out far too late and cannot cover the distance in time to contribute.

Communities know what they need, but they are disadvantaged by current consultation processes. The 10-year regional health strategic plan was developed with little to no consultation. The regional plan includes everywhere except for Sydney—from the coast to the most remote parts of New South Wales. Despite the damning rural health inquiry, which resulted in 44 recommendations, the "Have your say" website and a couple of roundtable meetings were, apparently, enough consultation to cover the hugely diverse communities across regional and rural New South Wales. Most recommendations were not taken up. The plan did not include clear

metrics. Community expectations voiced during the consultation were not valued, even though the community would guide the local health districts charged with implementing the plan.

More recently, a program for 100 new preschools was announced by the Government. Bourke was told it was getting a new preschool within the existing public primary school; the community is now outraged. Many in this place might find this strange or ungrateful, but I ask them to consider some facts about Bourke. That community has an Aboriginal population of at least 30 per cent. Maranguka and the Bourke Tribal Council agreed on a framework and principles for a preschool in their community, based on what Bourke needs and wants for its youth in the future. This framework has been developed by the community for the community. In a place with high crime rates and low education participation, it is essential that the community be involved and have a say in the outcome. However, neither Maranguka nor the Bourke Tribal Council was consulted initially.

The community approached the department and told it categorically that it did not favour a new preschool and wanted the existing preschool to expand, as it was already partially funded by the New South Wales Government. Regardless, the department has violated the agreed-upon framework and disregarded local voices, and now the funding and viability of the existing preschool are in jeopardy. The outcome for Bourke is far from ideal, and that community is feeling angst over a government-funded project that should be delivering positive outcomes for a disadvantaged community. The assessment panel's decision-making framework for the 100 preschools says that, as part of its site selection process, it will "gather feedback on the local need for preschool, cultural relevance and equity insights through consultation." It seems those are only words.

Reading through the document *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects*, you begin to understand the weight that departments place on consultation and engagement. Under the heading "Is community support essential for a project to proceed?", some of the top points it makes are:

Engagement is about transparency and fairness.

Engagement is not about doing what everyone wants.

Engagement does not mean 'asking' the community for permission for the project to proceed.

We understand that not all projects will reflect the viewpoints of everyone in the community—that would be impossible—but consultation should be carried out properly and effectively in regional communities with accountability and transparency.

The community should be brought along, and that is not happening.

I now turn to the object of the bill. Ultimately, the bill is designed for regional communities so the Act defines a regional community as a community outside of the Greater Sydney Region. Clause 4 gives effect to the object—that is, consultation with a regional community by or on behalf of the State, a New South Wales government agency, or a statutory body representing the Crown must be carried out in accordance with the prescribed standard. The clause does not apply to an existing consultation required by an Act to be carried out in a specified way. Clause 5 enables the Governor to make regulations for the purpose of the Act.

The bill also sets out the prescribed standard until regulations provide otherwise. The prescribed standard for the Act is the *Quality Assurance Standard for Community and Stakeholder Engagement* published by the International Association for Public Participation [IAP2] in May 2015. The IAP2 is a leading professional organisation advancing the practice of public participation globally. The standard document describes the many important elements of any community engagement process. It was developed to ensure consistency in quality and support for those carrying out the process. The document also allows any process to be audited.

The specific objectives of the standard are to better assure the quality of engagement and engagement audit services; to improve confidence and certainty in the process of community and stakeholder engagement both for users and clients of the engagement practice; to regulate practitioner activity by standardising the process of community and stakeholder engagement; to authorise practitioners to undertake community and stakeholder engagement in accordance with the agreed standard process; to support career, education and practice pathways so that professionalisation in community and stakeholder engagement can be encouraged; and to validate engagement activity by defining and measuring a quality public participation process. The standard has been developed in response to market demand for evidence that effective community and stakeholder engagement has been delivered, and particularly that it accords with the professional community's perspective of quality. The standard is thorough and provides consistency, accountability and transparency. Those are issues that our communities are consistently demanding through the engagement and consultation processes.

Wilcannia Weir is another example of consultation gone wrong and accountability from agencies being thrown out the window. Wilcannia is a particularly vulnerable place. The Indigenous population suffer the impacts of the intergenerational effects of colonisation and racism, and unemployment is high. For over 30 years the Wilcannia community has been calling for a new weir but their experience has been poor consultation, report

writing and delays. A commitment was made in 2019 by the then Liberal-Nationals Government for \$32 million, and consultation began. The community was heavily involved in the process. The Baaka are river people and any potential changes to the river are of absolute importance to that community. The design reflected what the community needed—not wanted; needed.

Fast-forwarding to 2023 and a new government, Wilcannia is now facing a horrifying reality: It will not get the weir it needs. That is what it is being told. The department is spinning all sorts of stories about why the Baaka will not receive it, with money being one of the biggest drivers. The original project design was a part of an IAP2 case study series and an entry into the Core Values Awards in 2021. The entry was called "Wilcannia Weir Replacement Project: throwing out the rule book for genuine partnerships". Genuine partnerships—that is what is meaningful here.

The Wilcannia community is outraged by the new design. It will be one metre lower in height, without a crested gate to control water and with a different fishway. Because the project has been discussed for a long time and has changed multiple government hands, the agency is noncompliant in terms of accountability. Nothing compels it to be transparent about the processes. The project designed specifically for Wilcannia's needs underwent an unknown process, and the community must live with the repercussions. When it comes to public money, members can all agree that that is not the standard we should be practising. The Parliament has the ability to change that standard and that will change the trajectory of many of our most vulnerable communities. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned.

NATIONAL PARKS AND HERITAGE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Returned

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill without amendment.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION AMENDMENT (MINISTERIAL DIARY DISCLOSURE) BILL 2024

Second Reading Debate

Debate resumed from 14 March 2024.

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (13:04): Today I contribute to the debate on the Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Diary Disclosure) Bill 2024. I welcome the people in the public gallery. I am glad they are here to witness this. When it comes to integrity, CS Lewis said it best: "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no-one is watching." I join my colleague the member for Wahroonga in speaking on the bill from the Opposition. As the member for Wahroonga said in his contribution, the Opposition will support this private member's bill. A bill like this is an opportunity for all members of Parliament to not only make a contribution but also take the opportunity to strengthen our laws on disclosure, transparency and anti-corruption measures, and that is why I am proud to support it.

The bill is an opportunity to recommit this Parliament to our anti-corruption measures. It is important for transparency to find out what is going on, particularly amongst decision-makers, or with decision-makers. I believe this Parliament should always send the message that it will be tough on corruption. Members will remember individuals who have been found corrupt by ICAC, and there is one in particular that I will reflect on. In 2012 an ICAC inquiry was underway into the awarding of mining contracts to friends of the former Labor Ministers Ian Macdonald and Eddie Obeid. The people of New South Wales were put aside for assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars to business people. That was Operation Jasper. At the time, Counsel-Assisting Geoffrey Watson, SC, said the inquiry was looking at whether tendering information was leaked to the family of Eddie Obeid. Watson said, "If it is corruption, then it is corruption on a scale probably unexceeded since the days of the Rum Corps."

In relation to Operation Jasper, it came down to the information that went across ministerial desks. If ministerial disclosures were available at the time, then I suspect we may have seen a different result. I, as many members know in this place, was a former ministerial advisor to former Premier Mike Baird. It was under Mike Baird that our government introduced the ministerial diary disclosures. It was a time when light needed to be shone on who the Ministers at the time were meeting with. I acknowledge that the Labor Government has continued the practice, so full credit to both sides of politics in continuing it because I believe transparency is important. I empathise because if I was in the place of a Minister, I would always think twice about whom I met with, given that it would be disclosed, and that is a good thing. We should always think twice. It is a good corruption prevention measure and we should embrace it.

The purpose of the bill is to extend that measure to Parliamentary Secretaries. The Ministers' Office Handbook has a chapter on Parliamentary Secretaries—chapter 8. It states:

Parliamentary Secretaries are appointed by the Premier under Part 4A of the *Constitution Act 1902*. Parliamentary Secretaries can be appointed from either House of Parliament but cannot also be Ministers nor can they be members of the Executive Council.

It goes to detail what the duties of a Parliamentary Secretary are. These include:

Provide assistance to the Premier and or other Ministers, including signing correspondence; attending meetings, receiving deputations; undertaking special tasks; officiating at functions; and relieving the Premier and Ministers of some of their duties.

Parliamentary Secretaries may also fulfil some of the parliamentary functions of Ministers as set out in the Sessional Orders or Standing Orders of the Houses.

As defined in the Constitution Act 1902, the position of Parliamentary Secretary is very worthwhile and important.

Ms Liesl Tesch: Hear, hear!

Mr MATT CROSS: I note the support from a Parliamentary Secretary. It is an important role, which merits that Parliamentary Secretaries disclose their diaries too. Parliamentary Secretaries are currently not required to disclose their diaries, but they certainly should have nothing to hide. The bill will focus their views about whether they should take meetings, which is a really good thing. Ministerial disclosure requirements began under former Premier Mike Baird, and I reflect on when that took place. We had seen serious corruption allegations from both the Hunter and the Central Coast at the time, and they were dealt with in a very proper manner, but the people of New South Wales cried out for reform. As I discussed, it came on the back of Operation Jasper, which investigated the Labor Party, so both sides of politics needed to lift their game.

Further, in November 2010 the ICAC released the final report on its investigation into the nature and management of lobbying in New South Wales, entitled *Investigation into corruption risks involved in lobbying*. ICAC found that there had been a failure to adequately regulate lobbying activities, and it led to community perceptions of corruption associated with lobbying and inadequate transparency of lobbying activity, which created opportunities for corruption. The bill further strengthens what is already in place around Ministers, in particular Premier's Memorandum M2014-07 Publication of Ministerial Diaries. All Ministers know that their diaries are published quarterly, one month after the end of each quarter. Eager Opposition backbenchers look forward to looking them up on the Premier's Department website. A fair question to ask is whether anywhere else in Australia does this, and the answer is yes. Section 3.12 of the *Queensland Ministerial Handbook* states:

Ministers and Assistant Ministers are required to proactively disclose on a monthly basis portfolio related meetings and events.

Chiefs of staff are required to proactively disclose on a monthly basis portfolio related meetings with external parties.

I could ask the member for Kiama why the bill does not also require chiefs of staff to disclose. I believe we need to do everything we can to eradicate and prevent corruption. The bill deserves the support of all parties. I note that the Government and certain members of the crossbench have already indicated that they will not support the bill, but I hope they are not saying that they will never support something similar in the future. If the bill does not pass this House, then I acknowledge that the member for Kiama is starting an important conversation that this House always needs to have around preventing, stopping and stamping out corruption. Hopefully it will start a proper conversation so that later on—hopefully in this term of Parliament, but if not then in the next term—Parliamentary Secretaries' diaries will also be disclosed. It will strengthen decision-making and transparency. I commend the bill to the House.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (13:13): I contribute to debate on the Independent Commission Against Corruption (Ministerial Diary Disclosure Bill) 2024. I thank the member for Kiama for bringing the bill to the House. I reflect on a time when he and I had parallel diaries as both of us set off to the inaugural meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities. Independent of each other, we both stopped in New York. I disclose in my diary notes that I visited a number of housing advocates and looked at mixed-tenure social and affordable housing in New York. It was written in the newspaper that the member for Kiama chose to do something completely different, having a massage in New York. It is interesting to reflect on what disclosing our diaries from that time could mean for us.

I thank the member for bringing the bill before the House, and the other members who have spoken. We all take this subject very seriously and absolutely need to work together to find the most robust way to promote transparency in our political system. The people of New South Wales expect transparency around the issues of lobbying and ministerial meetings. Who is the Minister hearing from, or not? Which voices are being heard, and which ones are being drowned out? Are they meeting a wide range of community groups—not lobbyists, but citizens who have come together around a certain issue—or only from one side of the story? Is the Leader of the Opposition committed to disclosing his diary? He originally committed to that, but nothing has happened. I am

interested to know when that will happen. Former Labor leaders of the Opposition disclosed their diaries, and I believe the current Leader of the Opposition should disclose his diary to the people of New South Wales.

If politicians do not take the lead and lead by example, then the debate can easily drift into cynicism and conspiracy theory, to the detriment of our democracy. It is easy to see the result of that disengagement from the political system around the world, and Australia and New South Wales are not immune from those same forces. The Government is committed to ensuring that the highest standards of integrity are practised across government and that all decisions are made in the public interest. The Government has already introduced numerous new integrity measures in areas such as grants and political donations, and it will continue to strengthen existing systems to maintain and strengthen public confidence in the integrity of our democracy. I am proud of the record of the Minns Labor Government in bringing in numerous integrity and transparency measures in just over a year in government.

The Premier has clearly led the way, with the highest expectations of all of us. That is in contrast to previous Premiers who apparently saw nothing wrong with MPs lobbying for private interests while they were in Parliament. Premier Berejiklian's friend in Parliament definitely did a significant amount of lobbying and got her into a lot of trouble, so it is interesting to hear a member of the previous Liberal Government asking that this integrity measure be put in place. Government members will do more in this specific area after proper consideration of the issues. I welcome any member's contribution to these issues, including to debate on this bill—even though we are not supporting it today. We are not complacent about it and there is more to come.

Our Government does not support the bill, not because we do not think it goes to important issues but because it nibbles away at the edges of some minor issues while leaving the major work untouched. Our Government is doing that major work, and we will bring forward our response to the issues around lobbying after due consideration. As other speakers have said, the private member's bill would overlap with many of the requirements that are already set out in the Premier's memorandum, including that Ministers are required to publish regular summaries of certain meetings. That already happens, and it is freely available for all members—and, indeed, all of the community—to consult. Perhaps there are constructive suggestions for ways it could be formatted differently, but the key information is there.

When I organise meetings between representatives from my community and Ministers, comprehensive information has to be filled out before the meeting can go ahead. Under the Premier's memorandum, Ministers are already required to publish quarterly summaries of their diaries, which are available on the Cabinet Office website. They include all scheduled meetings involving the discussion of a matter that may be considered by the Minister, whether formally or informally, in their role as portfolio Minister or as a member of Cabinet. ICAC's Operation Eclipse report and recommendations deserve serious consideration because the issues raised are important and complex. This bill pre-empts the Government's consideration of the Operation Eclipse report.

The ICAC recommendations raise complex and important issues regarding the regulatory framework for lobbying in New South Wales that require careful consideration. The bill does not examine the lobbying framework as a whole, as recommended by the Operation Eclipse report. It recommended monthly disclosures and diaries to be published in a searchable format, a preset menu of options to describe the purpose of the meeting, and the disclosure of fundraising events where an attendee pays for exclusive or private access to a Minister. The member for Kiama has had a longstanding interest in this issue, as many members have, and we all want to see guardrails and proactive measures put in place that encourage confidence in the system and allow as many citizens as possible to enthusiastically participate in our democracy.

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour) (13:19): I speak in debate on the Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Diary Disclosure) Bill 2024 and thank the member for Kiama for helping us to expose the hypocrisy on the Opposition side of the House. It is a wonder that the member for Kiama has any spare time to work on bills like this, considering his real job is the Mayor of Shellharbour. Unlike members opposite, the Minns Labor Government is committed to ensuring the highest standards of integrity across government. That has already been proven. Unlike members opposite, who abused their power for 12 years, we are committed to making all decisions in the public interest. We have already introduced numerous new integrity measures for grants and political donations. We are cleaning up the mess after many years of Liberal failure on integrity. We will continue to strengthen existing systems to maintain and improve public confidence in the integrity of our democracy. It is telling that the member for Kiama has been a Parliamentary Secretary and Minister in a Liberal Government. He must have seen some very dodgy dealings when he was in government to think that the bill is needed.

I have a few specific reasons that detail why I oppose this private member's bill. First, Ministers are required to publish quarterly summaries of their diaries in accordance with Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 entitled *Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information*. Secondly, unfortunately, the private member's bill brought by the member for Kiama pre-empts the Minns Government's consideration of

recommendations related to ministerial diary disclosures and lobbying reforms in the ICAC's Operation Eclipse report. Although the member for Kiama's second reading speech refers to the Eclipse report, the bill does not ensure that any of the ICAC recommendations regarding ministerial diary disclosures in that report will be implemented. That is very interesting.

Specifically, the bill does not require monthly disclosures and diaries to be published in a searchable format, as per recommendation 12. Nor does it require a pre-set menu of options to describe the purpose of the meeting, as per recommendation 13. Nor does it require the disclosure of fundraising events where an attendee pays for exclusive or private access to a Minister, as per recommendation 25. I am sure the member for Kiama would have plenty of stories about who was provided "private access" to his fellow Liberals when they were Ministers. We might have to wait to hear about those details in the book he will write when he retires.

The bill would also overlap with many of the requirements that are already set out in the Premier's Memorandum, including that Ministers are required to publish regular summaries of certain meetings. Ministers are already required to publish quarterly summaries of their diaries, which are available for all to see on the internet, including all scheduled meetings involving the discussion of a matter that may be considered by the Minister, whether formally or informally, in their role as a portfolio Minister or member of Cabinet.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition has committed to disclosing his diary. Do we know when that is going to happen? I do not think we have seen it yet. The member for Kiama must surely know, as he is still running the show on that side of the Chamber. The member for Kiama is doing a great job of undermining the Leader of the Opposition with the bill, highlighting the fact that former Labor leaders of the Opposition disclosed their diaries. The current Leader of the Opposition should be disclosing his diary. I will vote against the bill.

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (13:23): I make a brief contribution to debate on the Independent Commission Against Corruption Amendment (Ministerial Diary Disclosure) Bill 2024. At the outset I reiterate my professional and personal view, and indeed commitment, to the level of credibility and integrity that members in this place should always have. The standard we walk past is the standard that we accept. Members on the other side of the Chamber like to throw rocks at everything, including political parties and previous history. I do not see that as being constructive. I believe that the vast majority of our colleagues, irrespective of where they are from and what they do, are in here for the right reasons and do the right thing. I believe the bill is undermining our important profession as legislators. We must always uphold the highest degree of credibility and integrity.

In that vein, I will correct the record. The former Leader of the Opposition, now Premier, disclosed his diary. I am advised that so did Jodi McKay and Michael Daley when they were leaders of the Opposition. I note and am also advised that the current Leader of the Opposition has not disclosed his diary. I would urge the Leader of the Opposition to reconsider his position and fully disclose his diary to ensure that the people of New South Wales have faith and trust in that process.

The Government does not support the private member's bill. I believe the member for Kiama is simply posturing. I know that Ministers, including me as a Parliamentary Secretary, are required to act with transparency. Even if that was not required, I would do it because I have got nothing to hide. That is the reality. Ministers are already required to publish quarterly summaries of their diaries in accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 entitled *Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information*. The private member's bill pre-empts the Government's consideration and recommendations regarding ministerial diary disclosure obligations and broader lobbying reforms in the ICAC's Operation Eclipse report.

I also have a professional and personal position where I do not believe it is just, equitable, fair or right for us to make commentary on matters that are being investigated, whether by the ICAC, our authorities, or our police. Previous commentary from members opposite earlier today is a great example. I believe their comments were grossly unnecessary, grossly wrong and grossly unfair. We live in a social democracy where we are innocent until proven guilty—unless you charged under the Defence Force Discipline Act, where you are guilty until you can prove your innocence, as most soldiers and service personnel would be aware. That was a joke! I reflect back to my time in the army; ultimately that was the shared view amongst my comrades and colleagues at that time.

I use this opportunity to reiterate that I believe that many of our colleagues, irrespective of persuasion, do the right thing. We see it. We have debates in this place and we disagree. That is fine; that is what we do. That is the cornerstone of democracy and that is how we operate. We are entitled to disagree as we make representations. To suggest or insinuate that members more broadly and holistically do not comply or are not doing the right thing, is unfair. It is an unfair insinuation on our current Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and anyone else who is required to provide full disclosure. Frankly, it is unfair on previous Ministers and Premiers, many of whom did the right thing.

At times there can be oversights. Everyone is accepting of that because everyone makes mistakes. If that occurs, those matters are investigated because those processes are already in place. I do not think any member in this place could effectively argue that we do not have tight rules, conditions and processes in place in the Parliament of New South Wales to address those concerns when they arise. We know, and we cannot sugar coat it, that at times members have done the wrong thing deliberately. But we know our processes are working by virtue of the fact that those members were found out, which means that they are adequate. The leadership of our Premiers and Ministers is substantiated. I do not believe the member for Kiama's posturing on this issue does anyone any favours.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): It being 1.30 p.m., in accordance with the resolution of the House of 5 June 2024, the time for consideration of general business orders of the day for bills has elapsed. I set down the resumption of the interrupted debate as an order of the day for a later time. I shall now leave the chair. The House will resume at 2.30 p.m.

Motions

KOALA PROTECTION

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion) (14:31): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Welcomes the \$2 million funding boost from the Government to the Port Stephens Koala Hospital.
- (2) Notes that this investment is part of a \$172 million investment to bring koalas back from the brink, including an \$80 million downpayment for the Great Koala National Park.
- (3) Commends the Government's work to help our much loved iconic species.

The New South Wales Government is committed to protecting and ensuring the long-term survival of koalas in the wild. My electorate of Port Stephens is well known for having beautiful beaches, pristine waterways and expansive bushland. We also have a number of endangered koala colonies. The community of Port Stephens is fiercely committed to protecting our local koalas. I am honoured to represent Port Stephens—a place where one can go for a walk in the bush and see koalas in the wild. I am honoured to be part of a government that funds research and supports organisations to ensure that they can carry on with their vital work of protecting these beautiful animals.

That support from the Government recognises the valuable contribution of not-for-profit and volunteer wildlife rehabilitation organisations in New South Wales. The Government remains committed to supporting the provision of those services into the future. It is investing over \$8.1 million into wildlife hospital and care facilities across New South Wales, including \$4.5 million to the University of Sydney School of Veterinary Science to establish a koala care centre in the Macarthur region; \$1.4 million to support completion of the Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital in Wollongbar; \$110,000 to support Friends of the Koala in Lismore to deliver a chlamydia vaccination program and develop a koala database; \$110,000 to Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital to deliver community education and vet training projects; a further \$500,000 to support the volunteer wildlife rehabilitators in the Macarthur region; and last but certainly not least, \$2 million to increase capacity for vets, nurses, surgery and feeding at Port Stephens Koala Hospital.

In order to drive the increased support of organisations like the Port Stephens Koala Hospital at a strategic scale, the Government is launching a statewide consultation on the wildlife rehabilitation sector to gain a detailed understanding of how we can improve the way we care for our native animals in New South Wales. The consultation will examine the challenges facing the sector, identify best practices and recommend next steps. In addition to that \$172 million investment, the Government is committed to reviewing the NSW Koala Strategy to ensure that it effectively safeguards our koala populations for future generations. The review is an opportunity to examine the way we are delivering the NSW Koala Strategy, to look for gaps in our approach and to harness new information in our efforts to secure the survival of koalas in the wild.

The New South Wales Government is listening to and learning from stakeholders, especially First Nations people. On 29 February this year a discussion paper was released seeking views on conservation actions being undertaken under the NSW Koala Strategy. On 22 March the Government hosted the NSW Koala Summit, which brought together 140 stakeholders representing a diverse range of stakeholder groups, including non-government organisations, private landholders, local councils, First Nations representatives, academics and researchers, businesses and policymakers.

Feedback from the discussion paper and the Koala Summit will help identify future priorities for koala conservation in New South Wales and inform the refresh of the strategy. As we are all aware, without further

action, koalas could become extinct in New South Wales by the middle of this century. The need to take action has never been more urgent. The Government cannot and will not accept a future without koalas. It is delivering urgent action now to holistically support, manage and care for this iconic species, and to safeguard koala populations for future generations.

It would come as no surprise to anyone in this place or in my community that I am one of the biggest backers of the Port Stephens Koala Hospital. It started when a very determined fellow by the name of Ron Land visited my electorate office in 2016. He had very big plans that he literally unfurled across my desk. At that time, there was no koala hospital and Port Stephens volunteers had been caring for sick and injured koalas in their own backyards for years. Ron was on a mission to change all that, and it was a mission worthy of support—although not many people are brave enough to say no to Ron. I secured grant funding that served to seed the project, which was backed in by the Federal member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson. She secured more funds, and then Port Stephens Council and the New South Wales Government came on board.

Most recently, before the last election, we committed \$2 million to the Port Stephens Koala Hospital if Labor formed government—and thank goodness, we did. The Government has delivered on that \$2 million promise to support the incredible work of the staff and volunteers who work every single day to save our local koalas from extinction. Since the plans were first unfurled across my desk, the hospital has grown to become an incredible world-class facility powered by an army of dedicated volunteers. It has become a highly regarded and respected research and training facility, whilst being an important tourist destination for Port Stephens.

The Port Stephens Koala Hospital is one of 40 dedicated wildlife rehabilitation providers in New South Wales. It provides best-practice standards of care to sick, injured and orphaned koalas to give them the best opportunity to be returned to the wild. I have had the opportunity to return a koala to the wild—that koala was also named Kate. It was a ridiculously incredible experience. The organisation supports research and collaboration to preserve koala habitat to ensure that future generations may continue to enjoy seeing wildlife in their natural setting.

The Port Stephens Koala Hospital is a very special place with hundreds of amazing volunteers caring for sick and injured koalas. For visitors, seeing koalas in the wild is an unforgettable experience. The hospital is also growing the next generation of wildlife warriors through its school student programs. As the local member and on behalf of the Parliament, I thank Ron Land, who is the Chair of the board; every board member; CEO Alana McGee; head vet Dr Don Hudson and his team; and every single past and current volunteer at Port Stephens Koala Hospital. I thank them for doing all they can to ensure that the next generation of Australians can see koalas in the wild in beautiful Port Stephens.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (14:38): I thank the member for Port Stephens for moving this important motion. I acknowledge her genuine and heartfelt enthusiasm for the hospital and for koalas. With hand on heart—actually, with koala on heart—I am also very pleased to be speaking to this motion. The hospital in Port Stephens had a strong foundational relationship with the former Coalition Government. I note that in 2021 the former environment Minister, Matt Kean, opened the \$9 million koala sanctuary that the hospital is located within.

I remember seeing news stories of him turning the first sod with great excitement, and then opening it. The Liberals and Nationals also helped support the hospital with \$3 million through the \$44 million koala strategy. We all want to see koalas thrive in New South Wales for generations to come. From grassroots organisations to government, local councils and citizen scientists, we are all invested in protecting their future.

When people think of Australia, many images are conjured up, but koalas are always top of mind, along with their bouncy friends, the kangaroos. We need to protect koalas so much more than some of our other native species and ensure that they are there to enjoy, look at and support for generations. Their future is in our hands. It is good to see that the Government is continuing much of the work that the former Government commenced. I revisit some of the former Coalition Government's work. In 2021 the Liberal-Nationals Government released the NSW Koala Strategy 2021-2026. The strategy committed a record \$193.3 million to fund more than 30 actions to conserve and grow the koala population. At the time, it was the single largest investment in any species in Australia. It was an important moment for the State, and I commend the former environment Minister for that work. The \$190 million strategy underpinned the former Government's goal of doubling koala numbers by 2050.

I note that the Government is continuing to support that strategy in this year's budget. The NSW Koala Strategy 2021-2026 focused on actions under four themes: \$107.1 million for koala habitat conservation to fund the protection, restoration and improved management of 47,000 hectares of koala habitat; \$19.6 million to support local communities to conserve koalas; \$23.2 million to improve the safety and health of koalas by removing threats; and \$43.4 million to support science and research to build knowledge of koalas and their populations.

Far too many koalas are being injured or killed by vehicles. We have all seen terrible images of joeys surviving after their mothers are hit by cars. It is at times like those that wildlife hospitals are so vital—hospitals like Port Stephens Koala Hospital and Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital. I had the pleasure of visiting Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, an organisation that does great work with specialist care for native wildlife. The Coalition committed to funding that organisation. Unfortunately, that funding has evaporated and the organisation's operational budget is so slim that it faces the prospect of closing its doors within the next month or so.

Ms Tamara Smith: We won't let that happen.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE: I am glad to hear that will not happen, but I fear that the hospital is running out of funds. I note that is in the context of the Ken Henry review into biodiversity, which talked about the great need for more investment in wildlife hospitals and nature conservation. I hope that there will be good news about that. The member for Holsworthy and I recently visited a notorious vehicle strike hotspot on Heathcote Road near Deadmans Creek. On average, one koala is killed by a vehicle every month near Deadmans Creek. That is a tragedy. Stage one of the works to improve koala safety in that area is now complete. The member for Holsworthy has been advocating strongly on that, and I commend her for her support of local wildlife. She has been actively campaigning for Transport for NSW to hurry up and complete stage two. I commend the member for her important work in trying to save those koalas.

Turning to the topic of the Great Koala National Park, the reality is that the Government has been talking a big game, but we still do not know what that looks like. It was the primary environmental pillar of the Government's election campaign but, two years after the announcement, we do not know what it looks like. I look forward to seeing the detail. There was a koala summit. It was an invite-only event, which is unfortunate. We must engage together in conversations around the preservation of this iconic and important species. In last year's budget, the Government only allocated \$1.4 million in capital expenditure for the Great Koala National Park. In this year's budget papers, the Government has not told us how much of that \$1.4 million has been spent on capital expenditure. Again, it is lacking in detail. I would love transparency around that and some of the other policy pillars.

The member for Oxley has raised many concerns about the transparency of the process to date, particularly around boards and the membership of those boards. I commend him for his advocacy for koalas and local industry. The Opposition supports the theme of the motion. Generations of Australians will come to thank us for the work that we do, but they will shake their heads at the lack of work if we do not come together across parties, across communities and across all levels of government to support the future of this iconic and beautiful native species that we all love. I cannot help but add a footnote that it has been a disappointing budget week when it comes to the environment. The Treasurer did not mention the word "environment" once in his speech. There has been a decline in the protection of the environment budget as well. It comes in the middle of a decline in biodiversity and a rise in species extinction. The Coalition will be holding the Government to account, but I think all members are in agreement that we applaud the initiative in Port Stephens. We love koalas. I thank the member for Port Stephens for the motion.

Ms TRISH DOYLE (Blue Mountains) (14:45): I thank my great friend the member for Port Stephens. Being in the Chamber is mostly about the spoken word and the written word; it is not usually focused on the visual. To everyone who is watching, get a load of these. I am wearing koala earrings that were gifted to me by the member for Port Stephens. I give a shout-out to Pixie Nut and Co., which sustainably sources materials and makes jewellery with a koala theme. As the Parliamentary Secretary and good friend of the member for Port Stephens, it is my honour to speak about koalas. As the member pointed out, koalas have been listed as "vulnerable" for a considerable period of time—since 1992. In 2022 the conservation status of koalas in New South Wales was upgraded from "vulnerable" to "endangered". We must keep reminding ourselves of that.

I note a funny comment made by the former Leader of The Nationals, John Barilaro. He called koalas, our national icon, "tree rats". The situation for koalas is dire in New South Wales. The Government is absolutely committed to saving koalas from extinction in our State. I join with the member for Port Stephens in welcoming the \$2 million funding boost that the Government has given the Port Stephens Koala Hospital. It is a fantastic hospital, with fantastic people who do important work on the ground. I note that the investment is part of the \$172 million investment to bring koalas back from the brink, including an \$80 million down payment for the Great Koala National Park. I commend the Government for the work it does to help save this species.

Since March 2023, over 7,800 hectares of koala habitat has been purchased across seven parcels of land for inclusion in the national parks system. Nearly 9,500 hectares of koala habitat on private land has been permanently protected under the koala strategy through 135 new conservation agreements with private landholders and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust. A new healthy population of 42 koalas has been identified in Coolah Tops National Park following a survey conducted by National Parks and Wildlife Service researchers. In April and July 2023, three koalas from the Southern Highlands were successfully reintroduced into Yiraaldiya

National Park. In Narrandera—the site of the first koala translocation in New South Wales, in the 1970s—approximately 300 koalas have been detected using thermal drones.

I mention that there have also been some sightings of koalas in the Blue Mountains, the first in a very long time. I know that from time to time, when running short on stories, the *Blue Mountains Gazette* will talk about the Lithgow black panther, and so begin a number of rumours. But there absolutely have been koalas sighted in the Blue Mountains National Park, and that is fabulous to see. I thank the Parliamentary Friends of Koalas, of which I am a member, and I thank the Minister for the great work she is doing. I also thank the Knitting Nannas in my electorate, who remind me of their love of koalas every day. I commend the motion.

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina) (14:49): I was at the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary last week and I met a beautiful koala named Lizzie. The sanctuary does incredible work. I thank the member for Vaucluse for mentioning the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital. I also mention the Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital and Bangalow Koalas, and I give a shout-out to Maria Matthes. She is a koala whisperer in Meerschaum Vale. The Ballina koala colony is a unique colony that was impacted by the Pacific Highway Upgrade despite the fact that the former Government spent millions of dollars on fencing, which was not what was asked for and did not work. Maria has done incredible work there, and I was pleased to work with the World Wildlife Fund and others to get Maria some cameras to help improve her work because, after the fires, it was very grim indeed.

There is no world in which I would be talking down the member and the Minister for the \$2 million funding boost for the Port Stephens Koala Hospital. I note that the member for Port Macquarie is in the Chamber, and she was also a champion of the environment and koalas in her former roles. We cannot on the one hand be talking about delivering protection for what is now an endangered species, while on the other we continue to log our native forests. It should be no surprise that I will focus on that now. I also put on record that The Greens were very disappointed that there was no ongoing funding in this budget for any wildlife services in my electorate or more broadly. The Minister has assured me that she is looking at how to do that equitably so that it is consistent, ongoing and recurrent, but we cannot wait too much longer. We need that work to happen.

If people think The Greens are the only ones who want to see an end to logging of the native habitat of this endangered species, let me tell them that seven out of 10 Australians support extending the bans on native forest logging in this State. A majority of voters for each political party support an end to native forest logging in New South Wales and Tasmania. A majority of Australians in every age group support ending native forest logging in New South Wales. There is nothing new under the sun when it comes to understanding that you cannot save a species if you are destroying its habitat. I say to Labor, get on with the program of the Great Koala National Park, which everyone wants you to deliver. Please deliver it, and please stop logging. As a party, Labor needs to work out how it is going to justly transition forestry workers and save our koalas. It cannot do both. I believe we are in the dying days of that. The Greens support the motion, but we issue some very strong instructions from the environmental movement.

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (14:54): I rise to support the notice of motion and thank the member for Port Stephens and the Minister for bringing this issue to the floor. Our beautiful koalas, native iconic animals to Australia, are still a threatened species. Koalas now face an ever-growing number of threats from deforestation for agricultural and urban developments, the spread of the deadly koala chlamydia disease, vehicle strikes and, of course, dog attacks. I applaud our environment Minister in the other place, the Hon. Penny Sharpe, for her ongoing advocacy and tenacity in koala conservation. I also recognise the Minister for Roads in the other place, the Hon. John Graham, who has supported the Heathcote electorate by heightening awareness of the koalas being transient during mating season and making sure that people look out for them on Heathcote Road. This year I have again requested further signage on Heathcote Road from the Minister for Roads because we have, unfortunately, seen some koala fatalities there, as has been recognised by previous speakers. It is extremely saddening to hear about that, let alone see it happen. I am adamant that I will work with Transport for NSW and the Minister to find solutions to minimise those tragedies.

The New South Wales Government is also committed to delivering strong action to better protect the State's endangered koalas, including conserving key habitat. In my electorate of Heathcote, we now have a colony of nearly 200 koalas, and I have had the pleasure of helping protect them with my community. They are disease free and they are thriving. I had one named after me, and so does the Premier of New South Wales—I think that one is called Minnsy. The New South Wales Government has committed to the transfer of 32.7 hectares of land from Sydney Water to National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Woronora wildlife corridor. The land has been identified as an important corridor for the movement of wildlife in an urbanised environment and contains koala habitat. It was going to be developed into housing, but it is koala habitat, and the Government has been able to save it. We are now in the process of transferring that wildlife corridor over to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. We are continuing to liaise with Sydney Water and National Parks to progress that. Some \$5.2 million has been allocated in the 2024-25 budget to progress and preserve that wildlife corridor.

I thank the wildlife volunteers who turn up to find, at times, distressed koalas and help them to rehabilitate and reintegrate back into their natural habitat. I acknowledge the road users who recognise the significance of those precious native animals and look out for them by slowing down. We have another mating season coming up between September and February, when males will be on the move, and we need to protect them to help them thrive. The New South Wales Government has committed to reviewing the NSW Koala Strategy to ensure that it effectively safeguards our koala populations for the future generations, and we will work hard. The work undertaken by the Minns Labor Government will ensure that our children's children will be able to enjoy our iconic koalas in the wild as a norm in time to come.

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (14:57): I acknowledge the member for Port Stephens and the motion she has brought to the House today. I particularly comment on paragraph (3) of the motion, which commends the Government's work to help our much-loved iconic species, but I will talk about the work the previous Government did in my electorate. It will come as no surprise to most members that I will take any opportunity to talk about the wonderful koalas in Port Macquarie. Like most other members here, I acknowledge the incredible work of our volunteers at our local Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. All of us know that it is one thing to provide funding for those amazing organisations but, without the volunteers on the ground, that does not materialise to anything. I particularly acknowledge the volunteers in Port Macquarie during the bushfires in 2019. There was devastation in our local area, and it was incredible to watch the number of volunteers in the community continuing to multiply every day. In fact, our koala hospital was inundated with not only injured koalas but also people turning up to the door every day to help.

It was so heartwarming to watch. My staff and I did what we could. They had donations coming in from all over the world and they could not keep up with them. So, my staff and I did the office work. We said, "We don't know much about looking after injured koalas, but we can help with administration."

I acknowledge the previous Government's commitment of \$5 million for a new koala hospital in Port Macquarie. I am looking forward to that project transforming what our koala hospital looks like. In December 2021 the Port Macquarie community rejoiced after much advocacy, with me right by their side: The former Government purchased 194 hectares of prime bushland to protect koala habitat. In similar circumstances to those of the member for Heathcote, it would have otherwise been developed into more housing, which would have been devastating because it was core koala habitat. It abutted an existing national park, and we wanted to make sure that we protected that habitat, not only for local koalas but also for other threatened species in the area. By protecting that habitat, we were not only protecting koalas; we were broadly protecting other species, some of which were threatened.

I also acknowledge former Premier Gladys Berejiklian who, in 2020, gifted the land that the koala hospital sat on to the hospital, which we now know as Koala Conservation Australia. That was important because it meant that, when we came to redevelop the new koala hospital site, it was much easier having the hospital own the land. It has been mentioned that one of the biggest threats to koalas is vehicle strikes. The investment of funds into vehicle-activated digital signs is important. One of my regular routes to my office is past a gully near our golf club, and it is not unusual to need to stop there for a koala. We have great signs now, so if drivers are going at the correct speed, they get a nice smiley face and the koalas get to cross the road in safety. I thank the member for Port Stephens for bringing this motion to the House.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (15:02): By leave: Mr Speaker—

Ms Trish Doyle: Sing us a song.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: Let me think of a koala song. I may sing Blinky Bill in a little while. I thank the House for the opportunity to contribute, and I thank the member for Port Stephens for bringing the motion. I remind members that Gunnedah, in the Tamworth electorate, is the koala capital of Australia.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Nice try!

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: I thank the member for Port Macquarie for her contribution and for saying that she agrees. Under the previous Government, we were very proud to work towards an outstanding \$20 million project for Gunnedah. It is a Gunnedah sanctuary and hospital. It is planned to include four small and two large intensive care units, up to 12 small animal enclosures, a large clinic separating the reception area, external rehabilitation enclosures and seven pre-release enclosures. The facility has Oxley Highway frontage, so there is easy access for anyone in the New South Wales Parliament who would like to see the koala hospital. On Hunts Road, near the speedway, there is minimal impact to traffic. The animals will be protected with predator-proof external fencing. The plans include a green-friendly environment, with extensive rainwater collection and solar systems. A co-contribution of \$2 million from Whitehaven Coal brings the total project value to \$23.6 million.

It is a magnificent facility. I encourage members across the Parliament to visit when the koala sanctuary and hospital is built. It is important that we look after our koalas, because there was a period when they were in dire straits. One of those periods was during the drought in the Gunnedah koala capital environment. The local community, along with landcare groups, urban landcare groups and Local Land Services, had a program called Blinky Drinkers. We filled containers with water and stuck them up in gum trees and other trees, in and around properties where we knew there was koala habitat from the koala tracks. Every couple of weeks we would refill the water containers to ensure that koalas travelling in the area had fresh, clean water. That was part of our Blinky Drinkers program, and it was very rewarding.

I know that the member for Port Macquarie, the member for Port Stephens and others have opportunities in koala habitats, koala sanctuaries and in protecting koalas. It is also important for tourism, because once there is a facility like the one in Gunnedah, the tourists will flock. We must continue to look outside the square when it comes to building tourist destinations. Inland New South Wales does not have the beautiful beaches that coastal areas have, so we must continually look at driving tourism inland. The koala sanctuary and hospital was funded by the previous Coalition, and the funding will continue under the current Labor Government. That money is in the budget, and we thank the Government for committing to that project. We look forward to welcoming one and all to the koala sanctuary and hospital when it is built in beautiful Gunnedah, which is the koala capital of the world.

Mrs Leslie Williams: Can we divide on that part?

Ms KATE WASHINGTON (Port Stephens—Minister for Families and Communities, and Minister for Disability Inclusion) (15:06): In reply: Members on this side of the House were very generous in giving the member for Tamworth leave to participate, but not to pretend that his electorate is the koala capital of the State. I heard the member for Port Macquarie wanting to divide over that issue alone. I thank the members representing the electorates of Vacluse, Blue Mountains, Ballina, Heathcote, Port Macquarie and Tamworth—just—for their contributions to the debate. It has not really been a debate; it is a bit of a love-in on koalas. Everyone recognises the importance of supporting their survival and preventing them from becoming extinct in the State. The member for Vacluse mentioned concerns about what she has seen from the current Labor Government. But I remind her and this House of what we endured over the past decade or more under the former Liberal-Nationals Government. As I am sure the member for Port Macquarie remembers, the koala wars were real. The koala wars nearly saw the former Government implode and lose control of this House, because the National Party wanted to introduce—

Mrs Leslie Williams: It had nothing to do with koalas.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON: It had everything to do with koalas. That is why they were called the koala wars. The National Party wanted to introduce changes that would have seen koala habitat destroyed even more than it had been under the lax laws and environmental protections of the former Government. In this conversation, particularly regarding Port Stephens, I also remind the former Government of what it did in my electorate to sell off critical koala habitat.

Mr Kevin Anderson: I thought we were having a love-in.

Ms KATE WASHINGTON: If Opposition members are going to introduce any kind of criticism of what this Government has done in 15 months, I will give them a little reminder about what happened in the past. Those things are important. In fact, the land clearing we saw over the past decade or more led to the need for more koala hospitals and sanctuaries. In my patch, we saw the Mambo Wetlands sold off. The former Government put up a big sign and sold off critical koala habitat in an online auction. Had it been developed; we would have seen the loss of Port Stephens koalas. It would have wiped them out because that was the prime breeding area. That is its past record in government. It was only the push from community, for years and years, that forced the former Government to buy it back at more than it sold it for. It was not only environmental vandalism but also economic mismanagement at its highest.

I end this debate by paying tribute to those who do all the hard work on the ground, in particular, the volunteers at Port Stephens Koala Hospital and across the State. The work is not easy. It involves leaf picking, picking up scat and transporting injured koalas that have been hit by a car—often in the middle of the night. The work is difficult and not always pleasant. It can be hard and heartbreaking; the outcomes are not always positive. I want those wildlife workers and volunteers to know that they have the full backing of the Government to ensure the survival of koalas in the wild across this State.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

*Bills***COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTOR (PORTABLE LONG SERVICE LEAVE) BILL 2024****Returned**

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council returning the bill without amendment.

*Committees***JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NET ZERO FUTURE****Establishment and Membership**

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I report receipt of a message from the Legislative Council informing the Legislative Assembly that it has this day agreed to the following resolution:

Mr SPEAKER

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

- (1) That a joint standing committee be established to inquire into and report on Net Zero Future, in particular:
 - (a) to monitor and review the exercise of the Net Zero Commission's functions under the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023;
 - (b) to examine each annual report, and other reports of the Net Zero Commission as the committee sees fit and to report to both Houses of Parliament on any matter appearing in or arising out of, any such report;
 - (c) to inquire into any question in connection with the committee's functions which is referred to it by both Houses of Parliament and to report to both Houses on that question; and
 - (d) any other related matters.
- (2) That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders of either House, the committee consist of 12 members comprising:
 - (a) five members of the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (b) seven members of the Legislative Council; of whom
 - (i) three are Government members, being Mr Cameron Murphy, Ms Emily Suvaal and Mr Mark Buttigieg; and
 - (ii) four are non-government members, being Mr Wes Fang, Ms Jacqui Munro, Ms Susan Higginson and Mr Jeremy Buckingham.
- (3) That the Chair of the committee be Mr Jeremy Buckingham and that the Deputy Chair be appointed by the Legislative Assembly.
- (4) That, notwithstanding anything in the standing orders of either House, at any meeting of the committee, any seven members of the committee will constitute a quorum, provided that at least one member of each House is present at all times.
- (5) The committee have leave to make visits of inspection within the New South Wales and elsewhere in Australia.
- (6) That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
 - (a) all inquiries are to be advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales;
 - (b) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration;
 - (c) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential;
 - (d) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement;
 - (e) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings alternate between Opposition, crossbench and Government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to;
 - (f) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published;
 - (g) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness;
 - (h) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration; and
 - (i) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the Chair.

- (7) That a message be sent acquainting the Legislative Assembly with the resolution and requesting the Legislative Assembly appoint five of its members to serve on the committee including appointing a Deputy Chair.

Legislative Council
20 June 2024

BEN FRANKLIN
President

I set down consideration of the message as an order of the day for a future day.

Business of the House

POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I postpone general business notice of motion (general notice) No. 1356 [Tripoli Way Bypass], on behalf of Mr Gareth Ward.

Ms Lynda Voltz: Point of order: I seek clarification. If a motion is postponed due to the absence of the mover, at what point does it come back on for debate?

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The notice of motion remains on the Business Paper and is called on at a later date.

Ms Lynda Voltz: Yes, I understand that. I was just seeking—

Mr Matt Cross: Is this a delaying tactic? What is the next motion?

Ms Lynda Voltz: I have taken a point of order. I am entitled to seek clarification. Does the motion go to the top of the list or further down the list?

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): It will go to the top of the list and be called on on the next Thursday the House sits.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mr GREG WARREN: I seek leave to make a private member's statement.

Leave not granted.

Business of the House

POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): I postpone general business notice of motion (general notice) No. 1357 [Bus Industry Taskforce], on behalf of Ms Kylie Wilkinson.

I postpone general business notice of motion (general notice) No. 1359 [Women's Health Centres], on behalf of Ms Karen McKeown.

I postpone general business notice of motion (general notice) No. 1360 [Regional Crime Inquiry], on behalf of Mr Michael Kemp.

I postpone general business notice of motion (general notice) No. 1361 [TAFE NSW], on behalf of Ms Maryanne Stuart.

I postpone general business notice of motion (general notice) No. 1362 [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination], on behalf of Ms Jenny Leong.

I postpone general business notice of motion (general notice) No. 1363 [Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce], on behalf of Mr Jason Li.

I postpone general business notice of motion (general notice) No. 1364 [Heathcote Road], on behalf of Mrs Tina Ayyad.

Motions

WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRES

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (15:18): I move:

That this House:

- (1) Commends the Government for delivering on its commitment to boost funding for women's health centres across New South Wales.

- (2) Notes that this investment includes over \$1 million for the Shoalhaven Women's Health Centre and over \$200,000 to Waminda Women's Health Centre.
- (3) Notes that this investment will ensure women's health centres across the State are properly resourced to provide essential health and wellbeing services.

Women's Health NSW is an association of statewide women's health centres and specialist women's centres. All of the centres are non-government, community-based services that provide choices for women to determine their individual health needs. For 20 years, Women's Health NSW has had no increase in funding for its services, which include financial counselling, domestic violence services, case management, courses and sexual health services. They actively encourage the empowerment of women in both the personal and social aspects of their lives. We value women's knowledge and skills and their right to make informed decisions about their health.

I do not know how the Shoalhaven Women's Health Centre, which provides amazing services for women, has stretched the dollar for so many years. I met with members of that service just last week. They were telling me what a difference nearly a doubling of funding by the Minns Labor Government has meant for their services. It means that not only can they continue to provide the services but also the centre's staff now have permanent jobs. They were looking at the CEO having to reduce her days to three or four a week and cutting back on staff to continue essential services that are absolutely critical to the women of the South Coast. They cover a huge area in the Shoalhaven, from Shoalhaven Heads and Berry in the north all the way down to North Durras. It takes two and a half hours to travel its length and breadth.

Not only did the Shoalhaven Women's Health Centre in Nowra get that funding increase, but so did women's health centres right across the State. They all provide invaluable services. We know that women are more likely to use a health service because of their role as carers of children. Especially when women are suffering from domestic violence, it is extremely important to have a close and discreet service where they can get the help they need. That brings me to Waminda women's health centre, which got an increase of \$200,000. They provide a critical service to our First Nations women on the South Coast. In the Nowra area we have a high percentage of First Nations people. It is a culturally important area. The fantastic news in the budget is an allocation of \$23.1 million for Waminda's standalone birthing on country centre—the first in New South Wales—which will enable women to give birth on country utilising culturally sound practices in a safe environment. That amount will complement the additional funding that the Waminda women's health centre will get.

Due to gender inequality, women are often treated differently than men in society generally and, as a result of domestic violence and sexual assault, within the health system. Last week, I held a round table in my office with representatives from many services, including the Shoalhaven Women's Health Centre. Collectively, all the services and the police are going to trial something new in the Shoalhaven. They will target a small area, which has an Indigenous population of around 8 per cent and high levels of crime. The police are called there 12 to 14 times a week. The additional funding given to the women's health centre will help the centre not only to address the issues it is already dealing with but also help to work collaboratively with all organisations in the Shoalhaven to trial something new in addressing domestic violence in that particular area. We think it will work. I am proud to be trialling it with all the organisations. But, as I said, the additional funding for women's health centres across the State, not just in the Shoalhaven, has enabled them to do extra activities in the community to stop the scourge of domestic violence and look after women, no matter what is happening in their lives.

It is not just domestic violence. Many women in our community who are over 55 do not have superannuation. They might have been in community services and changed jobs, so they have never had long service leave. For the first time in their lives, they find themselves homeless in their later years. The women's health centre does incredible work assisting those women with financial counselling and helping them find a home and somewhere stable to live. I look forward to attending the Nowra centre very soon to participate in a craft exercise and learn more about what the centre is doing and how we can help. I commend the Minns Labor Government for providing over \$1 million for the Shoalhaven Women's Health Centre and \$200,000 for the Waminda women's health centre, and for nearly doubling the funding across the State to support the amazing services that women's health centres provide in New South Wales.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The House is considering notices of motion (general notices). Before I call the member for Ryde, for the information of visitors in the gallery, members of Parliament can put matters on the *Business Paper* and eventually they come on for debate or consideration on a Thursday. We are considering a motion relating to women's health centres, which was brought to the House by the member for South Coast, who just spoke. Members on both sides of the House have the chance to speak to that matter now. I call the member for Ryde.

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (15:26): I welcome everyone in the gallery. I hope you enjoy your time here. Mr Temporary Speaker is good at explaining the procedures of the House, and I acknowledge him for that. I thank the member for South Coast for moving the motion. I am glad members have the opportunity to debate it.

I am very supportive of the motion and of the funding for women's health centres. I represent a particularly diverse community. It is one of the most multicultural communities in the State and in the country. One of the things I have observed as the member for Ryde and, preceding that, as the Mayor of Ryde is a misalignment between culturally diverse groups and access to support services that places like women's health centres provide.

I wanted to speak in this debate because, as we have heard in the news of late, essentially an epidemic of domestic violence and family abuse is being experienced across the country and, I would hazard, across the world. In Australia we are fortunate to have relatively good levels and standards of reporting, so we can reflect on and acknowledge the extent of the issue here. I truly lament that people living in other jurisdictions do not have that transparency. One thing that the women's health centres do is bring cultural awareness, which is a very important piece, by providing support and assistance in language. They bring in people who may not feel as at home in Australia as those who were born here and grew up here, and ensure they are able to connect with services, as everyone should be entitled to do.

I had a look on the Women's Health NSW website. For the benefit of people in the gallery, I will read out the locations. The centres may be in areas where people in the gallery live. They are in Bankstown, Blacktown, the Blue Mountains and the Central Coast—the member for Terrigal was in the House earlier. There are centres in the Central West, Coffs Harbour, Cumberland, Fairfield, Hunter, the Illawarra—the members representing those parts of the State are present for this debate. Centres are also located in Leichhardt, Lismore, Liverpool, Penrith in Western Sydney—the member for Penrith is also present—and in South Coast, Sydney, Wagga Wagga and Albury-Wodonga. That list gives an indication of the breadth and spread of the services.

So, any additional funding is hugely valuable.

One of the things I will use this time to particularly bring to the House's attention is the utmost importance of prevention. We talk a lot about acute services, and they are extremely important for women trying to escape family and domestic violence. Getting them out of immediate harm is an absolute priority. It is the most important thing we can do. But there is so much more we can do if we can identify trends and problems before they get to that point. For example, if we are able to identify cohorts at risk and engage them in services early and help them to get on their financial feet, or help them to make arrangements for their children at school. We need to ensure that, if they are at the point of leaving an abusive relationship, they are never one of the unfortunate but far too over-represented groups of people, who are overwhelmingly women, who find themselves coming back to abusive relationships.

The reasons for that are simple: they run out of money; they do not have shelter; they are unable to get their kids a new pair of shoes or a schoolbag; or the abuser comes after them and coerces them to return. They are horrendous outcomes for any person because, when they go back, the abuse often becomes worse. The perpetrators feel they have lost control and cannot tell them what to do and where to go. So the cycle continues, and it can have devastating consequences.

One of the things I have been advocating in my electorate is support for a fabulous organisation called the Northern Centre. It is not specifically a women's health centre, but there is a lot of overlap with its services. The Northern Centre has a program called SafeT, for safe transition. It is designed to identify and catch people early and get them out of the cycle of abuse. I acknowledge the shadow Minister, who is present in the Chamber and who has been to Ryde and met with the Northern Centre's CEO, Cate Sinclair. This program is one of the few that is targeted and is backed by evidence. Macquarie University, with funding from the City of Ryde, which I was pleased to support in my time as mayor, has researched the success and efficacy of this program, and the results are clear. It is oversubscribed. More people than it has capacity for want to access it. It is helping people to escape that cycle.

So my message for the Government and the Minister is to consider funding that organisation, as has been done for the women's health centres, because I do not have a women's health centre in my electorate. The Northern Centre is the next best thing we have. It is extremely successful. It is culturally sensitive and informed by trauma and is making a real difference for men and women but, obviously, mostly women and their children. I thank the member for the South Coast for bringing the motion. I am pleased she has had success for this particular initiative in the budget.

I think there is an enormous amount more we need to do. It has been great to see this issue beyond the agenda and a central point for not just our State's debate but our national debate. We have seen hundreds of millions of dollars in Federal budgets as well. That is the start, but there is a long way to go. My clear message is that the debate cannot be only about acute care. It must be about prevention and acute care because, in the long run, we save more lives and reduce the level of hardship and improve the quality of life for more people if we can avoid them ever getting into circumstances where they need to rely on services like the women's health centres.

The more we invest in that, the better. I commend the motion and encourage a whole lot more work, advocacy and investment in this space.

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (15:33): It is good news for the member opposite because this Labor Government has allocated in the 2023-24 State budget a funding increase of \$34.3 million to the 19 women's health centres across New South Wales. It is a significant boost to women's health centres, which people on this side of the Chamber have been seeking for the past 12 years. The reality is that, under the previous Government, the funding to women's health centres dried up and funding to women's refuges was stopped altogether. They all had to restart from scratch when the Coalition dumped them. There are those on the other side who failed to admit it, but I was there and watched women's refuges close down.

I will give a bit of historical context here. Women's health centres are so vitally important because women's health was neglected for a long time. I am old enough to remember the 1970s, when women did not get access to female doctors, when women could still be sectioned by their husbands and often were, when women were subjected to electroconvulsive therapy for hysteria, when migrant women with overuse injuries were absolutely ignored by doctors and when women who were victims of domestic violence had nowhere to go. Remember that the first women's refuge in New South Wales did not set up until the late 1970s. Before that, women had nowhere to go. They had no rights to property on divorcing their husbands if they wanted to leave.

Women's health centres now provide so many linguistically appropriate services, such as counselling, in my area. Bankstown Women's Health Centre provides Arabic and Vietnamese speakers. They talk about the illnesses nobody in those communities wants to acknowledge, the unspoken illnesses such as cancer. They have dieticians to look after people with anorexia and other eating disorders, which are things they will not admit to. The whole raft of women's issues has been neglected for decades and decades. Many women are too embarrassed to go to the local GP, who is often a man, to talk about it. It is a refuge for women, a place for women to go to, where they can get the understanding they need to actually deal with the problems, which are sometimes violence, sexual assault or drug addiction. Sometimes only counselling is needed. But, for the services they need and they would never seek in their own communities, they can go to the women's health centres, such as Bankstown Women's Health Centre and Cumberland Women's Health Centre.

We talk about diverse communities. You do not get more diverse than the communities in Auburn, Fairfield, Bankstown and Granville. For all the talk of great programs, we have thousands of great programs we would like to put together for our communities. Forty-eight per cent of the people in my electorate live on less than \$649 a week. Three per cent of my electorate have no income whatsoever. I have the third highest number of people who pay more than 30 per cent of their income on mortgages and the eighth highest, nearly 6,000 people, who pay more than 30 per cent on rent—one of the highest in the State. They cannot afford to get medical treatment, and these women's health centres are their refuge for the help they need.

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie) (15:37): I thank the member for the South Coast and commend her for bringing this motion to the House because, regardless of which side of this House we sit on, it is always important that we take the opportunity to highlight the needs of women in our communities. We would all acknowledge that women's lack of safety from the domestic violence and sexual assault that we are seeing in our communities is incredibly sobering and disturbing for every one of us as local members. We have all heard about and experienced the ripple effect of this scourge of domestic violence across our communities.

I acknowledge the incredible work of our women's health centres and our women's domestic and family violence services across the State. As the shadow Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, I have had the privilege of meeting many of them and hearing firsthand about some of their challenges and the complexities of the cases of the women coming to them because of domestic and family violence. I thank the member for Ryde, who mentioned the Northern Centre. I had the privilege of meeting with the people there, and I was absolutely in awe of the vastness and breadth of the incredible work and services they provide to their local community.

Only a couple of weeks ago I was in the Miranda electorate and I met with The Family Co, which is another local organisation that does incredible work supporting women and children in their communities. I also acknowledge our local health districts because each and every one of them across the State provide really good and effective services for women in our local communities. I particularly highlight one program in my local health district called Colouring My Life. It is a postnatal distress support and self-awareness group for those women in the Hastings Macleay region who are experiencing postnatal depression. The women come together in a relaxed environment. They get free morning tea and they can sit down and talk about the issues that they are having with their postnatal depression. Importantly, professionals are there to support them through what many of us know is a challenging journey. I thank all the health districts for the work they do on the ground. Sometimes unique and locally specific programs do just incredible work.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): It being 3:40 p.m., the time for consideration of general business notices of motion has expired. I set down resumption of the debate as an order of the day for a later hour.

Committees

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON NET ZERO FUTURE

Establishment and Membership

Mr RON HOENIG (Heffron—Minister for Local Government) (15:41): I move:

That:

- (1) This House agrees with the Legislative Council's resolution relating to the appointment of a Joint Standing Committee on Net Zero Future.
- (2) Ms Liza Butler, Ms Trish Doyle, Ms Liesl Tesch, Mr James Griffin and Mr Michael Regan be appointed to serve on the committee as the members of the Legislative Assembly.
- (3) Ms Liza Butler be appointed as Deputy Chair of the committee.
- (4) That a message be sent informing the Legislative Council of this resolution.

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:41): The Opposition supports the establishment and the appointment of members to the committee as laid out by the Leader of the House.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Clayton Barr): The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Community Recognition Statements

JASMINE GREENWOOD

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (15:42): I recognise Jasmine Greenwood of Sussex Inlet, who has qualified for the Paralympic Games to be held in Paris later this year. Jasmine began swimming when she was just six years of age to rehabilitate an acquired brain injury after suffering two strokes that were triggered by acute appendicitis. Jasmine used swimming to aid her recovery, and from this daily exercise Jasmine fell in love with swimming. It was the beginning of an extraordinary journey. At 13 Jasmine became the youngest athlete to represent Australia at the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. Since then Jasmine has won a haul of medals across the Paralympics, World Championships, World Series and Commonwealth Games. Now aged 19, Jasmine has qualified for the Paralympic Games to be held in Paris this year and is expected to swim in four events. I congratulate Jasmine on her many achievements and look forward to watching her win gold for Australia in July.

HENRY LEONARD JONES, OAM

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (15:43): I congratulate Henry Leonard Jones on receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia. Mr Jones has made an exceptional contribution to our community in Ryde, mainly through his dedicated service to veterans and extensive involvement in local organisations. Throughout his years of service with the Reserve Forces Day council, Mr Jones played a crucial role as a member of the planning committee. He served with distinction in the 8th Infantry Brigade formation for the Reserve Forces Day parade. His leadership extended further through his active roles within Lions International, where he served as president of the North Rocks Lions Club. Additionally Henry contributed significantly to the City of Parramatta Council and the Epping RSL sub-Branch, where his efforts as a community volunteer and member of the welfare team were deeply appreciated. His dedication to the Australian Defence Force as an army reservist and his service with the British Territorial Army exemplify a lifelong commitment to our country and its armed forces. Through his unwavering commitment and tireless efforts, we commend Henry Jones for his outstanding achievements and extend our heartfelt congratulations on the well-deserved honour.

GEORGES RIVER SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (15:45): I congratulate the Georges River Softball Association, which had many finalists in the Softball NSW Awards this year and winners in several categories. I especially congratulate Cindy Patmore, who was awarded Administrator of the Year; Marcus Solylo, who was awarded Senior Male Community Athlete of the Year; Callum Beashel, who was recognised as Open Male Community Athlete of the Year; and Jacob Russo, who was recognised as Youth Volunteer of the Year. I was also pleased that the club was successful in the Government's Local Sports Grant Program. It will soon receive new sun protection shelters to protect the players during the summer months. The shelters will ensure the teams can avoid the sun's rays as they wait on the sidelines at Kelso Park North in my electorate of East Hills. I look forward to visiting their home ground once the shades are up. I wish the team the very best in their future games.

JARDIE MORRIS

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (15:45): In the wake of adversity, 17-year-old Jardie Morris is continuously shooting for success as a talented football star after recently being selected to attend an international tour in Europe. Born in Kempsey and growing up in a single-parent household, Jardie has overcome and handled hardships with dignity well beyond his young years. At the age of 15, he began playing for the Macleay Valley Rangers first grade men's side. With a natural aptitude for the game, Jardie was invited to participate in the Newcastle Jets talented program, and soon the National Premier League for the Mid Coast Football Club. Over the past two years Jardie has worn the badge of honour at the NAIDOC Cup for Northern NSW Football and the State Indigenous knockouts. Not to mention that he has been a shining light on and off the field. As a current student at Melville High School, Jardie is preparing for his HSC while undertaking school-based traineeships with Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service. We are proud of the young man that Jardie is becoming and we wish him all the best in England and France. Keep kicking those goals.

ASSYRIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta) (15:46): On 11 May 2024 I was honoured to attend the grand opening of the office of the Assyrian National Council Australia in Fairfield. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for the gracious invitation and commend the council on its significant milestone. During the event I took the opportunity to convey my sincere congratulations to Mr Hermiz Shahen and Mr David David on their community's new office space. I also express my earnest wishes for their continued success in delivering essential services to the local community. Establishing the office represents a vital step forward in enhancing support and representation for the Assyrian community in Australia. I am confident that with the dedication and commitment of its members, the Assyrian National Council will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those it serves. Once again, I extend my best wishes for its endeavours ahead, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact it will undoubtedly make in Fairfield and beyond.

THE SOCIAL OUTFIT

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown) (15:47): On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I recognise The Social Outfit, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this month. A staple of the King Street fashion scene, The Social Outfit has long worked hard to help refugee and new migrant communities build skills in a supportive environment. Over nearly a decade The Social Outfit has upskilled 998 women through classes and training programs and employed 104 people from refugee and new migrant backgrounds. In particular, I recognise outgoing CEO Camilla Schippa, whose dedication and commitment has overseen those remarkable milestones. I also acknowledge that during Refugee Week, The Social Outfit is hosting its annual Wear the Change fundraiser for its non-profit community programs that it runs. I congratulate and acknowledge the incredible people who are taking on the challenge to raise funds and the remarkable refugee and migrant women working to get their break in the fashion industry. I give a special congratulations to them all and I encourage all members in this place to engage with The Social Outfit.

WENDY WALLER, OAM

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool) (15:48): OAMs are awarded for service worthy of particular recognition. I cannot think of anyone more worthy of the award than former Mayor of Liverpool, Wendy Waller, who was recognised for her service to local government in the 2024 King's Birthday awards. A Cartwright resident for most of her life, Wendy was first elected in 1995 and served as mayor for nine years across two terms before retiring in 2021. Wendy was the first female Mayor of Liverpool and one of only a handful of women elected in some 100 years. Her experience made her a fierce advocate for diversity in political representation, and she contributed much to organisations like the Australian Local Government Women's Association. Wendy was a fearless leader who steered Liverpool through some of its greatest challenges. Her legacy is huge. She will be remembered for establishing the Liverpool Youth Council and especially for the stability she brought to our local area. I am proud to call her a friend, mentor and source of counsel. I send my sincerest congratulations to Wendy, her husband, Paul, and their family.

TERRIGAL SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB AWARDS

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal) (15:50): I congratulate the amazing Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club on taking out the top gong at the Surf Life Saving Central Coast Awards of Excellence evening held on Saturday 16 June at Mingara. For the first time in the club's 100-year history, Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club received the prestigious Club of the Year award. That achievement is a testament to and recognition of the hard work and dedication of all club members. Volunteers, patrolling members, age managers, coaches, competitors, organisers, and directors have all played a vital role. I also congratulate the following Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club award recipients: Richard Green was awarded President of the Year; Zahra Green, Sienna Sinclair and Olivia Edwards

of the under-17 ski relay team were awarded Sports Team of the Year; Ryan Quick was awarded Coach of the Year; Paul Lemmon, who is an absolute legend, was awarded the Masters Athlete of the Year; Bryn Gaha was awarded Athlete of the Year; and Niko Milanovic was awarded Support Operator of the Year. I again congratulate the Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club and all of its members on their success and well-deserved recognition. Their dedication and commitment are truly inspiring to everyone on the Central Coast.

ASSYRIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (15:51): The Assyrian Democratic Movement was founded on 12 April 1979, and this year the community worldwide celebrated its forty-fifth anniversary. Earlier this year I had the pleasure of attending the anniversary event hosted by the Assyrian Democratic Movement Sydney Chapter. At that event I witnessed the rich Assyrian cultural history, exemplified through food, music and dancing. Commemorated alongside the Assyrian New Year, the significant milestone unifies the Assyrian people. I thank President Immanuel Sada, and committee members George Adam, Himler Shlimun, Joudo Arabou, Shmuel Enwia, Sargon Kelaita and George Yako. Their dedication to fostering a strong and vibrant Assyrian community in Fairfield has truly made a difference in preserving and celebrating the Assyrian language, traditions and culture.

CLARENCE ELECTORATE SENIORS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence) (15:52): I pay tribute to the valuable seniors in my electorate of Clarence for their contributions to making our community a better place. Recently I awarded seniors awards to 16 individuals and groups in my electorate. I congratulate them on their contributions, from volunteers in the emergency space to park runners. The latest was Coutts Crossing legend Teddy Bowles, who has volunteered at the Coutts Crossing Coronation Hall for over 50 years. Even better, Teddy received her award from Troy Cassar-Daley, who performed in the hall on the night. I thank Troy and congratulate Teddy on everything she does in our community.

KEN'S HUMBLE PIE SHOP

Mr DAVID MEHAN (The Entrance) (15:53): I acknowledge the best pie shop on the Central Coast, in the best electorate on the Central Coast—Ken's Humble Pie Shop in The Entrance. The shop was established in 2012 by Ken Shearim, formerly of Pie in the Sky at Erina, and is located in Coral Street, The Entrance. Ken prides himself on using only the freshest ingredients and the flakiest pastry, baked to perfection. Whether people like savoury or sweet, Ken caters for all. With over 10,000 followers on Facebook, Ken delivers the goods. I should get some advice from him. Members can enjoy a slice of Ken's at home with a family pie for dinner or buy the filling and pretend it is their own. Members should enjoy a custard tart as a sweet treat if they are really feeling it. I encourage everyone who travels to the beautiful Central Coast to pass through The Entrance, stay a couple of hours and enjoy a delicious pie and a delectable dessert. They will not regret it.

FRIENDS OF CALLAN PARK

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain) (15:54): Today I draw the attention of the House to the Friends of Callan Park. That dedicated and passionate community organisation has worked tirelessly for more than 25 years to protect Callan Park against sell-offs, inappropriate development and commercialisation. As many members in this place would know, Callan Park is a green oasis in the heart of the inner west, with a significant history that must be valued and respected. I am fortunate to have the park right on my doorstep and have spent many hours exploring the grounds with my family. The dedicated Friends of Callan Park have kindly taken me and others—including the Minister for Veterans Affairs, members of the Premier's team and representatives from RSL Australia and Legacy—on tours of Callan Park to share their incredible insights and knowledge of that remarkable piece of Australia's history. The knowledge and work put in by the Friends of Callan Park is inspirational. I thank them for sharing their time and knowledge, and for ensuring that our community is aware of opportunities to have their say on the future of that valuable parkland.

GURDWARA SAHIB SIKH TEMPLE

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (15:55): I am overjoyed to share that last month Gosford welcomed its first Sikh temple, the Gurdwara Sahib. It is a tremendous privilege to have such a wonderful space for our Sikh families to come together and share their magical culture with our community members. There are about 25 million Sikhs in the world, and we are lucky to have more than 300 Sikh families on the Central Coast. The Sikh community is much appreciated in our region due to their respect for people of all faiths and cultural backgrounds, encouraging us to see beyond our differences and work together for a peaceful world, which is just gorgeous. The Gurdwara Sahib welcomes everyone from 5.00 a.m. till 8.00 p.m. daily, and the Sikh community generously provides a free meal to everyone on Sunday after worship time. The Sikh temple is evidence of our strong multicultural presence on the Central Coast, and I am so proud of our wonderful community. I thank the

Sikh families for enriching our life experience with their beautiful culture and contribution to our workforce, schools, sporting communities and more. I congratulate them on the opening of their fabulous temple.

KIAMA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama) (15:56): Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises the Kiama Surf Life Saving Club. On Monday 17 June I was please to attend and meet with the president, Phil Perry, and the Mayor of Kiama Municipal Council, Neil Reilly, as an upgrade to the club was announced. Works include repairs to the roof and the addition of an accessible toilet to the top level of the club, as well as box guttering and drainage. The Kiama Surf Life Saving Club acknowledge multiple businesses, including Blue Water Charters, Cicada Luxury Camping, the Sebel, Butcher's Nook, Easts Beach Caravan Park, Manning Street Cellars, the Lodge, El Corazon, Jamberoo Action Park, Miss Arda, Silica, Fredericks IGA, Burnetts on Barney, Saltwater Cafe, Nude Cafe, Kiama Lions Club and many more. I thank all the businesses that support Kiama Surf Life Saving Club. Most importantly, I thank the volunteers and patrolling members, who do such a great job keeping our beaches safe.

APPIN MEN'S SHED

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (15:56): I am delighted to recognise the efforts of the Appin Men's Shed, which has recently completed its restoration of 100-year-old horse-drawn coal wagons. The wagons have been installed at the Appin Mine Memorial Garden alongside the Appin Mine Memorial, which was also built by the men of the Appin Men's Shed. That great bunch of blokes really do look after each other. They have great initiatives for men's mental health, particularly for men who are transitioning from working life into retirement. They also support so many other organisations in the Appin community, particularly Appin Public School. They make a whole raft of different things to sell and donate to charity, and their work is endless. They really are a part of the community and always warmly welcome me. I thank them for everything they do.

WILLOUGHBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby) (15:57): I congratulate Willoughby Girls High School as it celebrates 90 remarkable years. It is an honour to recognise a local institution that has consistently demonstrated excellence in education and community spirit since its founding in 1934. It was a delight to be part of the anniversary celebrations on Saturday 1 June, which featured tours of the school, historical exhibitions and live entertainment. I was proud to share my aunt Margaret's story of pride, happiness and gratitude for her time there in the 1950s. It was also incredible to see old girls from the '50s, '60s and beyond sing the school song with such pride and enthusiasm. I warmly thank the principal, Adrienne Scalse, and all the incredible staff and students who made the event so special. The warmth, eloquence and dedication of the young women of Willoughby Girls truly showcase the best of our community. Here's to many more years of outstanding education and success for Willoughby Girls High School.

JOHNNY GIBSON-LYNCH

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (15:58): Do not underestimate the impact of one person doing one thing. Johnny Gibson-Lynch or "Little Johnny", as he likes to be called, has voluntarily cleaned and tidied the Rutherford Shopping Centre every day since 1993. Johnny goes around the precinct seven days a week to make sure that it looks its best for the public. Johnny says he does it because he knows the shop staff and they often tell him that they appreciate him and the great job he is doing, which keeps him going back. What a great volunteer. He loves his community and has said that he would not trade it for anywhere else. Johnny proudly wears a shirt that reads "Rutherford Shopping Centre", which was made by Sue, the former owner of Sue's Clothing. Johnny has recently been given a certificate of appreciation from Hume Community Housing Association for all his positive work in the community. The Rutherford Shopping Centre is a much cleaner place thanks to Johnny's volunteering in the community. I also thank my work experience student this week, Lydia Hall, who has been a big help in our office and has enjoyed her visit to Parliament.

SAVOUR THE UNEXPECTED WINTER FESTIVAL

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly) (15:59): Savour the Unexpected is a unique offering that combines food and beverage with arts and culture. Local tourism-focused businesses are invited to take part in the Southern Highlands winter marketing campaign, commencing on the winter solstice, Friday 21 June, and running over three consecutive weekends until Sunday 7 July. Savour the Unexpected is a winter festival held in the picturesque Southern Highlands of New South Wales. A series of curated events at fascinating venues and locations invite guests to participate in an immersive arts and culture, and food and wine experience. Embrace the synergy of artists and musicians, chefs and winemakers collaborating to create unique and memorable experiences. Festival director, Alistair Thomson, of GROW Southern Highlands, is managing Savour the Unexpected, collaborating

closely with the Wingecarribee Shire Council, Destination Southern Highlands, Destination Sydney Surrounds South and local venues, art and culture, and food and wine operators. Come and see it.

Petitions

BATEMANS BAY EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): The question is that the House take note of the petition.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (16:01): I am pleased to bring this petition. I acknowledge Peter Ryan and the Don't Close Batemans Bay Emergency Department Group, who are seated in the public gallery. They have travelled to Parliament House for this debate and it is wonderful to have them here. Obtaining 18,000 signatures is a monumental achievement; I congratulate those involved. That shows how strongly the community feels on this issue. I acknowledge the member for Bega, who is also in the Chamber today. The Minns Labor Government has advised that it intends to close the Batemans Bay Hospital and the emergency department when the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital, to be situated around five kilometres south of Moruya, becomes operational. The Opposition and the Don't Close Batemans Bay Emergency Department Group support the construction of the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital and welcome the improvements to local health services that it is expected to provide. But Batemans Bay will still need a local emergency department, even when the new level four Eurobodalla Regional Hospital opens.

What the Minns Labor Government fails to acknowledge or consider is that Batemans Bay already has an existing emergency care service, staffed by qualified doctors, nurses and support personnel, with a level of equipment equal to that which is available in many larger hospitals. If the emergency department were to close, Batemans Bay would be the largest regional centre in New South Wales without an emergency department. The situation is far worse when the population swells dramatically during holiday periods. Its distance from Moruya is exacerbated by occasional flooding, frequent severe weekend and holiday congestion entering Moruya and the Minns Labor Government's failure to commit to a Moruya bypass, let alone to a construction timetable.

The recently opened Medicare Urgent Care Clinic and the proposed community health service are welcome additions to the Batemans Bay community, but neither functional facility will be able to treat the full range of emergency department presentations. During the peak holiday season the population of Batemans Bay quadruples. An urgent care clinic, while it is welcome, is no substitute for an emergency department. During and outside of the holiday periods the Batemans Bay area has a high concentration of aged care home—higher than the southern parts of the Eurobodalla Local Government Area.

The Minns Labor Government says you cannot have a level four Eurobodalla Hospital and retain the Batemans Bay emergency department at the same time. I say you can, and that is the position of the New South Wales Opposition. Indeed, New South Wales already has a number of regions supporting a level two hospital with an emergency department within a similar distance to what will occur between Batemans Bay and Moruya. Here are some examples supported by NSW Health within 35 minutes of each other: Junee level two and Wagga Wagga level five, 23 minutes apart; Crookwell level two and Goulburn level four, 32 minutes apart; Harden level two and Young level three, 25 minutes apart; Bellingen level two and Coffs Harbour level five, 29 minutes apart; Narromine level two and Dubbo level five, 23 minutes apart; Cessnock level three and Maitland level four, 18 minutes apart; and Parkes level three and Forbes level three, 28 minutes apart.

The reason the Government is running this line is because it has lost control of the State budget. It has lost control of the ability to deliver the enabling infrastructure to make the level four Eurobodalla Hospital a reality. The construction and completion of a Moruya bypass underpins the opening of the Eurobodalla Hospital, but the bypass is currently stalled. No mention of it is made in the infrastructure budget paper this year and the Government cannot tell us a start date or completion date for the new Moruya Bypass and bridge. This issue is at the heart of this petition and it is a topical issue for budget week. On Tuesday we saw a budget handed down that contains cuts to health and transport infrastructure, despite record revenue.

Today we are observing the consequences for regional communities now that the Minns Labor Government has lost control of the budget. Labor's cuts are hitting palliative care, frontline services and emergency departments, including in regional New South Wales. We see a hospital system under immense strain because of existing Labor cuts, people are waiting longer to be seen and their health is at risk. I commend the petition. It is important that the Batemans Bay community be heard. It would otherwise be the largest regional centre in New South Wales without an emergency department. I thank Peter Ryan and the Don't Close Batemans Bay Emergency Department Group for their advocacy.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND (Bega) (16:06): I acknowledge the people from my community in the gallery today who have made the long journey to Sydney. I also acknowledge the concerns that they have raised about

emergency health care. When we debate health services we are talking about people's lives. There is no more important reason to hold a debate in this House. Lives will be saved because of a central level 4 critical care emergency service with definitive care. Those lives will be saved by presenting to a single level 4 critical care service, rather than being transferred from another local hospital or to Canberra.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the clinical services plan as ours. Here is a copy of the 127-page clinical service plan 2018 developed under the previous Government. There we have the references to the failures of the previous Government to provide services. We are talking about other emergency departments. Bellingen receives 5,000 presentations a year and has six resuscitations. Junee, which is 36 minutes from Wagga Wagga, has just over 1,000 presentations and zero resuscitations. Parkes is 120 kilometres from Dubbo. One of the examples was Tomaree Community Hospital, which is an hour from either the John Hunter or Maitland hospitals.

Ms Kellie Sloane: So let's fail them all.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: Well, I am mentioning it. The Opposition has mentioned it. It is not comparing like with like. Batemans Bay and Moruya are 25 minutes separated and there are no comparisons. Those numbers are so low because they have existing level 5 or level 6 hospitals. If we get on to the vulnerabilities of our community because of the so-called bypass, in 2019 the former member for Bega committed to a planned duplication of the Moruya Bypass. They were getting on with that all the way to Tuross Head fairly quickly—within 10 years. Again, it would include the bypass. In 2020 the former member for the South Coast is building the Moruya Bypass. In 2021 the member for Bathurst and former Minister for Regional Roads and Transport is building the Moruya Bypass. In 2021 they are continuing their plans for the bypass in Singleton and Moruya and the Hon. Sam Faraway in the other place said, "We are building the bypass. We are delivering for the South Coast whether or not we hold the Bega electorate. We deliver for all of regional New South Wales."

The problem was that there was never any money there. It was designed by that serial failure, the former member for Bega. Going back in history, in 2010 that former member committed to restoring maternity services at Pambula hospital if elected to government. The restoration never happened.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Order! The member for North Shore will come to order.

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: The former member understood. He was quoted in 2018 as saying, "The connection that many people have to the existing 55-bed Moruya hospital and 31-bed facility at Batemans Bay suggest that any parochial arguments have evaporated. We need to learn from the mistakes of the past. We will work with the community on that and set actions on every person in the shire." In 2021, former Minister Hazzard, who was respected by many people, said, "Works are expected to start in 2022." That never happened. "Work is expected to start within the term of the current Government." That never happened. Works that were supposed to be completed by 2025 still have not started.

Did the former Government know how much money it would cost? The cost started at \$150 million, then it went to \$200 million, then it went to \$260 million. Now this Government has provided an extra \$70 million to finish the job. We are finishing the job to its full scale. The Moruya bypass was never going to be built by members opposite because they never had the money. As far as flooding in Moruya is concerned—

Mr Mark Speakman: Are you going to build it?

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: I have been there for 23 years.

Mr Mark Speakman: Are you going to build it?

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: You have been south of Ulladulla once. It has never flooded in those 23 years.

Mr Mark Speakman: Really?

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: Really. It has never happened in my experience.

Ms Felicity Wilson: You're just cancelling everything today, aren't you?

Dr MICHAEL HOLLAND: No. We are committing to building a single level 4 Eurobodalla hospital. That will not occur if we try to maintain two emergency hospitals 30 kilometres apart. People are just doing that because they are trying to get their best mate into Federal politics—a man who has revised history. The Government will deliver the level 4 Eurobodalla Regional Hospital; members opposite will fail.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Order! If the member for North Shore seeks the call, she can then contribute to the debate. The Minister for Health will come to order.

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse) (16:11): I am afraid that the visitors in the gallery are seeing the level of disrespect from Government members, who have listed all the communities that come ahead of the petitioners' community. Their local member pointed out that they do not deserve the same level of care that others do. This week Peter Ryan, who is present in the gallery, wrote to me. I am the member for Vaucluse, but Peter wrote to me. I am so glad that he has made the journey to be here to ensure that the story of his community is heard. It is incredibly important. My community has access on its doorstep to at least three emergency departments. So why do I care? Because the principle is absolutely critical to good government. When there is a failing health system and when priorities are misplaced when it comes to the thing that is central to every taxpayer's wish, which is good quality health care, including an emergency department, it is emblematic of the success or failure of the Government. In this case, it is a failure by a government that is making other choices.

I am here today to support the cause of the petitioners, even though I come from a community that perhaps does not need to care or to stick its head up. But we should, because of the importance of the fundamental principle of access to an emergency department and good quality health care. I listened to Peter's story. I took note when he said that he was taken to the emergency department and was provided with the care that he would expect. That really resonated with me as a mum who has spent many hours in the emergency department over the years with my children. I know what it is like to feel scared as a mum. I remember watching my young boy get wheeled into an MRI, and thankfully coming out okay. I remember thinking, "Thank God for our healthcare system in this State. How lucky are we?" But why should I be lucky when other communities are not? Why should they have an emergency department taken from them? That is not fair. It is worth standing up for. I am glad that the petitioners are standing up for it. I congratulate the petitioners who are present in the gallery and I congratulate the other 18,000 people who also care.

As the Leader of the Opposition said today, this week the Government has once again handed down a budget that fails when it comes to health care. The budget has made cruel cuts to health care. Labor's cuts are not just hitting the community responsible for this petition. We are talking about that community, but it is not the only one affected. Labor is making the cruellest of cuts to palliative care, frontline services and emergency departments, including in regional New South Wales.

The most recent Bureau of Health Information data shows the hospital system is under immense strain because of Labor's existing cuts. People are waiting longer to be seen—if they are lucky enough to have an emergency department at all. Their health is at risk. Why is that happening? It is happening because governments make choices, and this Government has made choices for its union mates in lifting the wages cap but it has not balanced that with productivity gains. The Government promised every taxpayer in this State that any wage increase to those well-deserving nurses and frontline workers would be balanced with productivity offsets. We have not seen that because it is another broken promise from this terrible Labor Government. Those are the choices that Labor is making.

Let us remember, this Government is rich with increased tax revenue. We discovered that this week. But what is happening? Where is the Government spending those rivers of gold or, as the Opposition leader said today, the rainbow revenue? It is not going to me and it is not going to the petitioners, because Labor is choosing its union mates over this population. That was made clear over and over again today. The decision to take away the emergency department has not just astounded the petitioners; it has astounded Opposition members. I think about the residents in the affected community. I think about the tourists visiting that community. I think about that huge area, and what is being taken away from the people there. It is not like it has to be built from scratch; it is being taken away. The message should be very clear and it should be very loud: Do not close the Batemans Bay emergency department.

Ms LIZA BUTLER (South Coast) (16:16): I acknowledge the visitors in the gallery and their passion for health services on the South Coast. I assure them that I share their enthusiasm for shining a light on essential services for regional New South Wales. I also acknowledge the showmanship of members opposite. They never let the truth get in the way of a good scare campaign. Their commitment to rile up the community over a false claim never disappoints. It is becoming a clear pattern. I live in the southern part of my electorate. With five children, there was a time when I visited Batemans Bay hospital on a regular basis. There were numerous visits to the emergency department for stitches after surfing accidents. Now, thanks to the advocacy of Fiona Phillips, the Federal member for Gilmore, I would attend the new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Batemans Bay. It has seen around 1,000 patients every month—all bulk billed with no cost to the patient.

There were also more serious accidents. Unfortunately, the emergency department at Batemans Bay operates at level 2, meaning that complex and critical cases must be transferred to a higher level hospital. One such accident was my younger son's dislocated thumb from playing school cricket. After a ride in an ambulance to the Batemans Bay hospital, doctors put Brendan's thumb back into place. Unfortunately, they could not guarantee it was back in place properly. They gave us the option of going to Bega or Canberra to see an orthopaedic

surgeon in the public system or going to Nowra to see a surgeon at Nowra Private Hospital. After considering all options, such as travel costs, meals and accommodation, it would be far cheaper and less disruptive to the whole family if we paid to attend Nowra Private Hospital.

Then the tree incident occurred. My elder son Gerard thought it was a wonderful idea to climb a tree. He subsequently broke a branch and fell to the ground. Unfortunately, his elbow was broken and his bones were protruding through the skin. The Batemans Bay hospital staff were fabulous, but they could do nothing for Gerard other than to keep him stabilised and have him transferred to Canberra. By the time an ambulance was free to transfer Gerard, it was 4.00 a.m. If there was a level 4 hospital in Moruya, Gerard would have been treated and operated on at the hospital he presented to.

We would not have had the additional pressures of travel and accommodation in Canberra. I quote from a news article headlined "'One Eurobodalla Hospital' gets a positive hearing from both sides of politics". The member for Bega at the time, Andrew Constance, said:

It is a vision of mine to see one big regional facility that caters for everybody in the shire and gives our health staff the best workplace.

We want to stop people having to travel hundreds of kilometres for health services they should be able to get locally.

...

We can stop sending people in ambulances over the hill to Canberra and costing us an arm and a leg, and stop putting so much pressure on families.

He said that he had hoped any parochial arguments had evaporated. It is disingenuous for members opposite to say one thing while in government and the absolute opposite now that they are in opposition. Worse still, it is driven by a seat-shopping ex-MP with local political ambitions to suit his own agenda. Community has absolutely nothing to do with it, and the wider South Coast community can see straight through his appalling behaviour. The new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital will have a level 4 emergency department, complete with a purpose-built resuscitation area for trauma and other life-threatening presentations.

By combining the resources of the existing Moruya and Batemans Bay hospitals into a larger, purpose-built health facility at Moruya, there will be a new emergency department capable of providing more complex care, equipped with doctors, nurses and technology that is far above either of the existing emergency departments. Batemans Bay hospital is old and well past its use-by date. My sister-in-law recently retired after 12 years of nursing there. Anita told me that in her 12 years, the hospital leaked every time it rained. Rain came in through the windows, through the ceiling and light fittings, and even under the floor.

Ms Felicity Wilson: Why don't you fix it?

Ms LIZA BUTLER: You were in Government for 12 years. It has been happening for 12 years. The Government is going to build a new hospital. The Minns Government's investment in a level 4 hospital at Moruya means the biggest emergency department for the entire Eurobodalla shire, with a larger capacity than the current combined emergency services of Moruya and Batemans Bay hospitals. The Minns Government is investing in regional communities and will continue to invest in health services on the South Coast. The community knows what it wants, and the Government will deliver it.

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde) (16:21): I was expecting a civilised debate. I wanted to enjoy the debate because 18,000 people in the community have put their name to paper. That is an extraordinary achievement. Yet we have one of the most egregious displays of passing the buck that I have ever seen. The simple reality is that members opposite are now in government. The member for South Coast has just given a first-class example of why emergency departments are so valuable. She has got a good story to tell, and I am happy to hear it. It is fantastic. We all want to have a good story to tell.

Mr Paul Scully: Did you listen to it? You didn't listen to it, did you, mate?

Mr JORDAN LANE: I will get to the member for Wollongong. We need to make sure that all families and all members of the community get the same experience as the member for South Coast in her local hospital. That is what I want in Ryde. That is what the Leader of the Opposition wants. That is what members on this side of the House want. It does not seem to be what members opposite want. I do not understand that. I am particularly outraged by the member for Bega, who is a doctor. The hospital is on his local patch. In effect, he tried to defend less health services in a fast-growing community. I wanted to speak in the debate because I represent a fast-growing community.

I also know that Government members can change their mind. Before the election, there was no more ferocious opponent to growth and development in my community than members opposite. The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces is in the Chamber. He was a chief opponent to growth in my community of Ryde. All of a sudden, members opposite are in government and things have changed. If they accept a backflip on their

position on growth, then they surely must accept their change in position on infrastructure and planning. What could be more important for a fast-growing community than basic health services? If people get sick, if people are injured, if people need to go to the hospital, they need a functioning emergency department. I could not care if there were three in the community—everyone should have access. One should not have to depend on the political colours of the government of the day, yet that is what they are getting with the politicisation of this Government.

I have listened to the most substantive debate, which has been about the political mateship around who is advocating for this in the community. Members opposite are the only ones talking about politics. Peter and the community have written in. Not once have they pointed the finger of blame, yet members opposite made the debate about something that happened well over 12 months ago. The simple reality is that Government members are able to make decisions. They are able to appropriate funds. If they do not like the direction that things are travelling, they can change it. That is the beauty of the position. It is fantastic that the Minister is here, because it is important that he listens to this community. They are experiencing a change in their community, and there is an opportunity to make a difference.

The Minister alluded to investment in Ryde Hospital. I am grateful for that. I advocated for that long before I was elected to this place. We need to make sure that hospitals like Ryde Hospital are kept on track. But why is it that my hospital can get that but not the people from Batemans Bay? The member for Vacluse accurately pointed out that she has a great abundance of access. Why are the people of Vacluse any more deserving than the people of Batemans Bay? I do not understand. Labor likes to talk about fairness and equality. Here is an opportunity to balance the scales. Here is an opportunity to make sure that the people who have taken the time to be here in the gallery to listen to the debate are able to get the same access to services that I can get, that the member for Vacluse can get and that many in Labor electorates can get.

I am particularly upset at the way that the local member has acquiesced responsibility. He has an opportunity to stand up and be responsible. He is the Parliamentary Secretary for Health. He has the ability to influence the Minister to appropriate the funds. He has a say on these issues, but he has abandoned ship and left it up to the Opposition advocate for that community. I would not stand for that. The member for North Shore would not stand for it. The member for Badgerys Creek would not stand for it. The member for Terrigal would not stand for it. The Leader of the Opposition certainly does not stand for it.

Ms Felicity Wilson: And Brad Hazzard wouldn't have either.

Mr JORDAN LANE: Brad Hazzard would never have allowed it. I thank the member for North Shore for the interjection. I do not understand how the member for Bega can acquiesce responsibility. He is the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, he is the local member, he has got the ear of the Minister, and he is in government. All of the conditions are set for him to make a change. All of the conditions are there to deliver for the people in the gallery. They have made the trip, and the member is abandoning ship. It is a shame. It is a disgrace. I call on the Minister to allocate the funding.

Mr GARETH WARD: I seek leave to make a contribution to the debate.

Leave not granted.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): The member for Kiama will resume his seat or he will be removed from the Chamber.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira—Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast) (16:27): In response: I thank the men and women in the gallery today. It is critical that people advocate for health services in their community. It is an important issue. As the Minister for Health, I argue that the delivery of health services in regional, rural and remote communities is absolutely critical. There is no stronger champion for the community of those in the gallery than the member for Bega.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): The member for North Shore will come to order.

Mr RYAN PARK: The member for Bega was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary for Health because of his fantastic advocacy. When I think of rural, regional and remote health care, I think of Vacluse. When I think of rural, regional and remote health care, I think of Ryde. When I think of rural, regional and remote health care, I think of the North Shore. I say to those in the gallery that there are plenty of Opposition members from regional and rural New South Wales who could have been in the Chamber for the debate. Instead, three Sydney MPs are here to be the Opposition's so-called advocates. I have looked at the issue very carefully.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Order! The Clerk will stop the clock. Members will come to order. Members who continue to interject will be removed from the Chamber under Standing Order 249A until the conclusion of the petition debate.

Mr RYAN PARK: First, members on this side of the House are committed to and are delivering the new level 4 hospital. It will be the first hospital in the shire that has an intensive care unit. That is a fact. The second fact is the clinical services plan that charts the services for a community was developed, announced and delivered under the former Government. Those opposite cannot have it both ways. They cannot speak falsehoods to the community and say, "We are going to allow another emergency department to remain in place at Batemans Bay", when their own plan said it would not be feasible or safe. Level 4 hospitals need two things: throughput from patients and adequate staffing.

The new level 4 hospital is a considerably higher level than what is there now. I am not going to shortchange the people of the Eurobodalla shire by pretending that they can have a rundown emergency department with adequate staff at Batemans Bay as well as a level 4 hospital 26 kilometres down the road. That is rubbish. I will not stand in front of a community that I have an enormous amount of interest and care for and say that is a reality. I also will not stand and listen to rubbish from city members about rural and regional health when they have no idea what it is like to live in regional communities. They have no idea about the challenges of regional health. This side of politics will deliver a level 4 hospital because the community deserves it.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Order! Members will come to order. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (16:30): In reply: The previous Government promised the Moruya bypass. Then the election happened and the member for Bega ruled it out. The constituents of Bega will never get a Moruya bypass under this Government. Then the member for Bega told his constituents that although there are level 2 hospitals within less than 35 minutes of level 4 and 5 hospitals in places such as Junee, Bellingen, Narromine and Cessnock, the people of Batemans Bay are not entitled to the same level of health care as other centres. That is what their local member is telling them. He is saying it is okay that Batemans Bay will be the largest regional centre in New South Wales without an emergency department. It is good enough for Junee, Crookwell, Bellingen, Narromine and Cessnock to have level 2 hospitals within half an hour of a level 4 or level 5 hospital, but it is not good enough for the people of Batemans Bay.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Order! Government members will come to order.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: This has come about because the Government is spending its budget on its union mates. It promised that wage increases would be funded by productivity offsets. Instead, it is ripping the money off local communities such as Batemans Bay and breaking its promises. We know that in 2027-28 the transport infrastructure spend will be down 41 per cent. There will be no money for the Moruya bypass under this Government. There will be no money for Batemans Bay under this Government because it has spent all its money on its union mates. Everything comes home to roost because of the Government's mismanagement.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): Order! The member for Keira will come to order.

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN: When the Eurobodalla Regional Hospital opens—which we all welcome—under this Government there will fewer emergency department beds than there are currently in the Eurobodalla shire. That is what we get when we have a government that cannot manage the money and cannot manage the finances.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I thank the guests in the gallery who are visiting to listen to the debate.

Petition noted.

Bills

ENERGY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE) BILL 2024

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT (INDUSTRIAL MANSLAUGHTER) BILL 2024

Returned

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Mr Alex Greenwich): I report receipt of messages from the Legislative Council returning the bills without amendment.

Community Recognition Statements

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH GREYSTANES

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (16:34): On Tuesday 28 May 2024, I was pleased to visit the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish [OLQP], Greystanes—my local parish—to discuss local community issues and present a Safe Places for Faith Communities grant. OLQP Greystanes was granted \$16,500 for site security and

surveillance to help keep the parish community safe and more secure in its historic place of worship. The first mass celebrated on site at Greystanes was on Christmas Eve 1958. OLQP became its own parish in 1972, and the church building opened on 20 April 1975. Over six decades, OLQP has supported our local community through faith and service. I congratulate Father Paul Roberts and Father Jack Elkazzi, as well as Geraldine Ladley, Lisa Bright, Anne Hines, Christine Van Arsdale and all the parish community at OLQP Greystanes. I thank them for their dedicated service to our Prospect community.

JOSEPH MARK MCGRATH

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury) (16:35): It is an absolute honour to recognise Joe McGrath, who is turning 100 next week. It has been my privilege to know Joe. Until late last year, Joe attended dancing twice a week, played lawn bowls and drove himself around. During World War II Joe served in New Guinea with the No. 75 Squadron ground crew. He has an amazing story in that regard. He came home and completed his apprenticeship in carpentry at the Henty timber mill. He built his own home in East Albury, which he lived in for many years. He is an absolutely beautiful gentleman and is a living treasure in Albury. It is an absolute privilege to know him and to recognise him in this place today. For many years, Joe travelled to Sydney for Anzac Day. He could not make it this year, but he is going to be there next year. I wish Joe a happy birthday and hope he has a wonderful day.

PROFESSOR ANDRE RENZAHO, OAM

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (16:36): I congratulate Professor Andre Renzaho on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his outstanding service to medical research, particularly in the areas of refugee and migrant health. This prestigious accolade is a well-deserved recognition of his dedication and significant contributions to public health and humanitarian efforts. Professor Renzaho's remarkable journey from his beginnings in the Democratic Republic of Congo to his distinguished academic and professional career in Australia is truly inspirational. As a mixed-methods public health researcher, he has made substantial advancements in global migration health, health equity and cultural competence in health care. His leadership as the inaugural Distinguished Professor of Humanitarian and Development Studies at Western Sydney University, along with his roles at Monash University, Deakin University and various international organisations, exemplifies his commitment to improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations worldwide. Professor Renzaho's ranking among the world's top 2 per cent of scientists and recognition as a leading researcher in global migration health underscore the profound impact of his research. His dedication and passion continue to inspire and drive future advancements in public health.

TIME IS PRECIOUS ORGANISATION

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (16:37): I recognise Time is Precious, an organisation led by Amy Graham and Sara Jones. Amy is a local constituent. Since its establishment in 2019, Time is Precious has been a strong advocate for bowel cancer awareness and raising funds for Bowel Cancer Australia. I recognise and remember Sara's stepdad, Rob Bosch, who died of bowel cancer aged 50 after a lengthy battle. Time is Precious is focused on advocacy around early diagnosis, prevention, research and quality treatment. In 2023 it hosted a black-tie charity gala that raised more than \$80,000. That funding will make a big difference. I commend and acknowledge the work that Time is Precious has done to raise more than \$124,000 for Bowel Cancer Australia in total. It is inspirational. I thank Amy, Sara and their team for the important and passionate work they do. I look forward to meeting them on 28 June 2024 with the Hon. Paul Fletcher, MP.

ROYAL HOTEL WYONG

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast) (16:38): In June Marney McQueen and Frank Arangio celebrate seven years as owners of the Royal Hotel at Wyong. They purchased the hotel in 2017, passionate to develop the Royal into a community hub. They renovated the space into a warm, family-friendly environment and place to enjoy a delicious meal and beverage. The Royal supports many local organisations, including the Iris Foundation, We Care Connect, Elsie's Retreat, Because We Care Boutique, Maya Young Women's Refuge, various local schools, Lions clubs and rotary clubs, the Riding for the Disabled Association, the Children's Hospital at Westmead, CureBlindness and The National Kidney Foundation. It also sponsors the local fishing club and Wyong fire brigade. The Royal Hotel has helped organisations raise more than \$200,000, mostly at its Saturday night spectacular cabaret evenings, which have been a big hit in the local community, with guests such as Gina Jeffreys, Melinda Schneider and Marney McQueen herself. The evenings feature many talents and local bands such as The Phoenix. Recently the Royal Hotel added a monthly Irish Sunday session. The Royal Hotel has really transformed our local community.

FIVE DOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne) (16:39): I recently joined Five Dock Public School Garden Club as we planted a grevillea tree in honour of World Environment Day 2024. The gardening club at Five Dock Public meets every Friday at 8.30 a.m. before school to learn practical skills including growing and nurturing fruits, vegetables, plants, bees and greenery. They have developed a flourishing vegetable patch and flower garden which includes oranges, limes, carrots, pumpkins and even their own beehive. I recognise students Tulay Sallan, Lachlan Murphy, Eliana Sullivan, Zoe Munro, Liam Coyne and Hamish Archibald for their inspiring leadership and to thank them for helping to plant that tree. It was inspiring to witness firsthand the enthusiasm and the passion of the Five Dock Public School students. I also acknowledge Five Dock Public School principal Suzi Chosid and school learning support officer Mr Carl Sharpe for his dedication. He has done an amazing job coordinating the garden club. I look forward to seeing the grevillea tree flourish.

BANKSTOWN TROTS

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills) (16:40): I thank Bankstown Harness Racing and Agricultural Society committee president Steve Wilson for inviting me to enjoy a day at the races on the King's Birthday public holiday. The Bankstown trots is an institution for locals who come to watch the harness racing and cheer on their favourite horse and driver at the historic Bankstown Paceway track. The M.H. Treuer Memorial Race Day is the biggest day for harness racing in the East Hills electorate. Congratulations to 16-year-old Zara Fitzpatrick on winning two races and coming fourth in the big race on the day. The young driver, trained by her mother, Lisa, raced around the track with great skill and determination. Well done to Zara. What a fantastic run for such a young driver. Thanks again to Steve Wilson and the Bankstown Harness Racing and Agricultural Society for putting on that fantastic day at the races.

GRACE WEST ANGLICAN CHURCH, SILVERDALE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek) (16:41): Sunday 26 May 2024 was a wonderful and significant day for the Silverdale and Warragamba communities with the official opening of Grace West Anglican Church, Silverdale, the sister church to Grace West Anglican Church, Glenmore Park. I was proud to celebrate with the senior minister, Chris Braga; Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Kanishka Raffel; and the congregation and community. The dream to establish the church first began in the early 1980s. The faithful members and leadership of the local Anglican churches worked together over the decades, facing incredible obstacles, challenges, the global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic to persevere until the dream was realised. A special mention must be given to the late Margaret Fowler, whose drive and conviction meant that the dream was never in doubt. I extend my special thanks to the generosity of the builders, the architect, donors and everyone who sacrificed to see the church established. Now the church has a thriving base from which to serve, help and care for the local community.

ALEKSANDRA STOILOVA

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (16:42): I take this opportunity to recognise the efforts of one of Campbelltown's exceptional young athletes. Aleksandra Stoilova has already travelled the world due to her athletic talents, and this year she is headed to Peru to compete in the World Athletics U20 Championships in the 100-metre sprint and the 4 x 100 metre relay. She is also the shadow athlete for the 200-metre sprint. Aleksandra is the 100-metre sprint national champion, as of the U20 athletics championships in Adelaide this year. She first represented Australia in the U20 athletics team at just 17 years of age. With a personal best time of just 11.3 seconds, Aleksandra will prove a difficult competitor to beat. I congratulate Aleksandra. We are so fortunate to have so many talented athletes in the Campbelltown community and Aleksandra is a great example.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL PAVIOUR, OAM

Mrs WENDY TUCKERMAN (Goulburn) (16:43): I rise today to recognise the late Mr Paul Paviour, OAM. Mr Paul Paviour was an extraordinary composer, organist, pianist and conductor, who dedicated much of his time to Goulburn's choir and theatre groups and those who had the same love of music that he did. Mr Paviour studied at London's Royal College of Music, where he was awarded the Harding Prize for composition. Travelling to Australia in 1970, Mr Paviour took on the role of musical director at All Saints Anglican Cathedral in Bathurst, moved to the role of lecturer in creative composition at Goulburn Teachers' College and then to a music teacher role at Crookwell and Bowral high schools. Mr Paviour was a founding director of the Goulburn Regional Conservatorium, now known as the Hume Conservatorium of Music. Mr Paviour performed for the late Queen Elizabeth II at her coronation in 1953 and again in 1988 with the Goulburn Consort of Voices. Mr Paviour also performed with the choir in front of Pope John Paul II in 1982. Mr Paviour was a remarkable musician and composer and a wonderful person within the Goulburn community. A mentor and role model, may he rest in peace.

COLEDALE WAVES FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms MARYANNE STUART (Heathcote) (16:44): The Coledale Waves Football Club is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this year. For three decades Coledale Waves has been more than just a football club: It has been a cornerstone of our community, fostering not only athletic excellence but also camaraderie, sportsmanship and a sense of belonging. Since its inception the Coledale Waves Football Club has been dedicated to promoting the love of football among all age groups, from its enthusiastic youth teams to its steadfast senior players. With 412 registered players, 90 of whom are female, and 32 teams, the club maintains a strong membership base with a focus on widening participation. Its iconic pink jersey was chosen to replace the previous maroon jersey 10 years ago to highlight breast cancer awareness and to raise funds. I recognise the tireless efforts of the coaches, players, volunteers and supporters who have contributed to the club's success over the years. Their dedication and passion have ensured that the Coledale Waves Football Club continues to thrive and inspire future generations.

SYLVANIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (16:45): I acknowledge the Sylvania Heights Public School Parents and Citizens Association, which received \$75,000 from the 2023 Community Building Partnership Program. With over 550 students, Sylvania Heights Public School is one of the largest public schools in the Miranda electorate and has developed a proud tradition of providing excellence and innovation in education as it instils students with a love of learning. Through that funding, the school will install a shade covering over the year 3 to year 6 synthetic grass area, expanding the usable space for students in the warmer months while also offering year-round protection from the sun. None of that would be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Sylvania Heights Public School Parents and Citizens Association committee. I recognise Jaymee Pele, Olwen Crane, Lexie Whittaker, Julie Williams and Ainsley Rayner as well as acting principal Susan Oliveri for their contributions to our community. I thank the Sylvania Heights Public School Parents and Citizens Association for bringing the importance of this project to my attention, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact it makes to our local students.

CAMPBELLTOWN ELECTORATE WILDLIFE RESCUE VOLUNTEERS

Mr GREG WARREN (Campbelltown) (16:46): I am delighted to thank and praise the many environmental volunteers and activists in my electorate of Campbelltown. We all know there is much growth going on in the electorate, and those people work night and day rescuing our wildlife. There are a number of organisations, and I want to acknowledge every one of them. Their volunteers are all appreciated. They generously give their time when they could otherwise be snuggled away in bed. Many of them are running around Kentlyn, Wedderburn and the Appin Road doing everything they can to save our wildlife, something that we cherish and embrace in the Campbelltown electorate and throughout south-west Sydney. We know that we are going through a growth period; we cannot do a lot about that. What we can do is support those who are doing such great work. I am delighted tonight to acknowledge and thank each and every one of them for all they do for our environment and habitat.

Private Members' Statements

STATE BUDGET AND MAITLAND ELECTORATE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads) (16:47): I rise today to respond to comments by the Mayor of Maitland City Council. I am not surprised to hear him raising his voice against the New South Wales budget. As a former member of the Liberal Party and a former paid staff member for The Nationals, he takes every opportunity to raise his voice against any good initiatives of mine and of the New South Wales Labor Government. It is surprising that the comments he makes now are similar to those made by me as a member of the Opposition, without the support of him or his Liberal and Independent colleagues on council. Over more than eight years I constantly advocated for more resources and infrastructure to deal with Maitland's continued growth. More than five people per day come to live in Maitland. It is one of the fastest growing local government areas in New South Wales. We are in agreement on that. However, unlike the mayor, I have constantly made that case, regardless of who was in government.

It is a hard road in opposition, but my time in this place has been spent fighting for and winning the completed upgrades to Ashtonfield Public School and Rutherford Public School, the planned upgrades to Gillieston Public School, two new preschools at Tenambit and Gillieston Heights and the commitment to build a new school at Huntlee, which will take the pressure off our schools in west Maitland.

I also won the fight for the new Maitland Hospital to be fully public, and I advocated for all the new health facilities in the East Maitland health precinct, which mean people in Maitland no longer need to travel to Newcastle for oncology services. The mayor has incorrectly asserted there is no new funding for Maitland Hospital, which is absolutely untrue. There is an allocation of funding for the Maitland community health and

community mental health building, which will be co-located at the new Maitland Hospital. We cannot redevelop the old one because patients are still there. In fact, the former Labor mayor oversaw the precinct plan, which she gave to the former Government, and it was totally ignored by members opposite. In addition, we are funding more nurses, doctors, paramedics and ancillary staff, which is what Maitland needs. Too many people are waiting at the hospital emergency department because they cannot get in to see their GPs. Our GP payroll tax incentive will help to increase bulk billing and take the pressure off the hospital.

We are investing in roads in Maitland. We have committed \$15 million to start the duplication of the railway bridge at Thornton. We have suggested grant funding to council for the huge blowout in its program to upgrade Raymond Terrace Road. We have provided more money for Melville Ford Bridge, Maitland Vale Road and Melville Road, as well as rolling out nearly \$2 million for pothole and heavy patching repairs in the budget last year. Add to that the massive investment in roads across the Hunter. Somewhere in the order of \$3.5 billion of projects are under construction. We are getting on with the job of improving life for everyone in the Hunter, including Maitland. We are also escalating disaster relief to get our roads and other essential infrastructure back on track. Our record-breaking investment in housing will help people in Maitland, where the rental vacancy rate is less than 1 per cent. The maintenance of our social housing properties will ensure that people in social housing live in dignity. And quarantining funds for victims and survivors of domestic violence and their families is something we should all be proud of.

In regard to Walka Waterworks, the mayor should have been on top of his brief. Instead of backing in a failed caravan project that was rejected by the community, he should have done the hard work to advocate for remediation funding. I have fought for and won \$20 million for remediation of contamination in Maitland, and won legislative changes. I will continue to fight for more remediation. There are 364 days in the year other than budget day, and I work on all of them. In addition to the Walka debacle, the mayor has seen the closure of the jail managed by council, with one day's notice. Yet another tourism grant was applied for under members opposite, rather than looking for funding for maintenance and upgrades, which would have kept it open.

But the mayor has a habit of shutting down public spaces and halls in Maitland, rather than doing the hard work of fixing them. He has refused to let the seniors back into their hall, while he sits in his \$40 million offices. He has refused to reopen the Maitland Park Bowling Club, which, coincidentally, he was a former secretary of. It was closed and burnt down under his watch. The promise to community groups to let them use the old administration centre has been broken, and now he is trying to close down the visitor information centre. That is six community assets closed down or unusable on his watch, and he will not take responsibility for any of it. He is happy to sit in his massive building on his massive wage increase, and put out comments on social media and Facebook, without doing anything to fix the issues. If this were anything more than a pre-election stunt for his mayoralty in September, the mayor would have reached out to me much earlier on these issues and asked for assistance. People know I am here for the community of Maitland, every year, not just election year; and every day, not just budget day.

STATE BUDGET AND DAVIDSON ELECTORATE

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson) (16:52): As members of this House know, in May I took leave from the New South Wales Parliament after my diagnosis of bowel cancer. At the time, I was happy to quote the timeless words of philosopher, bodybuilder, actor and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger, "I'll be back." After several emotional and physical weeks away, it is great to be back in this House and representing the people of the Davidson electorate. I thank my colleagues from all sides of the Chamber for their support and good wishes. It means a lot that we put things like this above politics. It was very much appreciated. My cancer battle is not over. In the coming weeks and months, I will be taking it slowly as I undertake preventative treatments. This place and the work I do in the community gives me purpose. I acknowledge and thank our dedicated health staff, including nurses, doctors and medical specialists. They go above and beyond the work that is required. I pay tribute to my wife, Gessika. She is my greatest supporter and the love of my life. I thank Gessika for everything she does.

I also talk to the 2024-25 budget and its impact on the Davidson electorate. As all members can appreciate, the cost of living is hurting local residents, whether it be families, individuals or small business. Indeed, every part of our society is impacted by the current economic conditions. When we think of the cost of living, we think about groceries, electricity bills and tolls. The consumer price index is rising higher than wages and, sadly, people must pay for that. I again take this opportunity to share my economic values and what the purpose of government should be when it comes to the economy. I believe the economy is central to everything, and it provides endless opportunities to the citizens and taxpayers of New South Wales.

As a Liberal who believes in Liberal values, I believe that we need a government that nurtures and encourages citizens through initiative, not punishes them with burdensome taxes. It should encourage the facilitation of wealth so that everyone might enjoy the highest possible standards of living, health and education.

Importantly, it should take care of the most vulnerable. In practice, these values mean that a strong economy is needed to invest in more services and infrastructure. When it comes to the New South Wales budget, we need fiscal responsibility, including a balanced budget. The Government should always live within its means, pay down debt, protect the triple-A credit rating and make sure it does not put the burden of debt onto future generations. It should maximise investment in services and infrastructure projects with the positive cost-ratio analysis wherever it can so that every single dollar that the New South Wales Government invests returns more than one dollar to the broader economy.

I turn to the 2024-25 budget handed down by Treasurer Mookhey. On the morning of budget day, I was in an elevator with several Labor MPs including a Labor Minister. The Minister remarked that the budget was a "good old-fashioned Labor budget". To me, a good old-fashioned Labor budget means debt, deficit, higher taxes including bracket creep, class division, kowtowing to union bosses and mates, and plenty of spin and photo opportunities. With the resource allocation model in education, sadly the people of Davidson have seen a \$1.3 million cut to local schools, including \$325,000 cut from St Ives North Public School, \$122,000 cut from Killara High School and \$83,000 cut from Gordon East Public School. There was also a missed opportunity for a brand-new hall for Davidson High School, despite the advocacy of the P&C. Over 12 years, the Coalition Government was able to invest in all high schools. Davidson High School was next on the list. I will continue to fight for funding for a brand-new hall because the people of Davidson need that. In transport, there is a \$9 million cut to Lindfield commuter parking.

That is just about cuts. When it comes to new funding, I did not hold my breath. There is not a single cent on new infrastructure or services. Disappointingly, that is at a time when the Government has given Ku-ring-gai a housing target of 7,600 by 2029 and transport oriented development that seeks to add 17,000 houses across Roseville, Linfield, Killara and Gordon. Where is the new infrastructure funding for that population? Where are the schools, roads, trains, buses, parks and green space? Clearly, it is nothing but a typical, old-fashioned Labor Government. Sadly, the people of Davidson are worse off because of the budget and, with the cost of living rising, the New South Wales Government has no plans.

TEMPORARY SPEAKER (Ms Donna Davis): I welcome the member for Davidson back to the Chamber.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (16:58): I respond to the member for Davidson's private member's statement. It is an old-fashioned Labor budget. It invests in workers' wages. It invests in social and key worker housing. It invests in infrastructure. It invests in services. It invests in making sure New South Wales has better homes and better communities, because that is what people have been screaming out for after a decade of not receiving that delivery. I know the member for Davidson is a new member, but he should not just swallow the talking points and regurgitate them as if they were his own great thoughts. He knows that communities throughout New South Wales were neglected by the former Government. He also knows that this Government inherited the largest debt of any incoming New South Wales government in the history of the State. It is very different from the situation the Coalition inherited in 2011. This Government is delivering for everyone and will continue to do so.

WOLLI CREEK REGIONAL PARK

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport) (16:59): I update the House on a major development relating to the Wollli Creek Regional Park, which is in my electorate of Rockdale. This stunning riverine bushland strip runs through the Wollli Creek Valley, stretching along the northern boundary of my electorate, where it meets the electorate of Canterbury. Home to a colony of vulnerable, grey-headed flying foxes, a wide array of native birds and a number of native mammals, the bushland at the bottom of the valley was originally designated as a future motorway corridor, way back in the 1950s. That was a double-edged sword. It saved the land from being cleared for other types of development but also left it under constant threat of ultimate destruction for the motorway.

By the 1980s our community had started to recognise the extremely high environmental value of the land, and in 1983 the Wollli Creek Preservation Society was formed by a group of determined locals who were fighting against a proposal that would see the long-feared, eight-lane freeway built right through the valley. The society fought hard for the next 15 years until, I am proud to say, the Carr Labor Government announced in 1998 that the M5 East motorway would be built as an underground tunnel instead. The old motorway corridor was converted into the new Wollli Creek Regional Park and the precious valley was saved from near-total destruction, preserving it for both future generations and the vulnerable native wildlife that call it home.

However, an immediate problem faced by the new park was that much of the land in the valley was divided up amongst many different owners. Councils, government departments, independent agencies and private

individuals owned a patchwork of land parcels right across the park. That splintered ownership made the process of formally acquiring and adding land to the park slow at the best of times and, unfortunately, throughout the 2010s it often looked like it had all been put in the too-hard basket. Despite constant pressure from the community, the preservation society, several local councils, and all the local members, it seemed as if the park was destined to never be completed. I recognise the constant advocacy of the Wollie Creek Preservation Society through those long and discouraging years. The society's vice-president, Peter Stevens, was regularly knocking on my door, and on many other doors, keeping the flame alive, always believing that they would get there in the end. Peter and the other tireless and dedicated members of the society deserve recognition for their decades of work for the Wollie Creek Valley.

Happily, NSW Labor heard the renewed call and committed in late 2022 to completing the park, promising to finish the work that Bob Carr started over 25 years ago. Last year the new Minns Government made its first big step towards fulfilling that promise when it allocated \$13 million in the September 2023 budget towards the completion and maintenance of the park. The Government followed up that budget allocation with on-the-ground action. On 8 March it announced that 16 land parcels totalling 4.7 hectares had been transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and added to the park.

With those 16 parcels, the park now comes to a total of 45 hectares, leaving just 4.9 hectares still under the control of other owners. The Government also announced that the National Parks and Wildlife Service will continue to work with the Office of Strategic Lands to complete the acquisition and transfer of those final 4.9 hectares, bringing the 30-year fight to protect our precious natural heritage into the home stretch. This is a huge step forward in achieving the vision my community fought so hard and so long for, and I am proud to be part of the Government that has delivered it. I look forward to updating the house on this topic again in the future.

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON (Tamworth) (17:03): The most fundamental aspiration of every Australian is to own their own home, with their own backyard next to their own porch where they can spend the afternoon watching the world go by. It is the great Australian dream—a belief that home ownership is the key to a better life, an expression of success. Despite that dream quickly falling out of reach for young people living in the cities, we are fortunate that in regional New South Wales we still have access to housing that is more affordable and within the reach of those who put their nose to the grindstone and save. The Tamworth electorate is an idyllic location for young families, and that is our great strength. It is cheaper to live there, provides opportunities and people can afford to put a roof over their head. But we are not immune to the same pressures felt in our State's cities. We have seen house prices increase sharply, particularly over the past few years, and first home buyers are feeling the pinch.

To ease the pressure, we need to build more homes, particularly affordable homes, to ensure that we have the stock to meet demand. We need more stock in Tamworth and our surrounding villages, just like we need more stock across the State. That is why it is so alarming to see recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics suggesting that housing approvals have now dropped to a 10-year low across New South Wales. Families in the Tamworth region are baulking at the idea of building a new home because the costs are not adding up. Government red tape is getting in the way far too often. Let us look at an example. Recently, there was an absurd situation where Planning had labelled the Tamworth region an "alpine zone". Someone from Timbuktu looking at a map could tell that it is not an alpine zone. I do not know how that happened, but it did.

Mr Paul Scully: Well, you do, because you met with me about it.

Mr KEVIN ANDERSON: You do not see many ski fields or chairlifts in Tamworth. I note the Minister is in the Chamber and I was about to give him a rap. He spoke too soon. It is all about timing, Minister. It may seem like a harmless bureaucratic error, but that mistake meant that people were being required to build new homes for an alpine climate. That increased the cost of their build, and many had to back out of the process. Luckily, we were able to get the situation resolved. I met with the Minister for Planning, and he understood the situation and gave it fast attention. We were able to work together to fix the problem, and I commend him for his collaborative approach.

The former Coalition Government worked with Tamworth Local Aboriginal Land Council, Tamworth Regional Council and Landcom to open up Crown lands in our area for more housing. That memorandum of understanding is in effect, and I look forward to those houses being built to increase our stock. But there is much more to do. The Government needs to be innovative in its solutions to the housing shortage. Throwing funds at the issue is not enough. We need ideas, we need solutions, we need to get a hold of the planning system and shake it up to make it easier for people to build their own homes. We need more and I am open to working with the Minister for Planning and the Government to find those solutions.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (17:07): I acknowledge the collaborative approach that the member for Tamworth took in bringing this issue to my attention. It was one of those crazy anomalous situations which would have had some long-term and, frankly, silly outcomes had it not been corrected. The local home builders he brought with him to meet with me genuinely wanted to find a solution and they worked with the department. We worked with the Commonwealth Government and were able to resolve things, building on the work that the New South Wales Government continues to do in regional New South Wales. While the member for Tamworth indicated that throwing money at the housing problem is not the answer, we do need to make sure that we are enabling and investing in appropriate infrastructure. The Government has recently announced \$200 million in funding to do exactly that. But the biggest challenge we face is one of financing. I am excited that the Government is undertaking a guarantee pilot, under which we hope to quickly get more keys in the front doors of new homes in more places in New South Wales.

SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUMS

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast) (17:08): The Secondary Student Leadership Forums run by the New South Wales Parliament provide MPs with a great opportunity to talk to and spend time with their local student leaders across the State. Members quite often see those exceptional young people in attendance at special events such as Anzac Day or Remembrance Day ceremonies or local festivals and celebrations, representing their schools and communities.

I recognise all six of the high schools in my electorate—and I double-counted, so I do not think I left any out.

Mr Paul Scully: Was that high schools, or—

Mr DAVID HARRIS: The high schools, yes. I was a primary school principal.

Mr Paul Scully: Clearly.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: Finger-counting was one of the strategies. All of my high schools were represented. I acknowledge Gorokan High School, which had Gracie Lawson and Tara Smider; Lakes Grammar Anglican School, which had Alyx Babu and Kathryn Cook; Wyong Christian Community School, which had Taya Woods and Keelan Black; Wyong High School, which had Trinity Magin and Toby Austin; Wadalba Community School, which had Alannah Bryant and Tayah Lodge; and Mackillop Catholic College at Warnervale, which had Ashleigh Jones and Manuel Ampoma Gyamfi. Those really good young students are an example of many of the young people we have right across the Wyong electorate.

Like most members of Parliament, I would agree that the standard of school leaders improves year on year. I think that is because the students who come before them are really good role models and our school system, whether in private or public schools, gives young people the confidence, the speaking skills and the opportunities that I, as school captain in the Wyong High School in the 1980s, only dreamed of. Yesterday I made the point to them during our discussion that when I was a school captain, my interests were going to the beach and having a surf. We did not get a lot of opportunities. Students were elected to the position, there was a small ceremony but then the teachers ran everything. Today it is totally different.

Our schools respect and understand our young people from primary school leaders right through to high school leaders and school representative councils. All of those operations within our schools are developing fine young citizens. I am absolutely amazed at their knowledge, their interest, and particularly their ability to run events. I now know that, for example, at many school presentation days, the students just run the whole thing.

Mr Paul Scully: And they are better run sometimes.

Mr DAVID HARRIS: The member for Wollongong is exactly right. That is a really good thing because I have been in Parliament a fairly long time and, as we all get older, one of the things we start to think about is: Is our country and my electorate in good hands? I have to say the answer is yes. While a lot of young people sometimes are criticised, and while that may be justified for some individuals, overall when we are at a local school or visiting local retail businesses, we are meeting young people who are great ambassadors for themselves and for their families. Sometimes I think we get all caught up in the negatives of the world, but this afternoon, after meeting those young people yesterday and being inspired by them, I want to acknowledge that the majority of young people in our communities are amazing human beings. They probably need far more recognition than they get, even though they do not ask for it. Above all, they are doing the most amazing things. In some cases, they are travelling the world for sport, education or other reasons. This afternoon I want to congratulate and encourage them to go on to bigger and better things.

ORANGE HEALTH SERVICE

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange) (17:13): Today I champion a significant advancement in health care for our community—the proposed establishment of robotic surgery at the Orange Health Service. This initiative promises to revolutionise the surgical field in western New South Wales, bringing unparalleled benefits to patients, healthcare facilities, and medical professionals. Robotic-assisted surgery, or RAS as it is known, is at a critical juncture of widespread adoption driven by rising expectations from patients and clinicians and an expanding body of evidence supporting its efficiency. As noted in a comprehensive study published in the *Journal of Robotic Surgery*, RAS has shown substantial improvements in patient outcomes, particularly in cancer-related surgeries such as urological, colorectal and gynaecological procedures. The study revealed that RAS not only enhances surgical precision and patient recovery, but also reduces hospital stays and postoperative complications, highlighting its transformative impact on the delivery of health care.

In western New South Wales, the need for advanced surgical technology is especially acute. Our regional demographics and medical infrastructure make a compelling case for the introduction of robotic surgery. Establishment of a robotic surgery program in Orange will enable us to provide a comprehensive cancer care pathway within our region, minimising the need for patients to travel long distances for treatment. This is crucial for reducing the disruption and costs to patients and their families, who currently have to leave the region to access robotic surgery, often due to long waitlists for specialist review and significant workforce shortages in urology. The establishment of robotic surgery at the Orange Health Service is not merely a technological upgrade; it is vital for retaining and recruiting a skilled healthcare workforce. Our region faces critical shortages in urological specialists, with a looming risk of losing both emergency and elective urology services due to retirements and difficulties in recruiting new surgeons. By providing the latest surgical technology, we can attract top-tier medical talent, ensuring that our community has access to high quality and timely care.

The benefits of robotic surgery extend beyond patient outcomes. This proposal envisages a common user facility that will serve both public and private patients, alleviating pressures on our bed-constrained referral hospitals and facilitating timely local care. The implementation of this technology will not only improve surgical efficiency and reduce strain on our healthcare workforce but also enhance our hospital's reputation as a centre of medical excellence. Robotic-assisted surgery offers several key advantages: enhanced dexterity and stability of surgical instruments; improved precision and control, allowing for minimally invasive surgery in tight body cavities; superior visualisation capabilities, aiding in the identification of critical structures and improving surgical outcomes; and reduced physical strain on surgeons, contributing to workforce longevity and efficiency. Those benefits are particularly significant in cancer surgeries where robotic systems facilitate nerve-sparing procedures and improve lymph node harvest, leading to better oncological outcomes and faster patient recovery.

The growing evidence supports the adoption of robotic surgery as the standard of care in many fields with an increasing number of procedures being performed robotically. Currently, Australia lags behind other developed countries in the availability of robotic surgical systems. Our country has only 85 da Vinci robots compared to approximately 4,500 in the United States. In western New South Wales, there is no robotic system available in public or private facilities, despite a catchment area that justifies such an investment based on population and patient demand. I am advised that Sydney benefits from at least 25 robots to serve a population of 5.18 million people, which equates to 207,000 in population per robot. The Orange medical catchment has approximately 250,000 people, which comparative ratio supports a case for installing at least one surgical robot. Introducing a robotic surgical program in Orange aligns with the broader trend towards adopting this technology as a standard of care. People living on the other side of the Great Divide need and deserve country-based medical services utilising modern equipment such as robot-assisted surgery and the improved outcomes it would deliver them.

The proposal outlines a donor-funded approach to acquire and install a surgical robot, managed by a not-for-profit entity to ensure equitable access for both public and private patients. This model addresses the current funding constraints faced by public and private operators. The community benefits of this initiative are: local access to advanced surgical care, reducing the need for patients to travel long distances; improved postoperative outcomes and reduced recovery times; strengthened capacity to retain and recruit a skilled workforce; and enhanced research and training opportunities, positioning Orange as a hub for medical innovation. The establishment of robotic surgery at the Orange hospital is a forward-thinking and necessary step to elevate our healthcare standards.

LOCAL SPORT GRANT PROGRAM

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (17:18): Sport has the power to transform lives. Playing keeps us fit, healthy, socially connected and teaches us so many skills applicable in life. I inform this House of the New South Wales Government's Local Sport Grant Program. The program provides up to \$20,000 to individual clubs and associations, with \$50,000 available in each electorate for new equipment, programs and facilities that will help

rebuild local grassroots sporting communities, increase participation and deliver fit-for-purpose facilities for our children.

This year 579 projects statewide were awarded funding. In Fairfield, four groups were awarded funding for the amazing work they do. The Recreation, Sports and Aquatics Club was awarded funding for inclusive and accessible sport programs—including swimming, tennis and karate—for people with disabilities in Western Sydney. The Fairfield Liverpool Cricket Club was awarded funding to support the maintenance and upgrade of its home ground facilities as well as upskilling its volunteers by taking part in a multicultural awareness workshop. The Chester Hill Hornets Junior Rugby League Football Club was awarded funding for volunteer training, first aid supplies and protective gear. The Australia Bangladesh Sports and Cultural Association was awarded funding to support its cricket gala. I thank all sporting groups for the work they do in supporting our kids. Keep up the great work.

ST JOSEPH'S JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda) (17:20): I recognise St Joseph's Junior Rugby League Football Club, the Joeys, in its sixtieth year. I was pleased to recently join with players, supporters and their families to mark this significant milestone at a celebratory dinner on 25 May. Rugby league holds a special place in the hearts of many of us in the Sutherland shire, and the Joeys are an important piece of the rich fabric of our local Cronulla Junior Rugby League competition. The Joeys started in 1964 with just two teams, the under-8s and the under-9s. Throughout the club's history, the Joeys have gone from strength to strength, growing to nine teams in 2000, 14 teams in 2010 and 20 teams today, with 400 players in both league and league tag competitions. That is only slightly down from the record high of 25 teams in 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this time, the Joeys have developed a reputation for developing high-quality talent, with nine players going on to play first-grade rugby league, including Alan Holmes, Chris Quinn, Paul Evans, Keiran Kerr, Luke MacDougall, Gideon Katonga, Daniel Vasquez, Damian Munro and Cameron Ciraldo, who is currently the head coach of the Canterbury Bulldogs. In 1964 life member and first-grade trainer George White got his start as a part of the under-8 team who went on to win the minor premiership in its inaugural season. In those early years, the Joeys were closely associated with the nuns at St Joseph's Primary School, who were credited with the design of the club's first logo: a kangaroo with a halo. Originally training and playing out of Scylla Bay Oval in Como, the club developed a friendly rivalry with the Como Jannali Junior Rugby League Football Club, the Crocs, which continues to this day, before moving to its current home, at Kareela Oval, in 1969.

I recognise the contribution of Alan Holmes, another club life member who was instrumental in these negotiations with Sutherland Shire Council. In those early days, kiosks were run out of a tent at the field. It was not until 1991 when the Joeys got their first clubhouse, which now serves as the away team's change rooms. In 2005 the current clubhouse opened, and it underwent major renovations in 2020. Funding for those clubhouses was raised by club members through fundraising efforts and lobbying State members to gain support and financial assistance from various grants. I was pleased to support the Joeys in securing \$35,000 through the Community Building Partnership program in 2020 to fund some of the renovations.

Until 1993 the Joeys fielded teams only in the junior competitions, but in that year the Joeys' under-14 side progressed to older grades, paving the way for the Joeys to develop into the club it is today, competing in both the junior and senior competitions. As a result of this expansion, the Joeys won their first senior-age competition, with their under-16As, which included Cam Ciraldo and Chris Kerr, who is still involved in the club, playing for the over-35 team. In 2001 the Joeys won their first open-age competition, with a win for the A reserves team.

The Joeys have also gone to great lengths to grow female participation in rugby league and are today reshaping the club and reaping the benefits of their success. In 2015 the club welcomed its first female player, who played in the under-7s tackle competition, Charlotte Evans, the daughter of the Joeys' current club president, Michael Evans, whom I thank for his contribution to the material for this speech. In 2017 the Joeys fielded their first female side, competing in the open-age women's touch competition, coached by life member Sam Matho. Just last year Sabrina Marigliano became the first female player to play 100 games for the Joeys.

Although sometimes overlooked for accolades, the Joeys were last year named the senior club of the year and were previously named junior club champions in 1995 and 1996, and the club of the year in 1993 and 2003. Throughout its rich history the club has won 51 premierships, including, in 2023, the open women's competition for the fourth year in a row and, in the same year, the men's A-grade competition for the first time in the club's 60 years. In the past two years, the club has won 11 premierships and it is famous for having the best sporting barbecue in the shire.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of St Joseph's Junior Rugby League Football Club's executive committee. I recognise President Michael Evans, Senior

Vice-President Peter Jamison, Secretary Paul Vanderwert, Treasurer Shaun Spangenberg and Registrar Anthony Howard for their contributions to the club and for growing rugby league in the Sutherland shire. Club members are certainly proud to be Joeys, and our community is proud of this incredible club reaching this wonderful milestone. Go the Joeys!

RIVERSTONE ELECTORATE FUNDING

Mr WARREN KIRBY (Riverstone) (17:25): The people of Riverstone have taken more than their fair share of population growth for the better part of a decade. In terms of outright numbers, we are the fastest-growing electorate in the State, home to the highest number of school-aged children and young families. I sometimes reflect on the changes my community has gone through. Riverstone has always been home for me. The one thing that has not changed is my love for what was once a country town on the outskirts of metropolitan Sydney.

I have always been a proponent of growth. It drives economies and builds communities, and I understand that people must live somewhere. However, unregulated growth through poor planning decisions undermines the benefits that growth may bring. The families of Riverstone have experienced this firsthand. For 12 years the former Government was happy to reap the rewards of residential growth while putting little effort into the needs of the people who choose to live there. The former Liberal Government had no interest in providing the necessary infrastructure the new suburbs in north-western Sydney needed.

The people of Riverstone spoke at the election last year, and they voted for a government that listens and puts them first; thinks about families, not just residential yield; plans for the future; and invests in north-western Sydney. This investment is ratified in this year's budget. I thank the Ministers, including the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, the Treasurer and the Premier, who have come to Riverstone to see where the investment is needed most. Last year's budget got the wheels of progress turning for Riverstone, and this year's budget keeps them moving.

The Liberals left schooling in Riverstone in shambles. They sold off school sites and failed to invest in teachers, which resulted in overfilled classrooms and overworked teachers, who were leaving the profession in droves. The Opposition's decision to sell school sites at a time when our education infrastructure was bursting at the seams can only be described as abhorrent. Our Government has lifted the wages cap on teachers and is committing \$3.6 billion for schools in Western Sydney, plus an additional \$1 billion for school maintenance. We have already delivered temporary schools to bridge the gap and are building permanent ones that are so desperately needed.

We are building new schools in Nirimba Fields and Tallawong and a high school for Schofields and Tallawong. These schools will balance the distribution of students in the electorate. In addition, a new public primary school in the Gables and a new primary school and high school for Box Hill will alleviate the strain put on schools in Riverstone. Upgrades for The Ponds High School and Riverbank Public School will alleviate the pressure they are under. I have the privilege of working with the education Minister to deliver the schooling the students and families of Riverstone deserve. She fully understands the issues we face in north-western Sydney because she has experienced the same problems in her electorate.

After years of neglect, our local roads were no longer fit for purpose. In the 2024 budget, Riverstone's roads have received a huge boost, with the joint funding by our State and Federal governments of \$276.3 million over four years for the Garfield Road East upgrades. Although not in my electorate, road users will benefit from a \$520 million investment into Richmond Road by the State and Federal governments. After 12 years of broken promises and dodgy timelines from the former Liberal Government, the Minns Labor Government delivers Rouse Hill Hospital. The 2024 commitment continues the \$700 million investment in building a modern adult hospital for Sydney—the first in many years. Not only is this more than what we committed under the former Government; it is a facility the community actually needs.

Riverstone is the heart of the North West Growth Area. A growth area cannot be limited to the influx of homes and families. The key to a liveable city is local employment. During my time in the North West Business Chamber, I was a strong advocate for local employment and the critical role it plays in the North West Growth Area. Following numerous rounds of community consultation and consistent community advocacy, I am pleased to announce that a State-led master plan for Riverstone Town Centre is finally underway.

This Government is investing in local employment through the town centre, which will become a hub for local employment, entertainment and recreation. It will become the beating heart of the North West—a potential that is closer to being realised thanks to this Labor Government.

This budget illustrates our Government's commitment to north-west Sydney. This Government is dedicated to delivering the services and infrastructure that Riverstone was deprived of for 12 long years under the Liberals. Investment in schooling, roads, public transport, health care and local employment will uplift Riverstone. Strong

investment now will ensure livability for years to come. I am proud to be a part of a government that listens to its communities, especially communities set for continued growth. I am even more grateful to be a part of a government that understands every region needs to take its fair share of housing intake. Riverstone has done more than its fair share; it is now time our residents were repaid with the crucial infrastructure that the Liberals withheld for 12 years. Unlike those opposite, we deliver on our promises, and the proof is in the budget.

STATE BUDGET AND OXLEY ELECTORATE

Mr MICHAEL KEMP (Oxley) (17:30): The Minns Labor Government failed regional New South Wales and the electorate of Oxley when it handed down a poor excuse for a State budget. It turned blind eye to our challenges and the Oxley electorate will continue to suffer under a Minns Labor Government. The budget neglects to protect residents from the cost-of-living pressures, and entrenches poor road funding and decreased infrastructure delivery. The Government had two budgets to get it right for regional New South Wales but instead the regions are left hurting from the inadequate cost-of-living relief and vague housing commitments. It is not good enough that Premier Minns failed to introduce any new cost-of-living measures for people who are deeply feeling the pinch. A \$65 increase in energy rebates for low-income households will not support families who are struggling to purchase new school equipment or enrol their children in sports and outdoor activities.

The Labor Government is treating our regional communities like second-class citizens by axing the projects and programs that allow them to thrive. It is all well and good for Labor to offer toll relief to benefit people in Sydney but vital cost-of-living measures, like the regional seniors travel card, Active Kids, Back to School vouchers and more, did not even get a look-in for our electorate of Oxley. The Premier has delivered another city-centric agenda with \$5.2 billion for Western Sydney roads. I do not see that sort of expenditure in Oxley. In fact, this budget will not put an extra cent more into upgrading vital roads like the dual lanes needed for Waterfall Way and the hazards experienced on Giinagay Way.

While I welcome the significant \$5.1 billion investment into building 8,400 social homes, with around half reserved for women and children fleeing domestic violence, there is a big "but": There is no guarantee that the housing commitment will make its way to Oxley. Can Minister Scully, who is sitting at the table, guarantee that the housing makes its way to Oxley? On the Mid North Coast domestic violence-related assaults have jumped by 8.2 per cent over the past 12 months with more than 1,500 incidents recorded. I have been calling for more secure housing options, refuges and support services and the Minns Government must commit to building them in Oxley. I ask the Minister to make sure that happens.

There is more to be said when it comes to building much-needed infrastructure in Oxley. I have been calling for immediate changes to our childcare system. In Oxley there are limited spots and waitlists extending anywhere from two to three years. Parents are making difficult choices between work and education. Parents are driving from home to neighbouring towns almost an hour away and back again—a three- to four-hour burden per day just for the privilege of child care so that they can contribute to our society. I know those occurrences are not isolated to my electorate so it is disappointing that the Minns Labor Government will not ensure further investment into child care.

Labor is proceeding with its 100-preschool promise, but in Oxley that amounts to only one preschool, in Bowraville. One is better than none but it is an old promise and there are no new top-ups and no new announcements. The preschools are expected to be built by 2027 but with how dreadful the wait times have become for child care and preschools, we do not have the time to wait. We cannot wait another three years for one. We need proactive and immediate measures that will help lower the extensive wait times. Our regional children deserve their fair start to life too.

The budget confirms that the Government will collect more revenue than any government in the history of our State; it has lost control of our finances. The Premier and the Treasurer have added over \$11.5 billion in deficits over the next four years, taking our net debt to \$139 billion by June 2028, up \$21 billion from the \$118 billion predicted for June 2026 just last December. That will take interest payments to \$8.6 billion for 2027-28, more than double the \$4.2 billion paid by the previous Government in 2022-23. The Premier said his union wage deals would not cost the people of New South Wales a cent and would be fully offset by productivity savings. Minns' broken promise means that, despite record revenue received by the Government, there is no new cost-of-living support and there are cuts to schools, hospitals, frontlines services and infrastructure. A further \$6.4 billion in union demands sits unfunded and unaccounted for in this budget, and our State simply cannot afford that massive liability. The Oxley community deserve to be recognised in this budget. We need increased funding for child care, crime prevention and infrastructure rather than all the funding being directed towards Western Sydney Labor electorates.

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces) (17:35): The member for Oxley failed to point out that earlier today his leader confirmed in this Chamber—for half an hour—that his

party will reintroduce wage caps in New South Wales. That is his party's policy. So every teacher, nurse, paramedic, allied health care worker, public sector worker in Oxley will receive a real wage cut in perpetuity if the National Party is ever elected to government in this State—and it will flow to the private sector. It is a shameful reflection on a new member that his key policy is to cut people's wages in a cost-of-living crisis. He also failed to point out that this Government is investing in additional regional paramedics and has employed more teachers in permanent jobs. The Government is recommitting to regional housing to provide the housing for those nurses, healthcare workers and other workers. The member for Oxley also left out the fact that this Government inherited the largest debt of any incoming government in the history of New South Wales from his party.

CAMDEN EMERGENCY RESILIENCE ROUND TABLE

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden) (17:36): On 10 May I held a round table to discuss the Camden emergency resilience efforts in Camden and surrounding areas to deal with the increasing threat of natural disasters, as well as broader emergency management in the region. All across New South Wales climate change is contributing to more extreme weather events such as floods and fires, and Camden is certainly not immune. Like many other areas, since 2022 Camden has experienced significant flooding, which has threatened homes and businesses, and closed roads, schools and bridges. We have only just opened a flood level display as part of the Nepean art trail, which demonstrates the incredible levels those floods got to.

The aim of the Camden emergency resilience round table was to bring together members of the community and key stakeholders to start conversations around a coordinated emergency response that serves the best interests of our community during a natural disaster or emergency. The focus was not on saving lives as the community already does that exceedingly well, having lost two lives in the last four floods. It was about the resilience of our town in being able to bounce back, which involves saving our precious things, like photos. Many stakeholders attended and the feedback given was incredible.

Our special guest was the hardworking Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery and, importantly for this round table, member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin. The Parliamentary Secretary brought a unique knowledge of the possible damage that high flood levels can inflict. I also thank the member for Wollondilly, who attended and offered many thoughts regarding the impact of flooding on the entire region. The focus of the round table was to reflect on the floods of 2021-22 and to discuss the ways in which we as a township can improve. We also looked towards the possible disastrous flood levels and what that would mean for our community. We started with a general discussion of the perceived holes in the services provided. The main discussions centred around the lack of adequate community knowledge of how Camden floods—which direction the water moves in and what the flood levee levels mean.

We discussed the single way in and out of the township during an emergency when the bridges are closed, as well as the warning times from the Bureau of Meteorology and coordination between organisations. We also discussed the fact that members of the community do not like evacuating their homes without their pets and how that issue could be rectified. We had quite a concerning discussion with WIRES about the fact that when our town floods, all the snakes move to the drier areas in Camden.

One of the main talking points, however, was the incredible number of enthusiastic volunteers in Camden and how to best use their enthusiasm. We then broke into small groups, and each group was instructed to come up with solutions for all of those problems if possible. The small groups presented to the room at the conclusion, and many solutions came to mind. I will continue to talk about those solutions over the next couple of weeks, months and possibly years. It was noted that the group should continue to meet every 12 months to discuss the issues further.

I thank all of the stakeholders who attended the emergency resilience roundtable for the manner with which they approached the discussions. It was incredibly heart-filling to gather 40 people in a room whose only idea was to help the people of the township of Camden in an emergency, and everyone left the room very excited about our future together. I also thank those groups that are not usually included in such discussions, such as the chamber of commerce, the Environment Protection Authority, WIRES and a couple of other groups that I will not name at this time. I also thank my colleagues and friends the members for Wollondilly and Lismore for coming along and sharing their expertise, knowledge and ideas. Together we can work towards bouncing back from natural disasters more quickly, and I look forward to advocating for those issues in the future.

GOODSAM APP

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie) (17:41): Sometimes being in the right place at the right time, with the right technology, can literally mean the difference between life and death. In New South Wales, however, we no longer have to rely entirely on luck to be in the right place at the right time. Technology now guides caring

people to the right place when they are needed. In Lake Macquarie that technology has recently helped save the life of one of my constituents.

Hotel Wangi is a local institution. Its lunchtime specials are a crowd favourite and the venue has a following from far and wide. Recently, while enjoying lunch with friends, local identity Geoff Willbrands suffered a catastrophic heart attack at the hotel. Wangi Wangi is a small community in a peninsula suburb on Lake Macquarie. While it is an absolutely beautiful place to live, it is some 13 minutes by road from the nearest ambulance station, which is too long to wait in the case of a catastrophic heart attack. Without immediate treatment, death is almost certain. For every minute that a person experiencing cardiac arrest does not get chest compressions, their chances of survival fall by 7 per cent to 10 per cent.

Thankfully for Geoff, his friends Jayson Field and Jed Fatchers—both trained in first aid—were on hand. After Geoff stopped breathing and collapsed, Jayson began chest compressions while Jed retrieved the hotel's automated external defibrillator [AED] and set to work. Luckily, the hotel had purchased a new AED just four months prior. Another hotel patron, Adam Rothwell, rang 000 and stayed on the phone during the crisis until paramedics arrived.

At the time of the 000 call, a notification was triggered through the GoodSAM app. To be honest, until I was told this story, I had never even heard of the GoodSAM app. But as Geoff's story demonstrates, it is a truly wonderful initiative. The app is integrated with the NSW Ambulance 000 dispatch system and connects GoodSAM-registered responders who are within 500 metres, or a kilometre in regional areas, with people who are having or have had a cardiac arrest. In this case, an alert was triggered to a local GoodSAM responder—a nurse. That good citizen arrived on the scene within five minutes and immediately began to administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. On the fourth life-saving breath, Geoff began breathing on his own, regained consciousness and tried to get up.

It took paramedics 13 minutes to arrive at the hotel—and that is no criticism of our wonderful paramedics. But without the lifesaving actions of Jayson, Jed and the GoodSAM responder, paramedics said that Geoff would have had only a 2 per cent chance of survival. With no public hospital nearby and a shortage of public health facilities in the Lake Macquarie electorate, that type of technology saves lives. While we should not have to rely on volunteers for emergency response, of course, it is an unfortunate reality that emergency responders cannot always be there within minutes. Particularly in the case of a cardiac arrest, where every minute counts.

GoodSAM responders only need to be over 18 and willing and able to perform CPR. Registered responders can set the function to "on duty" when they are available to respond and "off duty" when they are not. When 000 receives a call indicating a patient is in cardiac arrest, it will send an alert to three of the closest responders. Each year more than 9,000 people in New South Wales experience cardiac arrest outside of hospital, and the GoodSAM app is a wonderful initiative to give each one of those people a better chance of survival.

I acknowledge, Jayson, Jed and our local GoodSAM responders for their quick actions and willingness to come to Geoff's aid. I also congratulate NSW Ambulance on its integration and operation of the GoodSAM app and encourage all members to consider learning CPR and registering as a GoodSAM responder. People do not have to be health professionals to register and lend a hand; they just need to be ready, willing and able. As the Australian Resuscitation Council says, "Any attempt at resuscitation is better than no attempt at all". I hope the amazing story of Geoff's second life inspires many more to ready themselves to give life-saving assistance.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:45): I thank the member for Lake Macquarie for sharing Geoff's amazing story and for thanking all the people who were involved in saving Geoff's life. He has been on an emotional adventure. I also thank the 6,500 GoodSAM volunteers across New South Wales. It is a global movement, and I commend those people who have the skills to step in. May we see that fantastic program grow across our communities.

PROSPECT ELECTORATE OFFICE BURGLARIES

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect) (17:46): On two separate occasions, Monday 25 March and Monday 8 April 2024, criminal break and enters occurred at the Prospect electorate office. Arriving early on a Monday to start the week, my electorate team noticed the office in a state of disruption. Drawers were left open, cupboards ajar, papers shifted, items missing from their mantles and empty electronics cases sitting open. My team members were shaken. I rushed down to support them, having come to the startling realisation that our office had been burgled. On two separate occasions, individuals broke into the office in the early hours of the morning and stole several items of significant sentimental value to me and my team.

Our electorate office serves a key function in our community. It is a busy office as we are dedicated to serving our vibrant and diverse Western Sydney community. Our office connects members of our community with vital services when they need it most. We work tenaciously to achieve meaningful results for people living

in Prospect. The break-in disturbed the peace and continuity of our service to our electorate. New South Wales police were concerned that it may be a targeted crime, that my home was also under threat and that my family may also be the victims of a future targeted crime.

We were glad to have reliable support available in our time of need when we called the Fairfield Police Area Command. Detectives arrived within 20 minutes. They took statements, reviewed CCTV footage, connected with local businesses and began their investigation. On the same day, the hardworking forensics team arrived. Blanketing what felt like every surface in the office in forensic power, they expertly hunted for fingerprints and DNA evidence.

Detectives made several calls in the days that followed, updating us as the investigation progressed. They also extended support, ensuring that my team and my family felt safe and protected. I cannot fault the efficient and expert way our local police area command and forensics officers—who happen to be based at Pemulwuy, also in the electorate—controlled the situation. The calm and collected way they conducted their investigation brought great comfort to me, my family and my staff. It helped maintain stability in my office so our team could continue servicing our community.

As a result of the professional policing by the detectives at Fairfield City Police Area Command we had a swift resolution of this crime. Less than a week after the second break-in, I received a call from the lead investigator, Detective Sergeant Benjamin Morgan. Already his team had found the alleged perpetrators and made an arrest. I was pleased to see that almost all items that were stolen were returned to us. I especially thank the detectives, uniformed officers and the forensics team at Fairfield City Police Area Command who responded with great efficiency and care to resolve the robberies in my office. Their capable and swift response brought great assurance to me, my team and my family.

I especially acknowledge Detective Sergeant Benjamin Morgan, Detective Senior Constable John Perugini, Detective Senior Constable Jocelyn Nolan, Plain Clothes Senior Constable Alexander Manfred and Plain Clothes Senior Constable Marko Tunjic for their committed and thorough investigation. I also thank members of the NSW Police Force forensic services group, Maryam Ahmad and Silas Maduka Moneke, for the expertise with which they performed their forensic investigation. I also acknowledge the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Greg Piper, and the Department of Parliamentary Services security team, especially Song Charoenkitti and Ralph Ewen, for their support during this trying time.

The professionalism of our law enforcement is crucial in maintaining public safety and the wellbeing of our Western Sydney community. Through recent months our community triumphed through significant challenges from incidents of domestic and family violence to a dramatic rise in religious-based knife crime. Our police at Fairfield City Police Area Command answer the call each and every day, bravely coming to the front line to protect and support our community. We are fortunate to have dedicated and professional NSW Police Force officers taking care of our community in the electorate of Prospect. Once again, I thank the police from the Fairfield City Police Area Command for their support and their ongoing care for our community.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (17:51): I am saddened to hear about the incidents that occurred at the electoral office of the member for Prospect. I send my love and gratitude to his team for continuing to operate in the best possible manner to serve the people of their community. I thank the Fairfield City Local Area Command for their incredible work and congratulate them on solving the crime. That is amazing. I also thank the Brisbane Water Local Area Command. I have had two personal incidents. My car was broken into. Police arrived at 2.00 a.m. and fingerprints were taken at 9.00 a.m. I had a follow-up when police came to look at CCTV camera footage. I had another incident of graffiti on the bike path at the front of my house, implying that politicians should be killed. The police were very supportive. Our local area commands are doing a great job. We do not want that to happen to our local community representatives, but we thank the police for the work they do looking after us. It is reassuring to know that we have their support in our local communities.

STATE BUDGET AND HOLSWORTHY ELECTORATE

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy) (17:52): I speak about how the New South Wales Labor Government's budget fails the State and my electorate of Holsworthy. The Treasurer and Premier have lost control of the State's finances. My community will miss out on critical cost-of-living relief and infrastructure because of their incompetence. Despite the Government raking in more revenue than any government in the history of our State, it is not offering a single cent of new cost-of-living support for struggling families. That is in addition to cuts made to the popular Active Kids, Creative Kids, and Back to School vouchers that so many people relied on. The Labor Government has been negligent in addressing the pressing needs of the residents in Holsworthy. My constituents are feeling the pinch of rising living costs and, instead of offering support, this budget leaves them high and dry.

It is unacceptable that in a time when families are grappling with increased costs for essentials, the Government is failing to provide any new measures to alleviate their financial burdens. No child deserves to be means tested and no child deserves to miss out on sporting and recreational activities that help them learn and grow. Constituents also feel let down by the Labor Government's failure to deliver any new infrastructure projects in Holsworthy. For the second consecutive budget, not a single public primary or high school will receive funding for upgrades in Holsworthy.

I said in this place after the last budget that the Labor Government claims that education and Western Sydney are at the forefront of its priorities; however, it has again forgotten the bricks and mortar of our educational institutions. That is despite neighbouring electorates in the Liverpool local government area receiving funding for several school upgrades. The disparity is glaring. While neighbouring electorates in the Liverpool local government area are receiving substantial funding for school upgrades—four projects in Liverpool and seven in Leppington—Holsworthy is receiving nothing. This unequal distribution of resources is unfair and raises serious questions about the Government's commitment to equitable education across all regions.

Holsworthy is also not getting any new preschools. Meanwhile, under this budget Liverpool will receive six preschools and Leppington will receive four. Sadly, I advise the House that the Labor Government is playing politics with our children's prospects in Holsworthy. Early and public education should not be politicised and because of that the children and youth of our community are set to suffer. Early childhood education is crucial for cognitive and social development, and denying our youngest residents those opportunities is a disservice to their futures.

There are also growing concerns for the status of critical road infrastructure, which is a cause of angst for many Holsworthy residents. At the last State election the Labor Party committed \$180 million to duplicate "key sections" of Heathcote Road between The Avenue and the Princes Highway. However, it has been revealed that in the 2024-25 budget the Government has budgeted only \$65 million for the duplication of Heathcote Road over four years. This little funding means the duplication of Heathcote Road will not commence by the next election, which is a betrayal of the Government's claims in 2023.

Additionally, only \$2 million has been allocated in the 2024-25 budget for the planning of the project, reduced from \$5 million in the 2023-24 budget. The fall in funding means the Government needs to come clean on why this critical project is stalling. It cannot allow for the Heathcote Road upgrade to be put on the backburner as it will simply put too many lives at risk. It is a death trap for local drivers. Knowing Labor's track record, I would not be surprised if this project was scrapped completely. I will continue to hold the Government to account and make sure that our area receives the funding it deserves. Our community deserves better, and I will not rest until we get our fair share. I demand better from this Labor Government so that it ensures that every citizen, every family, and every child in Holsworthy receives the support and opportunities they deserve.

SAFER CITIES PROGRAM

Dr DAVID SALIBA (Fairfield) (17:57): The New South Wales Government recently partnered with Fairfield City Council to deliver the Safer Cities: Her Way program, which saw a \$1 million investment in Canley Vale. The program aims to improve the feeling of safety for women and girls when in public spaces. The program engaged women and girls to understand their feelings when using public spaces and worked directly with them to co-design and trial temporary improvements to public spaces to help them feel safer. Council gathered feedback via a survey, an interactive map, pop-ups and "walkshops". An online webinar was also conducted to present the findings of engagement and the input gathered from over 250 people. The main ideas reported by participants included more and different types of lighting, temporary activations, improve overall look and feel, more public artwork, shopfront activation and night life, more signage and wayfinding, and more surveillance.

In light of such feedback, public space improvements were subsequently made at various locations in Canley Vale. Adams Park received enhanced lighting, a table tennis court, chessboard tables, bench seating, new directional signage and shared pathway line markings. Diggers Lane received bollard lighting, decorative lighting and painting on the pathway. Canley Vale Road received accessible parklets for outdoor dining, customised artwork, lights, pergolas, umbrellas and planter boxes. Westacott Lane received a mural along the fence line. The underpass received a new mural, new wayfinding and warning signage, line marking, LED lights and fixed lighting. I commend the New South Wales Government and Fairfield City Council for their great work.

STEBER INTERNATIONAL

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes) (17:59): I recognise Steber International, which is a multi award winning manufacturer of quality commercial and recreational boats for fishing, charter, patrol and rescue based in Taree. Established in 1946, Steber is an Australian-owned and family-run business. Initially producing timber clinker-hull boats, the company transitioned to fibreglass construction in 1959, becoming a pioneer in the

Australian fibreglass vessel industry. Founded by Bruce and Beryl Steber in Brookvale, Sydney, the company strategically relocated to Taree in 1974 to tap into the reliable and highly skilled workforce whilst also supporting regional industry. With the move, a major transformation took place. The company transitioned from small recreational runabouts to larger recreational and commercial boats for both the Australian and international markets. It has gone from strength to strength ever since, remaining at the forefront of the industry.

Earlier this year Steber celebrated 50 years of manufacturing in Taree. It recently won two Australian Marine Industry awards—Commercial Marine Project, Design or Manufacturer of the Year and Marine Industry Innovation of the Year—for its diesel-electric hybrid boat, which is a major advancement in marine engineering. The hybrid boat, which is the only electric vessel of its kind in Australia, features twin electric motors and a backup diesel generator in case the battery goes flat out at sea. It can operate in three separate modes: battery only, diesel or both simultaneously. The innovative vessel is suitable for applications across the defence, government and private sectors. One unique feature is that it can be operated with a noise-reduced function, making it more environmentally friendly. When the function is used during a rescue, volunteers can hear calls for help.

Steber operates on a four-acre site with two acres under cover. The facility has designated areas for composite manufacture, construction, fit-out, engineering, stainless steel and aluminium sheet metal production, and internal cabinetry, furniture and upholstery manufacturing. I am proud to say that I have had a full tour of that site and I jumped on a vessel under construction. As a wholly Australian-owned and operated manufacturing company, Steber supports local manufacturers and maintains high-quality products, investing back in the community and supporting local businesses. The company continues to evolve. Managing director Alan Steber, the son of Bruce and Beryl, focuses on diversification to maximise growth opportunities. Steber's innovative research and development programs range from hybrid electric-diesel boats through to autonomous vessels and environmentally friendly disposal methods for end-of-life boats. It has earned many industry profile awards, such as the Australian Design awards and Boat of the Year awards.

This year Steber will begin producing carbon fibre high-speed drones for crop dusting, capable of lifting 40 kilograms of fluid and treating an acre paddock in two minutes before reloading and moving on to the next acre. Steber manufactures all the fibreglass components. Additionally, it is a partner in the development of an unmanned surface surveillance vessel or drone on water—the SSS Bluebottle—which is expected to have worldwide naval and private enterprise applications. Alan Steber is a huge supporter of regional development and is passionate about encouraging companies to relocate from metropolitan areas to regional areas such as Taree to provide jobs for our regional youth. As a company trainer, Alan has been responsible for the induction and training of around 150 apprentices and shipwrights, with many starting their own businesses locally and nationally.

Steber received \$100,000 under the New South Wales Government's Regional Job Creation Fund, contributing to a \$200,000 assembly line for small boat manufacturing. The line offers on-the-job training for new apprentices prior to graduation to the large boat range, and will generate five full-time jobs over time. Steber manufactures a diverse range of vessels up to 18 metres. However, operational challenges arise due to difficulties exiting the Manning River safely. On a previous sea trial an 18.6-metre, 35-tonne Steber vessel required an escort from Crowdy Harrington Marine Rescue over the non-navigable Harrington Bar. Experienced crew members plotted a chart for the vessel to manoeuvre safely down the Manning River. A permanent navigable entrance to the Manning River is essential for businesses like Steber to operate safely. I congratulate the Steber family and employees on the company's 78-year legacy. It is proudly an Australian manufacturer, proudly regionally based and proudly among the best in the industry.

TONY DENNY

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:04): Tony Denny is one of the few Coasties listed on the Australian Financial Review Rich List. He arrived on the coast from Eastern Europe, with a commitment to make our community great. Tony's first significant success was the Gosford Classic Car Museum, and we loved it. Unfortunately, it was forced to shut down after a lengthy dispute lasting over two years with the Australian Tax Office, resulting in 40 staff becoming jobless and luxury cars being auctioned off. An audit by the Australian Tax Office in 2016 found that Mr Denny had been illegally claiming luxury car tax and GST exemptions. Despite that, Mr Denny saw a great opportunity in the need for more quality apartment living in Gosford and stepped into the world of property development. Tonight I speak on behalf of more than 300 unfortunate individuals and families who invested in the six Central Real apartment development projects.

Scenic, Vue, Marina, Icon, Aqua and Elysium were built quickly by Tony Denny's developers over five years, from 2017 to 2020. Those apartments were people's dreams, their life savings and their forever homes. Unfortunately, Tony Denny has left a trail of hardship after running away from his developer and builder warranty obligations by putting a number of the Central Real development and construction companies into administration and liquidation. Warranty and poor building claims for the Central Real developments exceed \$10 million. The apartment owners have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on expert reports documenting significant building

defects and the remediation required by law. Many of the defects are categorised as major, covering structural, fire, water leaks and mechanical ventilation. They have been independently verified by the NSW Building Commissioner's Project Intervene.

Tony Denny has offered a paltry \$100,000, provided that a non-disclosure agreement and deed of release is signed. He managed to thwart the actions of the Building Commissioner through aggressive legal tactics and falsely indicating a willingness to enter into voluntary undertakings before the commissioner could take further action. That left the owners of apartments in the Central Real developments to fend for themselves and forced them to borrow and raise funds through special levies to deal with the defects. Sadly, the apartment owners are not the only casualties. Central Real employees who spoke up no longer have jobs and have been silenced with non-disclosure agreements and the threat of litigation. Subcontractors and tradespeople have also suffered. Some were never paid and have gone into liquidation, and others have been forced to settle for a sum far less than what they were owed.

Unfortunately for residents of the Tony Denny apartments, this occurred under the previous Liberal Government. That Government oversaw the development of dodgy sites such as the Opal Tower and Mascot Towers. It finally introduced the State's first Building Commissioner in 2019—too late for proactive inspections to protect the owners of the Scenic, Vue, Marina, Icon, Aqua and Elysium apartments in Gosford. I thank David Chandler and his incredible team for the fantastic work they are doing. They are sending a clear message across the construction industry in New South Wales that shoddy development is no longer okay and that it is safe to invest in apartments in our communities. We now have much more stringent oversight of building practices and interventions to stop such unscrupulous builders and developers. Those developers have shattered the dreams of so many families in the Gosford electorate.

Image and reputation have always been very important to Tony Denny. I admire his willingness to make a difference in communities. He continues to boast his rich list status, and his \$50 million Point Piper mansion is currently listed for sale. I am not quite sure how he lives with his own conscience. I hope that Tony Denny hears my words and thinks carefully about what he moves to next. I hope he also looks back to the harm he has caused to so many families and works with people at those six sites to create a better outcome than the dire and unfortunate circumstances that they are left with today.

I have spoken to a number of residents in the Scenic, Vue, Marina, Icon, Aqua and Elysium developments, and I am sure that I am going to hear from more. Unfortunately, there is no protection at this point. Tony Denny has broken many people's dreams and put many people into serious financial hardship. The faults in the apartments make them too difficult to live in, particularly when rain is pouring through windows. Unfortunately, the apartments are not worth what people committed to in the first place. I hope Tony Denny thinks carefully and comes back to the table to create a better outcome in the future.

STATE TAXES

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater) (18:09): I address two important and related issues that deeply affect my community of Pittwater. The first issue is land tax. I frequently receive feedback from residents that the way in which the Valuer General has valued their land is grossly unfair and plainly wrong. Two issues are raised: the lack of procedural fairness in challenging flawed values and the way in which such unfair valuations can affect land tax obligations. In relation to the lack of procedural fairness, the Valuer General either sends valuation notices to strange addresses, is unnecessarily arbitrary in rejecting late submissions or, for example, does not accept submissions on behalf of groups of residents.

In relation to the second issue, something strange is happening with the way that land valuations are done. In one case, 29 properties in Bayview had their land values increase by 70 per cent over the period 2001-2020, which is reasonable. However, in the following two years, values increased by an astounding 74.6 per cent. There is simply no rational basis for that scale of increase. The land tax general threshold has not kept pace with the Valuer General's valuation increases. Using Bayview as an example, whilst land values increased by 74.6 per cent over the 2020-22 period, the general land tax threshold only increased by 28 per cent. In having the Valuer General as an instrument of government and government determining land tax thresholds on a whim, government effectively predetermines its own tax take. In no other area of taxation is that the case. In all other areas—payroll, GST, income tax and stamp duty—tax take is dependent on the private sector and individual performance. With land tax, government owns the game and sets the rules. It is Dracula in charge of the blood bank.

In 2023, in response to a question on notice, the Government referred me to publicly available data that showed that Pittwater landowners paid \$95.3 million in land taxes in 2023. That is up from \$40 million in 2018—a whopping 72.5 per cent. Things are about to get much worse. This week's budget delivered a horror show for payers of land tax. The Government announced that it would freeze land tax thresholds indefinitely. That means

that land tax obligations across New South Wales will increase from \$6 billion to \$9.84 billion, or 64 per cent, from 2023 to 2028. It is the biggest tax hike in the State's history.

In Pittwater, the annual land tax liability will be increased to circa \$156 million in 2028. Based on the figures I have seen, Pittwater land tax payers will be paying an average of \$50,000 by 2028, up \$20,000 from 2023. That will be a massive hit to my community. Not only that, but as costs associated with owning an investment property go up, so too must rents. The tax hike will be passed on, and I am deeply concerned about the impact it will have on the thousands of renters in my community. The Government must reform the land tax system. It must index the thresholds and index those thresholds to land tax inflation.

As I mentioned, there are two related issues. The first is land tax; the second is that Pittwater is paying more than its fair share. The Pittwater electorate punches above its weight with respect to the remaining States taxes: payroll tax and stamp duty. In 2023 businesses in Pittwater paid payroll tax of \$41 million. In 2023 Pittwater paid stamp duty of \$162 million. In 2023 Pittwater paid total taxes of at least \$295 million. Over the next four years, the amount paid by the electorate of Pittwater will be close to \$1.5 billion. One can understand my frustration when the Government bleats about being ripped off by an average of \$1.5 billion per year in GST revenue, because the people of Pittwater are being ripped off. I say to the Government: Where is Pittwater's money?

The Pittwater electorate contributes \$300 million to the State each year. Adopting an inflation rate of 4 per cent, that will increase to nearly \$400 million per year by 2028. The rip-off being inflicted on my community makes the GST rip-off look like a picnic. Despite contributing \$300 million in 2023 alone, the Government will not fund Mona Vale Road West or a performance space at Narrabeen Sports High School. There is inadequate funding for domestic violence and youth mental health services. The Government will not fund dialysis chairs at Mona Vale Hospital. It has cut principals' school budgets from \$4.9 million to \$4.3 million. With inflation, that is a much bigger cut. At the same time, the Government has announced a \$2 billion light rail extension at Parramatta—paid for by the people of Pittwater. Give Pittwater its money.

AUBURN SWIMMING CLUB AND PARALYMPICS

Ms LYNDA VOLTZ (Auburn) (18:14): There was great news for my local community, particularly for the Auburn Swimming Club, at the Olympics and Paralympics swimming trials in Brisbane. Two locals, Tim Hodge and Ricky Betar, were selected to represent the green and gold in the pool in Paris. They are two of the 30 swimmers selected to represent Australia at the Paris Paralympic Games, featuring some of the most exciting, experienced and successful swimmers to ever swim on an Australian Paralympics team. Both swimmers are juniors of the Auburn Swimming Club and were announced as part of the Australian Paralympics team after their stunning performances at the Paralympics trials last week.

Ricky Betar will be competing in the 200 metres multi-class individual medley and, possibly, the 100 metres backstroke, alongside Tim Hodge, who broke the world record in the men's 200 metres individual medley multi-class. Ricky is classified as an S14 swimmer and has been swimming since he was 10 years old. At the 2019 Australian Championships, Ricky took home five medals and broke the Federation for Athletes with Intellectual Impairments world record for the 50 metres freestyle. His time of 1:02.03 in the 100 metres backstroke resulted in him making his maiden Australian team for the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships.

At the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships in London, he was a member of the Australian team that won the bronze medal in the mixed 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay S14. He also competed in the men's 200 metres freestyle S14, men's 100 metres backstroke S14 and men's 100 metres butterfly S14. At the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, Ricky teamed up with Madeleine McTernan, Ruby Storm and Benjamin Hance in the mixed 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay S14. They won the silver medal with a time of 3:46.38, just under six seconds behind the winners, Great Britain, which set a world record. Ricky also qualified for the finals in the 200 metres freestyle S14 and 100 metres butterfly S14. He finished seventh and eighth, respectively.

Tim Hodge, who recently broke the world record in the men's 200 metres individual medley multi-class, exemplifies the spirit and dedication of the Auburn Swimming Club. At just 14, Tim achieved selection to his first Australian team, travelling to Glasgow, Scotland, for the 2015 International Paralympic Committee Swimming World Championships. It was bittersweet, as he only just missed the opportunity to compete against his hero, Matthew Cowdrey, on the world stage. Tim represented Australia once again at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. His first major international medals came at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, where he clinched silver in the men's 100 metres breaststroke SB8 and the men's 100 metres backstroke S9. That was followed by a pair of bronze medals at the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships in London.

Swimming in his second Paralympic Games campaign in Tokyo 2020, Timothy found his spot on the dais for the first time. The 20-year-old claimed his first Paralympics medal in the men's 100 metres backstroke S9,

swimming a personal best time of 1:02.16. Timothy went on to secure the silver medal in the 200 metres individual medley SM9, touching the wall in 2:15.42 to come in second. In the men's 100 metres butterfly S9, he missed a spot on the podium, finishing fifth in the final. He captured his third Paralympics medal of the games as part of the men's 4 x 100 metres medley 34 points relay. The Australian team, consisting of his fellow teammates Timothy Disken, Will Martin and Ben Popham, finished the race in 4:07.70 behind the Russian Paralympics team. Tim is aiming for his first Paralympics gold medal at the Paralympics this year in Paris. We will be urging him on to reach his ambition. His journey, from learning to swim to breaking world records, is truly inspirational.

Auburn Swimming Club is an established and vibrant sports club, located in the heart of the Auburn electorate. It has a rich history and a strong commitment to promoting the sport of swimming. It is a swim club that is open to all. It has a mission to foster a supportive and inclusive community where swimmers can achieve their personal best and develop a lifelong love of the sport. Tim and Ricky are great examples of that mission. The Auburn Swimming Club, along with the whole local community, will be cheering them home at the 2024 Paralympic Games.

Ms LIESL TESCH (Gosford) (18:19): As a former Paralympian, I am very excited to thank the member for Auburn for her contribution and congratulate Ricky and Tim on their selection for Paris. I wish I could be there to cheer them on. Everyone in the Auburn Swimming Club will be watching them. The member for Auburn and I will be cheering them on. We wish them all the best to make it onto the podium and hope they go for the best colour and mineral—Go for gold!

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek) (18:20): In 1979 Czech writer Milan Kundera wrote, "the struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting". People tend to forget the past and we often learn nothing from history. That is why it is critical that the Federal Government announce and appropriately fund a thorough royal commission into Australia's COVID-19 pandemic response. The royal commission must be given the power to investigate every aspect of Federal, State and Territory government decisions, including the advice and data supplied by bureaucrats, and so much more. Whilst a Federal inquiry has been held, it failed to investigate the domain of the States and Territories, where the majority of pandemic decisions were made.

Evidence now being disclosed in other countries reveals the growing extent of the failures and abuses of power by some governments and their agencies throughout the pandemic. The World Health Organization is now trying to secure a global pandemic treaty that would sideline our democratically elected governments during the next pandemic. It would ensure that all decisions—including isolation, boarder closures, business closures, school closures, surveillance and vaccines—will be made by an organisation that has no accountability to the Australian people. We need a royal commission to ensure that as Australians we all learn what worked, what went wrong, where there was an overreach of public health orders and how to best balance the social and mental health and wellbeing of our citizens and community when fighting a virus.

I pose a small sample of questions that must be examined to ensure we learn from history and do not repeat the mistakes of the past. Why was Australia's pandemic plan immediately shelved and not followed? Should citizens get early access to thousands of dollars in personal superannuation? Evidence is now clear that the vast majority of those funds went to nice-to-have purchases and discretionary spending, and not essential expenses such as mortgage and rent payments. That has resulted in diminished funds and a poorer retirement reality. Should Federal money printing to "keep the economy going" be repeated next time, or should a more nuanced approach to support key workers and demographics be adopted? There is no doubt that excessive money printing is a contributor to the stubborn inflationary pressures we are all experiencing now.

Should the Federal Government's policy to permit businesses to operate whilst insolvent be the policy next time, or did this only delay the inevitable for those businesses? What aspects of isolation, control and lockdowns should be used next time? Two weeks ago Anthony Fauci confessed that COVID guidelines, which we also introduced in Australia, were not based on science. Those guidelines caused immense suffering, disruption and pain that is still being experienced by many citizens today. In fact, this week when I was giving blood the lady who was assisting me told me that, four years into the pandemic, her mother still does not leave her home for fear of catching the virus. How should governments determine the best actions to fight a virus if they are not provided with the data and evidence to back those actions? Should discussion and healthy debate by doctors, scientists and researchers on health responses such as lockdowns, social distancing and the COVID jabs be censored next time?

We must all agree that science is never settled. I believe the censorship of eminent experts in a range of health sectors was one of the worst aspects of the nation's response to the pandemic. The gaslighting, sacking, trolling, suspension and deplatforming of well-respected experts in our nation should never be allowed to happen again. How should we protect those who are more at risk of serious disease and death without destroying the mental, social and physical health of the rest of the population? Australian Bureau of Statistics data indicates the

median age of those who died from COVID-19 was 83.8 years. It was evident during the response to the pandemic that healthy children were never at risk of serious disease and death from COVID, yet we determined that school closures, mask wearing, and social distancing were all necessary. Has that disruption in schooling lead to the emergence of school refusal we are now witnessing? Should lockdowns be used again?

Examining other similar countries' responses should also be a part of the royal commission. Why was early treatment of the disease ruled out? How can we simplify the system to report vaccine adverse events? Currently it is a laborious process, leading many individuals to not pursue this course of action, which leads to the underreporting of adverse events. Should our parliaments be shut down again? The centres of our democracy must remain open for scrutiny and questioning, and can with the use of technology. I have posed just a handful of questions that must be examined by a royal commission. We must be brave and courageous as political leaders and Australian citizens to honestly and with humility examine all that was done. We must learn from the actions taken during the pandemic and learn from the actions of other countries to ensure we do not repeat the failures and errors of the past.

**The House adjourned, pursuant to standing and sessional orders, at 18:25 until
Friday 21 June at 10:00.**

Written Community Recognition Statements

According to Standing Order 108A, the following written community recognition statements were submitted.

VERONICA LATTOUF

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I recognise the success of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic College Burraneer year 9 student Veronica Lattouf who won two of the top awards in the 2024 Sydney Catholic Schools Portrait Prize competition. The art competition allows students from across all of Sydney's 147 Catholic primary and secondary schools to paint or draw a portrait of someone well known to them and who plays a significant role in their life. Across all of the 373 artworks submitted for judging, Veronica received the Executive Director's Award and she also took out the top prize in the 13-15 years age category. Veronica won for her painting 'Joshua', a portrait of her younger brother. Veronica's artwork has been featured on the Sydney Catholic Schools Spotlight on the Arts podcast. Her work is now being judged in the Art Gallery of NSW Young Archies Competition. The college says it's very excited for what the future holds for Veronica within visual arts. I join with her school in congratulating her on her achievements in the Portrait Prize competition.

REX PALAZZI, LILLY WIRTH AND KEIRA RIPPON

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate up and coming local water polo players Rex Palazzi, Lilly Wirth, Keira Rippon on their selection to represent Australia on the 18 and under tours next month. Rex will compete at the under 18 World Championships in Argentina in a 20-team competition, with Australia drawn to play in a group against South Africa and Kazakhstan. Lilly and Keira will travel to New Zealand with the Australian side to take on 21 and under teams at the New Zealand Nationals as well as going up against the 19 and under New Zealand squad. All three players have stepped up as teenagers to play for the Cronulla Sharks in the Australian Water Polo League teams that finished their 2024 seasons in April. Rex, Lilly and Keira have been part of the 18 and under high performance program that is designed to prepare athletes aspiring to move from junior representative teams into the Aussie Sharks and Stingers senior ranks. These tours are a great opportunity for Rex, Lilly and Keira to get experience against international teams and I wish them success as they go on tour to represent their country.

MITTAGONG CRICKET CLUB AWARDED GRANT

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Mittagong Cricket Club has been successful in securing grants under the NSW Local Sport Grants Program 2023/24 program for Sun Protection Shelters and Club Uniforms in the amounts of \$2197 and \$4498.92. Mittagong Cricket Club is based at Welby Oval on Crockabilly Street, Welby. They encourage everyone, of any ability, to come and join the community and social based club. With both junior and senior teams, the club maintains an active presence throughout the year, participating in regular matches and events. Their dedication to sportsmanship and achievements of the season will be celebrated during their upcoming presentation night scheduled for the 18th of May, 2024. Wishing all players the best of luck for the upcoming 2024/25 season.

HIS HOUSE INCORPORATED AWARDED GRANT

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—His House Incorporated has been successful in securing a grant of \$7000 under Local Sport Club Grant Program 2023/2024 to replace old broken electronic scoreboards at The Bridge Street Indoor Sports Centre. The sound of sirens, bells, and whistles create a great atmosphere as sport is

played. With the match score now visible, in particular the cricket players can pace their innings accordingly. David, the Manager of Bridge St Sports Centre, is a father of a young family who has used his knowledge of what gets kids moving into creating an offering of activities suitable for all ages and abilities. As a result, there has been growth with many new participants and families. With a focus on the game of sport but also on getting families all involved, the centre offers an all-inclusive environment for anyone to have a go. I am thrilled to see the community benefit from the grant.

VEOLIA MULWAREE TRUST WOLLONDILLY RECIPIENTS NAMED

Mrs JUDY HANNAN (Wollondilly)—Veolia Mulwaree Trust has awarded several grants to organisations in Wollondilly. The projects were selected for their contributions to the community and include the Wollondilly Shire Council as a recipient of major project funding of \$9,203 for their Reflection Walk Seating Project. Small project funding was awarded to Balmoral Village Association Inc for the tennis club house air conditioner, Wollondilly Shire Council for the Wollondilly Waste to Art Regional Tour, St Luke's Anglican Church The Oaks for a Portable Sun/Weather Shelter, Mittagong Netball Club for a Training and Accreditation Program, and Highlands Soccer Association for a New PA System for Highlands FC. Grants such as these allow organisations and community groups to continue to give back to the community. So many, like the aforementioned, owe their success and viability to volunteers contributing their time, skills and efforts for the greater good. These groups deserve our thanks and recognition for the difference they make in the lives of so many, offering the chance to build connections and enhance local communities.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE - ALBERTO MACCHIONE

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating Alberto Macchione on his nomination for Volunteer of the Year at the 2024 Ryde Volunteer Recognition Awards. Every year, a dedicated and largely unseen army of volunteers enhances and uplifts the community's life within Ryde. These annual awards aim to acknowledge the contribution made by these unsung heroes. Alberto stands out as a remarkable example of such dedication. Volunteering nearly 25 hours a week to the Italian Language and Culture Group in Ryde, Alberto's commitment to promoting Italian culture and heritage is unparalleled. He created this group and generously donated over \$1000 to organise and promote events like the monthly book club and cultural outings. His free events are particularly inclusive, encouraging participation from people with disabilities and those keen to practice their Italian. At 51, Alberto also serves as a volunteer journalist for two Sydney-based Italian newspapers, further enriching the cultural landscape of our city. Alberto's tireless efforts have significantly impacted the Ryde community, and his recognition is well-deserved. Let us celebrate his achievements and the invaluable contributions of all our volunteers. Thank you, Alberto, for your outstanding service.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE - CATHERINE JANE SU

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I rise to address the House and extend my heartfelt congratulations to Catherine Su for her nomination as Ryde's 2024 Volunteer of the Year. For over two years, Catherine has dedicated her time and expertise as an English teacher at the Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC). The CMRC offers vital settlement support services to newly arrived migrants, refugees, and humanitarian entrants. Catherine has been instrumental in preparing tailored lessons to meet the diverse needs of her students. Her focus on equipping new Australians with essential skills has significantly encouraged their active participation in the local community and broader society. The annual Volunteer Recognition Awards celebrate the invaluable contributions of volunteers like Catherine, who work tirelessly and often without recognition to uplift our community. Catherine's work at the CMRC exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism that the City of Ryde cherishes and depends upon. I ask the House to join me in applauding Catherine Jane Su for her exceptional service and dedication. Her efforts have profoundly impacted us, and we are all deeply grateful for her contribution. Thank you, Catherine, for your unwavering commitment to our community.

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE - EDNA WILDE OAM

Mr JORDAN LANE (Ryde)—I ask the House to join me in congratulating Edna Wilde OAM for her nomination as Ryde's 2024 Volunteer of the Year. For 30 years, Edna has chaired the Ryde Eisteddfod, fostering a love for the performing arts and providing a platform for countless talents in our community. Her 38-year commitment to the Granny Smith Committee has been instrumental in the success of one of Ryde's most beloved events, bringing joy and unity to our residents. Additionally, her 30-year tenure with the Eastwood Chamber of Commerce has contributed significantly to the local business community, promoting growth and collaboration. Edna's service extends beyond these roles; she was a sitting Councillor for over 30 years, demonstrating exemplary leadership and dedication to public service. As the first female Mayor of the City of Ryde, she was awarded the Centenary Medal and served multiple terms, leaving a lasting legacy. Edna Wilde OAM has devoted her life to the betterment of Ryde, and her tireless efforts continue to enrich our community in her retirement. Her nomination

is a testament to her extraordinary contributions and unwavering commitment. Thank you, Edna, for your invaluable service to Ryde.

VARROA WARRIORS

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Being proactive in the face of catastrophe is part of rural resilience and I wish to commend beekeepers Shelby Ashelford and Julia Hutabarat from Springside for getting on the front-foot as the threat of Varroa mite looms. Adopting a 'when', not 'if' attitude, the pair has created Bee Natural Beekeepers Varroa Warriors, a group to help beekeepers, commercial and amateur, keep up-to-date with the mite's infestation, and its impact on the industry. While they may not have all the answers, Shelby and Julia hope to support beekeepers overwhelmed by the Varroa mite's likely arrival in the Orange district. With the welfare of bees firmly at the heart of its formation, Varroa Warriors plans to gather information on hives, work with scientist and academics, learn more about treatments, chemical and natural, and share experiences. The group is open to growers outside the Central West meaning the experiences of those already hit by the mite can be drawn on. Unfortunately the spread of Varroa Mite appears to be inevitable now it has arrived in Australia and the industry is switching to a management phase. I congratulate Shelby Ashelford and Julia Hutabarat for assisting in that management.

ALLY COOK

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—Mr speaker, I wish to congratulate Ally Cook on representing Australian Country under 21s in its women's hockey tour of Malaysia and Borneo earlier this year. Originally listed as shadow for the tour, Ally, who plays with Orange club CYMS, made the most her late callup by learning as much as she could from the experience as part of a dominant side. A fullback, Ally reckons the tour has boosted her confidence and she is putting that to good use for CYMS during the current Western Premier League season. 2023 was a big year for Ally, who was named Orange Hockey Incorporated's sportsperson of the year, while her Australian callup followed NSW representation at the national country titles in Shepparton with CYMS teammate Courtney Hogan. Studying physiotherapy, Ally is putting what she learned into practice with CYMS this year, as the side strives to build on last year's Central West Premier League final loss with the goal the grand final. I congratulate Ally on her hockey career so far and look forward to seeing what she can accomplish if she continues to play at the elite level.

JESSICA CRAWFORD

Mr PHILIP DONATO (Orange)—I rise today to recognise the outstanding contributions of Jessica Crawford to our community. Jessica is the founder of "Made to Bloom" an online business launched in June 2021 that assembles care packages for parents who have experienced the loss of a child. Inspired by the loss of her daughter Lilly, who was born prematurely and lived for only 28 minutes, Made To Bloom care packages offer comfort and support to grieving families and can be paid forward to assist others in similar situations. Jessica is also an accredited Birth and Postpartum Doula and is in the final stages of becoming a Bereavement Doula. Her dedication to supporting parents through grief by addressing gaps in bereavement care is truly commendable. In addition to her professional qualifications, Jessica supports Red Nose Day, Say Their Name Day, Bears of Hope, Wave of Light, and the Choosing Hope Walk. She also serves as the secretary for Central West Pregnancy and Infant Loss Incorporated, tirelessly advocating for bereaved families and working to improve standards of care. Jessica Crawford's efforts exemplify selflessness, resilience, and dedication. Our community is incredibly fortunate to have her. Thank you, Jessica.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE NETBALL ASSOCIATION UNDER 15 GIRLS

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla)—I congratulate the Sutherland Shire Netball Association under 15 girls who have been crowned state champions for the second year running. The Senior State Titles were contested over three days earlier this month, with all but two of the Sutherland side backing up from winning the under 14 title last year. The girls got off to a slow start in the 20-team competition by losing their first match before winning 17 out of 18 games to finish one victory better than their nearest rivals to take the title. Sutherland scored 390 goals over 19 games and conceded only 258 to have the best goal percentage, which underscores its standing as the top team in the competition. Congratulations to the Sutherland girls and their support staff on this outstanding achievement: Evalina Carniero, Lexi Economou, Elizabeth Halpin, Zara Kardum, Mikayla Martin, Tiffany Mayberry, Mikayla Nigiannis, Emme Pierce, Jaylah Sullivan, Tamara Svorcan, Roma Taylor, coach Michelle Allen and manager Hayley Smith. Sutherland Shire Netball Association says there are no words to adequately express how incredibly proud it is of the group – they have certainly done the Shire proud.

BUSY IZZY AND FRIENDS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—Songwriters and producers Roxanne Kiely and Stephen Kiely created Busy Izzy and Friends due to a passionate belief that children need support, encouragement, and positive

role models to enable them to grow and develop within the constantly changing current cultural conditions. Busy Izzy and Friends meet the Three Little Pigs – The Musical, was recently performed at the Pioneer Theatre, Castle Hill. The Musical, performed by six talented young Australian performers, is an exciting interactive "fractured fairy tale" promoting healthy living, friendship, personal safety, compassion, and generosity. The audience of children and their families loved the show's catchy songs and positive messages, designed to encourage intercultural and ethical understanding, empathy building, resilience, and interpersonal relationship skills. The Busy Izzy and Friends book series is endorsed by the World Literacy Foundation which has purchased and distributed over 20,000 copies to children in Uganda and lower socioeconomic areas within Australia and the UK. Many of the award-winning songs are currently featured on ABC KIDS listen. I congratulate Roxanne Kiely and Stephen Kiely and the entire Busy Izzy and Friends team for promoting a wonderful, imaginative, healthy, and educational experience for children and families. Long live Busy Izzy and Friends.

GENIUS ABACUS PRESENTATION AND AWARDS

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—On Sunday 16 June 2024 I had the absolute honour of attending the Genius Abacus Annual Showcase and Presentation event held at Baulkham Hills within my electorate. Genius Abacus Program was founded by Smita Sharma who had a vision that every child has a potential excel. Smita's vision is to unlock the mathematical potential in every child and to ignite a lifelong love of learning. The Program aims to enhance concentration, confidence, brain development, analytical skills, retention, and speed. As Smita said, "Mathematics isn't just about numbers—it's a gateway to overall development for your child. From sharpening problem-solving skills to fostering critical thinking, maths lays the foundation for success in all areas of life." The Genius Abacus Annual Showcase and Presentation showcased the amazing mathematical skills of many children, who I might add were able to calculate mathematical problems faster than calculators. Awards were presented to the many students who attended the Genius Abacus Program. I recognise, congratulate and thank Smita and everyone involved in the wonderful Genius Abacus Program.

HILLS SHIRE SYMPONY ORCHESTRA AND SUNNY ROH

Mr MARK HODGES (Castle Hill)—I record the musical brilliance of the Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra, Conductor Chris Upton, and Concert Violinist Sunny Roh. On Saturday 15 June 2024 along with many members of the community I attended the Hills Grammar School where we witnessed a performance titled, 'Stunning Sibelius.' In the 1890's Jean Sibelius was recognised by Finland as its greatest composer. Stunning Sibelius was a wonderful performance of Sibelius's Finlandia, Karelia Suite and Violin Concerto in D Minor. Chris formed the Hills Shire Symphony Orchestra in 2017 after having travelled Sydney as a trombonist and playing in Orchestras. Chris saw the need for a community orchestra and the Hills Shire Symphony was formed. Sunny's performance of the Violin Concerto in D Minor was wonderful. Sunny is a concert violinist who has performed throughout Europe, England, Korea, Russia, and Australia. Sunny made her original debut performing the Mozart Violin Concerto with the Green Peace Chamber Orchestra in Korea and Sibelius Violin Concert with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra conducted by John Harding. Sunny has won many awards for her brilliant performances. I recognise and congratulate the members of the Orchestra, Chris and Sunny for a wonderful musical performance.

COWRA AERO CLUB

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—I was delighted to attend the official opening of the new hangar and clubroom complex at the Cowra Aero Club, which was funded jointly by the former NSW Coalition Government and members of the Cowra Aero Club. The grand opening of the new facilities coincided with the Club's 75th anniversary. Since its inception, the Cowra Aero Club has been a beacon of aviation excellence, providing general flight training to community members. Beyond this, the aerodrome is crucial in supporting the local aviation industry. It serves as a lifeline for the region, offering aeromedical evacuation, agricultural support, firefighting, and commercial aviation services. The Club's new upgrades will allow it to increase its current capabilities, expand its teaching opportunities, and introduce young people to all aspects of aviation. The new hangar includes an ambulance bay that allows patients awaiting air transfer to be attended to in an undercover area before being transferred to medical aircraft. Heartfelt congratulations and a big thank you to all committee members, volunteers, pilots, and teachers who have played a pivotal role in making the Club the success that it is today. Your dedication, commitment, and contributions are truly appreciated.

HENRY LAWSON HIGH STUDENTS REPRESENT THE REGION

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—Three students from Henry Lawson High School recently competed at the Western Region Boccia Championships in Bathurst. Jeb York, Jens Hodges and Blair Randall, the epitome of dedication and hard work, may have looked like they were 'sitting down on the job'. However, the trio, up against 7 other schools, showcased their skills at Boccia, a testament to their unwavering commitment. Boccia is a precision ball sport, similar to lawn bowls however it is done whilst seated. Jeb, Jens and Blair's hand

and eye coordination along with their arm strength in moving the 6 bocchia balls as close to the jack as possible, led to a draw with Orange High School. With their exceptional skills and determination, Jeb, Jens, and Blair emerged as the 2024 Western Bocchia Champions, a testament to their hard work and talent. This competition, a beacon of inclusivity, stands as one of the only regional sporting opportunities enabling children with disabilities to represent their school, a fact that we should all appreciate and celebrate. Jeb, Jens and Blair will now head to Sydney in August to compete in the State Finals, and I wish them the best of luck.

LOCAL RODEO FAMILY SHINE

Ms STEPH COOKE (Cootamundra)—The Cross family of Boorowa has carved a significant legacy in the world of rodeos, known for their dedication, skill, and contributions to this thrilling sport. The family has been involved in various rodeo events for multiple generations, showcasing talents in bull riding, barrel racing, and roping. Their commitment to the sport extends beyond just participation. Troy Cross, a legendary figure in Australian Bull Riding Circles, was known for his exceptional skills in bull riding and his achievements set a high standard and inspired his children to follow in his footsteps. His son, Blake Cross, continued the tradition, excelling in bull and steer riding and earning numerous titles in state and national rodeo competitions. Recently the 14-year-old from Boorowa who attends Boorowa Central School, won the very title that his father Troy had won 20 years previously. The Southern Zone Circuit Association which covers Bathurst to the Victorian border. The Cross family's influence extends to mentoring young rodeo athletes, helping to cultivate the next generation of rodeo stars. Their story is a testament to the enduring appeal and familial bonds that rodeo fosters, highlighting the sport's deep-rooted traditions and community spirit.

DAVID ELLIS ESM

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise David Ellis, who has been honoured with the Emergency Services Medal in this year's King's Birthday Honours List, for his 30-year service to Surf Life Saving. Since joining Surf Life Saving in 1993, David has served in multiple frontline leadership roles, including president, vice-president, patrol captain, and education officer at the Pacific Palms Surf Life Saving Club. He is a life member, trainer, assessor, and facilitator, consistently demonstrating a profound commitment to community safety and wellbeing. His contributions go beyond patrolling, from organising paid lifeguards at Elizabeth Beach to deploying defibrillators in nearby communities. David's leadership was particularly important during the 2021 Taree floods as the SLSNSW liaison officer. Despite a battle with acute myeloid leukemia, David returned to patrol just a year after treatment. His resilience shows the spirit of service. Davids efforts and outstanding leadership have significantly enhanced community safety and will benefit future generations. His recognition with the ESM is well-deserved, reflecting his extraordinary commitment to surf life saving and the broader community.

RON IRWIN OAM

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Ron Irwin, who has been honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's King's Birthday Honours List, for his services to veterans and to sport in local communities over many decades. A Vietnam War veteran, Ron served in the Royal Australian Navy from 1961 to 1982, and in the RAN Reserves until 1996. His involvement with the Returned Services League since 1976 has been profound, holding numerous positions including President, Vice President, Secretary, and various support roles at the Wingham Sub-branch. Beyond his service in the navy, Ron has shown remarkable resilience, having survived two tragic naval collisions - the USS Frank E. Evans and the HMAS Voyager. These experiences have only strengthened his resolve to support his fellow veterans. An accomplished artist, Ron's works often contribute to community causes. He is also an avid cricket fan, contributing significantly to local cricket as an umpire and president of the Manning and District Umpires Association. Ron's tireless efforts and dedication to both veterans and his community are truly commendable. Congratulations on his well-deserved OAM Ron and thank you for your service.

ROBERT NELSON OAM

Mrs TANYA THOMPSON (Myall Lakes)—I would like to recognise Robert Nelson, who has been honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's King's Birthday Honours List, for his outstanding service to the Mid North and Central Coast communities. At 74, Bob, now a resident of Failford was born and raised in Taree. Bob was among the first to complete the Higher School Certificate at Taree High School. He grew up in a community minded family who owned a hardware store and were active in Rotary, Lions and Apex clubs. Starting his career as a junior clerk with AMP, Bob soon immersed himself in service, joining youth focused Rotaract and Apex clubs. His dedication to these organisations is demonstrated by his role as one of Australia's first Rotaract presidents and his status as a life member of Apex Gosford. Bob's passion for helping others has taken him, along with his wife Cheryl, to some of the world's most isolated and poverty-stricken communities,

where they have made a significant impact through service club projects. Congratulations, Bob, on this well-deserved recognition of your lifelong commitment to community service.

MRS JUNE STEVENS OAM

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises local North Nowra resident Mrs June Stevens OAM who has received a Medal of the Order of Australia as part of the 2024 King's Birthday Honours List which were officially announced on Monday 10th June 2024 by the Governor-General of Australia Sir David Hurley. Mrs Stevens has received her Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for her service to our community through social welfare organisations. Mrs Stevens dedicated much of her life to getting welfare services into Nowra and the broader community. She arrived in Nowra in 1974 with her late husband Peter and took note of how few welfare services were available in the region. Through her role as Lifeline and Southern Cross Community Housing, Mrs Stevens helped get Nowra the welfare services it lacked. Mrs Stevens was a Board Member, Southern Cross Community Housing, 2002-2023, Board Member, Nowra Family Support Service Inc (now Family Services Australia) and Shoalcare (now CareSouth) Chair, 1994-2000. For Lifeline Australia, she was Director, Lifeline South Coast, 1985-1992. Nowra Branch Manager, 1981-1985. A huge congratulations and well done to Mrs June Stevens OAM!

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM CARTER OAM

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises Chief Petty Officer William Carter OAM who has received a Medal of the Order of Australia as part of the King's Birthday Honours List which was officially announced on Monday 10th June 2024 by the Governor General of Australia Sir David Hurley. Chief Petty Officer Carter received his OAM for his performance of duty in the field of Navy Aviation Engineering and operational deployment support. Chief Petty Officer Carter has been recognised for his leadership and for his extensive aviation engineering skills. Chief Petty Officer Carter is also currently serving his employment as the Assistant Fleet Aviation Safety Officer at the Royal Australian Navy. A huge congratulations and well done to Chief Petty Officer William Carter OAM on receiving this well-deserved recognition for his distinguished efforts, dedication and service!

KAI NOONAN OAM

Mr GARETH WARD (Kiama)—Today the Parliament of New South Wales recognises Kai Noonan OAM who received a Medal of the Order of Australia as part of the King's Birthday Honours List which was officially announced on Monday 10th June 2024 by the Governor General of Australia. Kai has received this OAM for his distinguished service to the LGBTIQ+ community, and to the domestic and family wellbeing sector. Kai has also been instrumental in developing and supporting domestic violence families and ensuring they have suitable accommodation. Starting a career working in social services, drug and alcohol, asylum seekers and refugees, Mr Noonan said domestic violence was prevalent and a common occurring issue in all those settings. Whilst it has often been a 'heartbreaking' and 'challenging' journey which Kai says he hopes receiving this recognition will inspire others to see that working in the domestic and family wellbeing sector is also rewarding and worthwhile. Accepting the honour of an Order of Australia Medal, Kai hoped it would help to continue the conversation around domestic violence about women and children, and further new conversations about it within the LGBTIQ+ community. A huge well done and congratulations to Kai Noonan OAM!

KIDS OF MACARTHUR HEALTH FOUNDATION BALL

Mrs SALLY QUINNELL (Camden)—On Saturday the 1st of June I has the pleasure of attending the Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation Annual Ball. The opening entertainment by musician Jamie Preston was fantastic. It was a fantastic evening, with the theme 'Out of this World Kids', where supporters and associates of the foundation gathered to raise funds and awareness for the purchase of paediatric care equipment. I acknowledge Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals for their exceptional work in providing high-quality care to the children in our community. Their commitment to health services, particularly in the Children's Unit, raising much-needed funds for vital paediatric medical equipment, special care nursery, and numerous community health programs for children's well-being, makes a big difference in the lives of sick kids and their families. I would like to thank Kids of Macarthur for inviting me again this year event it is always a fun and enjoyable experience and for a great cause.

DR BEN SPIES-BUTCHER

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown Electorate, I would like to congratulate Dr Ben Spies-Butcher on the recent publication of his book Politics, Inequality and the Australian Welfare State After Liberalisation. The book traces how neoliberalism has transformed democracy, work, and welfare in Australia since the 1980s and considers how workers and policymakers alike can work toward creating a more equal society. Detailed case studies outline the possibilities of political activism for welfare rights and give

readers – including Members of Parliament – the frameworks and vocabulary to understand how class, gender, and generation underpin the inequality that persists in our communities. It was wonderful to join Ben, Damien Cahill (General Secretary of the NTEU), and Gabrielle Meagher for the launch of this book in Darlington recently and connect with so many good people contributing to academic and policy change. I want to thank Ben for his years of thoughtful analysis and work in this space, which has already - and will no doubt continue - to inspire and mobilise activists and progressive scholars for years to come.

STANMORE PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to congratulate Stanmore Public School's P&C Association for their successful 2023 Community Building Partnership grant. This grant will be used to replace the current small and aging playground with new playground equipment that is suitable for all children, with inclusive features. Stanmore Public School's P&C Association does such wonderful work for the Stanmore community and our Newtown electorate broadly – creating a welcoming and inclusive space for all. We are so pleased to be able to support this project. We acknowledge and thank the parents, carers and school community of Stanmore Public School for their continued hard work and significant contribution to the education and wellbeing of the next generation.

PETERSHAM PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

Ms JENNY LEONG (Newtown)—On behalf of the Newtown electorate, I would like to congratulate Petersham Public School's P&C Association for their successful 2023 Community Building Partnership grant. This grant will be used to purchase and install a shade sail over the school netball and basketball courts, which are used by many members of the community. Petersham Public School's P&C Association does such wonderful work for the Petersham community – and it has been so great to have this school community become part of the Newtown electorate. We acknowledge and thank the parents, carers and school community of Petersham Public School for their continued hard work and significant contribution to the education and wellbeing of the next generation.

RUDOLPH SCERRI

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Rudolph Scerri on his fifty years of service as a New South Wales Justice of the Peace. The role of a Justice of the Peace was first created in 1787 and aimed to serve the community in a quasi-judicial capacity. As such, the position demands integrity, honesty and an impeccable character from individuals who fulfil duties of a Justice of the Peace. This is true for Rudolph and his service as a Justice of the Peace. On behalf of the Department of Communities and Justice and the Attorney General, Hon. Michael Daley MP, Rudolph was awarded a certificate thanking him for his fifty years' service. Rudolph was presented with the award at a lovely afternoon tea along with the other recipients in the Swansea Electorate. Fifty years of service is of course an impressive feat, and I would therefore like to offer my gratitude on behalf of the Swansea Electorate to Rudolph for his dedication to our community.

JOEL BEASHEL

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—I rise to acknowledge Joel Beashel for becoming the youngest skipper to win the 16ft Skiff Club Championship, at 16 years old. The Championship is one of the most challenging to win with high demands for consistent performance across the season. It is primarily dominated by fleets with upwards of 40 years' experience. It is undoubted that Joel and his crew displayed a high degree of skill and dedication to secure the 16ft Skiff Club Championship title. Joel has additionally demonstrated remarkable talent and commitment to his chosen sport as he secured the Flying Ant National title in 2020 and 2021 and clinched the Optimist Nationals in 2020. He further triumphed at the Flyer 11 Nationals as skipper in 2021 and in 2023, won the 29er Nationals. Congratulations Joel for your ongoing achievements in sailing and I look forward to watching your future progress. You are a credit to your club and community.

NOAH STEENSON

Ms YASMIN CATLEY (Swansea—Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, and Minister for the Hunter)—I rise to acknowledge Noah Steenson for becoming the youngest skipper to win the 16ft Skiff Yearly Pointscore Championship, at 16 years old. The Championship is one of the most challenging to win with high demands for consistent performance across the season. It is primarily dominated by fleets with upwards of 40 years' experience. In the competition, Noah and his crew achieved a perfect participation rate as they completed every race at the Belmont 16ft Sailing Club, State and National levels. This exhibits the incredible skill and commitment of Noah and the team. Noah began sailing at age six with the Belmont 16ft Sailing Club's junior Pelican class and quickly progressed through the Club's pathway to the Flying 11's and competing at State and

National levels. Additionally, Noah is a dedicated instructor for the Belmont 16s Tackers Learn to Sail program, where he teaches and mentors children embarking on their sailing adventures. Congratulations Noah, your ongoing commitment to the Club and your sailing career is incredible, and I look forward to watching your progress.

STRATHFIELD POLICE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield)—Last week I had the honour of attending the Strathfield Police of the Year Award ceremony for 2024. I want to thank the officers and staff of the Burwood and Auburn Police Area Commands for their work and service to the people of Strathfield. Of note this year were Sergeant Toby Hopkins (Police Officer of the Year from Burwood) and Constable Mark Lan (Police Officer of the Year from Auburn), Amy Lee Watane (employee, unsworn) and Sergeant Amir Saffuri. Examples of the selfless service of police in our community include the heroic saving of a victim who was about to be kidnapped, and the investigation of malicious damage to a railway signal box that crippled Sydney's transport system and potentially placed lives in danger. I recognise and thank all members of the NSW Police Force in our local area and across the state for their service.

NAN TIEN TEMPLE STATE HERITAGE LISTING

Mr PAUL SCULLY (Wollongong—Minister for Planning and Public Spaces)—I would like to recognise the listing on the State Heritage Register of the Nan Tien Temple at Berkeley. The Temple holds a special place in the heart of the Wollongong community, for 30 years it has helped to strengthen the relationship of the region with people who practice Buddhism – it is symbol of interfaith harmony. When the Temple and pagoda construction was completed in 1995, the complexity and scale of its exceptional Buddhist architecture had never been seen before in Australia. It is a one-of-a kind complex in NSW and one of the largest Buddhist temples in the Southern hemisphere. The Temple is now complemented by the Nan Tien Institute and attracts thousands of visitors to the region every year as an important space for cultural, educational and tourist endeavours, which welcomes all. The Temple plays a pivotal role for Buddhist migrants and Australian-born Buddhists to connect and uphold their traditions and culture. It will now be protected in perpetuity, as a testament to the growth of Buddhism in Australia, uniting diverse communities and fostering cultural exchange.

JULIAN TAVARES – OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN GYMNASTICS

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety)—I would like to congratulate a talented young man from my local community, Julian Tavares, on his outstanding achievements in gymnastics. Julian is a 17-year-old young man who has recently been selected to represent Australia in his first international competition in New Zealand, and I can share the exciting news that Julian has won gold for Australia. Julian has been a high achiever from an early age. His remarkable journey in gymnastics started since he was 5, and his dream has always been to perhaps one day represent Australia at the Olympics. He is known for being humble, hard-working and aspirational. Even after receiving many medals at the local or national level, he remains focused and committed to putting in the hard effort to train almost everyday. I congratulate Julian on his outstanding achievements - he is the pride of his family, friends, teachers as well as all our local community.

SYDNEY WOMEN'S COUNSELLING CENTRE – FUNDING BOOST FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRES

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety)—I would like to congratulate Sydney Women's Counselling Centre on recently being allocated more than two million (\$2,045,500) as a part of a \$34.3 million funding boost for Women's Health Centres across NSW. The Centre, based in Campsie, is a community-based service that provides counselling and vital services to women and girls, including domestic and family violence counselling. Women who come from vulnerable or socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds often make up a lot of the Centre's clients. This funding boost will make a tremendous difference to the Centre and the Canterbury community. It is set to greatly expand the Centre's counselling capacity, provide certainty to staff, and ensure women who need vital services most, can be supported and empowered. Congratulations to the Sydney Women's Counselling Centre and Manager Margherita Basile, I commend you on your meaningful work.

COUNCILLOR BHADRA WAIBA AND NEPALESE-AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY LEADER GANESH TAMANG

Ms SOPHIE COTSIS (Canterbury—Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Work Health and Safety)—It was lovely for me to host Clr Bhadra Waiba and Nepalese-Australian community leader Ganesh Tamang in Parliament a few weeks ago. Clr Waiba is a Councillor of the City of Canterbury Bankstown, representing the Roselands Ward. On being elected in 2021, Councillor Waiba has become the first Nepal-born

woman to run for public office in Australia. Clr Waiba's service to the community prior to her time as a Councillor is also remarkable. Holding nursing qualifications and working in the aged care sector, Clr Waiba tirelessly devoted herself to caring for our community. She was awarded the NSW local Woman of the Year for 2019. Equally impressive is community leader Ganesh Tamang's record as an experienced counsellor and psychotherapist, working with all walks of the community including asylum seekers and students who have been experiencing mental health issues. Regardless of these outstanding achievements, anyone who has met Bhadra and Ganesh would first be impressed by their authenticity. Congratulations to Bhadra and Ganesh, your success represents the success for the Nepalese community and is a source of inspiration for all.

MR VAN PHUOC NGUYEN – VEFA TREASURER

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I recognise Mr Van Phuoc Nguyen, Treasurer of NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association(VEFA), for his outstanding contributions to my local community. Mr Nguyen came to Australia in 1981 as a refugee and became an Australian citizenship in 1985. He has always been an active volunteer in the community. He and his family volunteer their valuable time in many important and meaningful local events and community activities. Mr Nguyen began his journey with VEFA in 1997 as a volunteer and currently serves as the Treasurer of the organisation. His dedication has been indispensable in ensuring the seamless operation of VEFA, crucial for realising its mission to empower vulnerable senior residents and enhance their quality of life. Mr Nguyen is an outstanding citizen of Australia, always contributing to this country which exemplifies the value of our multicultural society. He is truly a wonderful person to work with and always pleasant to everyone around him. I commend Mr Nguyen for being an exemplary local citizen, and I thank him for all his wonderful work and selfless contributions to our community.

VESAK DAY CELEBRATION, PHUOC HUE TEMPLE

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I had the privilege of attending the 2,648th Vesak Day Celebration organised by Phuoc Hue Temple on 26 May 2024. Vesak Day falls in the fifth month and is a sacred celebration in the Buddhist calendar, commemorating three significant events: the Birth of the Buddha, his Enlightenment, and his entry to Nirvana. Vesak Day is more than a commemorative religious event. It is a time of reflection and joy. Buddhist communities actively practice the teachings of the Buddha, focusing especially on the core Buddhism principles of compassion, wisdom, and mindfulness through acts of kindness towards all living beings. The celebration was filled with a myriad of spiritually and culturally colourful Buddhist ceremonies and performances. One of the most poignant moments of the event was the peaceful chanting by the monks. I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to witness and participate in such a meaningful cultural and spiritual tradition with my constituents. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Phuoc Hue Temple, especially to Senior Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan and Senior Venerable Thich Phuoc Vien for the kind invitation. May this auspicious event bring peace and joy to everyone.

MR VAN KHAN CHU – VEFA SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr TRI VO (Cabramatta)—I recognise Mr Van Khan Chu, Secretary General of NSW Vietnamese Elderly Friendship Association(VEFA), for his outstanding contributions to enhancing the wellbeing of the Vietnamese senior community in my electorate of Cabramatta. Arriving in Australia in 1990 under the Orderly Departure Program created under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr Chu soon rediscovered his passion for serving others. In 1992, he joined VEFA as a volunteer and currently serves as its Secretary General. Mr Chu is loved and admired by the VEFA members for his talent and passion for music, leading the 'Huong Que' (The Scent of Homeland) music band, a cornerstone of VEFA's cultural and communal events. Through music, Mr Chu creates a joyful and cohesive space for his community to cherish their cultural heritage while uplifting the spirits of those facing challenges as former refugees and newly arrived migrants, easing feelings of homesickness and isolation. Mr Chu's devoted passion and commitment to serving his community are truly commendable. On behalf of the community, I thank Mr Chu for his enduring dedication and contributions.

RUBY PASS

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the incredible achievement of 17-year-old Ruby Pass, originally from Shellharbour, on being selected to compete for Australia in gymnastics at the Paris Olympics. Ruby Pass started her gymnastics journey at six years of age at Carmel and Co in Warilla, then at the age of 10 moved to Sydney to train for three years before moving to Queensland to pursue gymnastics further. She was named Women's Artistic Gymnastics Junior International Gymnast of the Year for 2022 by Gymnastics Australia and she received the Women's Artistic Gymnastics International Athlete Award of Excellence at the 2022 Gymnastics Queensland Awards. At the Australian Gymnastics Championships, in May this year, Ruby won all-around gold and three of the four apparatus titles standing her in good stead as she heads

toward the Olympic Games in Paris. On behalf of the Shellharbour electorate, I would like to congratulate Ruby and wish her well in Paris at the Olympics and in all her future sporting endeavours.

HAZEL BROWNLOW

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of Hazel Brownlow, from Barrack Heights, who has been giving her time to the Warilla Neighbourhood Centre for almost 30 years and has no intention to stop anytime soon. The adored 80-year-old volunteer and former president of the board has delighted in watching the community hub grow. The not-for-profit began from a small house on Shellharbour Road in 1974 after concerned residents saw a need to bring services closer to the suburb, and now runs out of a large purpose-built space on Benaud Crescent, Warilla. More than 250 children per week visit the centre for various programs, including youth groups and a breakfast club. The Warilla Neighbourhood Centre have just celebrated their 50th Anniversary and with connection at the heart of the centre, they offer an array of programs to meet everyone's needs. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I congratulate Hazel on her dedication and commitment to the Warilla Neighbourhood Centre and wish her well in the future.

ALEENA CARRION

Ms ANNA WATSON (Shellharbour)—I would like to acknowledge the achievement of Aleena Carrion, from Warilla High School, who was recently selected in the Under 15's NSW CHS Netball team who played at the NSW All Schools Championships earlier this term. Aleena was also selected in the Opens South Coast Netball team who will play at the CHS Netball Championships in a few weeks' time. An incredible achievement to be selected in both age groups at such a high level. On behalf of the Shellharbour community, I would like to congratulate Aleena and wish her well in all her future sporting endeavours.

RUDY YONSON

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to congratulate long-serving North Albury real estate agent Rudy Yonson, on his recent retirement. Established in 1997, Rudy Yonson Real Estate has a reputation for integrity, honesty, and reliability. The business has supported thousands of families buying and selling homes in North Albury and Lavington. Rudy has been credited by his peers for consistently showing genuine care for his clients, having ethical business practices, and providing exceptional service. Rudy, who laced up the boots in the Victorian Football League (VFL) for Sydney in 1985, is passing his real estate legacy onto O&M football veteran Clinton Gilson and wife Jocelyn, rebranding the Mate St business as Gilson Yonson Real Estate. Enjoy your retirement Rudy and thank you for your tireless efforts in helping so many local families make Albury their home.

MILTHORPE TRANSPORT - 40 YEARS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I would like to honour the remarkable efforts of the Milthorpe family and their contributions to the transport industry over the past 40 years. Brothers Greg and Ray Milthorpe, both diesel mechanics, started their initial venture Corowa Truck and Trailer Repairs in 1982, before Milthorpe Transport was born in 1988. Starting with just two trucks, their passion and commitment saw the business flourish to an impressive fleet of 27 heavy vehicles and over 50 staff, dedicated to serving communities across Australia. Throughout their journey, they have faced challenging times in the transport industry, marked by stringent regulations and recruitment hurdles. Despite these obstacles, they have maintained their commitment to excellence and service. Thank you, Greg and Merylyn, and your sons Steve, Rodney and Chris for your tireless service, for being pioneers in the transport industry, and for leaving a lasting trucking legacy that will be remembered for years to come. May you enjoy the new beginnings that lay ahead.

PAST WANGARATTA MAYOR AND MULWALA TOURISM VOICE DOUG EVANS

Mr JUSTIN CLANCY (Albury)—I am deeply saddened by the passing of Mulwala business leader Doug Evans, who left us on May 30, aged 82. Doug's life was a testament to dedication, vision, and community spirit. Born in Wangaratta in April 1942, Doug served on Wangaratta Council from 1968 to 1980, including as the town's mayor from 1974 to 1976. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish Derwent Industries, employing 300 people. In 2003, he relocated to Mulwala, where he became a voice for the tourism sector, playing a pivotal role in the revival of the Tunzafun Amusement Park alongside Rob and Helen Purtle. Doug's contributions, including serving as Yarrowonga Mulwala Tourism & Business Incorporation President, were recognized with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2014, an honour his wife Dianne also received in 2018. His involvement in Rotary, the Masonic Lodge, and numerous community initiatives showcased his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those around him. Doug Evans will be remembered as an "absolute gentleman" and an "energetic visionary". His legacy of service and dedication will continue to inspire us all. Vale Doug Evans.

KEVIN ERNEST WELDON AO

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—I wish to recognise the late Kevin Weldon of my electorate of Manly who was made an Officer of the Order of Australia at this year's King's Birthday Honours List. Mr Weldon was awarded this esteemed award for the many years of distinguished service he dedicated to international and national surf lifesaving, to publishing, to animal welfare, and to philanthropic endeavours. Throughout his rich life, Mr Weldon was a Life Member of Surf Life Saving Australia, a successful publisher and was influential in utilising drone technology to improve the delivery of search-and-rescue initiatives. Not many of us here can boast such an impressive track record of community service and I wish to take this opportunity to pass on my sincere respect and admiration to Mr Weldon, and my thoughts to his family. May he rest in peace.

ROWAN WEBB

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I wish to congratulate a constituent of the Manly electorate, Mr Rowan Webb, who recently secured first place in the South Head Roughwater Bondi to Watson's Bay 10km swim. The Roughwater Swim provides an epic challenge for only the most advanced and determined ocean swimmers who are game enough to test themselves against strong swells and difficult open waters. Rowan stood up to the challenge and put on a dominant display, securing his sixth overall Roughwater victory in the process. Rowan's win is a testament to his impressive physical and mental resilience, and Manly should be proud to call him one of their own. Congratulations Rowan!

FRESHWATER SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB 115TH AGM

Mr JAMES GRIFFIN (Manly)—Mr Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club, who are due to host their 115th Annual General Meeting at the end of this month. This milestone is a true testament to the long and proud history that this iconic club boasts. Founded in 1908, Freshwater Surf Club has produced generation after generation of elite surf lifesavers, surfboard riders and surfboat champions. Having hosted the likes of surfing great Duke Kahanamoku in the past, Freshwater Surf Club continues to influence and produce some of the country's best surfers and surf lifesavers. Today, the Club provides extensive training and surf education and awareness activities and has a strong membership cohort of men, women and children of all ages volunteering their time to protect what is undoubtedly one of Australia and indeed the world's most iconic beaches. I congratulate Freshwater Surf Life Saving Club and all those involved in the Club on this terrific upcoming milestone of hosting its 115th Annual General Meeting.

UNCLE GREG SIMMS OAM

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—I would like to recognise and congratulate Gundungurra and Gadigal Elder, Uncle Greg Simms, on being bestowed with an Order of Australia Medal during this year's King's Birthday celebrations. Uncle Greg has played an important role in looking after Country, teaching, mentoring, and sharing his culture with his community for many years. He supports Aboriginal students and lecturers in culture at Western Sydney University, is an ambassador for respect, and an activist for reconciliation. Uncle Greg is a champion for Indigenous rights and is truly deserving of this honour. On behalf of the community, I would like to thank and congratulate Uncle Greg on his outstanding achievement and ongoing support for our community.

NASHOS MEMORIAL SERVICE

Ms PRUE CAR (Londonderry—Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Early Learning, and Minister for Western Sydney)—On the 28th of May, I had the honour and pleasure of joining the Penrith National Servicemen's Association for their 18th Tribute Laying Ceremony. The service commemorates all those who served as national servicemen between 1951 and 1972. Cadets from 323 Australian Airforce Cadet Squadron and 21 Army Cadet Unit led the Catafalque Party and Guard of Honour for the service, followed by exceptional speeches from President of the NASHOs, Roy Young, and Secretary of the Penrith City ANSA, Harry May. It was an honour to once again be a part of such an important service. On behalf of the community, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the NASHOs for their ongoing contributions to our community.

SUE BULGER

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Those who devote decades to community service make remarkable differences in the lives of those around them, but few expect reward or recognition. One such person is Tumut's Sue Bulger who has followed in the footsteps of her father, Vincent Bulger, by receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). Currently CEO of the Brungle Tumut Local Aboriginal Land Council, Sue's resume is too extensive to list here, but her achievements include 17 years in local government and being the first Aboriginal Mayor of the former Tumut Council, a leading advocate for the Aboriginal community and 30 years-plus as a teacher with Catholic Education. She says helping young people to learn and grow has been a highlight and she

hopes her award will inspire young people, especially Aboriginal youth, to strive for success. Growing up in a family dedicated to community activities and a 'person who cares', Sue has retired from teaching but continues to serve the community. She says she shares the honour of the award with her ten siblings and many friends. Sue Bulger has been a great friend to the Snowy Valleys Community and is a most worthy recipient of her OAM. Congratulations, Sue!

IZZY DOHERTY

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—When Wagga teenager Izzy Doherty told her parents Belinda and Pete that she wanted to run 300 kilometres in May for charity, they were not certain she was serious. But they also knew Izzy could set her mind to achieving a goal and with their permission, she soon proved them right. Inspired by Forbes tradesman, Nedd Brockmann, who ran from Perth to Sydney to raise money for the homeless, Izzy put her own plan into action. Juggling school, homework, sport and part-time work, Izzy began a grueling regime of running or riding every morning to raise money for the Black Dog Institute. Despite suffering a knee injury, Izzy – now aged 14 – achieved her goal in May. With the support of family, friends, and businesses, she raised more than \$2,800, nearly triple her original target. And she has not stopped there. Izzy is already thinking about a new challenge and based on her performance so far, I think we can be sure she will succeed. What an amazing effort! Congratulations, Izzy – a great ambassador for the caring community of Wagga Wagga and a wonderful example of how young people can lead the way for the rest of us.

ROSS EDWARDS

Dr JOE McGIRR (Wagga Wagga)—Those hailing from the Wagga Wagga region will know from the advertising jingle that if you're going to the Henty Field Days, you'll find 'a lotta good people there'. One of the best of those good people and indeed, one who has helped make the field days an agricultural powerhouse, is Yerong Creek's Ross Edwards. In recognition of his service to the field days and the wider community, Ross has received an Order of Australia Medal in the King's Birthday honours. Ross began his association with the field days as a junior helper in 1966, later becoming a board member and chairman and playing a lead role in making the event an annual drawcard for thousands. Always community-minded, Ross has volunteered with the fire brigade as well as community and sports groups. He served on Lockhart Council for 12 years, including five as Deputy Mayor, and was Citizen of the Year in 2012. He continues to support his community but says his OAM is recognition of those around him, especially wife Heather and son Phillip. Ross leaves a legacy of vibrant country towns with great facilities, and I congratulate him as a very worthy recipient of his award.

CENTRE FOR AUSTRALIA INDIA RELATIONS

Ms DONNA DAVIS (Parramatta)—Parramatta is home to the Centre for Australia India Relations established by the Australian Government in 2023, as a national platform to support and facilitate greater collaboration and engagement with India. The Centre is charged to work across all levels of government, industry, academia and civil society to build a greater understanding of the Australia-India relationship and the opportunities flowing from our flourishing relationships. India is the most populous nation with the world's fastest economic growth that will soon overtake Japan to become the world's third-largest economy. With the world's second-largest armed forces, India has the fastest growing military capability in the world placing India on the precipice of a significant change in our world power dynamic and making Australia's decision to establish the Centre for Australia India Relations a strategic and smart move. Parramatta is characterised by our Indian diaspora who live, work, study and contribute in so many ways to our state's success. The Centre will draw on the depth and breadth of industry, faith and community leaders from our Indian diaspora as we build relationships and create opportunities for both nations under the stewardship of CEO Tim Thomas and Chair Swati Dave.

ROTARY CLUB OF MAITLAND SUNRISE & ROTARY CLUB OF EAST MAITLAND

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Each year in May we recognise volunteers across Australia for the contribution they make to their local communities. This year the NSW Food Authority celebrated volunteers across the state who are foodie service volunteers. The volunteers who cook the BBQ at our local sporting and community events. The authority singled out the Rotary Club of East Maitland and the Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise for recognition. As part of the club members volunteering, they are required to undertake food handler training. Recently 20 Rotary Club members undertook training from the NSW Food Authority in order to safely operate their catering vans. The clubs run catering vans to assist local sporting groups and schools who need canteen support at their events. The Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise also use their vans to feed the needy and homeless. Thank you to the Rotary club volunteers for their dedication to safely feeding our community.

MALCOLM GREEN, HARRY PALMER, AND GARETH TURNER

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Congratulations to three of our local Maitland martial arts competitors on their recent tournament success. Malcolm Green, Harry Palmer, and Gareth Turner each competed in the World So-Kyokushin Australian National Tournament on Sunday 19 May, at Minto Indoor Sport Centre. Kyokushin is a form of karate originating in Japan. It is a full-contact style of stand-up fighting and is connected to a philosophy of self-improvement discipline, and hard training. The World So-Kyokushin Australian National Tournament is a competition held for kids aged as young as 6 all the way to adults. Malcolm, Harry and Gareth are all members of the Hunter Valley Karate club in Rosebrook. Malcolm Green who participated in the padded contact event at the tournament came third in the 15s event. Harry Palmer participated in the adult middleweight full contact event, won his match and was crowned the winner in that division. Gareth Turner participated in the adult's novice full contact match and finished second in that division. Each put in hours of training leading into the tournament. Congratulations on your results.

OUR CIRCLE

Ms JENNY AITCHISON (Maitland—Minister for Regional Transport and Roads)—Our Circle Maitland is an emerging not for profit organisation, that holds a weekly barbeque service at the Maitland Library from 5pm to 6pm every Saturday. The Barbeque is to help people who are struggling financially and the organisation partners with Reach Homeless Services. Reach Homeless Services began operations in Maitland in 2023 and had been servicing Newcastle for over 8 years. Our Circle provides sausage sizzles, homemade meals, treats, hot drinks, food and hygiene hampers to members of the community in need. The set up includes a pop-up area where items donated by the public including clothing and goods, can be enjoyed free of charge. The service feeds over 50 people, in Maitland alone, every week. In the next few years Our Circle is hoping to open up and run a hub for those who are experiencing struggles in our community. The service often supports people each week who are living in cars, tents, or with friends. It also supports working families affected by the rising cost of living when their pay checks just can't cover everything. Thank you, Our Circle, for helping so many in Maitland.

MURWILLUMBAH PHARMACIST CON VARELA RETIRES

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Today I pay tribute to a remarkable member of the Murwillumbah community, Con Varela, who is retiring after more than 40 years as a local pharmacist. Con is a true local – born at Murwillumbah Hospital, educated at Murwillumbah Primary School and Murwillumbah High – and then returned to Murwillumbah after studying pharmacy at the University of Queensland. Con started working as a pharmacist at Ian Outridge Pharmacy in Murwillumbah in 1982 and he bought the pharmacy in 1990 after Ian Outridge died. The Varela and Swift Pharmacy is a proudly independent community pharmacy and was the first regional pharmacy to provide the opioid treatment program. Con believes that showing care, empathy and compassion to clients with multiple issues, including mental health problems, has resulted in positive changes to their lives. Con's customer service was extended even further in 2011 when he rescued a customer who had been stabbed several times outside the pharmacy and held the offender until police arrived. For this he received a bravery medal. Con will hang up his white coat on June 29 and hand over to his partners Skye Swift and Matthew Peate. I wish him the very best in retirement.

KYOGLE HIGH'S REECE BOYLE EXCELS AT RUGBY UNION TRIALS

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—Kyogle High student Reece Boyle, just 14, has done his school and community proud by excelling during selection trials for the Under-16s NSW Combined High School Rugby Union squad. Prop forward Reece is a prodigious talent, according to Kyogle High School's Head of Sport Kurtis Parson. "Reece is a popular student who is first to put his hand up to represent the school in competitions like the Buckley Shield and Country Cup," Mr Parson says. "He plays club rugby for Lismore City and club rugby league with Marist Brothers Rams. "While Reece just missed out on the CHS squad this year, to get to the final stage of the 16s is an amazing achievement for one so young." The road to CHS Rugby Union is a testing one indeed; Reece was the only Far North Coast player to make it through the North Coast trials in Tamworth. The second and final selection trial was held in Sydney recently with training and games held in pouring rain. Reece's parents Lorraine Wagner and Paddy Boyle are extremely proud of their son's sporting achievements as is the entire Kyogle High School community. Congratulations Reece.

LISAMORE CELEBRATES DISTRICT'S LINKS TO ITALY

Ms JANELLE SAFFIN (Lismore)—I Congratulate LisAmore! Festival Manager Aliison Kelly, her committee and volunteers for organising another highly successful LISAMORE Friendship Festival held in Lismore last weekend. I had the honour of meeting LisAmore! special guest, Dr Gianluca Rubagotti, who is Consul General, Consulate General of Italy, Sydney. Sydney may have Norton Street in Leichhardt, and Melbourne has Lygon Street but in Lismore we don't limit the celebration of our Italian community to just one

street -- we turn it into a festival. We are a city that loves a festival and because we do it in our unique, creative way, our festivals put us on the map. So instead of Lismore being known for Floods, we should be known for another F word – Festival. And for LisAmore! that is TWO F words – Friendship Festival. Festivals are a lot of fun, but before that they are a lot of work, and I congratulate Aliison and her team for putting so much time, effort and love into staging this popular event. Lismore and district has more than 140 years of proud Italian heritage so there was lots to celebrate. I enjoyed exploring it all, including the Italian food.

CURE BRAIN CANCER

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise the fund-raising ingenuity of two Year 12 students from St Joseph's Regional College. Laura Smith and Cora Puttick have committed to running 3 kilometres every day in June for an important cause. They want to help find a cure for brain cancer. Through the generous donations of their supporters, Laura and Cora will support the mission of the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation. This foundation is the leading voice for brain cancer research, advocacy and awareness in Australia. They believe that the greatest brain cancer discoveries are yet to come. Laura and Cora embody the core principles of generosity and integrity as they strive to raise as much money as they can for a cause close to their hearts. The Foundation believes that developing and testing innovative treatments is the only way to improve survival rates for brain cancer and to give hope to people living with brain cancer. It is through such selfless efforts, that great things can be achieved and I am very proud of the efforts of these exceptional young people.

DUNBOGAN LANDCARE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—Today I recognise a remarkable milestone for Dunbogan Landcare volunteers who are celebrating a quarter of a centenary of service to our community. Every week for 25 years the Dunbogan Landcare volunteers has been out in force, tirelessly restoring native habit and eradicating noxious weeds from the Dunbogan peninsula. Through the toil of their hands and sweat from their brow you will see acres of rainforest, native vegetation and wildlife, thriving and regenerating through teamwork and a deep appreciation of environmental sustainability. Many of us in the community are so thankful for the pivotal role Landcare plays in leaving a lasting legacy of biodiversity through habitat regeneration to support our threatened and endangered species impacted by development, land clearing and climate change. I acknowledge all of the volunteers over the past 25 years but in particular Sue Baker OAM for her instrumental role in Landcare since forming the organisation called Dunbogan Bushcare Group in 1999. Sue and the team have planted more than 5000 seedlings to combat erosion at Gogley's Lagoon, tackled the infestation of bitou bush along the Dunbogan Breakwall and cleared more than 90 tonnes of prickly pear. Congratulations to the team and thank you.

THE JIM BRUCE TRUST FUNDS A CHRONOS MACHINE

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS (Port Macquarie)—I rise to recognise the significant and generous donation of \$47 000 given by the Jim Bruce Trust to the Urology Department of the Port Macquarie Base Hospital. This sizeable donation has enabled the purchase of a high level, ultraviolet disinfection unit called a Chronos, which will be used for patients requiring a biopsy for prostate cancer. The Jim Bruce Urology and Prostate Trust has been established by the Bruce family for the urological care and treatment in the fight against prostate cancer. Dr Nadar Awad, Trustee and Urologist said that it was the determination of project manager for District Surgical Services Belinda Garvey and clinical nurse specialist of Urology, Sayad Rahamathulla who made it happen. The Chronos saves time, the delicate cleaning procedure typically takes between 2-3 hours, but thanks to the Chronos, this shrinks to a mere 90 seconds. Unbelievable! This technology opens a new chapter in men's health, with a more timely diagnosis and a significant increase in the number of patients who will be able to be seen. Our community is indebted to the forethought and generosity of the Bruce Family Trust for bringing this initiative to fruition.

UNITING MEDICALLY SUPERVISED INJECTING CENTRE

Ms KOBI SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I draw to the attention of the House the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. The Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre is a compassionate and practical health service that seeks to connect with people who inject drugs and welcome them in a non-judgemental way. The dedicated team provides holistic lifesaving support, with dignity and respect. They supervise drug injecting that would otherwise happen elsewhere, often in public and under more dangerous conditions. In the event of an overdose, the team of registered nurses, and paramedics are there to respond. They also have health education officers on hand to offer support, they connect clients to vital services and offer referrals to specialist addiction treatments. Since their establishment in 2001, they have offered over 20,000 referrals and have supervised over a million injections, with no fatalities. I thank the Uniting Team and Medical Director of the site, Dr Marianne Jauncey, for taking me on a tour of your site, and for the incredible work you do to support and advocate for those with drug addictions, and to help save lives.

DR. KAVITA T. KRISHNAN

Ms KOBİ SHETTY (Balmain)—Today I draw to the attention of the incredible work being done by Dr. Kavita T. Krishnan. Kavita has been a doctor for more than 16 years and specialises in children and women's health. Currently, she works as a GP in my Electorate, and prior to this, she worked for 6 years in paediatrics at the Sydney Children's Hospital Network including neonatal intensive care at the Royal Hospital for Women. Kavita also works as a lactation consultant, and she is currently advocating for improved antenatal breastfeeding support and newborn education for parents. 96% of women start breastfeeding with an alarming 83% stopping before they want to, citing a range of issues behind the decision. Kavita spoke with me about the role of the Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy and what solutions should be considered to provide much needed support to breastfeeding parents. I thank Dr. Kavita Krishnan for taking the time to brief me on this vital issue, and for the ongoing work she is doing to offer support to breastfeeding parents, and to advocate for much-needed improvements in antenatal care.

BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I'm proud to have supported Red Apple Day yesterday, as part of my strong support of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month. Bowel cancer is Australia's second deadliest cancer. While the risk of bowel cancer increases significantly with age, the disease does not discriminate. It affects people of all ages. Each week, approximately 300 people are diagnosed with the disease and around 100 will lose their lives. The good news is that over 90% of bowel cancers can be successfully treated when detected early. I encourage my constituency in Badgerys Creek and everyone from all areas to speak with their general practitioner about regular screening and early detection. I thank all individuals and all organisations who are supporting this very important cause in the interests of saving lives. To support Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, I encourage everyone to visit the website of the Bowel Cancer Australia charitable organisation.

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—I commend and congratulate Western Sydney University on being named first in the world in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings for a historic third year in a row. Western Sydney University's extraordinary achievement of ranking first was a result of its social, economic and environmental impact, in which it ranked higher than over 1900 higher education institutions from 125 countries. The fact that this is the third year in a row in which the university has ranked first is a testament to the consistency of the university's excellence and I have no doubt that there will be many more awards in the future. I thank Western Sydney University for the vital role they play in educating our students. I congratulate all staff, students and alumni of Western Sydney University on this amazing achievement and I wish the university continued success.

SMOKE ALARM ACTION DAY

Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)—With Smoke Alarm Action Day having occurred on the first day of this month, I reiterate the call from Fire and Rescue NSW crews across NSW and encourage my community of Badgerys Creek, and everyone from all areas, to ensure they have a working smoke alarm in place at home. One major concern expressed by fire crews is the number of households that either don't have a smoke alarm or the device that may be fitted is not working. Out of the 959 residential fires that occurred in the winter of 2022, 50 per cent of homes did not have a working smoke alarm. Out of the 1080 such blazes that occurred last winter, the figure was 49 per cent. A working smoke alarm is such a simple way to reduce risk and save lives. I remind all members of the public that they can book a fire safety visit from local fire crews, who can inspect your home, provide safety advice and install a new, 10-year smoke alarm, free of charge. I thank all Fire and Rescue NSW crews for their lifesaving work.

KOGARAH WARATAH FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I would like to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of the Kogarah Waratah Football Club over the past 100 years. The Kogarah Waratah Football Club was established in 1922 and is St George's longest running football club. The Club has a proud history of serving our local community, having introduced thousands of boys and girls to football over its 100 years. Having nurtured many young players to a successful career in football, the Waratahs have been the perfect place to grow and nurture our community's love for the world game. As the Member for Kogarah, I have watched current and former players of the club from all generations grow, not only as athletes, but as individuals as they carry their values and integrity from the field through to the wider St George community. With over 300 currently registered players, the organisation continues to be a beloved sporting club, encouraging pure sportsmanship and a clear passion for football. On behalf of the St George community, I want to congratulate the Kogarah Waratah Football Club and thank them for giving our children a safe and enjoyable place to play football for over 100 years.

JESAIAH CREEK

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—I wish to recognise and acknowledge the efforts of St George Christian School student, Mr Jesaiah Creek. Mr Creek recently won the Apple 2024 Worldwide Developer Community Swift Student Challenge. The Apple Swift Student Challenge first commenced in 2011 and was launched as an opportunity for student developers to showcase their love of coding. What started out as a bedroom hobby has now turned into a realistic yet challenging career option for Mr Creek, who is being scouted as a rising tech-star by Apple. Jesaiah impressed judges when he introduced his concept of 'PocketsSax', which enables anyone to play an instrument regardless of any financial burdens or potential disability. Incredibly, this is the second year in a row that Jesaiah has won the competition. In a testament to his selfless and gracious nature, Jesaiah also runs a lunchtime course during school where he teaches other students how to code. Beyond his exceptional coding ability, Mr Creek also plays the saxophone and bass guitar and enjoys sharing his passion for music education with his fellow peers. I would like to congratulate Mr Creek on his wonderful recent achievements and I wish him great success in his future endeavours.

TOO BLUE TO BE TRUE BOOK LAUNCH

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier)—On Thursday 6th June, I had the privilege to attend the Australian Chinese New Arts Society's launch of their latest book, Too Blue to Be True. The book features a wide range of interesting and unique autobiographic stories documented by Chinese-Australian migrants over the last 30 years. The novel serves as an important chronicle of Australia's rich multicultural history reflecting both the hardships and joys of settling in a new country. Symbolically, the book is written in both Chinese and English, highlighting the struggle of migrants having to learn and navigate between two linguistic worlds. I want to thank all the writers who contributed their stories to this amazing piece of literature. I cannot wait to start reading your stories which I have no doubt will be of great interest to all readers. I would also like to thank the Australian Chinese New Arts Society for promoting multiculturalism within our local community and keeping the history of Australia alive and well.

ANDREW RANKIN

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—Congratulations to Andrew Rankin who has had an involvement with soccer in the Bathurst region going back almost 50-years. His commitment and dedication to the game he loves has been rewarded with the recent awarding of Life Membership to the Bathurst District Football Association for services to the sport. Andrew is the current official recorder for the Association having taken on the time-consuming role in 2016 when his responsibilities included the preparation and collection of match cards and the tallying of goal scorers and best and fairest votes. It's clear that Andrew loves the sport of soccer falling in love with the game after starting to play way back in the 1960s as a Churches United junior in the under sixes. Over the years he has seen many changes in Bathurst soccer from a time when the local main grounds included Police Paddock, Loco Oval the Base Ordinance Camp (BOD) at South Bathurst, but nowadays headquarters is at the single venue at Proctor Park with nearby Police Paddock also still in use. Well done Andrew Rankin, the sport of soccer in Bathurst owes you a debt of gratitude for all your dedication and hard work.

BATHURST RSL

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—There's no doubt the team at the Bathurst RSL knows what it's like to go above and beyond the call of duty to help the local community. This is especially true when it comes to supporting vulnerable people in need of a place to call home. The club has now been recognised for its great work with statewide recognition. It won The Heart of the Community Award at the recent Clubs Community Awards for a project they did in conjunction with Veritas House. The catalyst for the initiative came about in response to the rental crisis and led to the RSL Club spending more than \$130,000 on renovating and fully furnishing one of its properties in the city, to then be used by Veritas House to support a family in need of urgent accommodation. RSL Clubs across the state submitted a project they had done in the community to ClubsNSW to review, with 35 finalists being announced and Bathurst came up trumps. This is a fantastic award and just recognition for Bathurst RSL who also received a Highly Commended award in the Emergency Services category.

BROOKLYN COLE

Mr PAUL TOOLE (Bathurst)—I would like to congratulate Miss Brooklyn Cole who has been crowned the winner of the NSW Training Awards (Western Region) 2024 School Based Trainee of the Year. The NSW Training Awards honour and reward the achievements of students, trainers/teachers, registered training organisations and employers. Brooklyn is completing a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care at TAFE NSW alongside her School-based traineeship with Bathurst Little Learning Centre. She is also completing her high school studies at Denison College of Secondary Education, Kelso High Campus and a fantastic member of our local community. VET allows me to contribute my skills and knowledge into an qualification that I can

acquire prior to finishing school, giving me the opportunity to branch out into qualified, full time employment after school. The NSW School-based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year Award is presented to a student who is undertaking a Certificate II or above qualification as a part-time School-based Apprentice/Trainee. The Award recognises the student's commitment to their formal studies at school, and in the workplace. Congratulations Brooklyn and good luck at State Finals!

NNSWF 2024 NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS SQUADS

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Earlier this month, Northern NSW Football announced the National Youth Championship squads, and I would like to acknowledge the young footballers who got their starts in Charlestown electorate clubs. From the under 15 girls side: Charlee Fahey of Kahibah FC, Macy Evans of Dudley Redhead United JFC and Mayan Harkness of Adamstown Rosebud JFC. Macy is currently with the Adamstown Rosebud. From the under 15 boys side: Dawson Maher of Warners Bay FC, Sam Collins of Adamstown JFC, and Wes Martin of Kotara South FC. From the under 16 girls side: Isabella Walshe of Kotara South FC, Khaliah Rodgers of Warners Bay FC, and Laura Knipe and Phillipa Donnelly of New Lambton FC. Khaliah currently plays for the New Lambton Eagles, and her fellow squad member Skyla Poole plays for Adamstown Rosebud JFC. From the under 16 boys side: Callan Prestwidge of Charlestown JFC, Clayton Watts of Dudley Redhead United JFC, Cory Everett of New Lambton FC and Joshua Culjak of Gardem Suburb FC. I wish these young athletes and their teammates all the best!

ALEX HALE

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—I would like to acknowledge Eleebana resident Alex Hale, who is currently in Florida for the Warrior Games. A lieutenant commander in the Royal Australian Navy, Alex's life changed when he was hit by a motorist during a morning bike ride on the south coast. He was gravely injured in the accident, and ultimately was left with T9 paraplegia meaning he has no sensation from the chest down. Two days after regaining consciousness, Alex was looking up adaptive mountain bikes. After two months at the Royal North Shore and three months of rehab, he and his family moved to the Charlestown electorate. Less than fourteen months after that life-altering event, Alex is part of Team Australia, competing in an no fewer than five sports at the Games, including cycling, rowing, wheelchair basketball, archery and shooting. The Warrior Games are organised by the United States Department of Defence, bringing together hundreds of wounded, injured and ill serving and former serving American, British and Australian military members to compete in adaptive sports. The games support rehabilitation and recovery, highlighting the competitors' extraordinary physical skills and mental toughness. I wish Alex and his fellow competitors all the best at the Games!

STAR STRUCK 2024

Ms JODIE HARRISON (Charlestown—Minister for Women, Minister for Seniors, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)—Star Struck is an annual performing arts event for Newcastle, the Hunter and Central Coast schools, a showcase of dance, drama and music performed by students from kindy right the way through to Year 12. After more than three decades of Star Struck, it is a fixture of the region's calendar, and this year took place at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 June. All up, 3,500 pupils took to the stage, across mass dance and drama items, mass choir and featured artists, utilising a double-cast format. Every year students from around the region get involved, and I want to acknowledge the schools in the Charlestown electorate whose students helped made this year's Star Struck so spectacular. My congratulations to the students, staff and supportive school communities of Belair Public, Cardiff High, Cardiff South Public, Charlestown East Public, Charlestown Public, Charlestown South Public, Dudley Public, Garden Suburb Public, Kotara South Public, New Lambton Public, New Lambton South, Warners Bay High, Warners Bay Public, Whitebridge High, and Windale Public for their engagement with this wonderful event.

GENERATE YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—I'd like to encourage everyone to come down to Yeo Park, Ashfield on Sunday 4 August to enjoy the exciting 'Generate Youth Music Fest'. This is a festival for local youth, run by local youth, guided by experienced local music professionals. Kicking off at 10am, the festival will include over 20 youth bands and solo performers, as well as children's entertainment and food stalls. This festival is a great opportunity for young creatives to express themselves and put their music on show, in front of a live audience. Congratulations to Mayor Darcy Byrne, General Manager Peter Gainsford and all the team at Inner West Council involved in delivering this wonderful event. Congratulations also to FutureProof for your ongoing work with up-and-coming musicians, and of course, congratulations to the young musicians

performing on the day. Get down to Yeo Park on 4 August to enjoy the sights and sounds of "Generate Youth Music Fest".

FOOTBALL NSW VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION - TERRY WONG

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—I wish to congratulate Mr Terry Wong from Hurlstone Park Wanderers for his recent recognition by Football NSW during Volunteer's week. Terry is the Club's Coaching Coordinator and started coaching more than a decade ago, when his oldest child was in under 6's. This was the start of building something very special – he has revolutionised the coach development program and the Little Lions program is now a well organised program with support from dedicated coaches, all mentored by Terry. The kids who benefit from this all have a ball! But Terry didn't stop there – he also established the Mini Cubs for 3-5 year olds, and mentored enthusiastic young players in the club to run this program – again sharing his skills, knowledge and passion for the game. Terry has also been Club Vice President and champions sponsorship for the club. In 2024 he was instrumental in the Club sourcing grants to implement programs for females in leadership, coaching development and the first ever all abilities program for female players. Congratulations Terry and thank you for your dedication to your Club and community.

MARGARET MCLACHLAN - CYCLING

Ms JO HAYLEN (Summer Hill—Minister for Transport)—I wish to acknowledge the significant achievements of former Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club member Ms Margaret McLachlan, who in 1966 as a 21-year-old, had the cycling world at her feet, however the fact she regularly beat male riders deemed her too 'dangerous' a competitor. In 1966 Margaret's NSW Amateur Cycling Union (NSWACU) license was restricted. In 1967 she was given a full ban. In response Margaret switched her focus and talents to ultra-marathon feats. She completed four feats between 1966-68, setting records and being the first woman to complete a woman's hour record. Margaret invited the NSWACU to oversee each event. The NSWACU declined every time meaning Margaret's records were never formally recognised. Margaret was awarded an OAM for her contribution to women's cycling in 2000. She cofounded the sport cycling's NSW Women's Commission in 1980. Margaret's records have still not been formally recognised however her supporters continue to fight for recognition. Inner West Council recently recognised Margaret's achievements in cycling and in women's sport more broadly by unveiling a plaque at Marrickville Oval in her honour. Congratulations on your many amazing achievements Margaret!

MODEL UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—I had the pleasure of hosting Rotary District 9675's Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) in the Parliament of NSW on 8th June 2024. This year's MUNA connected Year 11 Students from eighteen schools across Sydney to participate in lively debates, as representatives of world nations. Students from the Illawarra, to the Eastern suburbs, the Inner West and of course, from our Western Sydney community came together to debate the core global issues facing our world today. Mirroring complex issues that have been recently debated by the United Nations, the students delivered insightful speeches and considered debates about the peaceful use of space, damage to cultural heritage and migrant smuggling. The student delegates demonstrated impressive knowledge of their designated nation and displayed great public speaking and debating skills. I congratulate the students on their poise and diplomacy throughout the MUNA. I am sure many of these students will become future leaders in our community. I thank District MUNA Co-Chairs Narelle Wilson and Jennifer Pedley, District Governor Tonia Barnes and the dedicated parents and teachers for organising this successful event. Thank you to Rotary NSW and District 9675 for continuing to support young people in our community.

INAUGURATION OF TAIWANESE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On Monday 20th May 2024, I was pleased to attend the Gala Dinner celebrating the Inauguration of Dr Lai Ching-te and Ms Hsiao Bi-khim as the 16th President and Vice-President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) respectively. New South Wales has a substantial relationship with Taiwan, including trade and investment, education, tourism and people-to-people ties. With a population of more than 23 million people, Taiwan has the 22nd largest economy in the world. We share a commitment to democratic principles, as well as an interest in a rules-based, open, inclusive and stable Indo-Pacific region. Dr Lai's term as President began on 20th May and runs until 2028. I was happy to join state and federal parliamentary colleagues, as well as more than 400 guests from our local Taiwanese community for a traditional Taiwanese banquet meal, organised by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office. TECO was first established in Sydney in 1987 as the permanent mission to New South Wales. My thanks go out to TECO Director General David Cheng-Wei Wu, Director Ya-ping Chiu and all our local Taiwanese community for organising a great evening.

BLACKTOWN SES

Dr HUGH McDERMOTT (Prospect)—On 29 May 2024, it was great to visit the Blacktown Unit of the NSW State Emergency Services Unit [SES] in Prospect, to thank them for the important work they do for our community. A volunteer-based organisation, Blacktown SES provide invaluable assistance to the residents of the Prospect Electorate and Greater Western Sydney. Driven by an unfaltering commitment to supporting our community in times of need, they offer dedicated service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Blacktown SES provide critical responses to emergencies ranging from storm damage, flooding, road accidents and search and rescue to even supporting our fire, police and ambulance services in major operations. They are also a pillar of key events in our community, helping to keep us all safe and connected. On behalf of the Prospect Electorate, thank you to all the hardworking members of our SES for taking care of our community when we need you most. Thank you especially to Deputy Commanders Jon Giddey and Adrian Apalakis for your leadership and dedication. I look forward to working together to ensure that the SES continues to grow, and achieve even more success in our community.

SECONDARY STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—In June I was delighted to meet two students from Cerdon College, Merrylands in my electorate who participated in the Parliament's Secondary Student Leadership Program. Daniella Magueri and Matilda Sibson were part of the inspiring program fostering leadership in our next generation. The program brought together 120 student leaders from across NSW with MPs. These students, representing schools from Ryde to Tamworth, had the unique opportunity to engage in a town hall meeting and learn about our parliamentary processes. After observing question time, the program extended beyond Parliament House, with an informative session from the NSW Electoral Commission. This program is a testament to the Parliament's commitment to nurturing future leaders. By fostering dialogue between student leaders and their representatives, we empower young minds to understand our democratic system and contribute positively to our society. I commend the Daniella and Matilda and all who participated in this valuable program. Let us continue to invest in the leadership potential of our young people – they are the future of our state.

AUSTRALIAN BLOUZA ASSOCIATION

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—Today, I want to acknowledge a remarkable organisation in the heart of Granville – the Australian Blouza Association. For over seventy years, the Blouza Association has served as a cornerstone for the Lebanese community in NSW. Founded in 1954 by immigrants from the village of Blouza in North Lebanon, the Association has grown into a vibrant hub. Their mission is clear – to foster unity and respect for Blouza descendants in Australia. They proudly celebrate their Maronite Catholic heritage while embracing their Australian identity. The Association's commitment extends beyond cultural preservation. Situated at Blouza Hall in Granville, they provide a valuable meeting space for other Lebanese community organisations. The Blouza Association's dedication extends to charitable works. They actively support those in need, both within Australia and in Blouza. I commend the Blouza Association for their decades of service and I have no doubt they will continue to be a pillar of strength for the Lebanese community in NSW for many years to come. I was especially delighted to recently visit Blouza Hall with President Tony Khoury to announce the association was successful in applying for a NSW Government Community Building Partnerships grant of \$100,000 for building restoration.

19TH ANNUAL MELA TEEYAN DA

Ms JULIA FINN (Granville)—I was delighted to attend a wonderful celebration of Punjabi culture – the 19th annual Mela Teeyan Da, hosted by the Punjabi Women's Association of Australia on 16 June. This long-standing tradition brings together Punjabi women and children for a day of fun, entertainment, and community spirit. The Mela Teeyan Da offers a vibrant space to connect, celebrate heritage, and create lasting memories. The Association, for nineteen years, has fostered a platform for Punjabi women to share their culture and traditions. This year's event promises was no different, with exciting activities, entertainment, and the chance to win prizes and their slogan "Bigger Better and Best" was accurate. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the rich tapestry of Punjabi culture within our diverse Australian community. I commend the Punjabi Women's Association for their dedication to preserving and promoting their heritage. The Mela Teeyan Da is a testament to the strength and resilience of Punjabi women, and I thank the organisers for the kind invitation to attend.

LEETON – BRINDLEY FAMILY

Mrs HELEN DALTON (Murray)—Madam/Mister Speaker, Today I would like to recognise the exceptional achievements of Scott Brindley and his family from Leeton. Scott and his daughter Emma have demonstrated excellence on both national and international stages, notably at the World Shooting Championships in South Africa earlier this year. Scott, serving as manager and team member of the Australian veterans target rifle team, led his squad to victory with resilience and skill. Despite challenges such as equipment malfunctions

during the 900-meter event, the team persevered to secure a decisive win, claiming the gold medal, and setting a new standard of excellence in their sport. Scott's individual achievements are equally commendable, earning a silver medal in the veterans' individual world championship. His success reflects years of dedication and passion for marksmanship, shared by his daughters Laura and Emma, who continue to excel alongside him. The Brindley family's achievements serve as an inspiration and a source of pride for Leeton and the wider region.

THE BALLINA YOUTH NETWORK

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the Ballina Youth Network for the wonderful work that they do for youth and community in the Ballina Shire. Our community has recognised the need for inter-agency cooperation between community service providers, police, council, education and other government agencies to work collaboratively and open discussion on the challenges young people in our community are experiencing. We also recognise the primacy of youth voices being at the heart of all decisions that impact them. The establishment of the Ballina Youth Network, chaired by Social Futures and brought together through the support of the Office of Regional Youth is a wonderful focus for this work. The Network, even in 18 months since it was established, has already achieved great outcomes for young people, including the amplification of their voices, definitive responses to young people's feedback, and notably, two Ballina First Nations young people supported to attend and play football overseas. The Network are currently supporting early intervention strategies to respond to school disengagement, unstable housing, and unemployment. I thank the Ballina Youth Network and all those agencies for their ongoing work of supporting the young people of our region to thrive.

CAMERON ARNOLD

Ms TAMARA SMITH (Ballina)—Today I recognise the significant contribution that Mr Cameron Arnold OAM has made to the Northern Rivers across the business and tourism sectors and congratulate him on being awarded the Order of Australia this year on the King Charles Birthday honours list for his service to tourism and conservation. Having worked in the tourism industry for over 35 years Mr Arnold is highly regarded by his peers for his innovative approach harnessing the potential of local communities to maximise tourism potential. Mr Arnold was an invaluable member of the Cape Byron Trust and was supporting the Arakwal Community to conserve and protect Cape Byron and other significant cultural heritage. He has tirelessly campaigned for a rail trail in the Northern Rivers and for cycle tourism.

BOWEL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I would like to recognise the impact that bowel cancer has on individuals throughout Australia, New South Wales and my community. This month is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, which recognises the impacts of this debilitating disease. In an average week, over 300 Australians are diagnosed with bowel cancer. However, thanks to charities like Bowel Cancer Australia, prevention and early diagnosis has become much more common, as funding goes into research, treatment and care. As many of you will know, one of my colleagues and good friends, Matt Cross, was recently diagnosed with bowel cancer. This has hit particularly close to home for many of us. I wish Matt a speedy recovery and wish that both him and his wife, Gessika, receive the strength they need as they tackle this challenge head on. I am looking forward to seeing you back in Parliament in due time and catching up soon. Of course, this reminds us of the importance of regular testing and check-ups. I would encourage everyone to see your GP, whilst also keeping aware of the symptoms and your family history.

BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS GREEK FEST 2024

Mr MARK COURE (Oatley)—Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to attend the Greek Fest at Brighton-Le-Sands and must say, I had an amazing time. This was the first time that the Greek Fest has returned in 21 years. I have always said that here in New South Wales, our diversity is our strength. The Greek Fest demonstrates this so clearly, with thousands of locals coming out to soak up the sun and join in on the festivities. There was truly so much on offer, with craft stalls, cultural performances through song and dance and of course, delicious food such as Gyros and Souvlaki. I would like to recognise Ms Nia Karteris – Chair Greek Festival of Sydney, as well as the rest of her team, who put on a fantastic event for the local Greek community. Festivals such as Greek Fest are a tribute and testament to the multicultural success story that is New South Wales. It was incredible to see a diverse mix of people partaking in Greek Culture and heritage. I sincerely look forward to attending next year. Thank you.

SANS SOUCI VEGGIE PATCH

Mr STEPHEN KAMPER (Rockdale—Minister for Small Business, Minister for Lands and Property, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Minister for Sport)—I would like to congratulate Sans Souci Veggie Patch in my electorate, as it celebrates its fifth birthday. The Veggie Patch was founded by a local Sans Souci Mum, Andrea Jackson. What started as a humble Veggie Patch, has grown significantly over the past five

years. It now boasts of six garden beds, eight community beds and 22 private allotments. What I find most laudable is that this garden patch has become a successful hub, bringing together people not just of different ages, but from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, which has resulted in cultivating new bonds of friendship. As a Minister for Multiculturalism, I understand the significance of this environment. The Sans Souci Veggie Patch possesses an all-encompassing and welcoming atmosphere. Andrea recently told the St George Sutherland Leader how this garden patch successfully connects people, especially the senior members, who feel valuable and part of an inclusive surrounding. This contributes to improving their mental and physical health and well-being. I commend the local community team of gardeners for their efforts and contribution and wish them continued success.

PETRINA WADDELL

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Petrina Waddell for recently being awarded Gosford Erina Business Chamber Life Membership. Petrina, your dedication, and wisdom over an incredible 14 years of service on the Board have left an indelible mark on our community. Your unwavering commitment has not only strengthened the Gosford Erina Business Chamber but has also fostered a sense of unity and progress within our local businesses. The importance of our local business chambers cannot be overstated. They serve as the backbone of our community, supporting local enterprises, fostering economic growth, and creating a network of support and collaboration. The Chamber's contributions are vital, and Petrina, your role in this has been exemplary. Thank you, Petrina, for being such a strong and passionate member of our community. Your ongoing service and contribution is commendable and worthy of life membership recognition.

ROD DEVER

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to congratulate Rod Dever who was recently awarded Life Membership of the Gosford Erina Business Chamber. Rod has been an integral part of the Chamber since 2004. Rod, your passion, dedication, and leadership have helped the Chamber navigate through both challenges and triumphs, leaving an indelible mark on our community. The importance of our local business chambers cannot be overstated. They are the backbone of our community, supporting local enterprises, fostering economic growth, and creating a network of support and collaboration. Rod, your role in this has been nothing short of exemplary. Your relentless focus on pushing for better infrastructure and transport has been instrumental in our community's development. Under your leadership, the Chamber evolved and now includes a wide cross-section of men and women of all ages, with expertise ranging from finance and legal matters to marketing and employment. This transformation speaks volumes about your commitment to listening to the views of the community and all businesspeople. Rod, your vision and hard work have helped shape the Gosford Erina Business Chamber, making it stronger and more dynamic. Thank you for your outstanding contributions to our community and congratulations on this recognition.

JOHN TURNBALL

Mr ADAM CROUCH (Terrigal)—I would like to take this opportunity to recognise John Turnbull, who was one of three Central Coast residents to receive the Distinguished Long Service Awards at the 2024 NSW Community Sports Awards on June 19. The awards night, conducted at CommBank Stadium by Sport NSW, recognises outstanding achievements and contributions to community sport in NSW which is largely carried out by a volunteer workforce. John Turnbull from Erina, was among 21 recipients from a wide cross-section of sports to receive awards from NSW Sports Minister Steve Kamper. John has been involved with the Central Coast Touch Association for more than 35 years and has been a state graded referee since 2005. He is a long-standing volunteer and has been dedicated to Central Coast Touch, the Hunter Western Hornets region and to NSW Touch Football. He is currently a Level 6 referee and has officiated at several NSW Touch events, along with delivering high quality referee courses for his affiliates and within his region. Congratulations John and this wonderful accolade and thank you for your ongoing contribution to your community and to the sport of Touch Football.

WYONG ROOS FOUNDATION

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Wyong Roos Foundation Race Day annual event was held at Wyong Race Club to raise funds for local community groups. Everyone who attended to support the June event raised over \$20,000 together. The proceeds will go towards Central Coast community organisations run by volunteers. The Foundation was established in 2017 as an initiative of the Wyong Leagues Group who throughout its history has always supported community groups above and beyond. Wyong Roos Foundation strive to invest in projects that are going to improve the lives of people within its immediate community who are facing challenges or are socially, economically, or physically disadvantaged. Wyong Roos Foundation committee group are passionate in supporting community groups such

as We Care Connect, Iris Foundation, Central Coast Kids in Need and many more organisations across the Central Coast. Congratulations to everyone involved on such a successful event.

MADDI ELWINE-WILSON

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Young person Maddi Elwine-Wilson from Gorokan has been shortlisted amongst 50 candidates for the NSW Youth Advisory Council. This year more than 300 young people located across NSW aged 12 to 24 applied through the program. The recruitment event will be held on the 28th of June in NSW Parliament House to result in 12 finalists. The NSW Youth Advisory Council meets regularly over their term throughout the year to provide advice to the Minister Hon. Rose Jackson, for Youth and the Advocate for Children and Young People on issues, policies and laws that affect children and young people in NSW. Membership of the YAC provides an opportunity for children and young people to contribute to the work of the NSW Government. Good luck to Maddi Elwine-Wilson in being assessed at the recruitment event.

RUBY SHAY

Mr DAVID HARRIS (Wyong—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, Minister for Gaming and Racing, Minister for Veterans, Minister for Medical Research, and Minister for the Central Coast)—Congratulations to musician Ruby Shay from Yarramalong for being recognised as one of the nine finalists for Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship, an initiative by Façon Magazine. The program empowers Indigenous storytellers from across NSW by providing resources and industry guidance to support their creative aspirations. Dharug woman Ruby Shay has been nominated in the field of music and will receive mentorship from nine esteemed creatives in their field, who will inspire them with the aim of nurturing and amplifying Indigenous voices across diverse creative industries. The Scholarship recipient will be announced at Murrook Cultural Centre in Port Stephens on July 11, during NAIDOC Week and set to receive \$10,000 from Greater Bank to support the successful recipient's creative aspiration to further their creative aspirations. Ruby taught herself guitar in her late teens, Ruby has proven herself as a strong storyteller, drawing from personal experiences, her writing creates meaningful songs that draw the listener into a world of love and self-exploration. Her first 2 singles, released with her band "The Red Horse" have both debuted in the top 10 on the AMRAP regional charts and Ruby's most recent single "Cooler" has been featured on ABC Country's Grass Roots program.

JOSH KERR AND LILLIE MCPHERSON – 2024 AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING TRIALS

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I congratulate Pittwater locals, Josh Kerr and Lillie McPherson on their efforts at the 2024 Australian Swimming Trials. 18-year-old Josh and 15-year-old Lillie are well known in our community for their array of impressive swimming achievements, having both taken home multiple wins at the recent national age championships. With the support of their phenomenal coach, Justin Rothwell, Lillie and Josh headed to the Australian Swimming Trials in Brisbane hoping to beat their own personal bests and experience the atmosphere of the Olympic Trials. Congratulations to both Lillie and Josh on their outstanding performances! I commend Lillie and Josh on their ongoing dedication to their training, the Northern Beaches community looks forward to seeing you on the Dolphins Swimming Team in the future!

PHARMACARE WARRIEWOOD

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I recently had the opportunity to visit PharmaCare, a wonderful health and wellness company based in Warriewood in my electorate of Pittwater. From humble beginnings in an old warehouse on the Northern Beaches, selling bottles of shampoo to local pharmacies, over their almost 40 years of business, PharmaCare has grown into one of Australia's and the world's most respected and trusted health and wellness companies. Driven by a desire to share good quality healthcare products with all, PharmaCare products are now on offer in over 40 countries and thousands of pharmacies and stores across Australia, Asia, America and Europe. Despite their impressive growth, PharmaCare remains a family-owned business, dedicated to maintaining its Australian heart. Not only this, PharmaCare is an outstanding corporate citizen, supporting many local organisations and charities. I thank the team, including owner, Toby Browne for inviting me to visit PharmaCare and discuss how lawmakers can better support local businesses. I look forward to continuing to work with Toby and the team to the benefit of the Pittwater community.

PITTWATER RSL FOOTBALL CLUB – 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr RORY AMON (Pittwater)—I acknowledge and congratulate the Pittwater RSL Football Club as they celebrate their 60th anniversary. This milestone is not only a cause for celebration, but a time to reflect on the club's enduring spirit and legacy. Since 1964, Pittwater RSL FC has been a beacon of sportsmanship, family, community and excellence in all areas from club management to facilities and coaching. By fostering a supportive environment, Pittwater FC strives to ensure all members may reach their full potential in football. The continued

success of Pittwater RSL FC would not be possible without the countless members, players and volunteers who have devoted their time to ensuring the club continues to thrive. Thank you to the current committee including, President - Karen Parsons, Vice Presidents – Janine Marttila and Mark Norbury. Secretary – Trudy Haygarth, Treasurer – Chris Tanner and Registrar – Belinda Adams for your dedication and service. Congratulations on six decades of community-focussed football, I'm sure there will be many more decades to come!

EAST HILLS VIEW CLUB 63RD ANNIVERSARY

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—I was thrilled to attend the East Hills VIEW Club's 63rd anniversary celebration at Revesby Workers Club earlier this week. The Voice, Interest and Education of Women Club raises money to help the Smith Family support disadvantaged kids' education. They currently sponsor five students, donating funds to help purchase books, attend excursions and join homework clubs. I was pleased to be able to donate a basket to the raffle and in awe of the items members made to raise \$400 for their students. Members combine social outings with fundraising, collecting money on trips such as high tea at the Brookfield Club in Camden, and a trivia day in April which raised \$700. President Jan McKenzie has been a member for 11 years while Treasurer, Pat Samuel has been a member for an amazing 23 years. Last year the club raised up to \$10,000 to donate to their students. Education is such an important investment in the future of all children and I thank Jan, Pat and all East Hills VIEW Club members for the important work you do in supporting these children in our community.

EAST HILLS MEN'S SHED COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Ms KYLIE WILKINSON (East Hills)—Congratulations to the East Hills Men's Shed on securing a Community Building Partnership grant for new equipment. The Men's Shed meet at least once a month to repurpose wood donated by individuals and organisations, providing a great opportunity for men in my community to socialise with their peers. The Men's Shed does so many great things in East Hills such as building Lilliput Libraries for schools, repairing tricycles for the Broderick Gillawarna special needs school and assisting with emergency repairs and ongoing maintenance at the Biyani House Women's Refuge in Revesby. The purchase of safer equipment to support the Men's Shed with their social activities and projects around the area is a great example of the grant program's aim to deliver positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes. I am so pleased that this very worthy organisation has received the funding needed to continue to do their good work for our community of East Hills. Congratulations again, and thank you East Hills Men's Shed.

JO POWELL

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—Congratulations to Jo Powell from Grafton, who received her Australia cap before the Matildas' Olympic sendoff match against China at Accor Stadium on Monday, June 3. Jo played for the Matildas from 1996 to 2000, when women's football was establishing itself as an international sport. Jo and her teammates helped pave the way for what we know as the Matildas today-sporting icons who now pack-out stadiums. Jo and her former Matildas teammates were formally presented with their caps and acknowledged for their contributions to women's football in front of a packed house at Accor Stadium. Jo started her playing days with South Services Gunners Soccer Club from under 6s. When she was 17, she played for Tucabia so she could play with her brother. Jo started a women's team with the then South Services Devils when she left school. She started driving to Newcastle in 1996 to play for NNSWITC. Jo relocated to Newcastle the following year then got her first call up to the Matildas in 1996 and received her official cap in 1999. Jo retired from representative football in 2000 and relocated back to Grafton. Jo now owns and operates Jetts Gym with her wife Cass.

SARATON THEATRE - BLUE PLAQUE HONOURS

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I would like to honour Ioannis (Jack) and his brother Antonios (Tony) Notaras, as they were awarded a Blue Plaque by the NSW Government for their contribution to the State's history through their construction of the iconic Saraton Theatre, Grafton. The brothers drew on their Greek heritage during construction, with no cranes available, lifting and moving huge and heavy steel beams. When construction was completed on the original cinema and theatre, a competition was held for a suitable name. Several people, including the winner Mrs C Ryder of Grafton came up with the name Saraton Theatre, which is Notaras spelt backwards, and announced at its opening in July 1926. The Notaras brothers were one of 14 Blue Plaque recipients chosen from 117 public nominations, assessed by independent historians and awarded the prestigious Blue Plaque in November, 2023. Anthea Toda, Antonios' granddaughter, is one of the directors of the Heritage Listed Saraton Theatre still to this day. Anthea's father, Angelo Notaras OAM, lovingly restored the largest and oldest theatre cinema in Australia, prior to his passing in 2018. What an outstanding contribution the Notaras family have made to the history of Grafton.

LAWRENCE COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING INC.

Mr RICHIE WILLIAMSON (Clarence)—I recognise the efforts of Lawrence Community Fundraising, a group passionate about affecting positive change and bringing people together through local community initiatives. Since 2012 volunteers have raised over \$26,000 through fundraising activities with all proceeds distributed to support local community groups. Thanks to the generosity of the local community, they secured two defibrillators and are regular supporters of the Westpac Helicopter service. On Saturday, 25 May, the community turned out in large numbers to soak up the atmosphere of the free community festival and lantern parade which showcased and celebrated the arts, crafts and pastimes of Lawrence locals. This was made possible from a grant secured from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and The Yulgibar Foundation. I congratulate members of the Lawrence Community Fundraising Inc for their commitment in organising the event as well the Events Delivered team who helped craft a festival that appealed to diverse age groups and interests, while uniting local talents across music, art and food. All of this would not have been possible without the generous support of Lawrence General Store, Lawrence Tavern, Lawrence Hall, Post Office, Museum and Golf Club who embraced the initiative from day one.

ANDREW JETSON

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—For a number of years Andrew Jetson has been a great friend and mentor to me. Professionally, Andrew is an accomplished business leader and comes from a diverse business background with impressive success across a number of fields. These days Andrew is still extremely active in the Australian business community as a CEO coach and mentor. In the Hornsby area Andrew Jetson has been a positive influence on many of us for the past decade. He is greatly respected and admired by all who know him for his valuable and selfless work in the local Liberal Party. For the past 18 months Andrew has served the Liberal Party as the President of my State Electoral Conference of Hornsby. In addition, for the past four years, he has as President of the State's largest Liberal Party Branch, the Westleigh Fox Valley Branch. I find myself regularly leaning on Andrew Jetson for his counsel regarding local party matters, with his valuable advice always being on point. I sincerely thank Andrew Jetson for his valuable and loyal friendship over the past few years.

DAVID NOURI

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—I met David Nouri when he joined the Hornsby Young Liberals a decade ago. I instantly saw he was a very talented individual. A few years later, David commenced working in my electorate office and quickly became a valuable member of my team. He developed a great ability of assisting me to deal with complicated issues in the Hornsby electorate and created a reputation amongst my Hornsby constituents as a positive and "can do" person. No matter was too difficult for David to tackle and resolve in a positive manner. Whilst working for me, David Nouri continued his university studies and last year he was admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. As is the case with talented staff, David Nouri has progressed his career to work in the office of Senator Chris Bragg and has continued to thrive with his new role in Canberra. I am certain that David Nouri has a bright future in front of him and I expect we will see him progress to becoming a talented representative of the people in one form or another.

PENNY BECCHIO OAM

Mr MATT KEAN (Hornsby)—I am very pleased to learn my great friend and Hornsby resident, Penny Beechio, was recognized in the 2024 Australia Day awards with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her "service to the community through a range of organizations". Penny has held a range of support roles with the Scouting movement, including serving as a Scouts NSW State Commissioner since 2017. She has also been involved with the Hornsby Gang Show in various capacities over the past four decades, including as General Manager for ten seasons. With Penny's extensive and unique knowledge of the Hornsby Gang Show, she recently compiled an impressive book detailing the rich and colourful 50-year history of this popular annual production in our local area. Penny Beechio is a long-time Justice of the Peace. She has served on various local school committees and has been a member of Hornsby Council's Hornsby Art Prize committee since 2010. It is my pleasure to congratulate Penny Beechio for being awarded her OAM. She is a beautiful lady and highly deserving of her award recognizing her significant contributions to our community over many decades.

LAG BOAMER PARADE AND CARNIVAL

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to congratulate Rabbi Elimelech Levy on the success of The Great Parade in honour of Lag BaOmer on the 24th May, 2024. Lag BaOmer is a festive day on the Jewish calendar, celebrated with outings, bonfires, and other joyous events. Many visit the resting place (in Meron in Northern Israel) of the great sage and mystic Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, whose yahrtzeit (anniversary of his passing) the day marks. Lag BaOmer is celebrated with street parades throughout the world including New York, Paris, London, Moscow Jerusalem and of course Sydney. The last Parade here was in 2017. Children and families

from across Sydney joined the floats and marching bands with banners of all colours and sizes. Congratulations Rabbi Levy on a successful parade.

BONDI – SLSC OF THE YEAR

Ms KELLIE SLOANE (Vaucluse)—I would like to congratulate Bondi Bathers Surf Life Saving Club on winning Club of the Year at the 2023/24 NSW Awards of Excellence. The focus this year was to be rescue ready therefore to "train like someone's life depends on it". Training programs such as Champion Lifesaver, Nipper Development and IRB have assisted achieve this objective. Bondi continues to maintain the highest education awards delivered this season which support the Club's focus on developing great lifesavers. Bondi proudly stands as having the largest group of Champion lifesaver participants at Branch and State and has achieved numerous successes. This season the Club further enhanced its support for its members by increasing its number of patrols to decrease its member patrol time from 50 plus hours to 35 hours per season. Its community engagement has been at its highest with Silver Salties, Swim sisters and Ocean Lovers Festival to name a few. It has been a fantastic year for the Club. Well done on all your achievements.

RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL – KOOJAY CORROBOREE

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I would like to emphasize the breathtaking celebration that took place on the 31st of May at Coogee Beach known as the Koojay Corroboree. This event serves as a tribute to the captivating Aboriginal culture and traditions. The Koojay Corroboree coincided with National Reconciliation Week, themed 'Now More Than Ever,' emphasizing the perpetual nature of the struggle for rights and the need for ongoing efforts. This event, fostering a connection between Australia's First Nations People and the realm of imagination through dance, music, and storytelling, featured remarkable performances by Aboriginal dancers blending both traditional and contemporary styles.

RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL – STEP OUT SPEAK OUT

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—Step Out Speak Out. I need to stress the importance of standing up to domestic violence, and standing up for our women that may be struggling with domestic violence. The Step Out Speak Out Walk, supported by various organizations, aligns with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It calls for unity against domestic violence during a 16-day campaign culminating on Human Rights Day. Participants are urged to Step Out, Speak Out, and Walk in solidarity against domestic violence. Once again I would like to highlight the importance, that if you are struggling with domestic violence, do not hesitate to 'step out speak out' and remember there are hotlines you can call that will support you.

RANDWICK CITY COUNCIL – NEIL WILLIAM RODGERS

Dr MARJORIE O'NEILL (Coogee)—I would like to send my condolences as Neil William Rodgers has passed away on Tuesday April 16th 2024. Neil was a part of the Clovelly Surf Club Rogers family. Neil along with his older brother Greg and middle brother Ron were all Olympians. The boys were medal winning Eskimos as well as their father Norm was a founding Eskimo member in 1954. The boys have won numerous state and Australian surf titles for Clovelly, and through recent years Neil has earned fame and friendship as "Coach" at the Bondi Icebergs Pool. The service celebrating his life will be held at 10.30am on Wednesday 24th April at the Mary Immaculate Church 45A, Victoria Street Waverley. After the ceremony the celebration of his full life will continue from 12 midday at the Bondi Icebergs Club. I send my condolences to the family, close friends and members of the Clovelly surf club.

MARYANA ABDO

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Rock bands, flash mobs, slam poets, performance groups and much more! Recently, talented students from across our public school system showcased their skills to secure a coveted spot in this year's show, All 4 One. Among the many students who auditioned was Maryana Abdo, a Year 11 student from Miller Technology High School. I have had the pleasure of hearing Maryana sing and can confirm that she is a formidable talent, and a testament to Liverpool's incredible talent in the performing arts. Moving to a new country is an often-daunting process and adjusting to new systems, language and people can be stressful. This is especially true for those who come to this country as refugees, like Maryana and her family. She has played to her strengths, however, using her operatic skills to learn English and build her confidence. Maryana has been singing opera since she was seven years old and amazingly, is completely self-taught. Fittingly, this week is Refugee Week which celebrates the contributions made to our community by those who come to Australia as refugees. I congratulate Maryana on her courage in auditioning and wish her all the best as she continues to hone her craft.

GOLDMARK JEWELLERS LIVERPOOL

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Whether it's a necklace, ring, earrings, watch or something similar, jewellery helps us all mark the most important milestones in our lives! So you can imagine their excitement when Goldmark Jewellers in Westfield Liverpool took home the Outstanding Jewellery Store award at last month's Liverpool City Local Business Awards. It has been a long time coming for the team at Goldmark Liverpool, who finally clinched the award in 2024 after having been a finalist 5 times previously in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022. Goldmark has long been a staple of the Australian jewellery market, having been founded in 1979. It has now expanded to include over 130 stores throughout Australia. They have a strong reputation for contemporary design and a fashion forward approach. More than anything, the team at Goldmark understand that variety is key. Their range is curated to suit a broad market, with items for all ages, genders, styles, and desires. In winning this award, the team at Goldmark Liverpool have shown that they are a go to for many within our community to share the special moments that they want to remember and celebrate. I congratulate Goldmark Liverpool for this fantastic achievement!

CUCINA 105

Ms CHARISHMA KALIYANDA (Liverpool)—Cucina 105 is famous throughout the Liverpool area for its array of Italian delicacies to suit each and every palate. They offer everything from seafood, to pasta, to pizza, right in the heart of Liverpool. Such is their fame that they are now a two-time recipient of the Outstanding Restaurant Award at the Liverpool City Local Business Awards, having taken home the title at the 2024 ceremony last month. This follows their previous win nine years ago in 2015. It is a feat in and of itself to win this prestigious award once. But to win it twice, the food must live up to the hype. Located in the heart of Liverpool, Cucina 105 is a particular favourite of those who frequent the CBD. I congratulate the team at Cucina 105 for taking home this title, and encourage all members of this place to venture down to the Corner of Moore and Bathurst Streets in Liverpool and give the menu a try.

DUBBO UNDER 16 BASKETBALL GIRLS TEAM SPEAKER

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I would like to acknowledge the Dubbo Basketball Girls Under 16's Team who have won the Country Championships Premier Division for the second year in a row. The championships held over the June long weekend, saw teams from across the state come together for a weekend of basketball with fierce competition. The talented group of Dubbo girls have achieved remarkable success as a representative team. It emphasises their talent and pride in their team and their sport, and all done under the leadership and guidance of their dedicated coach Cara Gordon. Two of the members of the team, Tully Pickering, and Jazzy Gordon are state representatives and Jazzy Gordon was named Most Valuable Player. Both will head to the National Championships at Red Energy Arena in Bendigo during the July school holidays. What is particularly impressive is that at such a young age this group of dedicated and hardworking young women have achieved an incredible level of success. Congratulations girls!

FANTASY DANCE SPORT

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—I would like to congratulate Fantasy Dance Sport Dubbo on their success at the Australian Dancing Society Future Stars Cup held recently in Sydney. With four students dancing, all partnered by their coach Cassandra Donnelly, they brought home a phenomenal amount of placings. Lahni Holland danced in the sub juvenile and juvenile categories in coach student and solo events winning eight first places and two second places. Scarlett Croft was a dancer in the juvenile category in the solo and coach student events bringing home two first places, two second places and two third places. Miranda Pfeiffer took part in the junior category in the solo and coach student events winning twelve first places, one second place and one third place. Anna Single danced in the adult category in the coach student events winning eight first places and five second places. With a cumulative total of thirty first places, ten second places and three third places, Fantasy Dance Sport is really cementing Dubbo's place on the dancing map! Congratulations Lahni, Scarlett, Miranda, Anna and Cassandra on truly outstanding results.

CRAIG GRANGER

Mr DUGALD SAUNDERS (Dubbo)—Speaker. I would like to acknowledge Craig Granger for his commitment to raising funds and awareness for Macquarie Homestay. Macquarie Homestay is a home away from home for patients receiving medical treatment in Dubbo. They provide affordable, low-cost accommodation for patients and their partner pre, during and post treatment. On June 16 Craig set out on his pushbike on a solo and unsupported Tour De OROC trip. Craig will ride the same route that that was recently completed in the team event but is also aiming to do it in a quicker time frame raising funds for Macquarie Homestay. As part of his solo and unsupported ride, Craig will depart from Dubbo and ride through the townships of Cobar, Bourke, Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge, Walgett, Coonamble and return to Dubbo. The team ride took place over six days, with Craig

setting himself a goal of completing it in four to five days. This is an impressive goal ordinarily, but what makes it even more remarkable is that Craig has his own health battles, being an MS sufferer. Congratulations Craig on such incredible and selfless dedication to such an important cause. You certainly are an inspiration!

ANDREW 'DUNNY' DUNNE

Mr TIM CRAKANTHORP (Newcastle)—The Lass O'Gowrie Hotel is a beloved Newcastle venue, known for unique and intimate performance space, inclusive community, and good vibes. The Lass, as locals call it, would not be what it is today without publican, Andrew 'Dunny' Dunne, who's five year tenure at the iconic venue, has come to an end. Over that time, Dunny has created a stage for upcoming local bands to get their start and a safe space for everyone to express themselves. To bid his farewell, Dunny hosted a jampacked weekend of live music, his 'Dunne and Dusted' festival, with over 20 local acts taking the stage. I hope the Lass' next publican can continue its legacy and keep up the good vibes, good community, and good music. I look forward to supporting Dunny at his new venue, The Oak in Tighes Hill, as well as any future projects you have in store.

CAMMERAYGAL STUDENT TO PLAY FOR SAPPHIRES

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker It's always so heartening to see young women achieving their best in the sporting arena, and recently, our local North Shore girls and women have been doing just that. I want to congratulate a Cammeraygal High School student, Erica Finney, on being selected to play for the Under 17s Sapphires Basketball Team. Erica will travel to Mexico in July this year to represent Australia at the FIBA 2024 World Cup. Erica has been identified as the top shooter in the country after her NSW Metro team recently took home the gold at the Under 18s Nationals competition in Brisbane. Now, on the global stage, the Sapphires are set to play basketball powerhouse USA before competing against Croatia and Puerto Rico. Congratulations Erica on such a fantastic accomplishment, your dedication to your sport and ability as a player is truly admirable. Good luck Sapphires, we're so proud of all of you. I am looking forward to cheering you on from home.

WENONA STUDENT SELECTED AS YOUNG ARCHIE FINALIST

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker I want to congratulate Grace Vonwiller, a year 10 student at North Shore school, Wenona, on being selected as a Young Archie finalist. Of more than 4000 submissions from young artists across New South Wales, Grace was one of just 70 subissins that were chosen as finalists in the acclaimed Young Archie exhibition. Grace's work is titled 'The Rock in my Garden', and is a portrait of her grandpa wearing his favourite gardening hat. Grace's portrait aimed to capture her grandpa's ability to inspire love and kindness in others through his warm and cheerful gaze. Grace's artwork, along with all the other Young Archie finalists, is currently being displayed at the Gallery of NSW. The winners will be announced 27 July this year. Congratulations Grace on such an incredible achievement.

'LIBRARY OF THINGS' VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION

Ms FELICITY WILSON (North Shore)—Speaker In the face of the economic challenges being faced by Australians today, it is great to see so many individuals stepping up to help their community. North Shore locals Jacky Baker, Bridget Kennedy and Carol Skyring are doing just that. Their business 'The Library of Things', located in Waverton, was founded on the concepts of sustainability and affordability. The Library of Things is a volunteer organisation focussed on finding a budget-friendly solution to renting and buying things. These things are not books, but household items we only use every-so-often, ranging from party gear and kitchen items to garden tools, camping equipment and more. The inventory consists mostly of donations, and the business has received an outpouring of community support. It is one of around 30 such stores across Australia. I want to recognise the efforts of Jacky, Bridget and Carol, and thank them for their dedication to serving and bettering our community.

CONCORD WEST RHODES PRESCHOOL

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I rise to acknowledge Concord West Rhodes Preschool for its recent achievement at the City of Canada Bay Council Business and Sustainability Awards in the Environment Community Organisation category. This award is a testament to its dedication to providing quality education to our next generation of young leaders. Concord West Rhodes Preschool has been providing outstanding childcare services in our community for over 20 years. The philosophy of empowering each child to be an active member of the community and to engage with the environment is to be commended. I would particularly like to commend Concord West Rhodes Preschool for its emphasis on multicultural learning. The Preschool offers a multicultural program encouraging bilingual learning through singing songs and greeting one another in different languages. I have been to several commemoration services at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, where students have led a meaningful Acknowledgment of Country. It is a wonderful example of leadership. I sincerely congratulate Concord West Rhodes Preschool, led by Marnie Omeragic and the

hardworking team including Cathy, Trish, Johanna, Margaret, Stephanie, Jo, Elissa, Jenny and Rene. I wish the students and staff all the very best.

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BALMAIN

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I would like to congratulate the Inner Wheel Club of Balmain for being a wonderful community organisation who are passionate advocates for local Causes. This year, The Inner Wheel Club celebrates its 33rd birthday, with a proud legacy of supporting our local community. A few months ago, Inner Wheel hosted a fundraiser for Cord Blood Research. The club hosted a "2 for 10" fundraiser at Quarantine Reserve, Abbotsford in which members were challenged to walk two kilometres for every \$10 raised followed by an afternoon tea in our community. The campaign was successful in raising over \$900 for Cord Blood Research, which is Inner Wheel Australia's national fundraiser. I would like to acknowledge some notable members of the Inner Wheel Club of Balmain, including Suzie McLeod, Leslie Byrne, Franca Rodilosso, Corinne Collins and Joyce Duncan. I want to extend my congratulations and thanks to the Club Executive Committee for their hard work and dedication. I thank the Inner Wheel Club of Balmain for hosting and organising local community events important causes and wish all members the very best.

RACHEL BORG

Ms STEPHANIE DI PASQUA (Drummoyne)—I would like to congratulate Rachel Borg on a remarkable sporting milestone Rachel has recently completed her 500th game at Briars Hockey Club, marking only the second female player at the Club to reach this great record. This achievement is a testament to Rachel's passion, dedication, and sportsmanship both on and off the field. Her hockey career has spanned across a multitude of teams, playing socially and competitively, and travelling across the state for her sport. It is always so wonderful to hear of women in our local community who are reaching their goals. Rachel's accomplishment is truly an inspiration to all younger players. I would like to sincerely congratulate Rachel on this personal achievement, and for her contribution to Briars Sports Club. On behalf of our community, I wish Rachel all the very best for the future.

FLAMES NETBALL CLUB

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy)—On Saturday 15th June 2024, I visited the Flames Netball Club at Menai, to announce and congratulate this local sporting organisation on their successful Local Sport Grant Program application. Grassroots sport brings our community together, and I am delighted to see so many so many in the community will benefit from the grant. I would like to specifically congratulate the club President Gina Skinner for her dedication, along with Club Treasurer Brook Stark, Club Secretary Nicole Jorgenson, Club Coaching Coordinator Julie Tucker, Club Umpire Convenor Amy Cliff, and Club Communication Officer Hannah Joregenson. Congratulations Flames Netball Club.

ILLAWONG RURAL FIRE BRIGADE AGM

Mrs TINA AYYAD (Holsworthy)—I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary members of the Illawong Rural Fire Brigade, whose unwavering dedication has safeguarded our community for an impressive 67 years. These selfless volunteers have been crucial in protecting lives and property during the state's most challenging bushfire seasons and weather events. The efforts of the Brigade throughout the 2023/2024 season were recognised at their annual general meeting on June 13, 2024. I congratulate the leadership team elected during this event, including Captain Simon Delander, Senior Deputy Captain Mark Pryor, President Peter Moore, Vice President Adam Smith, Secretary Peter Ross, Treasurer and Deputy Captain Greg Last, Community Engagement Coordinator and Deputy Captain Dom Bondar, Training Coordinator and Deputy Captain Chris Lynch, RFSA Delegate James Gallagher, and Deputy Captains Matt Angus, Jenny Dolden, Nick Field, George Kouroulis, Scott Lepre, and Paul Reynolds. Thank you to all members of the Illawong Rural Fire Brigade for your continued and invaluable service to our community.

HEATHER MITCHELL OAM

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I congratulate Heather Mitchell OAM of Miranda on being awarded a Sport NSW Distinguished Long Service Award in recognition of her 44-years of service to athletics in New South Wales. The NSW Community Sport Awards are hosted by Sport NSW, the peak body representing our sport and active recreation sector. The awards recognise outstanding achievements and contributions to community sport. Heather was recognised for her service to athletics over 44 years which began in 1980 when she registered her eldest daughter for Little Athletics. Not being content with sitting in the grandstands, Heather offered to help run events and as they say, the best is history. Heather has since been involved in nearly every aspect of the sport from coaching to team management. She has previously been recognised with life membership from Athletics Australia, Athletics NSW, Port Hacking Little Athletics, the NSW Racewalking Club and Little Athletics NSW, along with earning international appointments at the 2006 and 2010 Commonwealth Games.

I congratulate Heather for receiving a Sport NSW Distinguished Long Service Award and thank her for her continued contribution to athletics in the Sutherland Shire.

OYSTER BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Ms ELENI PETINOS (Miranda)—I acknowledge Oyster Bay Public School's Parents and Citizens Association for receiving a funding boost of \$9,801 from the 2023 Community Building Partnership Program. Oyster Bay Public School is a wonderful community that provides quality education in a nurturing, innovative learning environment. This funding will provide for the installation of a vinyl art feature wall at the entry to the school hall, creating a new outdoor learning zone that can be utilised by teachers as an extension of their classrooms and also provide a quiet space for students to gather themselves and recharge during breaks. None of this is possible without the hard work and dedication of the executive committee of Oyster Bay Public School's Parents and Citizens Association. I recognise Janelle Reynolds, Laura Petch, Christina Byrne, Michelle Herrett and Fiona Morrison for their contribution to our community, as well as the outstanding leadership of Principal Wanita Bowles. I thank the Oyster Bay Public School community for bringing the importance of this project to my attention and look forward to seeing the positive impact it makes to our local students.

BELROSE ROTARY CLUB – COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS 2024

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On 12 June 2024, I attended the Belrose Rotary Club's Community Awards at Forestville RSL. I proudly recognise the community service awardees: Penny Philpott and her late husband Bob for their long-term commitment and passion towards making a difference in the community by supporting our youth in sport and arts. Tony Lovett for his lasting commitment, leadership and contribution to many community groups, including Mimosa Public and Davidson Highs P&Cs, local sport and theatre groups. Beth Robertson for her long-term commitment in preserving the Frenchs Forest Bush Land Cemetery, working with our youth to help them understand and respect the history of the site, and her contribution to the Manly, Warringah & Pittwater Historical Society. Ron and Cynthia Patton for their dedication towards preserving and protecting the environment of our natural bushlands, in particular the construction of the Bare Creek Bike Park in Belrose. Rachael Jackson for her long-term commitment and passion toward providing awareness, hope, support, project instigation, leadership and a helping hand to those in need in the community. I recognise Belrose Rotary Club for their leadership to bring everyone together, led by President Brian Fairweather and award organiser John Keys.

DAVIDSON RURAL FIRE BRIGADE AGM 2024

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—On 16 June 2024, the Davidson Rural Fire Brigade held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2024. The brigade brings together individuals from all over the northern beaches and supports all of our NSW communities in their time of need. I recognise the returning President Tom Davie and newly elected Captain Matthew Wilson, and outgoing Captain Scott Lawrence. I recognise Brian Finn, who has retired after six years as treasurer; Fiona Johnston, who steps down after many years as Deputy Captain; and Tim McGregor, who steps down after 23 years on the executive. I recognise Firefighter of the Year, James Douthwaite; Rookie of the Year, Nathan Roberts; Captain's Special Award recipient David Joyce; and Ned Kelly Award recipient Luka Vajdik. Finally, I recognise every single individual within the ranks of Davidson Rural Fire Brigade. Your dedication to public service is invaluable. On behalf of the people of the Davidson electorate, I give a deepfelt thank you.

KING'S BIRTHDAY 2024 HONOURS

Mr MATT CROSS (Davidson)—I commend the 737 people who were recognised in the King's Birthday 2024 Honours. I proudly recognise six people from our community. Professor Thomas Maschmeyer became Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his distinguished services to science as a researcher, innovator and educator, and business through pioneering technologies. Professor Donald Nutbeam became Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to public health, to tertiary education, and to professional associations and boards, and I recognise him for his service to the community. Dr Eileen Gallery became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her significant service to nephrology, obstetric medicine and tertiary education. Pamela Pritchard became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the community, for social welfare and primary education. Professor Helen Reddel became a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to respiratory medicine and medical research. Jennifer Morris received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to women through leadership and mentoring roles. I recognise the contribution each has made to Australian society, and I am proud to represent them in the Parliament of NSW.

WALLY MEHANNA – HONORARY FELLOW OF WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to congratulate Mr Wally Mehanna for

being named an Honorary Fellow of Western Sydney University. Western Sydney University confers honorary titles and awards on distinguished individuals who have contributed to the advancement of knowledge or the betterment of society and who have achieved eminence in their field. With only a small number of titles and awards made each year, we celebrate what Wally has achieved at the highest level. Wally is the founder and current Chief Executive Officer of the Canterbury-Bankstown Chamber of Commerce (CBCC). A staunch supporter of Western Sydney University, Wally has worked tirelessly over the past seven years to foster and advocate for business and investment in Western Sydney while encouraging strong connections with the community. Under Wally's leadership, the CBCC has become the largest Chamber in Western Sydney. As a passionate supporter of Western Sydney University, he facilitates the use of CBCC events as a platform for the University to connect with community members. Wally's contribution to the University goes well beyond the normal expectations of his role, which is an amazing achievement. Congratulations once again to Wally on this amazing achievement.

ABBAS ALVI WINS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—I would like to congratulate Mr Abbas Alvi on being awarded the distinguished Community Service Award. The New South Wales Government Community Service Award recognises individuals who have contributed to the improvement of the quality of life of community members, beyond that expected in their usual occupation. Mr Alvi is the president of the Indian Crescent Society of Australia and has been recognised as an inspirational community leader. Mr Alvi's champions causes that support the vulnerable members of our community and works tirelessly to advocate for social justice. Through his commitment to uplifting and bringing positive change he continues to foster a culture of compassion and inclusivity within our community. It is not just his actions that distinguishes Mr Alvi, but the sincerity with which he approaches each venture. His genuine empathy and enthusiasm inspire others and unites them in a shared vision of a more inclusive and compassionate community. This is no easy undertaking and requires a deep sense of community building. Mr Abbas Alvi, you are an example of the spirit of commitment, and we are immensely proud to acknowledge your service. Thank you for all your hard work.

OZARAB MEDIA 2ND ANNUAL GALA DINNER

Mr JIHAD DIB (Bankstown—Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Youth Justice)—On the 17th of May 2024, I had the pleasure of attending OzArab Media's 2nd annual Gala Dinner at Doltone House. The OzArab Gala Dinner is a fundraising event that celebrates the unity and success within the Arabic community. The Gala Dinner included a fundraising initiative to support a range of organisations. Oz Arab Media acknowledged their collaboration with the Canterbury-Bankstown Lions Club to support local charitable organisations and their partnership with various organisations in the Bankstown electorate to strengthen community support. A feature of the night was the announcement of the 2024 Australian International Multicultural Business Awards. These awards recognise businesses, non-profits, and individual entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds for their contributions to Australia. These awards also serve as a platform to showcase their achievements and to foster multiculturalism and promote diversity. With categories that include Business, Not-for-Profit and Entrepreneur, these awards are intended to emphasise innovation, leadership, and community impact. Congratulations to its co-founders Remy Wehbe and Charbel Tadros and the Oz Arab Media team for organising such a successful night and for their commitment to their work in media and for continued support of the community.

PET TOWN CHATSWOOD

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—It's always pleasing to me to see small businesses thrive in my local community and on Wednesday 29 May, I had the pleasure to drop into Pet Town at Chatswood Westfield. Celebrating their 30th year, Pet Town is a family-run business that has been serving our community since 1994. With shops in both Chatswood and Castle Hill, Pet Town is dedicated to ensuring that its pets are sourced directly from breeders with a reputation for quality care and best practice. Once the pets arrive at Pet Town, they are lovingly cared for by the store's friendly team of staff. I would like to offer my warm thanks to Cristy, the manager of the Chatswood store, for her dedication to these pets, and a shoutout to Izzy for putting out the call for the shredded paper donations. I know that the pets provided by Pet Town Chatswood bring immense joy to numerous households in my community. Let's continue supporting our local businesses and the wonderful work they do!

REDLANDS FOUNDATION DAY SERVICE – CELEBRATING 140 YEARS

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I take great pride in the excellence of the schools in my community and on Friday 7 June, I was honoured to be a guest of Redlands to celebrate its 140-year anniversary. Founded originally as a school for girls in 1884, Redlands has a proud history of educating both girls and boys in the Anglican tradition. The Motto of the School, 'Let your Light Shine', is inspired by the words of Christ from the

Gospel of Matthew. For 140 years, Redlands has prided itself on providing a broad liberal education to enrich the academic and co-curricular lives of its students. Through its combination of pastoral care and world-class education, Redlands students graduate with outstanding results and go on to make outstanding contributions across all fields of endeavour. I would like to thank the Principal of Redlands, Mr Sean Corcoran, for kindly inviting me to the Foundation Day Service and I appreciate his leadership and the dedication of all who serve this great school community. I congratulate Redlands on celebrating this milestone anniversary and wish it every success.

KINJAL KUMARI – STATE REPRESENTATIVE AWARD

Mr TIM JAMES (Willoughby)—I take great pride in the sporting achievements of my local community and I would like to honour Chatswood local, Kinjal Kumari, for being an integral part of the NSW U19 Women's Cricket Team. It is a great honour to represent your state in cricket, and Kinjal has done us all proud. Her success is a real credit to her local cricket club, the Gordon District Cricket Club, of which he serves as a wicketkeeper. Established in 1905, the Gordon District Cricket Club is one of the oldest cricket clubs in Australia. The Club is an active supporter of junior and women's cricket on the North Shore – through both administrative involvement and coaching support. The Gordon Club is one of many local cricket clubs that does so much to foster young cricketing talent, and Kinjal has truly shone in her abilities as a wicketkeeper. Kinjal has competed across our state, including for the U/19 State Challenge in Dubbo. Kinjal has a very bright cricketing future ahead of her and I look forward to seeing her represent NSW with distinction in women's cricket.
