

place, I remember when I was at school hearing people say that as the World War I Anzacs passed away Anzac Day would lose its significance and slowly die across this great country. However, the number of young people attending services each year is increasing. This year I watched the service at Gallipoli, where more and more young people attend the service to remember the sacrifice of those who went before us. It is a great and moving thing for our country, and it says a lot about the great people across our great country.

In particular, I mention the work of the Castle Hill RSL, which is the cornerstone in the Hills district. Castle Hill RSL provides many great services and helps various charities, but all its work goes unrecognised in the local community. I particularly thank the President of the Castle Hill RSL sub-branch, Don Tait, OAM, the President of the Castle Hill RSL, Warren Glenny, all the members and directors of the RSL, as well as the member for Baulkham Hills, who braved the cold on Anzac Day to represent the Premier at a number of Anzac Day services. As I said, it is a fantastic tribute to see so many people in The Hills district attend services on Anzac Day.

Preparations are already afoot for the 2015 celebrations of Anzac Day and services. We expect more than 20,000 members of our community to commemorate 100 years of Anzac Day in 2015. The RSL has already established a committee that is working to ensure that local community groups get involved in various activities. Our art societies are running an art show, and various cultural groups are already engaging in what will be a phenomenal celebration of the sacrifice of the soldiers who have gone before us. As a local member of Parliament it is moving to see the Anzac spirit abound in the local community, particularly in The Hills district.

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS** (Hawkesbury—Parliamentary Secretary) [5.54 p.m.]: I join with the member for Castle Hill in thanking the Castle Hill sub-branch for its dedication ceremony. I was proud to attend the ceremony with the member for Castle Hill, the Premier, local representatives, the Federal member for Mitchell, Alex Hawke, and many other organisations. I attended eight Anzac Day ceremonies in the preceding week at Windsor RSL, The Hills district sub-branch, Galston, Kenthurst Rotary, the Annangrove Progress Association, concluding with the service at Glenorie RSL on Anzac Day. I spoke many times about the sacrifice and courage of those who served in various confrontations on our behalf, and a quality of life unparalleled around the world that we now enjoy through their legacy. Our legacy is to ensure that we remind future generations of the sacrifice that was made on our behalf. Lest we forget.

#### COOGEE ELECTORATE DEVELOPMENT

**Mr BRUCE NOTLEY-SMITH** (Coogee) [5.55 p.m.]: For years the Eastern Suburbs, including my electorate of Coogee, have been at the mercy of developers attempting to profiteer through overdevelopment. Most developers seek to maximise their gains by flouting good planning principles and proposing developments that far exceed council guidelines. These developments are then flogged off at a rapid rate, leaving in their wake residents who are forced to deal with the devastation of their local community. This, of course, is of immense concern to both me and my constituents in Coogee. The majority of my constituents and I have no problem with development. We all need places to live and work. But this is an important point to make: We have a problem with overdevelopment and poor planning.

There are two particular proposals at the moment which exemplify this problem. The first is the site of the Bronte RSL Club in Macpherson Street, Bronte. The financially troubled RSL has agreed to sell its current site to the developer Winston Langley Burlington so that the club can continue its operations. Winston Langley Burlington plans to build a supermarket, small retail stores and high-rise units, along with a much smaller club, all in what is now a small local commercial village. The development will see hordes of delivery trucks sharing the road in the mornings with schoolchildren from Clovelly Public School, which is surely a recipe for disaster. Adding a large supermarket to a neighbourhood shopping village makes things worse. The road infrastructure in the area will not cope with the new traffic, increasing congestion and demand for on-street parking.

The proposal flouts the planning restrictions in the area, with the front of the building exceeding current restrictions by 7.5 metres, the middle of the building doubling the current height restriction, and the building more than doubling the allowable floor space ratio. It is about as out of the character for the area as one can get, and it causes far more problems than it solves. Make no mistake about it—the developer is not swooping in to save the day for the RSL by buying the site and developing it. It is no saviour. This is Bronte, which is one of the most sought-after areas in Sydney in which to live. One could build a garden shed in Bronte and sell it for a million bucks. This proposal is about maximising profits, without any regard for the amenity of the community or, indeed, the local RSL. The development is so egregious that a grassroots campaign has sprung up to oppose

it. I commend the campaign's coordinator, Dr Stephen Lightfoot, for his efforts in organising opposition to this monstrosity.

The second development of concern lies further south in my electorate, at the Inglis Newmarket Stables in Randwick. If one thought the Bronte RSL proposal was bad, one should see what is in store for the Inglis site. It involves rezoning a five-hectare site currently used for the iconic Inglis Newmarket Stables to permit a range of dwellings, shops and offices. It sounds nice until one realises that we are talking about buildings up to 30 metres tall, nine-storey towers with 800 new dwellings. The site is in the middle of a heritage conservation area, listed by Randwick City Council. Add this to the fact that no frequent public transport runs past or near the site, and one has a recipe for parking pressure and congestion in an area that is already well over capacity.

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The proposal provides almost half the number of car parking spots required by the current Development Control Plan. In a letter to me one of my constituents said:

[this development is a] grotesquely inappropriate and overblown proposal which will cram literally thousands more people into what is already the most densely populated urban area in the whole of Australia with the obvious sole justification being the enormous profits that those selling the site and those developing it plan to make as a result.

The ambiguous plans for the site also have not assisted the community in understanding how things will change. This deliberate obfuscation belies the transparency that should be an integral part of the planning and major development process. Of course, this transparency was eroded by the previous Labor Government, which was the architect of the infamous part 3A laws and whose Ministers introduced a level of planning system corruption never before seen in this country. This culture has led to developers thinking it is okay to come in to communities and build extravagant, inappropriate, profit-seeking monstrosities and then flog them off as quickly as possible, leaving the ruins behind for the communities to pick up.

Both sites have the potential to see great development that will benefit the community, but I guarantee that these two applications do not fit the bill. For these developers, consulting with the community to achieve greater outcomes is anathema. Far from doing this in consultation thus far, the developers cynically and disingenuously made minor amendments to the proposals just so they could say that they had changed. Make no mistake: Had this Government not been elected in 2011, these applications would have been signed off under the notorious part 3A by a Labor planning Minister. [*Time expired.*]

### ORGANISED DOG FIGHTING

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS** (Hawkesbury—Parliamentary Secretary) [6.01 p.m.]: I inform the House this evening of some disturbing occurrences in the Hawkesbury area. It has been widely reported in the *Hawkesbury Gazette*, the *Rouse Hill Times* and the *Daily Telegraph*, and on the *Alan Jones Breakfast Show*, the Steve Price program on 2GB, and by Dicko and Sarah on radio station 2UE that family dogs are being stolen from their owners' backyards for use in illegal dogfighting activities. Dogfighting is an abhorrent and cruel activity, and it has been reported that family dogs are being stolen to blood ferocious animals in training to fight other vicious dogs. This heinous activity is nothing less than sickening and anyone involved should be jailed. Talkback radio programs have been inundated with calls from residents across the north-west of Sydney, as has my office, complaining of dogs being stolen from their backyards in recent weeks. Indeed, one 2GB program assistant notified Alan Jones that when they were walking recently through the streets of the inner west, someone asked whether they had seen a Staffordshire bull terrier as it had been stolen from their backyard.

Apparently Staffies are the dog of choice for this grotesque behaviour, but several other lesser-known breeds have also gone missing from Londonderry, Box Hill, Nelson, south Windsor, Riverstone and Doonside in the past four weeks and disappeared without trace. Family dogs do not just go missing, especially in large numbers as has been reported. From time to time our pets may wander and, sadly, some will be involved in traffic accidents. However, large numbers of loving family dogs just do not go missing without a trace. Social media has been abuzz with claims of six dogs taken just days ago from a single street in Nelson, in Sydney's north-west. Nelson adjoins Rouse Hill, which gives members some idea of how close to Sydney metropolitan areas this abhorrent behaviour has reached. It now appears that more than 20 dogs in the immediate Hawkesbury area have gone missing, presumed stolen. Far too many dogs are reported missing for this to be considered a coincidence.

This is not the first time the suggestion of organised dogfighting rings has reared its ugly head in Hawkesbury's semirural areas. When a dog disappears one can usually assume that it has escaped and run away;