

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20 May 2014

The **SPEAKER (Hon. M.J. Atkinson)** took the chair at 11:01 and read prayers.

The SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land upon which this parliament is assembled and the custodians of the sacred lands of our state.

Bills

SUPPLY BILL 2014

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Automotive Transformation) (11:02): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act for the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Account for the financial year ending on 30 June 2015. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Automotive Transformation) (11:03): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

A Supply Bill will be necessary for the first three months of the 2014-15 financial year until the Budget has passed through the parliamentary stages and the Appropriation Bill 2014 receives assent.

In the absence of special arrangements in the form of the Supply Acts, there would be no parliamentary authority for expenditure between the commencement of the new financial year and the date on which assent is given to the main Appropriation Bill.

The amount being sought under this Bill is \$3,941 million.

Explanation of Clauses

Clause 1 is formal.

Clause 2 provides relevant definitions.

Clause 3 provides for the appropriation of up to \$3,941 million.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Gardner.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 8 May 2014.)

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (11:04): Mr Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise in support of this motion, and may I add my voice to the congratulations on your election to the speakership. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate all newly elected members and, indeed, all members, to this the 53rd Parliament.

Although it is an honour and a privilege to be addressing the chamber for the very first time, I would of course prefer to be addressing it from the benches facing me. The words of Dr Barney McCusker, a great community member and orthopaedic surgeon, keep coming back to me: 'Winning

the election, Troy, just gives you a place at the starting line. Do not think you have won the race; the race has not even begun yet.'

In getting me to the starting line of parliament, there are many who deserve recognition and thanks beyond my presence here today. I stand here due to the support and dedication of many and, as witness to that, the number of people who have travelled from Mount Gambier to be with me here today is outstanding, and I thank them. The most important, who are in the gallery today, are my family, and I acknowledge and thank them for their support over the last 12 months. Campaigning takes its toll on the entire family, not just the candidate.

I wish to confer my congratulations to the Governor, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, for opening the 53rd Parliament of South Australia and for his speech outlining the government's objectives over the next four years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the service of the previous member for Mount Gambier, Mr Don Pegler. Don has served our community with distinction, not just over the last four years here in parliament but for over 20 years as mayor and councillor of the Grant district council. As a country MP, there are many sacrifices that need to be made and, unfortunately, time away from family and friends is often the hardest. Don, on behalf of the electorate, I thank you for your service.

I wish to begin this speech by thanking the electors of Mount Gambier and the confidence they have shown in me. It has been 17 years since a Liberal member last represented the electorate, and that member was Harold Allison, who, by the way, is the only Liberal to have represented the electorate in parliament. Like me, Harold was also a schoolteacher and, although he was the first and only Liberal member, he served with distinction for over 22 years. I can only hope to achieve the same professionalism and longevity that he did.

The electorate of Mount Gambier is a beautiful part of South Australia. It boasts many attractions, including the famous Blue Lake, a thriving progressive community with a large range of shopping and entertainment, as well as rugged coastlines and rich agricultural lands based on volcanic soils. It extends from Tarpeena in the north, which is predominantly based around the timber industry, through the City of Mount Gambier and into rich agricultural and viticultural areas, such as Kongorong, Allendale and Caroline Hills, ending with the largest rock lobster fleet in South Australia—that being Port MacDonnell and Carpenter Rocks.

The City of Mount Gambier is the largest regional centre outside Adelaide, and the productive capacity of the region is rich and diverse. Forestry, agriculture, viticulture, tourism and fishing are all major employers and exporters for the region. With a renewed focus, these areas have the potential to contribute even further to the state's economy.

A maiden speech is traditionally a chance to focus on one's path to parliament, a chance to articulate what is important to them and their electorate, and some of the objectives that they hope to achieve. My path to this chamber has been different from some who currently sit here today and those who have sat here before us. I did not study politics at university, I did not come from a union, nor did I work for a member of parliament or a political party. My path has been through family experiences, family business, life experiences, taking risks, employing South Australians and being employed in South Australia. These experiences are what have moulded me into the person I am today and the values and beliefs that I now hold.

Undoubtedly, my greatest inspiration comes from my wife, who has had a profound effect and impact on my life. We met as young adults in our early years at university and have been a team ever since. We have travelled together, travelled apart, done the long-distance relationship, bought our first house together, started our first business together and started our family together. It is my wife whom I thank for keeping me grounded, putting things into perspective, and reminding me what is important and what is not.

I remember coming home after a Liberal Party meeting, pretty excited and positive, because we had been working on a strategy and it was starting to fall into place. My wife listened like she does, provided her feedback and advice like she often does, then looked at me and said, 'That's all very nice; now let's work on our family strategy.' I am a very fortunate man to have found a partner in life who is not just my wife but my best friend, business partner and an amazing mother to our three children, who are here today—Joirdan, Jackson and Bridie.

I am the eldest of three children, coming from a loving family with humble beginnings. My parents are here today and I think it would be fair to say that life has certainly thrown many challenges and surprises our way. One of the biggest surprises, of course, is me standing here today, addressing you all in my maiden speech. Mum and dad made many sacrifices to get where we are. Building our first home was done entirely on weekends and after hours when they had finished their day jobs. I have memories of carrying what seemed like thousands of bricks. However, upon reflection, at the age of seven and eight, it probably was not the case. Perhaps it was only a hundred bricks or so.

My parents have worked hard to provide a good life for my two sisters and myself. My great-grandfather on my father's side first settled in the South-East in the 1900s and owned his own mobile sawmilling operation. His son—my grandfather—carried on the business and went to fight in the Second World War, both in Egypt and Papua New Guinea on the Kokoda Track. I had the privilege of walking that track with my father over five years ago and experienced just a small amount of the hardship our diggers would have endured. Many of them were young men barely out of their teens, and walking the track certainly gives you a deep appreciation of those who sacrificed so much in order for us to enjoy this wonderful country and democracy that we have here today. I am a great believer in the ANZAC spirit and a defender of its traditions.

My mother's father worked tirelessly to raise eight girls as a single parent, keeping food on the table and ensuring that they were all kept warm and safe. I learned the value of hard work from my mum and dad and, by the age of 12, had my first paid job delivering papers on my bike starting at 6am, six days a week. For those of you who have visited Mount Gambier during our winters, you will quickly appreciate that there were always job vacancies in the paper-round business.

In my first speech here today, I wish to formally recognise and acknowledge both my parents, who are sitting in the gallery, and the debt of gratitude that I owe them. My mum took on a second job so that I could further my studies in Adelaide, and I know firsthand how hard it is for country students to continue their studies away from their home towns and the impact this has both financially and socially on a family.

After university, my initial employment was as a teacher in Port Augusta. Port Augusta is a magnificent place with a supportive community and one where I developed fond memories and friendships. I had the pleasure of five years working there, which broadened my experiences and proved to me that this great state extends well beyond the CBD of Adelaide. After five years in Port Augusta and a backpacking adventure through Europe, I returned home to Mount Gambier.

In my professional career, I have worked with many talented and skilled principals, teachers and staff. I was privileged enough to witness a transformation of Mount Gambier High School under the leadership of Garry Costello who, with a dedicated staff, turned one of the state's poorest performing schools into one of the best. The thing that shone through more than any other was leadership. Empowering highly motivated school principals to make decisions and drive innovation is a critical component to increasing student performance.

The desire to run my own businesses eventually got the better of me, and I resigned from the education department to start a restaurant and bar in Mount Gambier. It was here that I came face to face with many of the issues that affect small business today and experienced firsthand the impact that excessive regulation and bureaucracy have on a small family-run business.

I remember the phone call I received from our accountant warning me we were about to incur payroll tax as a reward for growing our own business. So, what did we do? We stopped employing staff, reduced their hours and increased our own. Excessive regulation in applying for a change to a liquor licence saw us tied up in court for two years and thousands of dollars out of pocket for reports and legal fees. That was finally approved. Unfortunately, more time was spent on compliance in the business than actually working on the business.

Much of my professional life has revolved around working with young people and analysing the systems that are meant to support the next generation achieving their highest potential. All the research continually points to the quality of teacher as being the single most important thing when improving a young person's performance. This was certainly the case for me, and I have also heard in this chamber examples from other members' maiden speeches where a significant teacher inspired them to be more than they thought they could be. They challenged them to think in different ways, had high expectations and motivated them to enjoy learning and enjoy achieving. That is the system we need to strive for for every student in this state.

Nationally, 21 per cent of adults have a degree or higher education qualification. In South Australia, that is only 13 per cent. In the Limestone Coast, it is only 6.7 per cent. I concur with comments made by the former member for Mount Gambier in his maiden speech that:

We must build on courses offered locally, and for those who need to travel away to study, we must make it easier for them and their families to meet travel and accommodation costs. As a community, we must also show leadership and encourage young people to go on to further education.

I believe there must be more effort in establishing a strong regional tertiary education system. The positive effects of this are amply demonstrated by looking at Warrnambool in Victoria, just across the border from Mount Gambier, which has flourished with the establishment of Deakin University in that city. One such local opportunity lies in the building of the phenomenal success of Generations in Jazz, offering university qualifications that will attract students from across the globe into Mount Gambier under the guidance and tutelage of James Morrison.

In a very strange way, I need to thank the previous Labor treasurer and premier for me being here today. It was their decision to sell the South-East forests which spurred me to take a closer interest in politics. It was probably the underlying reason that I decided to join our local Liberal Party at a branch level.

The sale of the forests has had a devastating impact on the confidence of residents in the South-East. As Mick Malthouse says, if he could bottle just one thing and give it to his players, it would be confidence. Good teams lose when they lose it, and ordinary teams win when they find it. The lack of genuine consultation and coming hot on the heels of the global financial crisis saw the region's confidence plummet. The community was concerned that the sale would lead to massive exports, job losses and a reduction in fire services, which would put our entire community at risk.

Nearly two years after the sale, we are now starting to see the effects. Exports through the port of Portland are at record levels and increasing. Local mill operators have spoken to me about the difficulty in sourcing raw product, and although the industry is very buoyant, it is based at the moment on an export market. The ForestrySA board have now made recommendations to the government that up to 100 jobs need to go in the South-East.

Although it is not evident at the moment, any reduction in fire services will put our entire electorate at risk, because people need to understand that we are entirely surrounded by forest. It is important that the government understands these fears and we work together to restore confidence in the timber industry. Industry requires leadership, commitment and stability to ensure forestry remains a major financial contributor and local employer to the South-East.

Tourism is an industry that has underperformed in the South-East for some time now. We lack a local tourism body to promote and continue to grow the tourism experience in our region. I will be throwing my full support behind developing a new tourism body for the region. National events, such as Generations in Jazz, the Mount Gambier hill climb, Autofest and BMX championships, are all growing steadily, but with assistance could become even larger, benefiting the region and the state further.

Two weeks ago we saw the Generations in Jazz festival in Mount Gambier. This is a major event for South Australia and the region. I was pleased that the Deputy Speaker, the member for Florey, was in attendance and can attest to such a significant event. Over 5,000 people attend this event and people need to realise that in the jazz world Generations in Jazz is what Tamworth is to country and western. It is the largest event of its kind outside America and needs to attract major event status.

On the tourism theme, over six million people travel the Great Ocean Road each year, and Mount Gambier's proximity to this means we are sitting on a great tourism opportunity. Our tourism strategy needs to be markedly different from that of Adelaide. I look over the border to Warrnambool and I see a regional hub in a city of similar size to Mount Gambier, serving a region of similar size, yet that is where the comparisons end. The Victorian government has invested heavily in their regions and as a result they have grown and flourished.

In the field of mental health, Warrnambool has seven resident psychiatrists—seven. We have none. It is an embarrassment that our region cannot establish a significantly similar service. Our mental health problems are just as real and just as prevalent. A lack of mental health service also

affects many other service providers such as police, corrections, Families SA, law practitioners, the courts system and the general community.

Currently, residents from the South-East are required to travel to Adelaide to undergo many treatments that should and could be offered in a regional city the size of Mount Gambier. This lack of service puts pressure on metropolitan facilities as well as being a drain on systems like the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme. Doctor shortages and the lack of specialists require much needed attention.

One of the key issues arising from my electorate during the campaign was the need to install traffic lights at the Wireless Road and Penola Road intersection. This notorious intersection is currently rated by the RAA as the most dangerous intersection in country South Australia. I was proud that the state Liberal Party committed to fund a solution to that issue.

Another contentious issue that arose during the campaign was unconventional gas, or fracking. I stand here not as an opponent to mining but as a member representing a constituency which is very concerned about the impact of this activity in our region, particularly the effect that it could have on our valuable water resource. I will seek to protect our region's most valuable natural resource, that being water.

I read the other day an article entitled 'What would Sir Thomas Playford do for South Australia today?' written by political editor Daniel Wills. At the end of Playford's era (some three decades), South Australia was an industrial powerhouse. Its economic output had increased tenfold. The article centred on the need for bold ideas and the unfairness of the electoral system at that time. These are the last two topics I would like to touch on in my maiden speech. I firmly believe our future lies in bold initiatives, but also in getting the cost structure right so that we are an attractive option for businesses wishing to operate in South Australia. Forestry, agriculture, fishing, tourism and higher education are key components of the South-East and with targeted investment could add significantly to the state's economy.

I would like to support comments made by the member for Davenport in his Address in Reply. If we are serious about governing for all South Australians, then we need to look seriously at how our electorate is structured and how our governments are returned. Don Dunstan marched on the steps of Parliament House, espousing a belief that one vote, one value was necessary to achieve electoral fairness. Let us not forget that it was a Liberal government under Steele Hall that changed the system in the pursuit of fairness.

I would argue that the current 'one vote, one value' principle should be refined further to mean 'one vote, one democratic or political value'. How can you have a system where over 60,000 of the two-party preferred vote is ignored, and those 60,000 electors have no say in who forms our government? How can we allow a system where 53 per cent of the two-party preferred vote does not deliver government? Dr Dean Jaensch in 1991 predicted that the Electoral Commission had been set an impossible task to achieve fairness, as described in the constitution: 23 years on he has been proven correct.

It is obvious to me that looking at the electoral maps, and all results from elections held this century, that only an ALP can form government with 50 per cent of the two-party preferred vote. In fact, at all elections in the 21st century, the figures show that only the ALP can form government with less than—and sometimes significantly less than—50 per cent of the two-party preferred vote.

This parliament urgently needs to look at our electoral system. Perhaps parliament should ask the Electoral Commission if they think the task given to them is impossible to achieve, based on the criteria they have been given.

In finishing, there are so many people to thank. I had not been involved in a state campaign before. I came to this one very green and very inexperienced. Most of my friends and family were not politically active and had no idea what they had got themselves into. I need to thank my campaign manager, Peter Bayley, and of course his partner Lynn Herriot, for my taking up so much of his time. We ran a 12-month campaign full-time, and Peter volunteered over 40 hours a week for the entire 12-month period, managed an office and kept a pretty novice candidate on the straight and narrow.

To Ashlyn Clark, who came on board and was immediately thrown in the deep end, I thank you as well. To the member for Dunstan and Leader of the Liberal Party: I thank you for the focus that you had on my region, the number of visits you made and your genuine support for regional

South Australia. I also thank you for the professional and personal advice you gave me throughout the campaign, having gone through one four years beforehand. The electorate of Mount Gambier certainly embraced you and are bitterly disappointed you are not the next premier of South Australia.

To Tony Pasin and Dale Howard: I thank them for their support on weekends and after hours. Having just gone through a federal campaign, their suggestions were invaluable. President Margaret Considine, and all members of the branch who kept it operational, even though we had not had a sitting member for 17 years—I thank you. To my SEC and branch for many dedicated hours, especially fundraising (and a particular mention to Nevin Lamont, who is here today, and has done an outstanding job as Treasurer over an extended period of time), I thank you.

To my political neighbour just in front of me, Mitch Williams: I thank him for his guidance and counsel over the last 15 months, as well as the many hundreds of houses we doorknocked. To Michelle Lensink, John Dawkins and David Ridgway, who visited the seat probably more than any other shadow ministers: I thank you. I thank all the shadow ministers who came down and supported me. Politics is a team sport, and it is tremendous to have the support of the entire team behind me for the campaign.

I thank Matt Brooke and Shane Mobbs for their strategic advice and coordinating a small army of volunteers to do mailouts, and achieving our target of 600 posters in one night. To Liam O'Neill and Alex Johnson, who volunteered their time willingly, and provided direction and support when needed, I thank you. A final mention to all those who contributed financially to my campaign. The support from the local community has been outstanding.

In closing, we must look after our regions. The statistics show that South Australia's regions are the economic powerhouse of this state. I represent a regional electorate. My metropolitan counterparts and electorates need to be further educated on the fact that this state does not end at the Tollgate, and that our farmers and producers in particular must be given the attention they deserve. I look forward to my time working here with my colleagues on both sides of the house to make South Australia a better place for all of us to live and enjoy. If we get it right now, then our children and their communities will experience the benefits for generations to come. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: The member for Torrens.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (11:31): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I congratulate you on your re-election to high office which, I note, you carry out with a degree of eloquence, a sense of, at times, the dramatic and often with the temperament of an old-style schoolmaster always in pursuit of the use of proper English. Congratulations also to the member for Florey on her elevation to Deputy Speaker—well deserved. Congratulations to all newly elected members, particularly those sitting on this side of the house: the member for Kurna, the member for Reynell, the member for Lee, the member for Elder, the member for Giles, the member for Napier and, in the other place, the Hon. Tung Ngo, whose tale of his journey to our shores and his achievements since are truly inspirational.

In supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I pay tribute to the wonderful role His Excellency the Governor, Kevin Scarce, and Mrs Liz Scarce play in our community. I welcome the opportunity to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land on which we stand—the Kurna people—and to pay my respects to their elders past and present as together we walk along the path of reconciliation.

Mr Speaker, parliamentary colleagues and family and friends in the gallery: in 2005, I gave my first speech in the Australian Senate. Today, I have the honour of addressing this house in the Parliament of South Australia as a newly elected member for the inner north-east seat of Torrens. My values and views have not changed, so what I said all those years ago remains relevant. My values were influenced by many people who have passed through my life and also by many experiences which are often left unspoken. Today, I seek your indulgence to reflect on some of these that have led me to this place.

In 1950, my grandparents on my father's side packed up a few of their most beloved belongings in suitcases and a wooden chest and, with their three children, boarded a ship and migrated from Europe to Australia, making South Australia their home. They left behind them family

and friends. They did so because they wanted a better future for themselves and for their children. They settled in South Australia, learned to speak, read and write English, all the time working hard to save to buy their own home. In 1955, as a family, they took the oath of Australian citizenship.

As a 17 year old, my father travelled Australia, finding work in a goldmine in Tennant Creek and then in Cloncurry on a cattle station as a station hand. Like many migrant families, they worked hard, saved and established their own business—a butcher shop in O'Connell Street, North Adelaide. Over the years, they opened other butcher shops. He also worked at the Gepps Cross abattoirs where he became a union delegate for the meat workers' union, worked his way up to the position of head export meat grader, became a public servant and, of course, joined the Public Service Association.

My parents married in 1957 and, by doing so, my father stepped outside family expectations by marrying not only an Australian woman but also one who was of the Church of England faith, not a Catholic. My mother, who is of Scottish heritage, grew up in Unley, where she attended Unley Primary School; she went on to be among the youngest to attend the Adelaide School of Art. Together, my parents built a house on the all-Australian quarter of an acre block, which was eventually home to their six children and an outside home to countless animals.

We pretty much had an idyllic childhood until the day our lives changed dramatically when our sister Michelle was knocked over by a car while crossing the road opposite our home. For months our parents sat vigil by her bedside, where she lay in a coma in the Adelaide Children's Hospital, while we sat and played night after night and weekend after weekend in the hospital's waiting rooms.

My sister was eventually moved to Estcourt House, where she was to spend the next five years; for those five years, we travelled the 20 kilometres during the week and every Sunday, bringing my sister home only for special occasions. When I was in year 7, Michelle died. Many marriages fail to survive the death of a child and, sadly, my parents' marriage was not to be the exception.

So, at a young age, I learnt how events over which you have no control up-end your life. I learnt also that there is a need to put in place systems that provide support for families in crisis, whether brought about by failing health, disability, isolation, divorce, single parenting, unemployment, educational disadvantage or the loss of a loved one.

Along with my brothers and sisters, I attended the local state primary school, where there was a diversity of cultural backgrounds. These were the days when the prevailing view was that children should be seen but not heard. I recall the students having a genuine issue they wanted to raise. One recess time, discussion led to a group of students deciding to have a sit-in or sit-out, as it was in this case, and not to return to the classroom until we could have the ear of the deputy principal—it was, after all, the early 1970s.

The deputy principal heard our concerns and our parents heard from him that afternoon about the action we had taken. My father, who is here today, did not respond the way I had expected. A union delegate he may have been, but I was grounded for the remainder of the term for my actions; in those days, the term was 13 weeks—a harsh consequence for an 11 year old. However, the issue of concern was resolved, some new friendships were made, and I managed to negotiate with my dad that netball be exempt from the grounding; so, in all, a reasonable outcome.

I followed my sister Toni to the local state high school, which was where I was on 11 November 1975 when one of my teachers, who was passing the classroom, stopped to tell me that the prime minister had been sacked. Although I loved English, the thought of sitting in a classroom when events were unfolding outside was unthinkable. Without a note of permission, I left the school grounds and caught a bus, heading home. On the way, I passed Russell's parents' place and saw his car parked there. An apprentice at the time, his union had called a stop-work meeting and the members had voted to go out in protest. We all sat around Russell's family kitchen table, with his mother, Pamela, who is here today, and his late father, Kevin, a waterside worker, listening to the ABC report on the unprecedented action of the governor-general in dismissing the elected prime minister of the day.

At the completion of high school, I was one of thousands who benefited from the Whitlam government's policy of broadening access to the tertiary education system. The government's abolition of tuition fees and the introduction of the means-tested tertiary education scheme enabled

many in our community to access higher education. The reduction of the financial disincentives on students recognised the importance of a tertiary education for those who had the ability and wanted to embark down that path. It was a system by which some in this chamber, on both sides, benefited, along with the thousands around the country who today hold high public office and the position of CEO in government, corporate and private enterprise, as well as those who are leaders in their profession.

Access to higher education should be for all those who have ability, not just for those who can afford it. Without the initiatives of the Whitlam Labor government, tertiary education would have been beyond my reach as, coming from a large family, even with my part-time job, we just would not have been able to afford it. Education really is a window to the world and through education comes knowledge and opportunity and all people should have the opportunity to access good quality education at all levels as children, as youth and as adults to enable them to develop and fully realise their potential throughout their lifetime.

On leaving school I studied to be a teacher. I chose teaching as a career because it is where I thought I could make a difference; where I could impact in a positive way on the lives of others. So, at the age of 20 I began my teaching career and also became a member of the South Australian Institute of Teachers, now known as the Australian Education Union. I soon learnt that teachers commit to their students in providing the best education possible, often against an adverse background of social, physical and time obstacles. It was at this time that I began to mix with people who shared similar ideas and who worked together towards common goals. For me, that was to work towards achieving a society in which there is justice, fairness and equality, where there is access to support services for those who need them, and an education system that delivers for all.

In my 21st year I joined and became actively involved in the Australian Labor Party. I enrolled in the newly accredited labour studies course at the Adelaide College of Advanced Education and was fortunate enough to have some great lecturers in Pat Wright and the late Graham Smith. I became the teachers union delegate at my school and was later elected to the teachers delegation of the United Trades and Labor Council.

Eight years on, sitting in the staff room of an Adelaide north-eastern suburbs school, I opened my letter of transfer from the state education department only to be notified that my new appointment would be at the very same state primary school I had attended as a child. I visited the school where I was assigned a year 7 class and I was also put in charge of the student representative council. Going through the list of students' names, many were familiar. I would be teaching the children of people I had been to school with. I had gone full circle and it was definitely time for a career change.

I had long believed in the importance of literacy levels being a barrier to opportunity for many, particularly for those in disadvantaged groups. With this as a catalyst I applied for and was successful in being granted a special secondment by the education department to the newly Murdoch-acquired South Australian daily newspaper, *The Advertiser*. With the support of newspaper editors and the education department, I developed a number of education initiatives targeting those in primary schools through to university years. In the evenings I attended the University of South Australia and, as my role in the media developed, I resigned from the education department to work full-time for the newspaper.

I joined the Australian Journalists Association, which now forms part of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance. As a member of the house committee I became involved in issues affecting our daily working lives. Seven years after starting at the newspaper, and with encouragement from my journalist colleagues and the leadership of the union, I filled the journalist industrial officer vacancy in the South Australian and Northern Territory branch of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

Within a short time I was elected as the branch assistant secretary and then branch secretary, representing the professional and industrial interests of my members. In fact, members opposite may be surprised to learn that one of their own was a member of my union and even assisted members during an industrial lockout. I quote in part from a valedictory speech given by Senator Cory Bernardi on my departure from the Senate:

Senator Wortley also had the esteemed position of leading a union of which I was once a member. This will horrify those on that side, but in a very short-lived acting career I joined the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance for a week I think. I made it to the cutting room floor and I once saw myself on German television. That was the extent of

my career there. I actually owned a pub next to where Senator Wortley worked. *The Advertiser* went on strike. The workers were out the back in the lane on strike boycotting everything. In true sympathy with the people who used to patronise my business I took out hot pizzas to ensure that they were happy and healthy while they were going about their strike, hoping that they would get thirsty and come in and buy a drink. A few of them did. One particularly militant ...communist—that is the only way I can describe him...—came in and started giving me a lecture about taking advantage of the workers and saying that I should close my pub in sympathy with them, and things like that. I took umbrage at this because I was only trying to help them and be a good humanitarian. I made sure that every pizza that went out after that had three times the amount of salt on it so they would get very thirsty. It was a very good day of business.

I heard no complaints about the salt, and little did publican Bernardi know that it was usual practice not to drink alcohol during a dispute, so for most soft drinks where the order of the day anyway. The many workers I represented over the 10 years came from a diversity of positions, from journalists, photographers, artists, camera operators, actors, theatrical technicians and members of our symphony orchestra, to cinema workers, event ticket sellers, workshop stage tradespeople and front-of-house workers. Whether they came through university, TAFE, a cadetship or on-the-job training, there is something they all had in common—a need to be valued for their contribution in the workplace, rewarded by a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, and fair and equitable working conditions.

They wanted a workplace free of bullying, intimidation and discrimination in which employment was secure and where family-friendly conditions, including paid holidays and sick leave, were guaranteed; a workplace in which employees were adequately compensated for overtime and shift work; and where they had reasonable notice of their rostered hours; a workplace in which employees have the right to bargain collectively for decent wages and conditions; and a workplace where employees could not be unfairly dismissed. These are still fair and reasonable expectations for workers in Australia today.

On this occasion I continue also to acknowledge the important role of a diverse media and a healthy democracy. The Australian media has an important role in our society and, in my role as secretary of the alliance and having sat on the University of South Australia Journalism Advisory Panel, I am familiar with the demands on working journalists. I listened for 10 years to journalists' concerns as the world they knew changed significantly, seeing the impact it had on jobs as they moved from bi-media to tri-media newsrooms and then to online journalism and single camera crews.

Australia currently ranks 28th of 180 countries on the World Press Freedom Index. There is room for improvement. We need to guard and protect the freedom of our media in this country; that is why I spoke in support of the Evidence Amendment (Journalists' Privilege) Bill 2010 which introduced protections known as shield laws. They foster freedom of the press and ensure better access to information for the Australian public. It is vital that journalists can obtain information so that they can accurately inform the Australian public. As Nelson Mandela stated, 'A critical, independent, investigative press is the lifeblood of any democracy.'

It is imperative, too, that the Australian media behaves honourably and responsibly in its pursuit of truth and its dedication to informing the public. Those who abide by journalists' ethics are doing their profession and our democracy a great service. I encourage the more experienced journalists to mentor the younger and inexperienced journalists working among them in the significance of their role. I urge them to take the time to do this because their knowledge and understanding will be of benefit to all journalists in this country. They should never lose sight of their role nor let their standards drop and they should proceed with great caution when they find themselves creating the news rather than reporting it. The lines between commentary, opinion and news reporting should not blur.

As I have previously said, it is without doubt that the 24/7 news cycle brought about mainly by new technology is a huge challenge for journalists in their day-to-day working lives, and it is a big challenge for many of us here, too. We are dealing with a minute-by-minute news cycle and it brings enormous pressure. It is an important part of democracy to keep the public well informed, but despite the incredible time pressures faced by the media, these demands should be met while upholding the Australian journalists' code of ethics.

With the increasing pressure to produce an endless supply of stories, there are some aspects of journalism that must never be compromised. These include ensuring that the best journalistic practices prevail and that journalists keep sight of the ethical goalposts in their day-to-day operations, however speedily their work must be delivered. I acknowledge that it may be a big ask, and at a time

of enormous change in the profession, but quality journalism must prevail. We must look after the institution, the fourth estate.

It is always disappointing to witness situations in which some members of the media create stories or focus on irrelevant information on which to base a story. I also understand that it may not be of their choosing, but rather that they are simply following a directive. I urge journalists never to take for granted the huge responsibility that is bestowed upon them. I have defended their role for over two decades now, and I will continue to be an avid supporter of excellence in journalism. While I may not always like what they say, while these principles and the code are adhered to, I will continue to defend their right to say it.

Finally, on the issue of media, I remain passionate about adequate funding for our national broadcaster the ABC. This, and maintaining its independence free of commercial advertising, as well as ensuring the continuation of a staff-elected representative on the board, is vitally important. For South Australia, the ABC and regional newsrooms, with local journalists and camera crews and a fair share of production, is a reasonable expectation, and I encourage members on both sides of this chamber to have their voice heard on this matter.

In 2004 I was elected as a senator for South Australia. It was an honour to serve for six years in that position and to be a member of the Labor government that: introduced the apology to the Stolen Generations; saw the biggest ever increase in the aged pension; delivered the first ever paid parental leave scheme; introduced bills to address inequality of rights and entitlements across our community and address discrimination on the basis of sexuality; appointed Australia's first female Governor-General; had as its leader Australia's first female prime minister; delivered legislation which strengthened protection against sexual discrimination and harassment based on age; and that overturned the Howard government's WorkChoices.

It was in this role that I pursued, with determination, the establishment of the federal parliament's Joint Select Committee on Cyber-Safety, which I had the privilege of chairing for 13 months, delivering the report 'High-Wire Act: Cyber-Safety and the Young' in my final week in parliament. The committee inquired into the online environment in which Australian children engage, and included threats of abuse of children with a focus on cyber bullying, cyberstalking and sexual grooming.

A total of 34,000 young Australians between the ages of five and 17 participated in the committee's online survey, the biggest in the world on young people and cyber safety. There were three round tables with industry, academics, law enforcement agencies, non-government organisations, parents and professional bodies, and seven public hearings. I will, in my new role in this place, pursue the implementation of recommendations and initiatives that will make our children and young people safe online.

This leads me to a topic that has been raised in many forms over the years and one that, sadly, visits many homes: the issue of bullying, not only online (which can occur 24/7) but also face to face. Bullying affects not only the victim but also their friends and families; it affects family life. It is, however, not only young children or the young who are subject to bullying; it is a daily occurrence in many workplaces. I have witnessed it, and have represented workers who were victims of it. The cost socially, emotionally and economically is enormous and results in missed days from schools and the workplace.

In Australia today White Ribbon Day has gained momentum. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge that the wearer does not excuse violence against women and is committed to supporting community action and attitudinal and behavioural change to stop violence by men against women—hence, inspiring social change. It is having a significant effect.

While there are programs in schools to address the issue of bullying, and also legislation that goes some way to addressing it in the workplace, much more is required. In the way that for generations domestic violence was not spoken about by its victims, so too many victims of bullying maintain their silence.

We have, since 2011, had a national day of action against bullying and violence initiated by education ministers in Australia—a step in the right direction. However, it needs to be extended to include the whole community. We should not keep silent about it in the workplace, in our schools or

in our communities. There is much more that needs to be done to address this issue and I intend to speak further about it in some detail at a later date.

The 13th of February 2008 was a significant date in Australia when the parliament finally delivered the long overdue apology to the stolen generations of Aboriginal people. We should not forget the intent of the words spoken by the prime minister, Kevin Rudd. These words were only the beginning of the long process of reconciliation. There is much still to be done and it is my view that here in the state Parliament of South Australia we are in a position, through decisions that we make, to advance the process of reconciliation with our indigenous peoples, as well as go some way towards helping reduce the gap in life expectancy, educational outcomes and other areas.

This leads me to another apology at which I was present. It was made in this parliament on 18 July 2012 by the Premier, Jay Weatherill. There is no greater gift a mother can give her child than her love and the knowledge of her love. Tragically, tens of thousands of single young Australian women were deliberately denied this right when they had their babies forcibly taken from them. They lived each day knowing that their baby was out there somewhere growing up without them by their side. Through years of forced adoption practices in Australia, there are women—some who have gone on to have other children, some who have never known the pleasures of raising their own child and those for whom the pain was so unbearable that they ended their own lives.

Sadly and shamefully, it is a dark part of our history that until recent times has been tucked away in a corner and heard by only a few. The loss of a child is not compensated for by the birth of another and so these women have endured a lifetime of pain, often alone with no-one they felt they could reach out to, their sense of loss and implied guilt a part of their waking hours. Recognising this, and the injustice, was a step towards their healing. I remind you of some of what was said by the Premier on this momentous occasion:

We accept with profound sorrow that many mothers did not give informed consent to the adoption of their children. To those people who were disbelieved for so long, we hear you now; we acknowledge your pain, and we offer you our unreserved and sincere regret and sorrow for those injustices.

South Australia became the second state to offer that apology. Eight months later on 21 March 2013, prime minister Julia Gillard made an apology in the federal parliament. Her words in part read:

To you the mothers who were betrayed by a system that gave you no choice and subjected you to manipulation, mistreatment and malpractice, we apologise. We say sorry to you, the mothers who were denied knowledge of your rights, which meant you could not provide informed consent. You were given false assurances. You were forced to endure the coercion and brutality of practices that were unethical, dishonest and in many cases illegal. For the loss, the grief, the disempowerment, the stigmatisation and the guilt, we say sorry.

The apologies by Premier Weatherill and Prime Minister Gillard were the result of recommendations from a senate inquiry into forced adoptions that handed down its report in 2012. Since that time, I have had the privilege and the trust of many of these women, some of whom are only now coming to terms with the fact that what happened to them was not their fault. I have met with them and heard their stories. I am pleased that two of those women, Kathy and Roz, are able to be with us today. The government continues to fund post-adoption support services, and while in this place I will work towards the establishment of a memorial event and advocate for a memorial site of remembrance for the mothers and their children.

There are many more issues I would like to raise, in this my first speech in this place, but they will have to be dealt with as opportunities arise. To hold government is what we all aspire to and work towards in the Australian Labor Party; to deliver on our policies, and to be able to facilitate fairness and equality of opportunity for all in our community. We live in a great state, and today I welcome the opportunity to be a member of the Weatherill Labor government, a government that is prepared to invest in our health system and build a state-of-the-art hospital equipped with technology to serve us today and into the future.

It is not only a government that understands that education is a window to the world, but one that is prepared to open that window; a government which has vision and which understands the importance of manufacturing to this state and one that also understands the devastation felt by Holden workers and knows the importance of having a job that delivers a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, and what that means to a family. It is a government which has delivered the biggest ever investment in public transport, a world-leading medical research institute, and the new, world-class Adelaide Oval.

As a member of this government, the decisions I make in this parliament will be made in the best interests of the people in my electorate of Torrens and of South Australia. The electorate of Torrens is a diverse one, with people of many cultural and ethnic backgrounds settled here, and new citizens regularly arriving from around the globe. It has a strong and vibrant community group sector and some of the most passionate sporting clubs I have encountered anywhere, and important social and learning hubs, such as the North East Community House, Wandana Community Centre and the Hillcrest Community Centre.

Torrens is also home to the excellent Windsor Gardens Vocational College, which aims to motivate and guide young people as they follow their chosen education, training and employment pathways. Some of the students at Windsor Gardens Vocational College are part of the Wiltja program in which young people come to study from lands in the far north-west of South Australia. The Wiltja School offers secondary education from years 8 to 12 to students normally attending remote schools in the Aboriginal lands districts and also Yalata and Oak Valley.

Students board at the Wiltja residence at Northgate, where they participate in a comprehensive recreation program, and I would like to commend the program for its important role in life education, with a strong focus on literacy. Indeed, it has been a great pleasure to further current relationships with groups and individuals in the area, and I also acknowledge the great work done by the Northfield Meals on Wheels volunteers based in Oakden. I look forward to sharing with the house more about the wonderful groups and individuals in my electorate in coming sessions.

And now to my 'thank you's': to the people of Torrens who put their confidence in the South Australian Labor Party and voted for me to be their representative in this parliament, and also to those who did not, I will be there for you in this role as your representative in the parliament of South Australia. To my predecessor, the former member for Torrens, Robyn Geraghty, who was so supportive of my candidacy and who is here today: I recall your preselection, the campaign, and doorknocking with you in the now familiar streets. Robyn, you served the electorate so well for the past 19 years and 11 months. Your tireless dedication to the community and to ensuring a 'fair go' for those you represented is truly legendary. Your work in Torrens and the high regard both you and your late husband, Bob, are held in the community is testament to this. I wish you well and much happiness in the years ahead. It is what you deserve.

It takes the support of many, not just at the time of preselection, but throughout life, to arrive at this place, so I begin by acknowledging my wonderful parents: my late mother, Janice, and my father, Johnny, for their contributions and sacrifices over the years; my mother-in-law, Pamela, who has done so much for us with her continued support and for always being there, and also my late father-in-law, Kevin; the South Australian branch of the Australian Labor Party, in particular state secretary Reggie Martin, who really was the anchor of the ship when the swells were rising in what at times were stormy seas; and also to Wasim, whose assistance was invaluable.

I thank the honourable Gerry Kandelaars for your continued contribution to the campaign, your time and effort to help ensure Torrens remained safe in Labor hands; and to Glenys and her mum, Evelyn: thank you. My thanks also to Bob Donnelly, Jason Wilder and John Adley from the CEPU; John Camillo from the AMWU; Ray Wyatt, Anne and Dannie from the TWU; Deb Black and Jason Hall from the FSU; Peter Malinauskas, Sonia Romeo and Aemon Bourke from the SDA; and Senator Alex Gallacher and Paola.

Special thanks go to Kevin and Trudee; Paul, Lucy and Carene; Grant and Wendy; Samela and Bruce; Angel and Cale; Toni and Kyle; Johanna, Ingrid, Joan, Ben, Amelia, Suzie, Trude, Rex, and to Maggie and Scarlett for being there at the end of the long days. Also to Andre, often with Elise and Brielle in tow, who must have delivered to every letterbox in Torrens. Suzanne, you are an amazingly generous person and I am truly grateful to you for your dedication and support. Peter, your time, patience, expertise and good humour were invaluable and truly appreciated. The member for Croydon, I thank you for your advice and support.

My thanks also to the Torrens ALP sub-branch members, in particular Matthew for his footwork and for coordinating many of the volunteers; to Harold, who really is 80 years young and, along with Merv, still out there holding up ladders, letterboxing and enveloping; to Trevor, for your time and all that you did; and to Judy, and Judy's dear husband, Hans, who was there throughout the campaign, one of life's true gentlemen, who sadly passed away last week. To each of you and

all of the other branch members who contributed to the campaign, and on election day at polling booths, my sincere thanks.

I acknowledge the many community organisations and the volunteers who gave me their support, and I will speak about them in detail on other occasions when time permits me to do them justice. To Lisa, thank you for coming back on board, and I look forward to working with you again.

To my beautiful boy, Che', sitting up there with 11 stitches in your forehead from yet another sporting accident and still smiling, for your support and enthusiasm, your endless hours of letterboxing, computer skills, enveloping, staying up late and getting up early to letterbox, setting up polling booths, hours of campaign training, putting up and taking down corflutes, and handing out how-to-vote cards, for your very honest and valued opinion on everything and your good humour—even when I refused to write a note saying that your English assignment was not finished because you were campaigning for your mother all weekend—I thank you. You were eight years old when I began my term in the Senate and 14 at the time of my valedictory speech in which I said:

So tonight, Che', I make you this promise: whatever I do in the future, my base will be in Adelaide and I will be there most nights for the next five years to oversee your homework.

Now, with only two years to go, I am on track for keeping that promise. To Russell, my closest friend, my partner from high school days, ditto with Che', and for your endless hours of support throughout the campaign and over the years, for your love, hard work, commitment and your encouragement, for always being there and for caring, I thank you. I thank the chamber.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Ms REDMOND (Heysen) (12:09): It is a let-down, I suppose, for everyone after a couple of wonderful maiden speeches. They are always so much more interesting than the rest of us, who are simply doing addresses in reply. I begin, Mr Speaker, by congratulating you on your re-elevation to the high office of Speaker of the parliament and congratulate the member for Florey on her elevation to the position of Deputy Speaker. Those newer members, of course, would not remember the days when you and I, Mr Speaker, used to spend many long hours in this chamber, with not many other people present, while we debated not only the efficacy of various bits of legislation but also the correct grammar one should use when extolling the virtues or otherwise of that legislation. I certainly hope that we get the chance to do that sort of thing again in the future but, while you are in that office, I expect not.

Can I also begin by acknowledging the wonderful work done by Governor Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and his wife. She has had a couple of acknowledgements in addresses in reply but I think it needs to be pointed out that the Governor's wife, Liz, does an enormous amount of work and is patron of literally hundreds of associations, just like the Governor. Between them, they have done this state proud in the work that they have undertaken, both in their patronage of various organisations (and it is a role they take seriously in every one of those organisations for which they are patrons) and also in the enormous amount of charity work and, in the Governor's case in particular, the work he has done with the defence industry in this state. They are now drawing to the close of their long term as Governor and Governor's wife in this state, but I do want to congratulate them on the work they have done.

Can I also, at the outset, thank a number of people, particularly the people of Heysen, who did me the great honour of re-electing me for a fourth term at the 2014 election. What is more, they did it so nicely that I did not even have to go to preferences in the count, so I was very pleased with that. It is a wonderful electorate. I always think it is the most beautiful part of South Australia, being up in the Adelaide Hills. My electorate stretches, basically, from Crafers down to Clarendon, and from Hahndorf and the outskirts of Mount Barker down around Strathalbyn and surrounds. It is about 1,000 square kilometres and 23 separate communities, and each of those communities has a different heart and a different group of people, and it is a wonderful privilege to travel around that wonderful area and engage with the wonderful people who live and work there. They are very community-minded and, really, it is a great privilege to be their representative in this place.

I also take a moment to thank my family and, particularly, my three children who, like all children of parliamentarians, did not ask for a role in politics. They are now well and truly adults and have left home. My eldest son Matt and his wife Tegan, my second son Noah and my daughter Vanessa have continued to provide me with a great deal of support. Primarily, I think their support

comes in the form of making sure their mother keeps her feet well and truly on the ground, and they never let me get above my station, no matter what role I might play in other parts of my life.

They will never forgive me, for instance, for the fact that on radio one day, in answer to a question about what I was proudest of in my achievements, I said that, first, I was proudest of having raised three reasonably decent young adults. They will never forgive me for qualifying the word 'decent' with the word 'reasonably', which they remind me of—of which they remind me (sorry, Mr Speaker)—on a regular basis.

I also thank my former husband Jim for the support that he continues to give. We remain good friends and I am really indebted to him for the fact that he has been a wonderful ongoing support and, indeed, was out on election day campaigning for me.

Can I also acknowledge my staff, in particular Gaynor, who has now been with me for 20 years, right through the days of running my own legal practice in Stirling and through my entire parliamentary journey, and Nick, who came on board in the first year that I was elected to this place and has now, therefore, taken long service leave. We have had a number of trainees through the time. At the moment, it is Amelia, who is a lovely young lass, and I am pleased to say that pretty much all the trainees we have had have gone on to get very good jobs and been very good employees elsewhere. I just think it is a shame that the system does not allow us to keep them for longer.

Can I also thank the wonderful members of the Liberal Party up in Heysen, who have been such an enormous support to me over the whole time that I have been both campaigning prior to my original election and throughout the 12 years that I have now been in this place. I do not want to go through lots and lots of names, but in particular I would like to mention Chris Zanker, the former president of my SEC, and Bryan Reid, who has most recently just retired as the head of my SEC. Both those gentlemen put in an enormous amount of effort. One other person I do want to mention is Barb Evans, who has done an enormous amount not just for me but for prior members of the Heysen electorate. She has been an enormous support over many, many years. I apologise to all the others I have not mentioned, but I think there is a great risk in mentioning too many people because there will be people who are left out.

In embarking on my comments by way of a reply to the Governor's address I wish to say, of course, that the comments in no way reflect upon my high regard for the Governor but note that his speech is actually written either by the Premier or someone on the Premier's behalf, although delivered by the Governor, and as such my comments are really in response to the statements of the government at the reopening of this parliament. The very first comment to be made is about the outcome of the election.

The constitutional requirements in this state require that our boundaries be redrawn after each election so that not only do each of the 47 seats that make up this place have roughly the same number of electors but in theory whichever side wins more than 50 per cent of the two-party preferred vote will indeed win government. The 2014 election outcome was by no means the first; indeed, I understand it was the fourth time that this requirement has not been met.

I do openly criticise the Boundaries Commission on the last occasion. I believe we should have appealed against the previous Boundaries Commission outcome because of the comments that they made, which were utterly appealable, because they took into consideration or, rather, justified their position by saying things which were absolutely irrelevant to their consideration. They had a job to do and they failed to do it, as is evidenced by the outcome of the election, and I think it was utterly hopeless, and that, combined with the person that I consider to be an utterly corrupt electoral commissioner, I think is just a shame for this state.

When the leader gave his Address in Reply he referred to it being a disappointment and used the phrase from the T.S. Eliot poem, from about 1921 or 1922, *The Hollow Men*, 'not with a bang but a whimper'. I suggest that the word I would like to apply to the government's comments at the opening of this parliament is 'delusional', because this government continues to make unbelievable statements about their intentions, given the situation in which this government over a period of 12 years of utter mismanagement has managed to place us. The one bright side to this election outcome that I see is that the chickens will come home to roost this term. This was indeed the election that the Labor Party needed to lose because the chickens would have come home to roost under our watch, but now they will come home to them.

When I look at the Governor's speech there is a reference to a recommitment to the seven strategic priorities previously announced by the Premier. The reason, of course, that there needs to be a recommitment is that the government has not achieved any of those strategic priorities. The very first one of those is an affordable place to live. The fact is that this state is indeed becoming more and more affordable, and that is because more and more people are leaving because there are fewer and fewer jobs in this state. As jobs disappear and the economy is depressed this state does become more affordable compared to all the other mainland cities precisely because of this government's failure.

Their next idea is to create a vibrant city. Well, I do not know if anybody has tried walking through Rundle Mall recently, but this state should be ashamed of the way our city has developed most recently. Between this government and the Adelaide City Council we are creating a less and less vibrant and inviting city. Indeed, I had the pleasure of seeing Wil Anderson when he was here during the Festival, and there was no doubt that Rundle Mall and what the government and the Adelaide City Council have done to that have made us a laughing-stock.

Clearly, the government has not talked to any restaurateurs, as I have, because they tell me that they cannot afford to open on public holidays. Just in the last month, retail sales in South Australia fell. Nationally, retail sales increased and even in Tasmania retail sales increased, but in this state retail sales fell by 0.8 per cent.

I will not even begin to comment on biplanes and car parking taxes. I will leave those for a separate occasion, perhaps to do a grievance on each of those. The next dot point in the government's recommitment to its priorities is: every chance for every child. We only need to look at the events which led to the Debelle inquiry last year where a young child was raped and the minister at the time, who is now our Premier, was apparently not told about it. Mind you, one was reminded of the term, 'But Brutus is an honourable man', from Julius Caesar. But anyway, the Premier was not told about that.

More important, I think, is the complete failure to advise parents at that particular institution that this had occurred. When I gave evidence to the inquiry I suggested to Mr Debelle that it would have been highly unlikely that the perpetrator had done nothing in his life prior to that event and then went straight from doing nothing to the actual rape of an eight year old. On the basis that that should have been considered highly likely, there should have been consideration of the fact that other incidents had likely occurred involving other children and that parents had a right to know, but clearly that did not happen.

More broadly, on the issue of every chance for every child, if we are going to give every chance to every child one might think that a focus on providing a good education would be a good starting point. Instead, we are below the national average in 19 out of 20 areas now tested by NAPLAN and there is, apparently, on the part of this government, no intention to do anything about that. It certainly has no scheme to address how it is that we have slipped to be at the bottom in 19 out of 20 of these areas.

They also ask for safe communities and healthy neighbourhoods but clearly that depends very much on where you live. Whilst they do point to a decrease in overall crime figures, there is rarely an acknowledgement that most of the prime figures include issues to do with self-protection. Businesses often employ their own security guards, people now have locks on their cars that make them less vulnerable to theft and people put their own security on their houses, and when you take all of that into account then, yes, you do get a lowering of crime statistics, but in fact on most of the issues violent crime has increased under this government's watch.

The next re-commitment is to growing advanced manufacturing. I think we have a huge potential in this state to grow manufacturing. If we look at places like Hills (and the Premier made an announcement with Hills in the last sitting week) and Codan, not many people around the state would realise, when you look at those UN vehicles all around the world and you see that big black box with the great big wavy aerial on the front, that is actually manufactured in Campbelltown in the member for Morialta's electorate. That company also makes more metal detectors than anyone else in the world: a successful story from South Australia.

Osmoflo, in the northern suburbs of Burton, is not well known in this state or around Australia but it is well known throughout the Middle East because it makes, in situ (and puts into containers in situ and ships overseas), reverse osmosis desalination plants that are used in all the mining areas

throughout the Middle East. Seeley, Frank Seeley and his wife are two heroes of this state. To have developed an air conditioning system that uses 80 per cent less power is extraordinary.

Maptek, in Conyngham Street, Glenside, has developed things that are used mostly in mining, where they can stop having to have people out there with all the bits and pieces. They can come into a room like this and within minutes provide a three-dimensional map, down to the detail of the pearls around my neck, for use in mining and other areas. The point is that those things are so sophisticated that their technology was used to help rescue the miners in Chile who were trapped so far underground. It was South Australian technology from Maptek in Conyngham Street that managed to help those people.

How can any business survive in this state where they are trying to compete, but they are facing higher costs and taxes than in any other state? Of course, the Premier does not really acknowledge that his government proclaimed that the future of Holden was secure when, in fact, it was never going to be secure, and he knew it. He proclaimed that it was going to be secure and promised all sorts of money. He made a very solemn promise that it was going to be secure. They have not really done much on that side of the house to grow advanced manufacturing in this state. They certainly have not helped businesses to thrive in this state, imposing high taxes on them, but they want us to believe that, in spite of 12 years of failure, they are now somehow going to go into growing an advanced manufacturing sector.

As for the benefits of the mining boom, which is the next dot point, what mining boom? The Premier, through the Governor, did at least in his speech have the level of honesty to acknowledge that the BHP Olympic Dam project expansion did not go ahead. It would be a bit hard not to concede that. He could hardly deny it, but he does not acknowledge that this government put all their eggs in that basket, and the bet did not pay off. As I said, the consequences will be coming home to roost while this government is in power. They will now reap the consequences.

The next recommitment by this government is to the premium food and wine industry from our clean environment. It is almost an evangelical conversion, as though the Premier and his government have suddenly realised that the economy of this state has always been heavily reliant on our agricultural and horticultural sector. Indeed, later in the speech they even refer to the fact that outside the metropolitan Adelaide area contains only 20 per cent of the population but provides more than 50 per cent of the overseas exports. At last this government seems to realise that, yes, there is life beyond Gepps Cross and the tollgate, and I hope that the Premier and others on that side took note of the wonderful comments by the member for Mount Gambier in his maiden speech, because he made some very strong points about that area.

The speech at the opening of parliament, delivered by the Governor, goes on using the sort of sleight of hand that has become a hallmark of this government and of this Premier in particular. For instance, he refers to a new-found confidence in this state. The reality is that it is quite the opposite. Again, the member for Mount Gambier referred to the plummeting of confidence in the area of Mount Gambier after the government's decision to sell the forests in the South-East.

If he goes up to Elizabeth, I am sure the Premier would find that there is not a new-found confidence up there because of the closure of Holden. In fact, if he goes anywhere outside of metropolitan Adelaide he would find that there is not any confidence. Indeed, in going around metropolitan Adelaide and talking to numerous businesses, I find that there is a palpable lack of confidence. It is the absolute opposite of what the Premier asserts: there is a palpable lack of confidence.

The Governor's speech then goes on to talk about \$3.4 billion in infrastructure projects, 19 of them privately funded. Of course, no detail is provided about that and the vast bulk are either not yet underway or they are government projects that we cannot afford and have no plan as to how we will pay for them.

The speech also refers to: 'helping to attract an unprecedented number of visitors to our state'. Of course, there is no information given on that bald assertion and I would challenge the Premier to actually show us where and when these people—these unprecedented numbers of people—are coming to our state.

Our share of the international visitor market continues to decline, and, what's more, our share of interstate visitors is not actually going up. We know that from a tourism point of view, interstate

and intrastate visitors are where most of our tourism comes from, but, instead of making Adelaide a city which is amenable, this government plans to introduce a car parking tax to make it a less likely place that people will come to visit.

Similarly, the speech contains an assertion that the number of international students has surged, but when you read the detail you will note that the comparison is to the 2002 figure, not, say, the 2008 figure. I suggest that, in fact, there is a reason for that. The reason is that there are in fact far fewer students in this state now from international sources than there were in 2008. One thing in the speech that I do agree with is the statement made in the middle of page 5:

Our economy depends heavily on our capacity to retain our brightest minds and attract talented professionals from interstate and overseas. But they need more than a great place to live—they need a great job.

I absolutely agree with that sentiment; it is just a shame that it is never going to happen under a Weatherill Labor government. Their answer, instead, is to create a new bureaucracy. And then there is the Jobs Accelerator Fund. I have a suggestion to make to the Premier: if you want to accelerate jobs growth, get the impediments out of the way, like the big bureaucracies and the high taxes. Get those out of the way and you might make a beginning on establishing some jobs in this state. The government says it is going to 'intensify...collaboration between business, government and academia'—if Mr Speaker was still here instead of Deputy Speaker—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is listening, member for Heysen.

Ms REDMOND: —I would point out that in fact it should be 'among', since there are three, not two, but 'between business, government and academia' is the way it is referred to in the speech. The government suggests there is going to be innovation, but they do not say how or what, and they suggest that the Public Service is to become 'bold' and 'innovative'—and to go where no man has gone before. They commit to an 'outward looking approach'. What a lot of weasel words. That is this government's great plan to save the sinking ship that is the state of South Australia.

We get on eventually to WorkCover, and they say that they want it work 'effectively for both workers and employers', but, in fact, WorkCover in this state has long been the worst work cover system in the nation; it has higher premiums by far than any other system in the nation, and a lower return-to-work rate than any other system in the nation. It is an utter failure, but, nevertheless, the government recommits to fixing this. I seem to recall some previous attempts by this government to fix it.

I want to touch briefly on the 'paddock to plate' for the Department of Primary Industries that the government now suddenly espouses to. This state once led the nation in research, but this government has had a long-term aim, now likely to be realised, of selling off places like the Lenswood and Flaxley research centres. I do not know whether it has occurred to them, but we are not going to be able to compete with companies overseas, and indeed with countries overseas, in terms of labour costs. That is a large part of why we cannot compete in the car industry, but it also applies in agriculture.

To give but one small example: the cherry industry (which happens to mostly be up in the Hills, in my electorate and the member for Kavel's electorate). The cherry industry is never going to compete with Chile, for instance, which is where most of the world's cherries come from, because we are never going to compete with the cost of labour from that country. So, how can we compete in this agricultural sector? The means by which we do that is by creating a bigger, fleshier cherry.

The Lenswood Agricultural Research Centre spent 16 years developing three new species of cherries—I think they were Sir Hans, Sir Douglas and Dame Nancy, named after Sir Hans Heysen, after whom the Heysen electorate is named; Sir Douglas Mawson, another famous gentleman from South Australia; and Dame Nancy Butfield. They developed these wonderful cherries because the fact is that you will get international use and international markets for a development like that because they are much better than the cherries that are coming out of countries where all they have is cheap labour.

But this government has chosen to ignore all of that and ignore all the history, and it is not just in cherries: it is in a whole range of things across the state, even in the seafood industry. This government just thinks that they will somehow magically improve our agricultural outcomes but, at the same time, they deplete the resources available to research centres and indeed they then fail to actually develop what we need to compete in a world market. One other thing I want to touch on—

and it is referred to on page 15 of the Governor's speech—is mental health for individuals, schools and businesses. The Governor's speech states:

Our efforts will focus on building wellbeing, resilience and mental health for individuals, schools, and businesses—particularly those adversely affected by the changes taking place to our economy.

The fact is that unless they fix the economy, they are never going to fix those issues, but what they have done is create a new bureaucracy. The government is going to establish a new independent mental health commission to better coordinate and integrate services critical to South Australians who suffer from mental illness.

Dr Jonathan Phillips—the person appointed by this government to head their mental health department, who was brought in from New South Wales—strongly recommended against the closure of Glenside and profoundly supported its retention, we being the only city that has a good mental health facility just on the edge of the city. No other city could boast that. He strongly supported it, and he wrote to say that he supported it after he had gone back to New South Wales in frustration with this government. But, no; this government decided to put the film and television people in there and spent, I think, \$51 million so that Mike Rann could have a wonderful opening of that new facility.

This government's priorities were wrong when they came into office in 2002 and they remained wrong through the elections in 2006 and 2010. We won more than 50 per cent of the vote in 2010. We won even more of the vote in 2014, yet this government has managed to stay in office. It is a sad thing for South Australia that we, at the moment, face another four years of the incompetence of a government led by someone who continues to make bold promises but delivers nothing for the benefit of this state except increasing bureaucracy, increasing taxes, increasing interference with people's lives and a complete failure to see that we need to improve our education outcomes, our employment, our access and our ability to engage with the rest of the state. Until this government wakes up to these facts, it will continue to be an utter failure of a government.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before calling the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, I would like to welcome to our visitors' gallery today students from the One Tree Hill Primary School and their teacher, who are guests of the member for Napier. We hope they enjoy their time with us here in parliament today. Minister.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption resumed.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (12:38): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and I would like to begin by congratulating you on your election to this high office that you have achieved. Well done, indeed. I would like to begin today by thanking my 22,000 bosses, the people of Mawson, who every four years get to decide who it is they want to employ to come into this place and work hard for them. It was a very interesting election. There were a lot of people once again who voted Labor for the first time in their lives, and these are not 18 and 20 year olds. These are people in their 50s, 60s and 70s who told me in the lead-up to the election, and then after the election, that they had given me their vote and it was the first time in their lives they had voted Labor.

It is a tremendous thing to go out and continue to work hard for everyone and prove to people that you will go in to bat for your local area and for the individuals, companies and sporting organisations in that area. To those who did not vote for me, I will be working just as hard for you as I work for everyone else, but to those who did vote for me, thank you for putting your faith in me for a further four years and I give you this promise that I will not let you down. I will be out there working just as hard for the next four years as I have for the past eight years.

Of course, individuals do not win elections; they need mighty teams behind them. To everyone who volunteered to hand out on the day, to put up posters and to help in other ways so that we could have a victory in Mawson, I say thank you and extend my deepest gratitude—in

particular, to Kerry Treuel and Katherine Baldock who did so much, not just in the few weeks of the campaign, but over several years to work with the people of Mawson and to help me spread myself as widely as I have across the 249 square kilometres of the electorate.

To Ruth, to Marg, to Pauline, to Lee, to David and to other people who helped out from a work point of view, my sincere thanks, and to my sisters, Jacinta and Toni, who came from interstate on election day with their husbands to help hand out. It was a great family involvement, and family is one of the areas where I guess all of us make sacrifices. We sacrifice time with them to be with our electorates and to carry out our responsibilities as members of this place, so it was tremendous to spend some time with them after not catching up for so long.

My son, Conor, who is a keen follower of politics (he has just turned 16), right from when he was five or six he was always out there coming up with good ideas on how you would win elections. I remember in that first campaign (he was about six back in 2004), he thought it would be a good idea if I swapped my roof sign for Robert Brokenshire's roof sign and then did some hoon driving so that Robert would get the blame—he was always very imaginative, right from the age of six. Conor is a great kid, and you can just see the passion he puts into it and the feeling he has not just for the political contest but for the idea of doing the right thing by people wherever they are and whatever their circumstances. I am a very proud father of a son who cares so much for others.

I have some additional responsibilities now. Last year, I was Minister for Tourism and Minister for Recreation And Sport; now I add to that the ministries of agriculture, food and fisheries; forests; and also racing, and I will be giving every ounce of my time and energy to all those portfolios. I want to let the other 46 members of this place know that I am there to work side by side with each and every one of you. It does not matter what political party you are from, we will work closely together because working together is how we achieve great things for all our regions.

I have already caught up with the member for Chaffey in the Riverland. We talked about fruit fly and biosecurity and what we need to do to protect the region up there. Tomorrow we will be launching the citrus campaign, encouraging all South Australians to buy South Australian oranges. Again, it is very important that we not only protect the industries but also promote them. I have always had a good working relationship with the member for Chaffey. We were on the grain handling committee together, and I think we can get a lot more done working together than necessarily being in conflict. There will be times when we obviously have disagreements, but by and large if we can work together that would be a great thing.

The member for Mount Gambier has proved to be a very good person to work with. I spent six or seven days down in the South-East about two weeks after I was elected. I rang the member for Mount Gambier; we had about 45 minutes on the phone and discussed a whole range of issues. When I got down there, we had a one hour one-on-one meeting. I had asked him to get a group of people together who might be able to work on major events for the South-East, so we had a group of businesspeople around the table and we spent an hour together. I think that is what we need to do: wherever possible, we all need to put our political differences aside and just work together for the common good.

Tourism, agriculture, forestry—they are all really important industries for South Australia. Certainly, my ambition is to be out and about in the regions as much as possible, and already I have spent time around the Wirrabara forests where they were devastated with the bushfires and subsequent floods earlier this year.

We need to look at what is happening in the future up there. The member for Stuart has been very good in his discussions with me. On Friday we will be going up together and touring the forest, talking to the beekeepers and the people who run the mill up there about what they would like to see in future for their area after circumstances beyond anyone's control have been thrust upon them. The member for Stuart and I hope also to head up into the pastoral country later in June to talk with farmers up there who have been afflicted by drought, to see what it is that we as the government could be doing.

I also want to work cooperatively with the federal government. I attended my first agriculture ministers meeting about three weeks ago and was pleased with my discussions with the federal minister, Barnaby Joyce, and his willingness to work with South Australia across a range of different issues. Of course, we are trying to work together with the federal government to get more money for drought assistance. We have probably between a dozen and 15 farmers up in the pastoral country

who need some assistance. I have spoken with a few of them, and we will work with the federal government on getting some relief for them.

We also talked about biosecurity, because biosecurity is something that is so vital for South Australia. We have some of the oldest grapevines in the world, thanks to politicians and people involved in the wine industry going back to the mid to late 1800s. They showed foresight in setting up the phylloxera board to bring an act of parliament in to make sure that we are vigilant on what comes into our state from other states and other countries.

I pay tribute to those who went before us 150 years ago and had that foresight, but I also pay tribute to each and every person who is involved in the wine industry—they know just how devastating phylloxera would be to this state—for their vigilance and to people who are moving machinery backwards and forwards across the border, whether it be down on the Limestone Coast or up in the Riverland area, for maintaining that vigilance and keeping South Australia phylloxera free, because it is worth so much. I am not sure that many South Australians have an idea of just how devastating it would be if phylloxera made it into South Australia.

Fruit fly is another area. South Australia is the only mainland state to be free of fruit fly. We are putting millions of dollars into making sure that happens, but we also need to work with our neighbours. I had a very good meeting with the Victorian minister for agriculture ahead of the federal agricultural meeting and when we discussed it and went around the table, it was really heartening to hear that most agriculture ministers put biosecurity at the very top of their priorities.

Things that we should be grateful that we do not have here, but for which we make a financial contribution on behalf of the taxpayers, are things like the imported fire ant. They have wreaked devastation in the USA, where people cannot have picnics any more and sporting clubs have to close down because of infestations. They have been in Brisbane and other parts of Queensland for about a decade, but they have been largely contained to there. It would be easy for states to sit back and say, 'Well, why should we contribute money into someone else's problem?' The reason we do that is that while it is someone else's problem, we do not want it to be our problem, so we all need to work together. I congratulate the Queensland government for the enormous effort that they have put into that.

Last week I was in Shanghai at a big food conference, and it was terrific to have South Australian companies there, such as Bickford's, Tucker's and some of the tuna and seafood providers from over on the West Coast, from Port Lincoln. They are selling their fine food products. Food manufacturing is an area that has been growing year on year for the past 17 years and it is something that is extremely important to our economy. The interesting thing was that 50,000 people came through the SIAL food expo last week and with everyone that we spoke to then, and at the dinner that night with the Shanghai government officials and other food buyers, we talked about the premium food from our clean environment.

It is easy for certain people to mock that, but it is a major selling point for us. To be able to stand there and talk about 18 months ago, when the new government came in in China and named food safety as one of its main priorities—a year after we had declared it as one of our top priorities—is actually a very nice coincidence. This massive Chinese market is after food that is safe. What South Australia does best is provide safe food. So, that is a great selling point for us and one that went down very well.

The other thing the Chinese were very keen and happy to hear about was the fact that South Australia is the only mainland state where it is prohibited to grow GM crops. They see that as additional back-up to our claim of having the cleanest sea, the cleanest soils and cleanest air anywhere in the world. They see that that political involvement by our government is extremely valuable.

The food, wine and forestry industries—agribusiness—generates approximately \$18.8 billion for our economy, and about one in five people throughout the state are employed in it. It is vitally important that the government gives every bit of support it can right around this great state for people who are in this sector, because it is the main constant we have had in our economy and in our society for so many years.

When we look at the carpet in this place we see the bunches of grapes and the wheat; we do not see other sectors of our economy represented in that carpet. It is a lovely reminder for

everyone in this place, from whichever electorate they come and whoever they represent, that we all depend on the things we grow and the things to which we value add, just as do these companies I saw in China last week.

It is important for these primary producers to be out there doing their thing, but also important for us to be there side by side with them in marketing and implementing government policies that will benefit them and benefit our marketing of their products, along with research and development as well. The member for Heysen mentioned the research into cherries and how we need to be competing with Chile. We are trying to get away from competing with other states in research because the member for Heysen is correct: we are indeed competing with other countries.

There are some areas in which we are doing the research—in fisheries, for example—and helping out the Victorians and they are doing research in other areas, because together as 'team Australia' we will have a much better chance of competing against the rest of the world than having five or six competitions going on within our country.

South Australia's wine industry generated \$1.8 billion in revenue last year—again a very important sector. It is good to have the members for Schubert and Chaffey here, both of whom represent some very fine wine making and wine growing areas, along with the member for Heysen.

On Saturday I was in Hong Kong talking with a businessman who has paid \$70 million to buy into a milk company in Australia. They have their headquarters in Victoria, but they employ 100 people in Jervois and Murray Bridge, manufacturing milk products, mainly cheese, for export and also for the domestic market. It was terrific to be able to pick up the phone and talk to the member for Hammond ahead of that meeting to get an on-the-ground view of how he saw the situation. It was very reassuring to speak to this businessman. Instead of cutting jobs they actually think they can drive more growth in their plants at Jervois and Murray Bridge and can increase the number of jobs. Again that is something that is very important to us as a government, to create more jobs right throughout the million square kilometres of this great state.

In terms of tourism, I was at Cairns last Wednesday at the Australian Tourism Exchange, and was really interested to hear that all these buyers from right around the world were here to talk to South Australian tourism operators about bringing more tourists to South Australia, and the feedback was terrific.

Two years ago, everyone was sort of a bit down in the dumps because the global economic crisis had really taken its toll, but we saw last year, with 13.1 per cent more international visitors coming into Adelaide, that the tide is turning. We have been working extremely hard as a government with the private sector and with the Adelaide Airport. We now have 14,500 international airline seats coming into Adelaide each week—

Ms Redmond: Empty, but they are coming in.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: —which is 3,000 more than our target for 2020 was.

Ms Redmond: Always refer to seats, not bums on seats.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The member for Heysen interjects from out of her place. I just heard her speech and it was so full of negativity. I actually think that this is a place where we should be talking up South Australia. There are so many good things happening. You want to shake your head and guffaw at the claims that 13.1 per cent more international visitors came to Adelaide last year than did the year before.

Ms Redmond: Yes, because we started from the lowest base.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Heysen!

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: They are ABS stats. We have 80 per cent more international airline seats coming into Adelaide than we had just two years ago.

Ms Redmond: Empty seats.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Back to your spot.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We have actually worked extremely hard to do that and for you to talk down the tourism industry is actually a disservice to the people who do a lot of hard work, both

in the government sector and in the private sector. The tourism sector is worth \$5 billion a year to us in South Australia. We want to grow that to \$8 billion by 2020, and we will do that by working together, shoulder to shoulder, with the private sector.

Ms Redmond interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just remind the member for Heysen: you have had a ruling on audible sighs, and I don't want to have to refer you to the Speaker.

An honourable member: I am sure her eyebrows were raised too.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it's the laugh.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: If only it were sighs, Deputy Speaker; it is actually worse than that. It is actually someone who just wants to be the glass half empty person attacking an industry. I just spoke to 100—

Ms Redmond interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Heysen! And I ask the minister to refer to his debate.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The member for Heysen might do well to get out and talk to people in the tourism industry. This morning, I addressed 100 tourism operators across the road at a meeting where they were sitting down with our tourism representatives from Europe, from North America and from throughout Asia and actually working on ways that we can sell South Australia even further into other parts of the world. There were 100 people there, and they were optimistic about where we are headed. They have had a great past 12 months, and we are looking to grow the sector with them.

In terms of recreation and sport and racing, last night, I was with the peak bodies of about 70 sports from across South Australia, talking about the \$10 million that we have put into recreation and sport already this year and talking about the \$50 vouchers that we will be giving to primary school children so that their parents and their families can better afford to have their children participate in club sport. So, as a government, we are doing a tremendous amount in the recreation and sport sector.

We are putting \$7.5 million into a motorsport complex at Taillem Bend. We are working with the grassroots sports right through to the elite sports. If you look at the Adelaide Oval, \$0.5 billion was spent but we are seeing that being repaid already with increased tourist numbers to South Australia, with people who support AFL clubs from other states coming here to watch their team play against Port Adelaide or the Adelaide Crows. There is some very well-placed government assistance being provided right across the board from small bowls clubs, hockey clubs and netball clubs right through to the elite level.

I think we have got the balance right, but we will continue to work with the recreation, sport and racing sectors to make sure that everyone in South Australia is a winner across all these sectors. We do not want to leave anyone behind, so, if it is agriculture, food, fisheries, forestry, tourism, recreation and sport or racing, I give this pledge: we will be travelling throughout the state as much as possible in the next four years to listen to what it is that people want, to help work with them to grow their industries and their community groups and, where needed, to come in here and change the rules to give them added assistance.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.R. Kenyon.

[Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00]

Opening of Parliament

COMMISSION OF OATHS

The SPEAKER: I report that I have received from the Governor a commission under the hand of His Excellency and the public seal of the state, dated 15 May, empowering me to administer the oath of allegiance or to receive the affirmation in lieu thereof necessary to be taken by members of the House of Assembly.

*Ministerial Statement***NYRSTAR**

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:02): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Today I am pleased to inform the house that the state government and Nyrstar have agreed to a significant financing commitment which will now allow us to secure the future operations of Nyrstar's Port Pirie smelter. It was pleasing last Friday to join the member for Frome and the Treasurer in Port Pirie to formalise this government's commitments with Nyrstar to ensure that this transformation can occur after so many years of uncertainty. The transformation project involves more than half a billion dollar investment, comprising:

- a direct contribution from Nyrstar of about \$103 million;
- Nyrstar will contribute a further \$120 million to be raised through a transaction for the forward sale of silver output from the redeveloped Nyrstar Port Pirie facility; and
- a \$291 million third-party funding package guaranteed by the commonwealth's Export Finance and Insurance Corporation, with risk underwritten by the South Australian government for a period of seven years.

As many of you would be aware, the government and Nyrstar have been in extensive negotiations for more than two years to enable this upgrade to occur. We took detailed advice from the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC), the Crown Solicitor's Office, an independent leading international commercial advisory firm, and health and environmental experts regarding this project and agreement. Based on this advice, we can be satisfied that:

- the technology involved in the transformation is proven and viable;
- without the government guarantee, Nyrstar would have been unlikely to raise the required capital to allow the project to proceed;
- the business case supporting the financial viability of the project is strong and subsequently the risk to the state government's guarantee being called upon is low;
- there are no legal barriers regarding the government entering into the agreement; and
- the transformation will allow the smelter to operate in a way which substantially reduces health and environmental issues.

This investment transforms the century-old smelter into a modern advanced metals processing and recovery facility. Works are expected to commence soon with the transformed facility in operation in 2016. Currently Nyrstar is one of the state's largest exporters and a major employer in regional South Australia.

Transforming the metals processing facility with modern, proven and best available smelting technology will enable it to have greater flexibility to respond to the global metal markets by processing a wider range of inputs, extracting and producing traditional as well as high value, in-demand metals. This allows us to secure a future for thousands of South Australian families and the many businesses that rely upon the smelter for their livelihood.

The investment will deliver significant environmental benefits. The reduced lead-in-air outcomes will reduce the health risk to young children. This outcome will be further enhanced by the Targeted Lead Abatement Program for Port Pirie that has been jointly developed by the South Australian government and Nyrstar. The 10-year \$50 million Targeted Lead Abatement Program will further improve the health of the people of Port Pirie.

This agreement shows that this government is committed to working with businesses and the community to secure long-term investment in our state. This agreement shows our commitment to the people of Port Pirie and our commitment to protecting jobs and our commitment to regional South Australia. I also seek leave to table an abridged version of the agreement between Nyrstar and the government of South Australia.

The SPEAKER: The Premier does not need leave.

FEDERAL BUDGET

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:06): I seek leave to make a further ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Last Tuesday night the federal Treasurer handed down his first budget under the Abbott Liberal Coalition government. As the Treasurer spoke and outlined his government's agenda I, like many people, was eager to hear what the changes would mean for ordinary South Australians. What unfolded was the most cruel and blatant ideological assault by the Liberal Party on the Australian way of life; a betrayal of our nation's core principle of fairness.

While cuts to Medicare, pensioners, the unemployed and working families were outlined, it would not be until after the budget speech was delivered that the most devastating cut would be uncovered. After receiving a preliminary briefing from our state's Treasurer, it was revealed the budget included an unprecedented assault on South Australian schools and hospitals and an attack on our federation as we know it.

The termination of national partnership agreements, particularly those with regard to health and education, will have a devastating impact on our state's capacity to deliver these vital services. These cuts, worth in the order of \$80 billion across Australia, equate to an impact of approximately \$5.5 billion in South Australia alone. The cuts to health in the year 2017-18 alone are the equivalent of nearly 600 beds or an entire Flinders Medical Centre. The cuts to our education system equate to approximately \$1,200 per student across 2018-19 or nearly 3,000 teachers. These cuts will be felt in the electorates of all members of this house.

The termination of these agreements was forced upon the states with no consultation despite all state and territory leaders coming together for a meeting of the Council of Australian Governments on Friday 2 May—11 days before the budget was handed down. Whilst on budget night our own opposition leader heaped praise on the Abbott government's cruel budget, the response from Liberal premiers was considerably more forthright.

In speaking with the Queensland Premier, Campbell Newman, on Wednesday, I proposed that state and territory leaders should meet to discuss our response to these cuts. Last Sunday I, along with the premiers of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania and the chief ministers of the ACT and the Northern Territory, met to confirm our opposition to this federal budget. At this meeting the Council for the Australian Federation resolved as follows:

1. CAF expressed grave concern that, contrary to the Prime Minister's remarks, there are immediate impacts on frontline services and cost of living for Australians.
2. CAF rejects the proposed \$80 billion of cuts to health and education, highlighting the massive impact on front-line services for all Australians and the significant impact on fiscal sustainability of all states and territories.
3. We called for an urgent COAG meeting to address these concerns before 1 July.
4. We agreed that the white papers on the reform of the federation must be accelerated and progressed as a true partnership with the states and territories.

In just 41 days South Australians, whether they reside in Adelaide or the regions, whether they are young or old, will feel the impact of this cruel federal budget. I went into the recent state election vowing to stand up to the Abbott government in the interests of all South Australians. That is exactly what I intended to do in warning that these cuts were on the way. South Australians are cynical of secret audit commission processes used by those who seek to hide their true agenda.

Today I advise the house that I have written to all federal senators, asking them to consider the consequences that will be met by ordinary South Australians for the sake of implementing the Liberal Party ideology. I condemn the Abbott government's federal budget and the termination of these national partnership agreements and I ask all members of this house to join me in the campaign to resist these cuts.

*Parliamentary Procedure***PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Planning (Hon. J.R. Rau)—

Development Plan Amendment—Alexandrina Council—Port Elliot West Community Policy Area Report

Response by the Minister—90th Report—Natural Resources Committee—Bushfire Preparedness of Properties in Bushfire Risk Areas

By the Minister for Health (Hon. J.J. Snelling)—

Lifetime Support Authority of South Australia—Lifetime Support Scheme Rules pursuant to Motor Vehicles Accidents (Lifetime Support Scheme) Act

Public Health Council, South Australian—Annual Report 2012-13

By the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Regulations made under the following Act—

National Gas (South Australia)—Civil Penalties—Conduct Provisions

By the Minister for Education and Child Development, on behalf of the Minister for Disabilities (Hon. A. Piccolo)—

Regulations made under the following Act—

Gaming Machines—Voluntary Pre-Commitment Code

By the Minister for Education and Child Development, on behalf of the Minister for Police (Hon. A. Piccolo)—

Australian Crime Commission, Board of—Annual Report 2012-13

By the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Hon. L.W.K. Bignell)—

Citrus Industry Development Board, South Australian—Winding Up Report

By the Minister for Ageing (Hon. Z.L. Bettison)—

Ageing, Office of the—Annual Report 2012-13

Retirement Villages Act 1987, Administration of—Annual Report 2012-13

Response by the Minister—Final Report—Select Committee into a Review of the Retirement Villages Act 1987

By the Minister for Education and Child Development, on behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services (Hon. A. Piccolo)—

Response by the Minister—90th Report—Natural Resources Committee—Bushfire Preparedness of Properties in Bushfire Risk Areas

*Question Time***MEMBER FOR FROME, GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT**

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13): My question is to the Premier. When did the Premier provide an assurance to the member for Frome that the state government would fully underwrite the upgrade of the Nyrstar facility at Port Pirie?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:14): The final decision about that was made as a government, after we had formed government, on the basis of all of the relevant advice and information. What I made clear to the member for Frome, just as I understand the Leader

of the Opposition did, was that he had our full support to ensure that we did all things necessary to ensure that this transformation project went ahead.

Naturally enough for the member for Frome, this was the most significant issue and a precondition to sitting down with anybody to talk about the formation of government—that they committed themselves fully to the notion of Nyrstar transforming its operations. I understand from the member for Frome that he received very similar assurances from both the Leader of the Opposition and myself about ensuring that we did all things necessary to ensure that this project was delivered.

Sadly, we were relying upon the remarks that were made by the federal government at the time. Indeed, the federal minister, Mr Robb, backed up by the then local member, Mr Ramsey, were waxing lyrical about how things were going swimmingly and how they were right in behind the Nyrstar deal, that it was going well, and that EFIC had signed off on it. In a very familiar scenario, what we have now observed is that the federal government has broken another agreement, meaning that the South Australian government has had to step into the breach—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —and we are proud to have done so, because not only have we secured the jobs of many thousands of South Australians in regional South Australia—we have not just saved those jobs—not only have we put ourselves in a position to save those jobs, but we have now ensured that there is a long-term future in prospect for this town. It is not just a short-term fix but a transformation project that will allow this particular facility to actually imagine a future for itself which is a long-term viable and sustainable future.

The other wonderful thing about it, and I know that the member for Frome shares this view, is that this part of South Australia—the southern Flinders—has for too long had a cloud over it, and it has been the emissions from the smelter. It is something that we need to lift not only in the interests of the health and wellbeing of the citizens and the natural environment but also to unlock the incredible tourism potential of the southern Flinders. Port Pirie should be the hub, should be essentially the gateway to the southern Flinders, but for too long it has had this stain associated with the emissions, and it's now in prospect that they can all be removed.

Mr MARSHALL: Supplementary sir.

The SPEAKER: Before the supplementary, the member for Hammond is called to order and warned a first time, the member for Heysen is called to order and warned a first time, the member for Finniss is called to order and warned a first time, the member for Morialta is called to order and warned a first time, the member for Chaffey is called to order, and the Treasurer is called to order.

An honourable member: Any more?

The SPEAKER: No, there was only one offence. The leader.

MEMBER FOR FROME, GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): Thank you sir. My question is to the member for Frome: can the member for Frome corroborate the Premier's answer that indeed he provided no assurance to the member for Frome that the state government would underwrite the Nyrstar upgrade prior to reforming government?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Mount Gambier is called to order for forced laughter. Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:18): You don't get away with misrepresenting my answer and then trying to put it to somebody else and seeing how they go. The member for Frome naturally enough wanted to satisfy himself that he was dealing with political parties who, should they ultimately form a government, would put themselves in a position to ensure that the Nyrstar transformation project would go ahead, and we did provide those assurances as a party. I know that you gave those assurances as a party because, frankly, the member for Frome made that a precondition for both of us sitting down and having discussions with him, and that was natural and entirely appropriate.

Mr Marshall: You said no assurances until after you formed government.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I'm not going to have you misrepresent me. The commitments that we made were made after we took the advice from the Crown Solicitor—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —from the Export, Finance and Insurance Corporation, from our own independent experts, from leading international commercial advisory firms, our own environmental advice, our own health advice, and the due deliberations of cabinet. That is when the binding arrangements were put in place by the State of South Australia in respect of these matters.

Mr MARSHALL: Supplementary, sir.

The SPEAKER: Before we have a further supplementary, the member for Heysen is warned for the second time. I am afraid, leader, you are called to order. The member for Hartley is called to order—so young—and the deputy leader is called to order. Second supplementary.

MEMBER FOR FROME, GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): My supplementary is to the Premier. For clarity, can you explain to the house whether that assurance and that advice that you received was either before or after you re-formed government?

The SPEAKER: After the Premier formed government, thank you.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:20): I don't quite follow the question, but let me take you through it again. The member for Frome wanted assurances about our level of commitment to the Nyrstar project. We said that we would put ourselves in a position, should we form government, to back this project. At that time, we were all labouring under the sad, I think, misconception that the federal Liberal government would keep its promises, and I think many of us are now realising that such a thing is a dangerous thing to rely upon—although I did contemplate the risk and I said I would put the South Australian government in a position, should we form a government, to ensure the project went ahead.

Of course, that did not bind the government. The government had to make its own decision once it was formed. We took all of that advice. As it happened, the judgement that I made at the time was the right one, because all of the advice, as we have set out in the ministerial statement, vindicated the judgement that I made that we could ultimately make that commitment.

The advice, just to remind you, and the ministerial statement sets it out, is that, but for the South Australian government commitment, Nyrstar would not be in a position to actually proceed with this project. That is the first step. Second advice: it was a strong business case, so that the guarantee, such that it is, is unlikely to be called upon. Third advice: this is technically and practically feasible. It is using proven technology; it is not a blue sky technology.

This is a technology which is known and which is going to likely deliver the results which are contended for on its behalf. Of course, finally, the environmental and health care risks associated with this investment are dramatically reduced. What needs to be remembered in all of these discussions is that before the election the federal government gave a commitment that they would back this project.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Before the election, November 2012. The federal government, through its agency EFIC, gave its commitment, and this raises very substantial questions of sovereign risk about a federal government that commits itself to a proposition and then backs out. It is something that we have come to know and experience from this federal government. I was happy, Mr Speaker, to apprise myself of the importance of this project for Port Pirie. I have actually travelled to Port Pirie three times in the last six months.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: How many times have you been to Port Pirie? Mr Speaker, I know a nice pizza shop where he can get a nice Hawaiian pizza next time he goes there. This project was on a positive trajectory. The federal government, opportunistically, decided to withdraw

from the project. We made a commitment that we would do all things necessary to secure the future of this project.

Another very important point, Mr Speaker, in the time that I have available, is that time was of the essence in relation to this project. We could not wait until the federal government had completed what seemed to be quite lengthy processes. It was always going to be necessary for the state government to at least take an initial step—

The SPEAKER: The Premier's time—

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I don't think so, sir.

The SPEAKER: —has expired.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I was watching the clock.

The SPEAKER: No; the big clock would give you 49 minutes to speak, but that's, alas, the total of question time.

Members interjecting:

Mr MARSHALL: Supplementary—

The SPEAKER: Leader, before we have a third supplementary, I have some sentencing to do. The member for Chaffey is warned for the first time and the member for Hammond is warned for the second and final time, as is the leader, and the Treasurer. The deputy leader is warned for the first time, the member for Mitchell is called to order, and the member for Morialta is warned for the second and final time. Third supplementary.

MEMBER FOR FROME, GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): My supplementary is to the Premier. Did the Premier or anybody in his office put any assurance that the state government would provide a full underwriting of this project to the member for Frome in writing, and, if so will the Premier table it?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:26): This has all been superseded by events. We did provide assurances to the member for Frome both verbally and in writing, just as we received in writing assurances from the federal government, through EFIC, on 30 November 2012 that they would underwrite this project. So, we were joint partners with the commonwealth and we had remarks during the election campaign—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier will be seated.

The Hon. I.F. Evans: If it's already underwritten why do you have to have it in writing?

The SPEAKER: The member for Davenport is called to order. The leader is on two warnings. I do not want to have to remove the Leader of the Opposition from the house, but I will if he moves his lips again out of order. The member for Chaffey's proposed solution that I not warn him is not viable. The Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I will say it again for those who did not hear it: we said that we would put ourselves in a position to ensure this project went ahead, and we take all the necessary steps to do that. There are a number of issues that at that stage we rated as a low risk, given that we had the letter from EFIC saying that the project was going to be supported by the federal government, and we had subsequent remarks, within days of those communications, from the federal minister, saying that it was on a positive trajectory. Notwithstanding that, there were questions raised about what if the federal government was not going to do this, which seemed like an unlikely risk, or, more importantly, and probably a more likely risk, what if they were not able to give the commitment in the relevant time?

Remember, sir, it is worth setting out some of the history of this project. As the project went on there were some changes in the scope. An acid plant was added to the project, which meant there was a much larger need for capital raising on the international capital markets. There was, when the

final due diligence was undertaken, a larger cost to the project. So, initially it was a \$385 million project that became a \$514 million project.

All of those things meant that there were certain delays in the process, but the company had been creating expectations in the investor community, for the purposes of raising the capital necessary to get this project underway, that it would be put out on a certain time line. There is a limit to how many times you can keep telling capital investors that this project is on its way before they begin to lose confidence in their capacity to actually put their money behind the project. So, time was of the essence, so the state government was concerned to ensure that it gave the relevant assurances to the member for Frome and, indeed, the company, when it came time, to ensure that we were able to get this project away.

What we did not expect—and I think is an outrage, frankly—is that opportunistically the federal government would say, 'Alright, just because you're stepping into the breach there to actually make sure this project doesn't fall over, we're actually going to walk away.' I am happy to drop the federal minister in it, because I had a discussion with the federal minister, in China, about this very question, and he was attracted to the idea of the South Australian government going first to actually make sure that this agreement was secured, to minimise any risk to the future of the project and that he would positively entertain the idea of EFIC coming in at a later point.

That is exactly the nature of the conversation we had, but when he went to see the Prime Minister he obviously got a different answer. I think that is shameful. I think the federal Liberal Party has abandoned Port Pirie, they have abandoned South Australia—and stop making excuses for them. Why don't you stand with us and actually criticise them? You should have been standing there with us at Port Pirie the other day. So should have been—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Premier—

An honourable member: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: I think I have the point of order. Premier, I should not have been standing there with them at Port Pirie: the opposition should have been. I take it that's your meaning.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I think that's true, sir. As much as you would have liked being in Port Pirie, with your great love of the Molfettese community there—

The SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —it's not really directed at you. The truth is we should have all been standing together—federal Liberal, state Liberal, state Labor—supporting this fantastic project for the future of our state.

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: Point of order.

Ms CHAPMAN: I seek your ruling on the tabling of a document by the Premier a few moments ago which, if I heard this correctly, he identified as an abridged agreement in support of the announcement that he made in a ministerial statement about Nyrstar and the government's finance arranging commitment. I would ask you to peruse the document that has been tabled—

The SPEAKER: Yes.

Ms CHAPMAN: —which, on my assessment, is not an agreement: it is a summary, a commentary of the government, of some of the terms of what is in the ministerial statement and not an abridged agreement, as indicated by the Premier.

The SPEAKER: I will read it and see if I need to say anything about it. Before I call the member for Elder, it is, of course, in order for ministers to answer questions about the effect on South Australia of the federal budget, but it is not in order for ministers to take responsibility to the house for the conduct of Her Majesty's state opposition. I trust they will bear that distinction in mind. The member for Elder.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (14:32): My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister inform the house about the effect of recent federal budget cuts on health in South Australia?

Mr Whetstone: Didn't you listen to the radio this morning?

The SPEAKER: Minister, be seated. The member for Chaffey is warned for the second time, and I should add that I should earlier have warned the member for Hartley for the first time and called the members for Stuart and Morphett to order. The Minister for Health.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Health Industries) (14:32): I thank the member for Elder for her question. She was, of course, previously a nurse and would have enormous concerns about what these cuts might mean for South Australia. Last week I held an emergency meeting of the state's health leaders following the savage cuts to health announced in the federal budget. This meeting included peak bodies representing doctors, nurses, paramedics and health consumers.

We examined the impact of these cuts and discussed how the state's health system could be expected to do more with less. There was an urgent need to hold these crisis talks, because last week's federal budget slashed more than \$600 million from the health budget over the next four years. In the 2017-18 financial year alone, the state will be \$269 million worse off. That is the equivalent of closing nearly 600 hospital beds, the amount of beds we have at the Flinders Medical Centre.

Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey are ripping the heart out of our health system. They have reneged on the National Health Reform Agreement and reduced their fair share of funding to states' hospitals. They have also torn up several national partnership agreements.

The SPEAKER: Point of order from the member for Finniss.

Mr PENGILLY: I seek your clarification on whether the Minister for Health should refer to Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey or rather the Prime Minister and the Treasurer of Australia.

The SPEAKER: I will take advice about that. It seems vulgar, but go on.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: That is their name, sir, and I thought the ruling applied to referring to other members of the house—

The SPEAKER: It does.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: —in order to prevent quarrels from breaking out across the house.

The SPEAKER: The former speaker is correct.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: They have also torn up several national partnership agreements—agreements that were designed to improve public hospital services to support long-stay older patients and Indigenous early childhood development. On top of that, the Abbott Liberal government's new \$7 GP tax will drive more people away from their GPs and into the state's emergency departments, putting unprecedented strain on EDs and increasing waiting times.

By taxing Australians every time they visit their doctor, Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey—if that is okay with the member for Finniss; I don't want to upset him—are penalising the early interventions and treatments which produce better patient results. There is a risk that people with chronic illness may wait until their condition worsens to the point that they need to be admitted into an acute care bed; that would actually be more costly to our health budget, and it would certainly be worse for patients.

As Minister for Health, I will be engaging with doctors, nurses, paramedics and other health professionals—people who have helped to create our world-class health system—to help me respond to these savage cuts. This government has worked hard over the past 12 years to make South Australia's health system the best in the nation. We are determined to continue delivering the quality of care that people in this state deserve, but that job has been made much more difficult by this short-sighted decision from the federal government.

Liberal Party premiers chose to voice strong opposition to measures announced in last week's federal budget rather than feel they were obliged to defend their federal party colleagues. It is a pity, when given the chance to stand up for South Australians, those opposite would rather be mouthpieces for Tony Abbott.

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: Yes, I anticipate the point of order.

Mr GARDNER: No. 137, as well: he is refusing to accept your authority and your instructions, sir.

The SPEAKER: Yes, I think that is correct, and accordingly I call the Minister for Health to order.

DEPARTMENTAL CONTRACTS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): My question is to the Premier. What is the total financial impact of the Premier's decision to cancel Rod Hook's contract two years early?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:37): I will take that on notice and bring back an answer to the house.

DEPARTMENTAL CONTRACTS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): Supplementary, sir.

The SPEAKER: I did not see much scope for one there, but go on.

Mr MARSHALL: I would like to know whether he knows anything else about this decision that he took. Is Mr Hook currently on leave from his position, with the termination of his contract to take effect on 1 July, and if so, why?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:37): Those matters were dealt with by the Commissioner for Public Employment. I am happy to bring back a full report to the house.

DEPARTMENTAL CONTRACTS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): Further supplementary, sir: was the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure consulted by the Premier regarding the termination of Mr Rod Hook as CEO of the Department of Planning and Transport, as required by Mr Hook's contract?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:37): Yes.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (14:37): My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. Can the minister update the house on the impact of the commonwealth's Students First budget package on South Australian students?

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development) (14:38): I thank the member for Reynell for her question about the federal government's Students First budget package. Sir:

We think that money is important; it's very important to educational outcomes that schools are properly funded...

They are the words of Tony Abbott in August last year. What we now know is that Tony Abbott's Students First budget will see \$5.5 billion lost from schools and our hospitals in South Australia over the next decade—\$5.5 billion. The first to suffer are students and sick people—students first! With \$320 million gone from our Gonski agreement for better schools funding in South Australian schools for 2018 and 2019, there is a good chance this figure will be even higher, as this is calculated on the assumption that CPI will be indexed at 3 per cent.

This, from the Liberal Party who assured South Australians before the election they were a unity ticket with Labor on Gonski reforms. There is no question Tony Abbott and Christopher Pyne have gutted Gonski, with Mr Pyne saying the agreement was a 'blue-sky promise'.

There's nothing blue sky about our six-year signed agreement for Better Schools funding. We signed up, the independent sector signed up and the Catholic sector signed up to a six-year deal to ensure support for every student who needs it. For the first time we had a funding model that removed the divide between state, Catholic and independent schools. Unlike Joe Hockey, Labor believes there's nothing bonus about having a well funded education system.

But it doesn't stop there, sir. Universal access to preschools now hangs by a thread, with only contingency funding provided in the budget and there's no guarantee this will be around in the future. Parents won't know until late this year whether their child will receive the full 15 hours next year. They are waiting for minister Ley to make up her mind on funding. There are cuts to child care, including to family day care, which the national peak body estimates means fee increases of around \$35 a week. But it goes further, as the tightened eligibility criteria for operational support funding means centres only receive support if they are the sole operator in an area and they must be in a rural remote or disadvantaged community. So, both criteria apply.

With 12 schemes operated by my department, it's estimated that \$3.2 million is at risk, with half of those services being provided in rural areas—services to nearly 3,200 children. Then there's Youth Connections, a scheme helping around 2,000 South Australians get back to school. Funding to non-government organisations for this program has been hit by a \$5.4 million cut—hardly a sign of wanting young people to be learning or earning. To be fair, under the Students First package, nationally we see a staggering \$9.8 million spent on trialling an early language learning package in 40 preschools. Forty preschools around the nation—we will be lucky to get three of them provided with funding in South Australia.

The SPEAKER: The member's time has expired. The member for Mount Gambier.

FORESTRYSA

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:42): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier stand by his promise in December 2011? I quote:

There are serious conditions we are putting on the sale to make sure that there is long term certainty for the people that work directly for ForestrySA.

The SPEAKER: I presume he is referring to the sale of the forward rotations.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:42): Yes. Well, I presume that the commitments we made at that time are commitments we intend to keep. He didn't outline what they were, but for the sake of—I will pay you the credit of correctly summarising what I said at that time because I can't recall the remarks that I made, but if we made a commitment we'll stand by it.

The SPEAKER: The member for MacKillop is called to order. A supplementary question, member for Mount Gambier.

FORESTRYSA

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:43): How many jobs have been cut from ForestrySA since the government sold its timber harvest?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Automotive Transformation) (14:43): I will get a detailed answer to the member, but I will point this out to the member and members opposite: this government, unlike their federal colleagues, means what it says and says what it means. If we have made commitments to the South-East we'll honour them.

Mr BELL: Second supplementary, sir, please.

The SPEAKER: I don't like the idea of the asker numbering them but, member for Mount Gambier.

FORESTRYSA

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:43): How many more jobs will be lost over the forward estimates?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Automotive Transformation) (14:44): Perhaps he should speak to the person sitting next to him about what she had planned for the South-East if she had become—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: They had no plans to privatise anything, that's right. These aren't the droids you are looking for. We had no plans to sell anything if we won government.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I'm sorry. Too soon?

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta.

Mr GARDNER: Sir, you have given instructions and I draw your attention to standing order 98.

The SPEAKER: Actually, those instructions were about what I intended to do about government questions, but it applies more generally, so the Treasurer should return to the substance of the question.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We will publish in the June budget all of our savings measures, all of our efficiencies, and the member for Mount Gambier can peruse those. If he wants to grow his local economy and grow his local community, he should oppose his proposed ban on unconventional gas exploration in the South-East.

FORESTRYSA

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:45): My question is to the Minister for Forests. When was the minister first advised that there would be job losses at ForestrySA, and who provided that advice?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (14:45): I thank the member for Mount Gambier for the question. I was first advised by ForestrySA that it had a proposal to cut about 95 or 96 jobs from ForestrySA—that was about the day before we met in your office in Mount Gambier—and then we had subsequent discussions four days after that. As I have said, that's a proposition; there is obviously opposition to that proposition.

What I am keen to do, as I mentioned just before the break, is to work with each and every member in this place to make sure that we as a state have the most economically viable decisions made across all the sectors I have responsibility for. I give you my undertaking again that I will continue to work with you, with the private sector and with the unions to make sure that the ForestrySA future is very bright.

There were commitments made over the last several years by ministers, and we will stick to those commitments. As the Treasurer said, we don't run away from our promises; we will stick with them. But I think that we shouldn't also run away from a discussion that probably needs to be had about the future of ForestrySA and the future of the South-East. Unlike a lot of people, I am very optimistic about the place where I grew up. I think that the South-East has a very bright future and, as I have said, I will continue to work with you, member for Mount Gambier, and others in this place to ensure a bright future for the South-East.

FORESTRYSA

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:47): I have a supplementary question. Does ForestrySA have a budget for the staff redundancies?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Automotive Transformation) (14:47): It's in the budget—and I've noticed that you have done more work than the member for Chaffey in one day than he has done in four years—very impressive.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I am reaching for my black cap. The member for Flinders.

FORESTRYSA

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (14:47): My question is to the Minister for Forests. Given that OneFortyOne Plantations can notify the government that it wishes to provide its own services, rather than use ForestrySA to manage the plantations, has this notice been issued?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (14:48): I thank the member for the question. There is an agreement in place with OneFortyOne, which is a five-year agreement. We have about 3½ years to go with that agreement. I am having a meeting with OneFortyOne, I think it's this week, to have discussions with them about the future. But we would expect them to stay committed to that agreement, which, as I have said, goes for five years.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader!

FORESTRYSA

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (14:48): I have a supplementary question. I ask the Minister for Forests: is it the case that, under the OneFortyOne Plantations' contract, if the contractor provides its own services rather than using ForestrySA, the government does not require ForestrySA staff in the South-East?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (14:48): As I said in my earlier answer, I am having a meeting with OneFortyOne; I think that it's this week. It will be my first sit-down to discuss the wider ramification of the contract and what is involved.

I have been in this job for about eight weeks, as Minister for Forests. As I have said, there have been a lot of commitments made over the past four or five years, in the lead-up to the forestry sale. I will sit down with OneFortyOne and other people involved in forestry to get right across all the implications of any contracts. As I said before, in answer to the member for Mount Gambier, I will be doing everything in my power to make sure that the commitments we have made as a government over the past four or five years are adhered to.

FORESTRYSA

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (14:49): A supplementary to the Minister for Forests. Given that he is meeting with OneFortyOne in the next week or so, I request that he come back to the house with the answer to these particular questions:

1. Has the notice been issued?
2. If Forestry SA staff will not be required in the South-East, will the contractor provide its own services?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (14:50): I think if it is such a big issue you will probably put it in your diary to remind yourself to ask me another question in a week or so when we come back, rather than—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Well, I can provide you with the answer after the meeting, or you can simply ask the question next time that we come in here.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I am happy to give you the answer once I find out after I have the meeting with OneFortyOne.

The SPEAKER: I think the minister has been sufficiently clear.

CONCESSIONS

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:50): My question is to the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion. Can the minister update the house on any changes to funding arrangements on concessions in South Australia?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:51): I thank the member for her question. The South Australian government, through the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, administers a range of concessions to help ease the cost of living pressure for individuals and families on low or fixed incomes. These include concessions for energy, water and sewerage charges, council rates, public transport, and the emergency services levy.

There is currently a National Partnership agreement for certain concessions in place between the South Australian government and the commonwealth government. This agreement provides for part pensioners to be treated the same as all other pensioners for all South Australian government concessions. The agreement also facilitates a reciprocal arrangement between the states and territories to provide transport concession to holders of an Australian Seniors Card. In 2013-14 the South Australian government will provide more than \$230 million in funding for concessions, with the commonwealth government providing around \$27.7 million.

However, the commonwealth government has announced it will abolish the National Partnership from 1 July 2014, ripping more than \$27 million in funding out of South Australia, in just over 40 days' time. What this means is that from 1 July 2014 South Australia will no longer receive funding to provide concessions to part pensioners and will no longer receive funding to provide transport concessions to visitors from interstate that hold an Australian Seniors Card.

This will be a significant impact to the household budgets of some of South Australia's most vulnerable members in our community. When you couple these changes to other measures announced by the commonwealth government including:

- changes to the indexation of pension payments;
- the ceasing of the Seniors Supplement for eligible commonwealth Seniors Health Card;
- reduced capacity to earn an income without impacting on commonwealth benefits received; and
- the introduction of \$7 for the GP tax for every time you visit the doctor or buy medicine,

balancing the budget just became a whole lot harder for families who are doing it tough. To place this into context, removing almost \$30 million from our concession system is the equivalent of cancelling the council rate concession across South Australia, removing financial assistance to households to help pay council rates.

Of course, we on this side of the house understand that government has a role to play in making sure that no South Australian is left behind. That is why I am proud this Labor government made a commitment at the last election to increase the energy concession by \$50 a year from 1 July 2014, because we understand that families and households who are doing it tough need our support to help make ends meet.

Families and households will be having some tough conversations around the kitchen table over the next few weeks as they grapple with the devastating impact of measures announced by the commonwealth just last week. I encourage all members of the house to join Premier Jay Weatherill in fighting the commonwealth against these harsh measures which will impact on families in all our electorates right across South Australia.

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion doesn't need to remind us of the name of the Premier.

CONCESSIONS

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:54): A supplementary question. Can the Minister tell the house how many millions of dollars are still outstanding in concessions that have been incorrectly granted to the people of South Australia?

The SPEAKER: I am not sure that that is really cognate with the question but I will allow it. Minister.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:55): I thank the member for his question. We have been going through a data matching exercise and matched over 90 per cent of the data, which was an issue that was raised last year. I don't have the exact amount that you have asked for. I will come back to the house with that answer.

FORESTRY FIRE INSURANCE FUND

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport) (14:55): My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer provide details on the advice which was the basis of the decision to cancel the \$19 million Forestry Fire Insurance Fund?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Automotive Transformation) (14:55): I will go back and have a look at that and get some information for the house.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: A supplementary, sir?

The SPEAKER: It is not really the kind of answer that lends itself to a supplementary, is it?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Well, I could ask him how he doesn't know, but—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Unley.

TEACHERS, PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Mr PISONI (Unley) (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. Can the minister advise the house how many teachers were removed from DECD schools for poor performance or misconduct in 2013?

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development) (14:56): I am happy to take that question on notice.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Bright, and I hope that lovely contrasting cutaway collar is detachable.

BRIGHTON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (14:56): My question is to the Minister for Recreation and Sport. Did the government promise funding of \$1 million for the Brighton rugby club prior to the state election?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (14:57): No, the government did not promise \$1 million of funding to the Brighton rugby club.

BRIGHTON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (14:57): A supplementary question. Why did former minister Fox state in her letter to Brighton rugby club dated 14 March 2014:

A Labor government would commit to a funding model wherein \$1 million would be provided.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (14:57): The former member for Bright was not the minister responsible for that portfolio area, and I gave no such promise.

BRIGHTON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (14:58): A further supplementary. Will this election promise be honoured?

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Automotive Transformation) (14:58): You will have to wait until the budget; that's right. The minister is correct. The government issued election commitments and we will meet the commitments that we made. If the member is implying that there has been a commitment made to an organisation that has not been outlined in the Premier's initial document that was released and through subsequent press releases, we will look at it, and all will be discovered in the budget.

AUSTRALIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (14:58): My question is directed to the Minister for Energy.

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Davenport is warned a first time.

The Hon. S.W. KEY: Minister, as announced in the federal budget, what does abolishing the Australian Renewable Energy Agency mean for current and future renewable energy projects in South Australia?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Automotive Transformation) (14:59): ARENA, otherwise known as the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, was established on 1 July 2012 as an independent agency to improve the competitiveness of renewable energy technologies and to increase the supply of renewable energy in Australia—noble aims, Mr Speaker.

At the beginning, ARENA enjoyed bipartisan support—even in this parliament ARENA enjoyed bipartisan support—designed to increase the supply of renewable energy in Australia and to make it more affordable for ordinary Australians. Mr Speaker, South Australia (as you would be well aware) is a leader in clean technologies. We are an investment-friendly destination for renewables because of our diverse set of world-class renewable energy resources and, of course, our world-class streamlined approval processes.

Sadly, the federal Liberal National government, headed by Prime Minister Abbott, has announced the axing of ARENA in the most recent federal budget. With the global hunt for renewable energy well and truly on, the Prime Minister is telling potential investors to look elsewhere for support for innovation in renewable energy. South Australia currently has 16 projects receiving ARENA financial assistance that are either wholly or partially based within South Australia and cover bioenergy, geothermal, ocean, and solar technologies.

As at 5 May 2014, total financial assistance provided by ARENA to these projects amounts to approximately \$152 million, which includes a feasibility study for the solar thermal plant at Port Augusta. However, any future financial assistance for the renewables project is now lost. That includes Alinta's solar thermal power station at Port Augusta. That axing means we will miss out on millions of dollars of investment and highly skilled jobs here in South Australia because of Mr Abbott's cuts.

This is a backward step and, at a time when we need innovative industries, it is senseless. Yet, it is another broken promise from a long list by the Abbott government—the same government that promised the Australian people an additional million solar rooftops by 2020. The most recent budget contains no funding to make this happen.

Unfortunately, the scrapping of ARENA means that it is likely that the investment in the cleaner energy sector won't happen in Australia and certainly won't happen in Port Augusta. It will make that investment go to other countries with a more stable, much more welcoming environment for renewable energy. I hope members opposite who have been championing the cause of the solar thermal plant at Port Augusta might actually fire up and perhaps send a letter—we wait for the letter—

Ms REDMOND: Point of order Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Yes, the member for Heysen.

Ms REDMOND: I think that the minister has run a little off the question and has begun to debate the issue.

The SPEAKER: I think he is taunting the member for Stuart, and I would ask him to stop.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: It won't work sir.

An honourable member: From that answer, he's not that good.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Sir, in my experience, never pick on the tallest man in the room. I always pick on the shortest man in the room. It's much easier to win, sir, but the reality is Rowan Ramsey, the federal member for Grey, has seen his community disadvantaged by decisions he is going to vote for, and I would ask members opposite to lobby the commonwealth government to reverse this decision.

COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION DEPARTMENT SCREENING UNIT

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (15:03): My question is to the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion: can the minister tell the house why her department is taking up to two months to process police checks through the DCSI Screening Unit?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (15:03): The screening unit, part of the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion, is an important service which protects some of our most vulnerable members of our society from harm, including children, people with a disability and older South Australians.

In 2013, the screening unit received an additional \$1 million for an extra 11 full-time equivalent employees to assist with an increase in demand for services. The assessment process of applications for screening clearances involved a full investigation of all relevant and available information in Australia relating to an applicant. It is not just a simple criminal history check. Where no relevant information is identified for an applicant—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir. I think you need to assist the minister. She is reading an answer to a Dorothy Dixier. It was actually a question raised by the member for Morphett. It was quite specific, but she is going nowhere near.

The SPEAKER: I will listen to the answer, but it appeared to be germane to me.

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I will listen and, I am afraid, member for Morialta, if you are wrong, it's a bogus point of order and you will be departing. The Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It would be really good if we had a bipartisan view on this very important part of protecting children at risk. Where no relevant information is identified for an applicant, the turnaround time for processing an application is around 20 business days. I am advised that around 84 per cent of applicants are cleared within 20 days. Where any relevant information is identified requiring further assessment, an application may take more than eight weeks to process.

These time frames are clearly disclosed on the website. The number of applicants requiring further assessment represents around 16 per cent of the total number of applications. Of course, I understand the process of, and time involved in, obtaining an employment screening clearance can be frustrating to applicants. However, our government makes no apology for this, for ensuring that every effort is taken to protect some of our most vulnerable members of society from harm.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader is warned for the second and final time.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:06): My question is to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Can the minister inform the house about the proposed impacts of the federal budget on primary industries in South Australia?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (15:06): I thank the member for Giles for his question and congratulate him. Eight weeks in the job and he's got those giant cuttlefish back to Whyalla. I don't know what he did, and the scientists would like to know how they turned up again, but it is great news for all South Australians that these tourism icons are back in Whyalla.

The federal budget left barely an area that they didn't go through and cut, and primary industries, unfortunately, were not spared, either. I am very concerned about the effects that will have on primary production in this state and also in terms of food manufacturing. We have seen, in the past 17 years, year-on-year growth in the food manufacturing area. We have seen fantastic work done by collaboration at the state and national level in terms of scientific experiments and research and development—people from both levels of government working with the private sector to improve what it is that we do here in South Australia.

When you go through the federal budget, you can see that they are cutting the CSIRO program by \$111 million. During the next round, cooperative research centres have been scrapped, with syndicates already spending hundreds of thousands of dollars preparing submissions for the next round of funding. We saw this when the federal government first got in last year: they did it in the tourism sector as well. Tourism operators in the Barossa and other parts of South Australia spent a lot of money putting proposals together for projects that were meant to be funded as in previous rounds. They put in all this time and effort and the new federal government came in and said, 'We are not even going to open those proposals and have a look at them. We are just going to scrap the whole thing and get rid of it.'

We are seeing that now in the area of research and development and the cooperative research centres (CRCs). There will be a reduction of funding to the tune of \$124 million for the clean technology investment and innovation programs and cooperative research centres. The Australian Institute of Marine Science will also face a cut to its funding of almost \$8 million. These are really important areas. They are areas where South Australia often leads the way. I was talking earlier in the day about how, as Team Australia, we need to work together and maybe not see the other states as our competitors but actually see other countries as competitors, and we need federal funds to be pumped into those research efforts so that we can all work collaboratively. We need to have the private sector and the government sector working well together, but we can't do it alone; we do need the federal funds.

Agriculture, food and fisheries are of vital importance to the state's economy and continue to grow in value, generating more than \$16 billion in revenue in 2012-13. A lot of that research around the fisheries is done here at SARDI, and they do a tremendous job. Talking to the Victorian minister for agriculture and fisheries just a couple of weeks ago, we are doing a lot of the work for Victoria as well, just as they are doing work in other areas.

We do need to work together, but it is going to make it so much harder with the federal government applying these cuts right across the board. Hundreds of millions of dollars in South Australia will be missing if all these cuts that Joe Hockey put in his budget go ahead. I think it is of major concern to the general public in South Australia and of major concern to people in the primary industry sector who I have spoken with since the budget was handed down.

COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION DEPARTMENT SCREENING UNIT

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (15:10): My question is to the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion. Can the minister tell the house whether it is the case that there are over 1,000 people waiting to be screened through the DCSI screening unit, and school bus runs are being put at risk because of the slowness of screening?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (15:11): I thank the member for his question. I do think that we have a genuine interest in protecting our people, and I think that is bipartisan. We have had a dramatic increase in the number of people applying for screening, and that is something we take very seriously. Perhaps I could detail for the house what is assessed as part of a child-related employment screening clearance, which of course would be the clearance needed for a bus driver.

An application will be thoroughly assessed to determine if they pose a risk, such as the applicant's national criminal history record check; any relevant child protection information held by Families SA; any information held by the Care Concern Investigation Unit areas of DCSI or the Department for Education and Child Development; or any information reported to the DCSI screening unit by South Australia Police or a previous employer.

Where no relevant information is identified about the applicant, an employment screening clearance will be issued within 20 business days. Where any relevant information is identified, the screening unit will undertake further assessment by an assessment officer or a senior assessment officer, depending on the nature of the information. I am not able to stand here and verify the numbers that you are saying, but I can be clear about what the process is: if there are no significant issues, it's 20 business days; if there are issues identified, we have given a clear understanding that within eight weeks we would seek to either give that person a clearance or not.

MEMBER FOR FROME, GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:13): My question is to the Minister for Regional Development. Given the media coverage on Friday 16 May by the Premier refusing to rule out changes to the regional funding agreement negotiated with the minister to form government, can the minister confirm details of any amendments to the regional funding package and his position on those amendments?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Automotive Transformation) (15:13): First and foremost, any amendments to any grant lines, any budget lines, will be announced in the upcoming budget, and the member for Goyder knows that. I also think, to be fair—and I say this reluctantly because it is the member for Goyder, because of his exceptional honesty, and it has been displayed in the *Financial Review* for the entire nation to see, so I accept your level of honesty—I don't think you are accurately representing the Premier's view, maybe the intent, the inflection.

What was said has probably not been taken properly. I will go back and check the Premier's remarks, but I suspect that you are speaking at cross-purposes. You are asking the member for Frome one question on the basis of a statement the Premier has made about something else, but I can tell you this: all will be revealed very, very soon in the budget, and I think you will be very, very pleased about what happens for regional communities in this upcoming budget because they have a very strong and fine advocate in the member for Frome, fighting for their interests within the South Australian government, and he does it, sir, exceptionally well.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey had better watch out or he'll be out for the rest of question time. The member for Schubert has been repeatedly interjecting before his maiden speech, and so I call him to order.

Grievance Debate

SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (15:15): I rise today to make a speech to this parliament that gives me great pleasure, that is, to advise that Senior Constable Danny McGurgan from Cadell in the electorate of Stuart has today been announced as South Australia Police Officer of the Year. This is a fantastic award sponsored by the Rotary Club of Unley, and I commend the Rotary Club of Unley for the ongoing work they do in this area.

South Australia Police Officer of the Year is an outstanding award and there could be no better recipient than Senior Constable Danny McGurgan. He is a person from Cadell, and he works in the Waikerie Police Station. He moved to Cadell at the age of 12; he is 52 now, so he has a strong foundation in that community. He is an absolutely tremendous man with regard to police, family and community.

This award for police officers is for a range of very positive contributions, including performing significant acts of courtesy, kindness, understanding or courage, or handling a complex and difficult situation with humility. The award also recognises an officer's voluntary work outside their policing role. Danny McGurgan volunteers for just about everything going on in this area at the moment. He is so highly regarded, in fact, that this year on Australia Day he was awarded the Medal of the Order

of Australia (OAM)—an outstanding acknowledgement. He was also the Mid Murray Council's Citizen of the Year this year, which is another wonderful award in recognition of his community work.

Danny is perhaps most well known recently for his work to save the Cadell ferry. Members of this house who were in parliament last year (and, hopefully, new members who were not here) would be aware of the government trying to take away the Cadell ferry. There were an enormous number of reasons why that was a dreadful thing to do: it was completely inappropriate for the community, for emergency services, for the school, for local primary production businesses and for regional development in general. It was also completely inappropriate because the government did not pursue its own internal consultation processes. Minister after minister was asked in estimates a couple of years ago, 'Were you consulted about this decision?' and they all had to say no.

Let me be very clear: I can tell this house absolutely 100 per cent that Mr Danny McGurgan did not take up the issue of the Cadell ferry with regard to politics at all. There was no politics whatsoever in his pursuit of this issue. He pursued it because of its importance to his community. He pursued it in the same way he pursues all other local issues affecting the community. He is involved in everything that goes on around the place.

The last time I saw Danny McGurgan was on Easter Saturday at the Cadell Easter Harvest Festival, and I can tell you that he was like the Pied Piper of the local community, running games for the kids—the orange throw, having to hit a bucket with oranges, and the carp toss. He ran a whole range of other very harmless, good fun and positive events for the community in a double-edged way: a community fundraiser that was also community building. Probably 70 or 80 kids were hanging around of all ages, from just barely able to walk up to teenagers, teenagers who often are a bit too cool, too surly or too busy doing teenage things—they loved it, and they wanted to play all those games with him, so he was supporting the community in that way.

I can assure you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that Danny McGurgan will not change. He has been an Order of Australia medal recipient since January and he was at the Cadell Easter Harvest Festival doing the same things that he has done year in, year out. He is a very, very down-to-earth man, he is a down-to-earth police officer, he supports his community in every way that he possibly can, and I congratulate Danny McGurgan, his family and the Cadell community.

Time expired.

HEALTH FUNDING

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Health Industries) (15:20): Over the last week, members of the Liberal Party in this house have been given a chance to show the public that they are on their side, and that they would stand up for the people of this state. After the historic betrayal delivered to all Australians by Joe Hockey—a betrayal which is designed to rip the heart out of our public hospitals—it was time to put political allegiance aside and fight for all South Australians. Instead, they validated everything we said about them before the state election.

Last year, they feigned outrage when I said in this house that they hated hospitals because they whined and moaned any time I talked about the Royal Adelaide Hospital or any hospital development, but I am standing by my statement: they do hate hospitals. If they cared about public health in SA, they would be genuinely opposing their federal colleagues' savage health cuts—

Mr TARZIA: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: it appears to be a breach of standing order No. 127(3): the member is making a personal reflection on the other members in calling us 'hospital haters'.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, as the Clerk says, it is a collective reflection, and I ask the minister to continue.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: These cuts would be absolutely crippling. Over the next four years, the commonwealth will withdraw more than \$440 million from the National Health Reform Agreement. The commonwealth provides around a third of the money in funding for our public hospitals; that share will now decline, and as a result, last week's horrific budget threatens everything we have achieved in delivering the world-class health system that South Australians rightly expect—a system in which waiting times in our emergency departments are among the nation's best, and a

system which, for the first time ever, ensured there were no overdue patients waiting for elective surgery at the end of 2013.

Joe Hockey is also cutting more than \$160 million from COAG agreements over the next four years, and most of that money was dedicated to improving public hospitals. The cuts to health in South Australia just in the 2017-18 year alone are the equivalent of nearly 600 hospital beds; that is how many beds there are at the Flinders Medical Centre, the state's second-largest hospital.

Similar cuts have been made interstate. Denis Napthine, the Liberal Party Premier of Victoria, described the federal budget as a 'severe blow'. Mike Baird, the Liberal Party Premier of New South Wales, said it was 'a kick in the guts' for his state. Campbell Newman, the Liberal National Party Premier of Queensland, described the cuts as 'unfair and unreasonable' and called for an emergency meeting of the states.

So, what do we hear from the leader of the South Australian Liberals? An accusation that we were running a 'fear and smear campaign'. That's right; even though the ink has dried on the federal budget papers and they show in black and white that billions will be ripped out of the health system for the states, even though Liberal premiers interstate are fighting against these cuts, and even though leading doctors and nurses are calling this a disaster, the member for Dunstan says it is all just a 'fear and smear campaign'.

Perhaps the member for Dunstan feels he cannot let down his mentor, the federal member for Sturt who, as we have recently seen, is also a great upholder of parliamentary standards, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr TARZIA: Point of order, Deputy Speaker: this is a personal reflection on the member for Dunstan and I ask that the comment be removed.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, we are prepared to let that go; there is no point of order.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: I can understand the member for Hartley being a little bit sensitive about any criticism of his great mentor, the member for Sturt, but, believe me, I will point out when he is having an undue influence in this place, when he is letting down the people of South Australia, and when the member for Dunstan (the leader of the Liberal Party) does not have the guts to stand up for the people of South Australia. Once again, he is letting the people of South Australia down. Once again, he is showing he would rather be a mouthpiece for Tony Abbott, Joe Hockey and Christopher Pyne, and that he will not fight for the people of our state.

LOCHIEL PARK

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (15:24): I draw the house's attention to the award-winning Lochiel Park 'green village' in Campbelltown in Hartley. For those members who are not aware of the development, the Lochiel Park model community was opened in 2008 by the then premier Mike Rann and it is the centrepiece of the Labor government's plan (at the time) for sustainable living into the future. It is actually said to be the most environmentally friendly development in South Australia.

Every house in the village is fitted with a photovoltaic solar energy cell and gas assisted solar hot water system. All houses are designed to be serviced by a non-potable water system through the creation of two artificial wetlands, pollutant traps and aquifer storage systems to reduce the village's reliance on mains water supplies and to help save water.

I recognise the good work of the local residents of the Lochiel Park community for their continued dedication towards sustainable living. I particularly want to acknowledge Willie Smyth, president of the Friends of Lochiel Park, and its members, as well as the members of the Lochiel Park Garden Committee, who have worked tirelessly to create the magnificent community gardens for all the residents in the area to enjoy.

This community has also been innovative in establishing the Ripples Community Arts group. This group encourages people in the community to participate in art projects around Lochiel Park, the most successful of which has been the Drainwaves project, where members from all walks of the community, young and old, have decorated the pollutant traps surrounding the wetlands with beautiful mosaics. These groups have been particularly successful in encouraging young people to become active and contribute to the collegiate atmosphere of the community.

In spite of the excellent work of many members in the community, problems with this development still exist. Of the two wetlands that I previously mentioned, the southern wetlands system was designed specifically to capture and recycle stormwater. Unfortunately, the gross pollutant trap (the GPT), the principal drain that filters all the stormwater flying into the southern wetlands, is not and has never functioned properly due to a flaw in the way it was designed and built. In fact, it has been reported that in 2008 the total cost blowout for the project is over \$7 million, including over \$800,000 to repair the stormwater system.

Local residents have reported to me that stormwater from recent rainfalls is not entering the southern wetlands because the water gate that was recently installed by Renewal SA to remedy the existing problems was not working either. Because of the continuing problems with the GPT, the Campbelltown council has refused to accept responsibility for the project from Renewal SA, costing the taxpayer millions of dollars. I regret to inform the house that Renewal SA has not since solved the problem. Work to repair the GPT has been ongoing since as late as last week, when I met with Willie Smyth to discuss the problems affecting the project. It was clear to me, from talking to Mr Smyth and observing the work at the site, that the system is no closer to being fixed than when it was reported in 2008. As a result of these problems, unfiltered stormwater continues to flow into the River Torrens and into the open spaces surrounding Lochiel Park.

The residents of Lochiel Park deserve the renewable facilities they have been promised and that they have paid for. Over the coming months, I will be working tirelessly with local residents, the Campbelltown council and Renewal SA to solve the current problems facing them, so that this vibrant and energetic community can enjoy the facilities they are entitled to, that they have paid for and that they have sacrificed to afford. I commend the people of Lochiel Park for their spirit, their passion and their drive. I look forward to continuing to serve their interests and the needs of this community for many years to come.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (15:29): Today I rise very angry that the arrogant, out of touch federal Liberal government is again ripping at the heart of our community. Angry at the severe and immediate impact its budget will have on South Australians. Angry that on a day when Australian families were told they would face years of pain and hardship, our federal Treasurer danced, singing about how it was the best day of his life. Angry at his suggestion that all we must do is drink less and the need for universal health care and quality public education will disappear.

Our federal Treasurer seems surprised at the outrage his \$7 co-payment caused—the outrage at his suggestion that, if poor Australians just made some better choices, they would be able to find the \$7 for their sick child to see a doctor.

Working Australians are not all heavy drinkers, Mr Hockey. I have spoken with family after family after family in Reynell; they are wondering what they will do, and what they will go without, next time their children need to see a doctor and what they will do if they cannot get them there at all. They are decent people who care for their children and who for generations have enjoyed the collective security that equality and an accessible, universal health and education system brings. They are decent people deeply united by the compact at the heart of our nation, a compact to work hard together and to look after our most vulnerable. That is what it means to be Australian. That budget announced on Tuesday was the first strike in an effort to destroy our Australian compact.

Unlike those opposite, South Australian Labor, our Premier and the South Australian people will not stand by silently and allow our nation and our values to be destroyed. Our communities want our nation to work together in order to prosper and to live up to our Australian values. All Australians will suffer from the division the federal budget brings. If our families are smashed and our suburbs divided into the haves and have-nots, the social dislocation that will result will be bad for us all. When you take hope away from people, when you treat people without respect, as this budget does, you wave goodbye to community cohesion and safety, and no-one benefits.

Today our nation is governed by a federal Liberal government that protects the interests of just a few. They have fabricated a budgetary crisis as an excuse to serve the interests of just those few. They talk of necessary economic policies as if there is no relationship between economic policy and social impact. Well, I say to them: economic policy is social policy, and there is no need to cut as hard as they have.

We see through their attempts to hide austerity behind a veil of fiscal responsibility. We see through their childish attempts to blame the previous government, one which protected Australian jobs during the global financial crisis and one which did not propose cutting 16,500 jobs from the public sector, 4,500 more than they alluded to before the election. We see through their hypocrisy, talking about future generations but taking steps to decimate our environment at the same time. We see how these cuts mirror those proposed by those opposite in the lead-up to the state election. I condemn these attacks on our Australian way and commit to fight for the interests of all Australians, not just a privileged few.

I have much to say about the disregard shown by this federal Liberal government for those who are dependent on our welfare system, and I will fight to ensure that our most vulnerable are treated in a way which aligns with our Australian values. However, today I direct my anger at what this cruel budget means for South Australian working families, particularly those in Reynell, as they go about their life, caring for their families, working hard and helping to make things in their community a little better.

At the 2011 census, over 50 per cent of households in Reynell reported a weekly income of less than \$1,000 and, of those, over 50 per cent were families, families of many different constructs, all targeted by this budget. I have been thinking about a family I know in Morphett Vale. The parents have been happily married for more than 25 years. They are positive, generous people who work hard and volunteer to improve their community and help others where and when they can. One of the parents works part-time in a school canteen and one as a gardener. Their daughters are both under 25, one working in a shop in the Colonnades and one studying whilst also working casually in hospitality.

This budget means that their elder daughter can no longer claim Newstart, which keeps her afloat while studying and working part time and that moving out of home for her is impossible. It means that she is expected to pay her HECS debt sooner at a higher amount, with repayments now starting at a much lower salary. This budget means that any dreams of post-graduate study are simply out of her family's financial reach. It means that everyone in their house, two parents in their 50s and both daughters, will work all the way until they are 70.

Time expired.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport) (15:34): I was not going to contribute in the grievance debate today but, given the contributions of the member for Playford and the member for Reynell, I will. I am going to respond to the two speeches that were dripping with hypocrisy, and I am responding to them for these reasons. The member for Playford, the Minister for Health, former Treasurer, comes into this place and says that the Liberal Party hates hospitals.

Now, he made that comment in a previous parliament. I immediately got up and made a grievance speech and told the parliament the reasons that we do not hate hospitals (what political party would?) but the reality is I outlined to the house the history of my first-born who was saved by the public hospital system in this state. He had meningitis at two years old and was in the humidicrib under critical care for four weeks—saved by the public hospital system.

Then the Minister for Health has the gall to come in here knowing that and repeat the claim and stand by his claim. Read his speech, Deputy Speaker. He stood by the claim knowing the speech that was responded to previously. That is fine, but this is the Minister for Health who used to be treasurer. I know he is upset for losing the Treasury but, after all, he could not deliver a surplus. He is upset with losing the Treasury. He has gone to the current Treasurer and now he is nervous, of course, for the Minister for Transport from the same faction has come into the parliament and the member for Playford's leadership ambition might just be passing him by, just like a budget surplus.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: This is the Minister for Health—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am on my feet.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: —who is going to oversee \$1,000 million—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my feet, member for Davenport. I will not have this shouting in the chamber. You can say anything you like within the standing orders, but I will not have shouting and I will not have you speaking over the top of other people. I will leave the chamber if it continues.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: This is the Minister for Health who is going to oversee \$1,000 million in cuts to the health budget—\$1,000 million cut to the health budget—and that was announced before the last election in the forward estimates in the Budget and Finance Committee in the other place—\$1,000 million. Do I hear the member for Reynell coming in, dripping hypocrisy—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kaurua and member for Taylor, order!

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Do I hear the member for Reynell mention that—\$1,000 million going in the health budget, all due to Labor's mismanagement? They are silent. The Minister for Health comes in and complains about the federal government's proposed budget, but he does not mention that he, the Minister for Health, the member for Playford, the former treasurer, who knows how the health system works, is going to deliver \$1,000 million in cuts to the health budget.

They are going to deliver \$250 million cuts to the education budget. They are going to deliver \$150 million to the police budget. The reality is it was all done prior to the Abbott government, all announced prior to the election, all due to the incompetence of the current Labor government. I invite those opposite to pick up today's *Australian* and read the article that is headed 'Deeper losses in ALP's cap plan', and *The Australian* outlines this very simple fact:

Labor would have had to impose spending cuts reaching \$100 billion a year or almost double those in the government's budget to keep spending growth below its preferred limit of 2 per cent a year across the next decade.

So, the reality is that federal Labor that set its spending cut at 2 per cent would have had to actually cut twice as hard. Now, where is the great speech from the member for Reynell criticising the former Labor government? I hear nothing. Where is the member for Playford coming in criticising the former Labor government? You will not hear that.

The two speeches by the member for Playford and the member for Reynell are dripping in hypocrisy, absolutely dripping in hypocrisy, and the poor old member for Kaurua, former chief of staff to a health minister, knows about the health budget and knows they are going to cut \$1,000 million out of it, and you should be embarrassed. The reality is your government is going to cut \$1,000 million out of health and you are embarrassed about it—and so you should be.

Time expired.

COLTON ELECTORATE

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (15:40): I was going to complete my previous grievance on the approach that is becoming symptomatic of the opposition with respect to the most recent election in blaming everyone else for the circumstances they find themselves in today instead of just looking in the mirror. However, I will save that for another day and instead talk about some of the organisations within my electorate, those organisations that have supported me throughout the last 12 years and, in particular, in the lead-up to the last election.

Mr Picton interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: A good supporter base. They are outstanding organisations and we have seen some tremendous things occur, such as the rebuilding of the Henley Surf Lifesaving Club, which was long overdue but looks fantastic with a million-dollar view, and they are doing extremely well. In fact, the membership has picked up significantly since the construction was completed. We have also seen a lot of young people come into the lifesaving club, indeed people from culturally diverse backgrounds, which is a good thing. There is no reason whatsoever why anyone here in Australia, given the fact that 90 per cent of our population live along the coastal strip, should not be aware of water safety. The lifesaving clubs do an amazing job in making sure they not only protect lives along the beach but also instil that knowledge into others in our community.

Mr Picton: Now we are increasing the funding.

The Hon. P. CAICA: As my friend the newly elected member for Kaurna says, we are increasing the level of funding. I look forward to the Grange Surf Lifesaving Club and the West Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, which is just outside my electorate, accessing that funding to redevelop their facilities that are long overdue.

Mr Picton: And Southport and Aldinga.

The Hon. P. CAICA: And I will look forward to Southport and Aldinga, in fact all surf lifesaving clubs across the state, accessing that funding that is only going to go to helping the role they play—that very important role that surf lifesaving volunteers play in South Australia.

I also want to talk about the Grange Cricket Club. Importantly, and very satisfyingly if that is the right word, the Grange Cricket Club won two premierships in their A and B grades this year, back-to-back premierships in the premier grade, which is an outstanding effort. Normally they do not win a game until Christmas time. This year they won a few games which put them in a good position, not only to compete in the finals but to compete as successfully as they did in the finals—another community based sporting organisation has a fantastic youth program as well, and they are outstanding contributors within the great seat of Colton.

I would also just say that one of the outstanding gold life members of the Grange Cricket club, Mr Barry Fry, is not very well at the moment. He is in hospital. On behalf of all those in my electorate who know Barry and the work he has done, I pass on my best wishes for a speedy recovery for this outstanding contributor within the Colton electorate. To the Henley football club—I get accused of being biased but it is easy to be so when you really only have one football club in your electorate, so there are not those competing interests—

The Hon. S.W. Key: Lucky.

The Hon. P. CAICA: I am. It is an outstanding football club. Of course, we have Lockleys just on the outside and SMOSH West Lakes, which is another outstanding club but not based in my electorate. I think it is in the member for Lee's electorate. It is a very good club as well. I hope one day that SMOSH West Lakes and Lockleys work their way up to the premier league (division 1) to one day be a competitor against the mighty Henley Sharks. We started off the season pretty poorly, and it is not through a lack of trying that we have not won as many games as we would like. I think we sit with three and three just outside the four, and I expect that by the end of the season we will be competing in the finals, as we have for so many years previously.

The other thing I want to focus on is that we have very good social organisations within our electorates that do not often have the same profile as cricket and football. I refer to netball clubs, calisthenics clubs, because we have some very good calisthenics clubs in our area, kindergyms and Gym West.

It is very important that as a government and as a community we provide that level of support to those organisations that do not have the same level of profile as some of the high profile sports because it is all about engaging young people, making sure they are active in recreation and sport and, through that, getting a greater understanding of the health, welfare and wellbeing of being involved in organised sport. I congratulate all those organisations within my electorate that play that very significant role in nurturing our young people and ensuring that they become better people through their participation in those sports.

Time expired.

Ministerial Statement

JONES, MR HENRY

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing and Urban Development) (15:45): I table a copy of the ministerial statement, relating to the passing of Mr Henry Jones, made earlier today in another place by the Minister for Water and the River Murray.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption (resumed on motion).

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (15:46): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for the opportunity to say a few words on the Governor's address a couple of weeks ago. I must admit that I found it completely void of direction and a completely useless document, given that it was drafted by the government, which had no idea where it was going.

Members interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: If you want a go, you can have a go in a minute, but I have the floor, okay? You have been here for about one second and you know everything. You were just done over by the member for Davenport, so you might just choose to shut up for a while. I thought I would read the last little bit on page 18 of the Governor's speech:

My government will deliver a bold agenda that puts people first—

that is, them—get them all in their good jobs first—

and creates sustainable jobs for the future.

It will govern for all South Australians, and restore their sense of financial and physical security, their aspirations and wellbeing, to the centre of our political discourse.

What do we have today? We have this morally bankrupt group on the other side who have no idea what they are doing. They come in and belt the daylights out of the opposition over the federal government's budget without any sort of understanding of where Australia is at. Here we are, and this government over here has already put us \$14 billion in debt over the last 12 years. The bovver boys are gone and we have a new mob of bovver boys.

Seriously, where is the plan for the future of South Australia? Apart from running around and stitching up the member for Frome and the Nyrstar development—which obviously we support, and that has never been in doubt—there is no vision whatsoever, no vision and no direction. They did not expect to be there and they have no plan on where to go. It is pathetic—absolutely pathetic. They want to get out and look at how things are going outside the metropolitan area and get a handle on how difficult it is in rural and regional South Australia. We have a number of regional and rural South Australians here on this side of the chamber, and we know full well how things are out there. The first thing they could do would be organise an inch of rain because that would help for a start, I might add.

Since this government was sworn in, all I have seen is the Premier run around and slot people, and there was no greater person to get slotted than Rod Hook last week. He absolutely worked his backside off for South Australia and did everything. I was on the Public Works Committee, and he came in and took questions; he took all the bad stuff and gave out all the good stuff. Whenever there was a problem, who did they trot out? Rod Hook. Where was the new transport minister the other week when things were going pear-shaped? Nowhere to be seen. Who do they trot out? Rod Hook.

So, last week Rod Hook gets slotted and I felt very sorry for him. He was a particularly good public servant who did a terrific job, and he should not have to go out in such circumstances. I think you stand condemned on the other side of the house, and I am looking forward to the day when the current Premier gets slotted. By God, it will be on when he gets slotted—and he will get slotted all right! No Premier leaves in peace, and no Premier leaves on their own terms. It will all end in tears, and when he goes it has to be, 'Look out!' as far as I am concerned.

They are all talk. They have no plan. There is no substance. They have no direction. Heaven help South Australia if this mob lasts another four years. I really sincerely worry about the future for my children, my children's children and other members on this side whose families want some future in South Australia. There is no future with this lot, absolutely no future. They are worn-out union hacks brought in with no idea of where they are going, and I just shake my head in disbelief.

I would like to know, Madam Deputy Speaker, going back to the Governor's speech, when you are going to do something about CFS volunteers? When are you going to take action on their potential-for-cancer claims, because you haven't done too much.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: Gabble, gabble, gabble comes from the front bench. I am still waiting to hear something of substance, because you did not want to do it in the lead up to the election—you

wouldn't have a bar of it—and, suddenly, you start quivering and wavering and, 'Oh, well, we may have to do something.' Well, you haven't done anything.

While I am on the subject of the CFS, you continually whittle away at their budget. There are members on this side of the chamber, and there are probably a couple on that side as well, in CFS brigades, and I know that they are continually under budget pressure. They just get treated like dirt, in my view. They don't get treated properly. The whole thing needs a jolly good shake-up. I could probably use more dramatic language than that but, in the circumstances—

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: Well, you know, I could use sheep yard language to describe you mob, but I won't. We have had some good contributions from some new members in this place—I will say some—and we have another coming after mine, which I look forward to hearing, from the member for Mitchell.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: Yes, I am coming to him. I look forward to hearing his contribution. He is one of a number of terrific members who have come into this house. I have known him and his family for a long time, and I look forward to what he has to say. I am not sure that he is looking forward to saying it, but I am sure it will be good when he gets up.

I would like to pick up on some comments that the member for Bright made a week or two ago, and this really was enlightening, I think. He talked about the Public Service and the fact that, if you are in there, you are under pressure to join the ALP if you want to get anywhere—

Members interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: You can chuckle, but I did not hear you chuckling when the member for Bright said it a couple of weeks ago. I didn't hear you chuckling then. You all had your heads down.

Mr Picton interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: Here's the rocket scientist from Kaurana, straight out of the minister's office into parliament, swept in with a heap of union support. We will wait to see how you perform, son. As I said, you have been here a minute.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should refer to members by their title, not as 'son'.

Mr PENGILLY: I did refer to him as the member for Kaurana. The member for Bright hit it on the head when he talked about the Public Service. It is moribund in South Australia. You have slotted one of your best performers, in Rod Hook, absolutely slotted him. I wonder who is going to be next. I know many public servants—many, many—and I can tell you that they are not game to open their mouths because it is a campaign of fear run by this government and the overlords and the mandarins in the Public Service who look over the top of them, and they feel threatened.

Why should they have to join the ALP to get ahead? Why should they have to do that, as the member for Bright says? Madam Deputy Speaker, I see you look away. Go back and read the member for Bright's speech. He has come straight out of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and he knows what is going on. I thought his protestations were absolutely spot on when he spoke about that.

The other subject that he raised concerns the local government sector, and in due course I would like to hear what the government is going to do about this. The member for Bright was pretty scathing of local government. I believe that other members in this place know exactly what he was talking about and I suspect, from my experience and from talking with other members in this place on both sides of the chamber, that 80 or 90 per cent of the headaches that come through our electorate office doors are local government problems that are not being fixed up by local government. I see nods and smiles around the chamber which indicate some form of agreement. I would like to know just what this government proposes to do with local government. I am not going to drill down in detail—I intend to have some words to say at another time on aspects of local government—but my view is that it needs a great big shakeup.

We heard what former ministers in this place have said about the City of Adelaide; they did nothing. Interestingly enough, the Joint Parliamentary Services Committee, which I was on in the last

parliament, had the CEO and the Lord Mayor come in and try to give us a lecture about what we were to do around the streets of North Terrace and King William Street; that was fairly interesting. My view is that it needs a shakeup. The LGA needs a shakeup; that is not performing well. Remember, it is paid for by the ratepayers of South Australia, and that includes everybody in this place as well. The whole thing needs a bomb under it.

We had a round of amalgamations in around 1996, and I am not so sure whether they were altogether successful, or whatever, but they never saved the poor old ratepayer a cracker. Amalgamations may not be the way to go. Our policy is no forced amalgamations; that is loud and clear. I think that if the new Minister for Local Government, the member for Frome, is fair dinkum about wanting to do something, he ought to grab a hold of it by the scruff of the neck and give it a good shake. We hear day after day after day about problems, from people who come into members' offices, in the local government sector, whether it be planning, health, roads or whatever.

I do not want to sound as though I am bashing local government, because I am not, but it really has to lift its game. I look forward to the government coming into this place and telling us what they are going to do about it. Have they got any plans? Who knows? I do not think they have, quite frankly. I believe that the ratepayers of South Australia deserve better than what they are getting from some councils. There are some that are doing a terrific job. I have five councils in my electorate, and a number of them do a pretty reasonable job. There are a couple of others that are basket cases, but we will talk about that at another time. I was interested in what the member for Bright had to say about that. It was a perception that was picked up by him, and I think it was the most useful part of the debate.

I listened to the member for Davenport a while ago having a few words to say about the other side. I believe that what happened with the new RAH is a disgrace in so far that it was never brought to the Public Works Committee of parliament—\$4 billion of borrowed money. It may be a terrific institution—and I hope it is when it is finished because it is well under construction now—but the very fact that they never came to the Public Works Committee of this parliament smacked of hypocrisy and it smacked of hidden agendas.

The perpetrators of that are gone from this place now, unfortunately, but we were never able to discuss it. Four billion dollars, the greatest outlay of money in the state's history—apart from servicing the debt left by this lot in the past—never came to the Public Works Committee, and I think that is an outrageous disgrace. They played off at the time the fact that it was a public-private partnership. Well, what a joke. Imagine what we may have been able to get if we had been able to view it and discuss it with public servants and others, including Department of Health personnel, and find out what was at the bottom of it. We know nothing about that deal.

There may be a couple sitting in this place that know a bit about it, but I can tell you the rest of us know absolutely nothing. We do not know the deal, the contract, the obligations, and we do not know whether it is over budget, under budget. Who would know? There is no reporting to this institution of the Parliament of South Australia—no reporting whatsoever. We do not get quarterly reports about the public works on the Royal Adelaide Hospital, like we should, like we get on everything else. And bear in mind that generally speaking the Public Works Committee of this parliament is pretty much bipartisan in its approach and the way it deals with matters. It is a committee that inquires into government spending on public works, purely and simply, and that is what it should do. But it works very well. It will be interesting to see how the committee works for the new parliament. However, there is no excuse whatsoever for not having the Royal Adelaide Hospital come to us.

Another festering sore in my electorate and in a number of other rural electorates is the issue of the marine park sanctuary zones. That was a huge con job done on the fishing industry of South Australia, both recreational and professional. The people involved in that should be absolutely castigated for the web of untruths and whatnot that they put over the good people of South Australia in relation to that issue. I thought it was outrageous and disgraceful, and the ramifications are still to come on that particular matter, and we will see where it leads. I am a little bit reluctant to say too much because there is a motion before the house which we will speak about.

Once again in the Governor's speech the government made a few references to employment in South Australia. As I said at the start, the major thing the government wants to do at the moment is to make sure they are all gainfully employed on the other side and getting as much out of it as they

can. I think the absolutely hypocritical actions that took place in another place with the election of the President are typical of where the Labor Party stands in South Australia: they are all about themselves. They are not about the ordinary taxpayers of South Australia. They are looking after their own jobs. The media certainly gave that a hiding, and well deserved.

I felt very sorry for the Hon. John Gazzola. He is an honourable person. From what I saw and understood from members from both sides, he was an honourable chap and did a good job as President, yet he was slotted: another Weatherill slotting. One from the left who got slotted, too, so the Premier does not care who he slots, his own faction or any other faction. He will lop their heads off one by one. That is what he is doing. Employment of youth in this state and where they are going concern me greatly. In my own family, at least two of my children are looking to go interstate because the opportunities—

The Hon. P. Caica: To get away from their dad?

Mr PENGILLY: No, they are not, actually. They keep coming to him because they want a bit more.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member should not respond to interjections and there should be no interjections.

The Hon. P. Caica: I apologise, ma'am.

Mr PENGILLY: That's alright.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Don't respond to me either.

Mr PENGILLY: It really concerns me that the youth of our state—and it is very close to home here—are seeking to leave the state because they see no future here. I think it is an absolute disgrace. The numbers pile up month after month. Youth employment is a huge concern, as is every other age group for that matter.

I will turn back to the election. I, along with just about every South Australian, I suspect, was appalled at the way Carolyn Habib was treated in the electorate of Elder for which she stood. I thought the attempts to cast a slur on Carolyn Habib were beneath contempt and were absolutely appalling. I do not know why—and they may have done—some members on the other side never came out and spoke up about that.

Your heads ought to hang in shame at the way Carolyn Habib was treated. She is a wonderful woman. She put her name up as a candidate for the Parliament of South Australia and there was this orchestrated campaign directed to absolutely put a slur on her heritage and her surname and accuse her of something of which nothing could be further from the truth. You on the other side should walk out in disgust.

It is unfortunate that the South Australian Labor Party stooped to such a low ebb in their treatment of Carolyn Habib. It was unfortunate; it was a sad day for politics in Australia and, more particularly, it was a sad day for politics in South Australia.

I cannot believe that the Australian Labor Party (South Australian Division) did this. I am given to understand that it was all organised by the SDA—the SDA were the ones behind it; they should hang their heads in shame as well. I am not getting a lot of interjections; everyone has their heads down on the other side, and so they should have.

The Hon. P. Caica: I'm listening to you.

Mr PENGILLY: Thank you; good. I wish to mention a couple of issues in my electorate which are being impacted on by this current state Labor government. I have spoken about it before, and at the risk of being repetitive, I raise the issue of the funding withdrawal to the Fleurieu Cancer Support Group, and—

Mr Pederick: Shame!

Mr PENGILLY: The member for Hammond chimes in, 'Shame!' as it is affecting his electorate as well. These volunteer drivers bring people to Adelaide for cancer treatment. Not everyone can live in the city, and it is an absolute disgrace that the funding which allows this service to operate has been withdrawn. It simply cannot operate on volunteers alone, and it cannot operate

on donations from the public. There are far too many organisations that need volunteer funding. I speak particularly in reference to the member for Hammond, who has any number in his electorate that need funding. The Southern Cancer Support Group's mobile service, which brings people back and forth to Adelaide, is something that is absolutely critical.

Along with that is the funding for the Encounter Centre in Victor Harbor, which also helps people with disabilities from the electorate of Hammond as well as the entire south coast. It is a sensational place that has been running for decades, and it is at risk of closing its doors on 30 June, after decades of being in existence. The service caters for people with disabilities who have somewhere to go during the course of a week from day to day; they do activities and go on trips while being looked after. It gives them a quality of life which they would not get if they were stuck home, unable to go anywhere.

I have written to the respective ministers on this; I am yet to receive a response, I might add, but I understand that they take time. Again, I raise those two issues in here. I could go on and on and on and on and on. I know that I have to wind up as there are others in this place, but I would also like to talk about community housing and social housing. I have written to the minister about this matter as well and signed off only today.

On Kangaroo Island, the KI Community Housing Association has a number of units in different towns. In Kingscote, there are six units that have been in existence for a while. They have people in them, and I think the average age of residents is 85. When these places were built, there were some mistakes made in the location of the driveway, the construction, drainage and whatnot, so the community housing body requested that they be fixed. I am told Housing SA have decided that they will build another series of units and take these people, who are all comfortably ensconced in these units, down there.

There was no consultation, and they were not given any opportunity to comment on the plans. They are in the twilight of their lives; they include war widows, and one lady who is nearly blind. They were told that they are going to have to go. They were not and have not been told whether they can go and come back; they do not know.

I met with them last week, and they told me that they had discussed this with the local builder, and the local builder said that he could do the job while they were still there in their units. They did not have to move; they did not have to go anywhere; he could do the job, do the concreting and do all the work that was required, and they could stay there. They said that was terrific, because those of them who drive were quite happy to put their cars out on the street for the couple of weeks it would take to do the work.

If this is the way this government, which supposedly cares for people in those sorts of facilities, is going to treat them, the minister needs to make a good inquiry or a take good look into that particular issue. I know the minister will have a look at this, because the minister is new in the job. I raise that because I do not know where else it is happening, but it is a major concern.

I could go on and on; however, I won't. I am highly bemused at the self-serving hypocrisy of the Labor Party in government in South Australia over its absolute failure to find any faults whatsoever with the former Rudd/Gillard government. I mean, come on, they left a mess, they left a huge mess. Everything that is wrong in Australia I can attribute to those years of turmoil. Well, nearly everything. For this government to try to lambast the state opposition on decisions made by the current federal government is a complete joke. I have not heard the name Rudd mentioned. I have not heard the name Gillard mentioned. Not at all. Where have you all gone? Can you remember that last September they got thrown out of government? Why? Because they were a mob of disastrous bunglers who nearly destroyed this nation.

With those few words, I return to the speech by His Excellency and I say again: it is 18 or 20 pages of nothing. No plan for the future, no design, nothing. Where is this government going? I look forward to listening to other members' contributions, no more so than the member for Mitchell.

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (16:11): I am pleased to support the motion and in doing so I congratulate you, Deputy Speaker, on your elevation.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before you continue, member for Mitchell, may I remind the house that this is the member's first speech.

Mr WINGARD: Thank you. I acknowledge your elevation to such an important and prestigious position. I am sure you will do an admirable job serving this house and the people of South Australia. I also join with others in congratulating all the new members on both sides of the house upon their election to the South Australian parliament, in particular I must congratulate the new members on my side of the house. It is a pleasure to join my new colleagues, the members for Hartley, Schubert, Mount Gambier and also my close friend, supporter, sounding board and electoral neighbour, the member for Bright. It has been a pleasure to work so closely with the member for Bright over the past few years and I look forward to extending that working relationship and friendship for many years to come.

I also acknowledge our new member in the Legislative Council the Hon. Andrew McLachlan and I offer him my most sincere congratulations as well. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my best wishes to the member for Fisher and his family. He is another of my electoral neighbours and I wish him a full and speedy recovery so that I can work with him in the future as well. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and hearing from the Governor at the opening of the 53rd parliament.

I am fortunate to have met the Governor and his wife, Mrs Liz Scarce, on a number of occasions. Can I say what a superb job they have done representing South Australia for almost seven years. It is my absolute privilege to be elected as the member for Mitchell and I would like to thank everyone for putting their trust in me to represent them as their local member of parliament. Serving the local community is the essence of this role and it is one that I am thoroughly enjoying and one I truly relish.

The electorate of Mitchell runs south of the city from Oaklands Park and Warradale in the north, in a corridor through Dover Gardens, Seacombe Gardens and Sturt. From there it travels uphill to Seaview Downs, Seacombe Heights, Darlington and O'Halloran Hill. You will then reach the suburban heartland that is Trott and Sheidow parks, before working your way further south into the townships of Old Reynella and Reynella. Mitchell touches on the boundaries of six other electorates, making it somewhat unique. Having so many neighbours means that the flow of residents through Mitchell is like no other. It makes for a diverse and caring community which has interests and relationships spreading beyond those confined to boundaries set by the Electoral Commission.

Deputy Speaker, this is the point where every member talks about their electorate being the best electorate in the state. I could prattle on about Mitchell's landmark features, from the SA Aquatic Centre to the expansive Westfield Shopping Centre, the O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park, the Field River, Glenthorne Farm and the rich history that is wrapped up in the wine regions of Dover Gardens, Reynella and Old Reynella, but I won't. Instead, I am going to break with convention.

I am not going to enter into the debate about which electorate is best, even though I think it is a debate I can win. What I will do is let you in on the real secret which makes the electorate of Mitchell so special: it is the people. Mitchell has the best collection of people in South Australia. I believe they are people whose views reflect the thoughts and ideals of the wider South Australian community.

Before I tell you about the great people of Mitchell, I would like to take a bit of an opportunity here today to share with you why I have worked so hard to represent the people of Mitchell in this parliament. The electorate was named after Sir William Mitchell. He was a professor of English language, literature and mental and moral philosophy at Adelaide University. Sir William's love for the English language and the fact that I am now the member for Mitchell would carry a great deal of irony for many of my schoolteachers because English was not my strong suit.

At school I struggled with the 'big three'—I apologise, member for Heysen. I struggled in writing, spelling and public speaking. That may surprise some people here, given that prior to entering this house I was a journalist and television presenter. Anyone who knew me at school would tell you that journalism and politics were not the top two suggestions by my careers councillor; in fact, they did not make the top 50. However, I believe that confronting your weaknesses and making them strengths is very strong in a person.

I was also lucky that my mother raised me to believe that I could achieve anything if I set my mind to it. She taught me that hard work, belief and making the most of your opportunities were the recipe for success. As is most often the case with lessons you learn from your parents, they are not truly realised until later in life. So, I thank my mother for that lesson now, and it is a value I work hard to instil in my four children.

I was also fortunate to have some wonderful teachers and friends who invested in me and were very supportive of me throughout my school years; they invested in me a lot. I would like to thank Lyle and Sylvana Murphy, David Wiese, Roger Parsons, Damian Hill, Nick Joy and numerous others from Brighton High School for their efforts, patience and persistence.

There is a part of me that would like to think that, over the years, these teachers would have used my story as an incentive for some of their students. I can hear them talking to their class now; they would say, 'If Corey Wingard can be a TV reporter, you can achieve anything.' Now they would be saying, 'If Corey Wingard can be a member of parliament, you can achieve absolutely anything!'—and they would be right. I believe that anyone can achieve anything. Like my mum says, you just need hard work, belief in yourself and to take your opportunities.

My early years were spent growing up in country South Australia. My parents are from the Housing Trust precinct in Port Lincoln. I was born in Cleve on the West Coast, and I started school in Quorn in the north of the state and spent the bulk of my primary school years living on Kangaroo Island.

When mum and dad separated, dad moved to Kingston in the South-East. My brother and I visited every holidays, which helped us maintain our healthy country values. Kangaroo Island was the perfect place to be a kid. You never had to lock your bike, you had the freedom to explore and learn, through getting your hands dirty, and you survived, despite collecting a few hard knocks along the way. You could run, swim, fish and play to your heart's content as long as you were home by the time the streetlights came on.

I take this opportunity to note that there must be something very healthy and inspiring in this rural upbringing because there are now three members on this side of the chamber who have KI roots. It is my privilege to join the member for Bragg and the member for Finnis as part of a Kangaroo Island connection.

While my island upbringing was 30-odd years ago when child safety and child protection were taken for granted, unfortunately now it is a major concern. It was a particularly big issue in my electorate in the lead-up to the last election, given the findings of the DeBelle report. Child protection and education are two areas I am very passionate about and something I will fight for especially during my time in this place.

I was pleased to hear the Governor speak of a focus on a renewal of the education sector in his speech. I know that the education portfolio has been handballed through a number of ministers on the benches opposite in recent times, and there has also been a rotation of chief executives. This has left many parents in my electorate quite perplexed about who is actually calling the shots on their children's future. I applaud the Premier for seeking to give the necessary attention to this very important sector, and I plan to keep him to account to make sure that South Australia lifts its outcomes in national testing results.

After my primary school years on Kangaroo Island, I moved to Adelaide and settled into Oaklands Park. As I have mentioned, I went to Brighton High School. It was the early 1980s, and it was the time when I was introduced to city life. It is funny now, but I remember traffic lights, department store shopping, league football and 'red hen' trains all being quite fascinating. Adelaide was a vibrant city and a key capital city on the national landscape. Adelaide was mentioned in the same breath as Sydney and Melbourne. We were often talked about in front of Brisbane and Perth but, sadly, that has all changed.

Our state debt continues to escalate uncontrollably up toward \$14 billion, with continued wasteful spending from this Labor government. After 12 years of a state Labor government, South Australia is struggling to stay in front of Tasmania in so many of the key indicators that measure economic prosperity for the states. This is a fact that must change if we hope to keep our young people here and ultimately lure good people back to SA. It disappoints me to note that we have had in excess of 33,000 net interstate migrants over the life of this Labor government; that is 33,000 more people leaving South Australia than moving here to set up home. On a personal level, I am sad to say that just last week my cousin and his family added themselves to that figure. The exodus must stop.

Going to school in the eighties was a brilliant time. It was a time when the mullet haircut was cool and acid-washed jeans were trendy—or so I tried to tell people. It was also when I started in the

workforce. My first job was collecting paper money, followed by a few years at Foodland stacking shelves and packing groceries, before I landed a job at The Athlete's Foot in Westfield Marion, the retail heartland of the Mitchell electorate.

At the time, I was getting paid to sell sports gear and I could not have been happier, but in hindsight it was so much more than a job. The store owner is Geoff Roberts, a great person working hard in Mitchell, and he is someone I still call a friend today. He taught me how hard you have to work to earn a dollar in business. As a business owner, he carries a large risk. A big part of his reward was employing so many young people from the local area. For that, I thank him, and it is a credit that he is still employing young people in Mitchell today.

Working at Westfield Marion made me part of a bigger family, and I soon became friends with many other store owners, staff and the security team. One of the security team from that period, Graham Miller, now owns Spargo's cafe in the Marion centre just around from the movie theatre steps. Graham is another person taking a risk, working hard to make his business a success and also giving employment opportunities to 20 to 30 staff from in and around the Mitchell electorate; Rhet Biglands and his Nike store, Lucy and Roger Trombetta in their Hyde Leather shop, and Marco Venturini at Hairesphere are doing likewise. They are all great people investing in South Australia. They are putting their money on the line to run a business and create opportunities for our state.

I read with great interest yesterday on the front page of *The Advertiser* how SA's retail environment was described as 'anti-business, uncompetitive, inefficient, over-regulated, overtaxed and out of touch with economic reality'. The quote from Gilmour's Comfort Shoes was alarming. They have stores in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, but in their submission to the Productivity Commission they said that 'it is easier to set up business in the US than it is in Adelaide'. That is what is hurting growth in this state and it has been limiting employment opportunities here for the past decade.

Under this state Labor government more than 21,300 jobs have been lost in Adelaide's southern region in the past 12 months. The jobless rate has jumped, from 4.2 per cent to 7.9 per cent in that period according to the ABS Labour Force survey. With all the talk about the high unemployment rate in the north of the city, I am concerned those opposite have forgotten about the south. Well, that will not happen while I am here.

We must free business of the excessive burdens that are choking South Australia's productivity. We must help them flourish so that they can sustainably employ more people. I speak to business owners every day who want to employ more people, but they cannot because the cost of doing business in this state is too high. We need to help businesses create more jobs by cutting red tape and slicing payroll tax or 'jobs tax', as it has been adequately renamed by the member for Bright in his maiden speech.

I call on the Premier to move on these measures quickly and I call on him to make sure he remembers the people of Mitchell and the people in the south. There are many other businesses stretching through my electorate in Mitchell right down to Reynella and Old Reynella. They all work equally hard and face the same concerns.

After finishing high school, I made my way to university and completed a degree in sports science. Upon graduating, I worked for the SANFL, coaching and teaching in communities right across South Australia. It was the ideal job, especially while I played reserves footy for both Glenelg and Sturt. My playing career, however, was stifled by injury, but ultimately ended by a lack of talent. Many of my mates were called into the Adelaide Crows inaugural squad, but that lack of talent issue I mentioned saw me overlooked, so I decided on a new challenge.

I decided to become a sports journalist so that I could travel the globe and watch all the world's great sporting events from seats money could not buy. The short story is that I did that. I set a goal and I achieved it. I have been lucky to witness events like Wimbledon, the French Open, Ladies Day at Royal Ascot, AFL grand finals, grands prix, the Cricket World Cup at Lord's, and many more. I share this story to make my mum's point again—that if you work hard, believe and make the most of your opportunities you can achieve anything.

When I moved to Sydney in search of my big break in television, I had to start at the bottom. After working as a runner on a few major sporting events, I was offered a job as a receptionist at Channel Nine's *Wide World of Sports*. For the record, I was considered the ugliest receptionist they

had ever had, but it was a foot in the door and it was the start of a fun-filled and rewarding media career.

After nearly a decade in Sydney and Melbourne, I returned home for family reasons. I was lucky to land one of the rare jobs in television in Adelaide. I worked for Network Ten on the news and on numerous national events. I also produced and hosted a local footy show with a good friend of mine, Poppy, which was called *Simply Footy*. While I am proud of what I achieved at Ten, it has been sad to see career opportunities in television diminish in Adelaide over the past 15 years, and it is not just the media; it is a story I hear from so many industries.

The fact is a vast number of opportunities are now only on the eastern seaboard. I strongly believe this is something that has to change. We have to be able to generate more career opportunities here in South Australia, especially for our young. As I stressed earlier, we need to engage with business and give them an economic environment that will allow them to flourish and create more opportunities. I am very passionate about this and it is a key reason why I am standing here today.

For those of you who know me, there will be little surprise that I will spend some time talking about my affinity with local sporting and community groups in and around the electorate of Mitchell. This leads me back to the secret of Mitchell, the people. Sporting clubs are a haven for great people. They are home to countless brilliant volunteers, people who give their time generously to help educate the next generation and work tirelessly to build better communities. My electorate is home to the reigning Southern Football League premiers, the Reynella Football Club. Mitchell residents also flow to the Brighton club which is my club, Cove, O'Sullivan Beach, Lonsdale and Marion clubs among others. These clubs are led by outstanding presidents, Dave Denyer at the Wineflies, Kym Steer at the Bombers, Dale Champion at the Cobras, David Schultz at the Lions, and Min Adams at the Rams.

It is not just football that has great people. I have seen Andy Fry, the president of Cove FC, and his wife Michelle work tirelessly to change the culture of their club. It has been amazing to watch. They have brought in a new positive approach and all their teams have shown results and improved their community. The Marion Mall Walkers are another incredibly positive bunch who regularly power their way around the shopping centre. If you ever make it to the mall early on a Monday, Thursday or Friday you might see them striding out in their red shirts, and good luck keeping up with Pat Thalbourne, last year's Walker of the Year. She is a real goer and a lovely person.

Even though Mitchell is landlocked, there is still a strong affinity with the water. Many residents make the short journey from Mitchell to one of a number of surf lifesaving clubs stretched along the coast. Away from the beach Mitchell is arguably the home of the learn-to-swim programs in the southern region, from Juan Castro's swim school on Sturt Road to State Swim around the corner on Morphet Road and down to Sherriffs Road swimming centre at the other end of the electorate in Reynella. I think I can confidently say that if you grew up in or around Mitchell and you can swim freestyle there is a fair chance you attended one of these facilities. These centres are loaded with caring people. They have been operating for years, but more recently Mitchell has proudly welcomed the swimming jewel in the crown, the SA Aquatic Centre, which is the headquarters of the Marion Swimming Club.

Another person who typifies the great spirit of Mitchell people is Greeny at the Reynella Cricket Club. I was only recently told that his name is David Green because everybody calls him Greeny. Club life member number 20, he recently had his trademark wispy silver hair and handlebar moustache shaved off for charity. I have to be honest and say it was not a pretty look but he did raise \$1,500 for charity. Greeny is another great person in Mitchell.

It is disappointing to note that so many of these sporting groups will be doing it tougher in the future after the Premier decided before the recent election to cut \$3.5 million of funding to the Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities program. I will be working hard to help all of these great organisations and others in any way I can.

Nine schools and one hotel fit into the confines of the Mitchell electoral boundary. My waistline is thankful for that ratio and I am very thankful it is not the other way around. Eight of the schools are primary schools and there is just one high school in the electorate. While Seaview High School stands alone as the only high school in Mitchell, it is well and truly playing its part in producing more quality people. The principal, Penny Tranter, was very proud to introduce me to one of her

students last year, a young man named Blake Derer. He went on to sweep the awards at Seaview's graduation ceremony in 2013 and he was named the City of Marion's Young Citizen of the Year on Australia Day. It was an outstanding acknowledgement of his great service to the community, but a better indication of the quality of this young man was evident from a story I followed with him and a few of his friends on Facebook.

The support Blake and his mates gave to their school friend Patrick Buksinski as he battled cancer was uplifting. They took every opportunity to be with Patrick and raise his spirits during the associated chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment. Sadly, they experienced the cruel curse of cancer as the disease eventually claimed their mate. They were there in his final moments and true friends to the end—yet another example of good Mitchell people.

On a lighter note, I would like to talk about the \$7 schnitzels at the Crown Inn Hotel in Reynella. This is the one pub in Mitchell, Madam Deputy Speaker, and if you are ever free on a Thursday night I would like to take you to the Crown Inn for a schnitzel. My buy. What you will get for your \$7 is a great feed and a side order of more brilliant people.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You're on!

Mr WINGARD: I mentioned earlier that I have four children, so you can do the maths, but taking them all out to dinner can be expensive. About 18 months ago my family was having some work done on our kitchen and the cooktop was out of action, so we headed to the Crown Inn for dinner. We walked in knowing no-one, and left with a dozen more new friends. In fact, my wife, my stepdad, my mum and I are now social club members, and the other week my wife won the raffle and took home 4 feet of meat. It doesn't get any better than that! So again, if you are free on a Thursday night I would love to take you along; I can introduce you to Donald and Cathy—

Members interjecting:

Mr WINGARD: The member for Heysen is more than welcome to come—I can take anyone in the house; it is a whole lot of fun!

An honourable member: Are you shouting?

Mr WINGARD: I am only paying for the Deputy Speaker! But if you want to join the social club, as I said, I will introduce you to Donald and Cathy and you can get to know more magical Mitchell people. Mitchell is also home to the Edge Church, and I mention this group specifically because they have been so welcoming and engaging. The congregation takes in an incredibly large number of Mitchell constituents, but their care for the wider community reaches far beyond my electoral boundaries.

I have personally witnessed this amazing group of people gather around a family in need after their son was shot dead. They offered guidance and support in the toughest time, and they did it without expectation of anything in return. Once again, another team of outstanding Mitchell people. I think I have made it very clear: Mitchell means 'good people'. I am sorry I cannot mention them all here today, but I look forward to serving them all in the years ahead.

Before I finish, Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank some people who helped me get here today. As we know, campaigning is a team effort and my team is first class. Thanks go to my campaign manager Mary Andrew, Emma Andrew, Josh Rule, Trent Harron and Penny Pratt for all their help and support. I also thank Demi, Steve, Roberta, SEC President Paul, Kimberley and Maddie, branch President Bill and Lesley, Em-Jay, Liam, Courtney, Steph, Linda, Greg, Mostyn and Diana.

I would like to thank my mum, Heather, my stepdad Len, my dad Rick, and stepmum Liz. I would also like to thank Jody, Nick, Laura, Sarah, Tommy and Hugh; Johnny, Tui, and Taya; Annabel, Brian and the younger Brian; my brother Brenton, Jessie, Madi, Luke and Mason; Andrew, Sarah, Jack, Alex and Erin (who walked their feet off); Sharon, Wayne, Jake and Adam and Rachel Brown, who is a politician in the making! I also thank long-time friends Aaron, Poppy, Damian, Anne Marie, Michael, Garry, Yvette, Jaimie and Brett—and everyone else who helped on the campaign.

I would also like to mention the member for Waite and the Hon. Terry Stephens in the Legislative Council for all their help and support, and our leader, the member for Dunstan. Steven has only met my mum a couple of times, but I think he also lives by her mantra. He is the hardest working person I have met.

Thank you to the rest of my state colleagues and Senators Edwards, Birmingham, Bernardi, Ruston and Fawcett. Thank you also to the federal member for Sturt, Hon. Christopher Pyne, the member for Boothby Andrew Southcott, and the member for Hindmarsh, Matt Williams.

Mostly, I would like to truly thank my wife Emma and our beautiful children: Amy, Tyson, Heath and Brooke—I knew I would stall here! Collectively you are my inspiration and life, and I love you all to the moon and back.

Finally, you may have noticed I have not mentioned the Oaklands Park crossing. I do not have enough time left for me to share with you all the grievances that I have received about this neglected piece of infrastructure, so I will save that for another day, but trust me, before I am gone from this place, you will have heard plenty about that matter, and more, from me and the very good people of Mitchell. Thank you.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (16:34): First, congratulations go to all members in this house on their election, especially the new members. Special mention needs to be made of the member for Fisher. I know all members wish him a speedy recovery. Private members' time, for people who have been here before, will be very odd, I think, this Thursday without him. I also would like to congratulate all new members and re-elected members in the Legislative Council. Again, I congratulate the Speaker (the member for Croydon) on his re-nomination as Speaker, and our new Deputy Speaker (the member for Florey).

A special thank you needs to go out to everyone (and there are quite a few of them, whom I will not mention by name) who worked on the Ashford ALP campaign. Thank you: I really appreciate all the work that was done. I thank my campaign manager Ben Waters, my husband Kevin Purse, and both the Key and Purse families. Electorate staff and volunteers who kept the electorate office running during the campaign particularly need to get a mention, and I know that they are again keeping up the hard work that needs to happen to keep our office running.

Special thanks go to the Premier and ministers Hunter, Gago and Koutsantonis. I would like to acknowledge the other candidates in Ashford for their efforts and good grace during the campaign. Thank you to the Ashford constituents and, again, I pledge to continue to work hard to represent your interests.

I welcomed the Governor's speech identifying that there would be reform to the existing WorkCover scheme so that it works effectively for both workers and employers. He said it will also protect and enhance the wellbeing of the most seriously injured at work and will hold a clearer focus on recovery, retraining and return to work for those less seriously injured.

Having been a worker advocate in the workers compensation systems pre and post 1986, I have experience in the life for workers who have the misfortune of being injured or having an illness related to their employment. Any reforms need to be fair and not to the cost of injured or ill workers and their families. Sadly, since becoming an MP, many constituents have sought my support and intervention with regard to their or their family members' workers compensation case.

The management of the WorkCover scheme needs to be dramatically improved but not by cutting back workers' entitlements or access to the scheme. I question the definition of 'serious injury' and the use of what I understand is a 30 per cent whole person impairment (WPI) rating to determine entitlements. Injured and ill workers being limited to no more than two years of weekly payments for their work seems to me to be harsh.

It is also clear that many workers still have medical costs and medicines after they return to work, and a one-year cap that is proposed when they return to work again, to me, seems unfair. In my view, it is unconscionable that ill and injured workers should bear the medical costs that should be borne by the scheme. As the Attorney-General says in his *Advertiser* opinion piece today, the scheme must address the ongoing wellbeing and mental health of an injured worker as well as treating the initial injury.

I do not support any further tightening of eligibility for compensation. It is hard enough as it is. The major complaints that I receive from injured and ill workers are related to WorkCover's inadequate case management. Many injured workers may be badly treated or managed by different case managers for just one injury or illness. I have had examples where a non-medically-trained

case manager often decides whether or not the worker will go to a specialist, whether a medical report is accepted and the best rehabilitation or appropriate medical operations for that worker.

Having been the presiding member of the Occupational Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Committee, I am aware of the poor record South Australia has with regard to workers returning to work after injury or illness. Our committee spent nearly two years hearing and collecting evidence on this matter. This is why I am concerned about what support, rehabilitation and retraining will be available to workers who are not deemed to be seriously injured. A clear definition of what a seriously injured worker is needs to be known. However, the limited number of inquiry categories under consideration, mainly quadriplegia and paraplegia, indicates that the bar is going to be set very high, rather like trying to pass a camel through the eye of a needle.

Prior to entering parliament, I worked as WorkCover advocate, as I mentioned, so I have firsthand experience of the debilitating effects that work injuries can have on injured workers and their families. Since becoming an MP, especially since the 2008 changes, I am now meeting with many constituents who are injured workers. With this background, it is quite clear to me that there need to be many more injuries, apart from quadriplegia and paraplegia, that can justify being described as a serious injury.

The rationale underlying the eye of the needle eligibility test for serious injuries is that it has the potential to generate massive scheme savings that would enable employer premiums to be reduced, but to my mind this is a justification more about cost shifting than cost savings. I have also had the honour of working as an industrial advocate in the national disability sector for the ACTU. It was concerning to meet numbers of workers living on a disability support pension because they had a work-related injury or illness and had either been sacked or forced to leave the compensation scheme that they were under. The responsibility of their situation had been transferred to the commonwealth social wage. Many of these workers and families live in poverty.

Now constituents visit the electorate office in distress at the situation they have found themselves in by having had an injury or an illness in a job that they once had. I do not accept the view that building workers, nurses, truck drivers and other workers with disabling work injuries should have to pay for the mismanagement of a workers' compensation scheme. The most effective way of reducing WorkCover costs involves making workplaces safe and ensuring that injured workers are assisted in returning to work.

Reported work injuries have declined over recent years, but they are still too many. Last year alone there were around 25,000. Return to work also remains a problem, in part because of delays in timely referrals for rehabilitation and a failure to ensure workers are provided with suitable employment following their recovery from injury. Unsafe workplaces and ineffective rehabilitation are a drain on the state's economy and the wellbeing of its citizens. WorkCover figures indicate there are more than 560,000 working days lost as a result of work injuries in just 2011-12. This equates to 1,536 years of lost productivity in just one year. Legislating seriously injured workers off the scheme to me is not the answer to the problem. Any new reforms or changes need to get it right.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (16:44): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and congratulations on your appointment. I am very pleased to be here speaking in response to the Governor's speech and the introduction to the excitement-packed agenda that the Weatherill government has in store for us here in South Australia.

So void were they of policy and ideas that they even referred to a travel guide that described Adelaide as one of the best places to visit. What they do not understand is that it is a marketing ploy. It is a bit like when *Who's Who* ring you up and say, 'We want to update your details; we want to put you in the book,' and then three months later you get a bill for \$300 saying that the book is for sale. It is the same concept when the travel guides put your city in and tell you what a wonderful place it is—because they want the people in that city to go and buy the new edition of that book. That is what it is all about, and that is all this government has to hang its achievements on after 12 years. It is a very shallow agenda indeed of this government.

I will touch on the government's so-called education agenda. They made the extraordinary claim that they remain committed to continuous improvement in their system. 'Continuous improvement to this system' was the description they used, but there was no detail, of course, and a complete void in their record on education in South Australia. If we look at what this government has delivered or achieved—or failed to achieve—in the last 12 years, we can look at areas such as the

PISA scores in South Australia. Before we had NAPLAN testing, which started in 2008, South Australia participated in the OECD testing regime, which tested things such as scientific literacy, reading, writing and other key areas of education.

The disappointing thing in South Australia is that our results back in 2000 were far better than the results we have been delivering recently, particularly the last PISA results. The PISA results in 2000 saw South Australia delivering the best results in the country in key areas, such as scientific literacy, literacy and numeracy. If we were a country on our own, we would be second only to Finland in many of those areas. Now Australia has slipped over that period, but South Australia's results have absolutely tumbled.

PISA results in 2012 show that South Australia recorded the largest absolute decline in performance of any state or territory in Australia in all three categories—maths, science and reading—since the previous PISA test. In mathematics, South Australia's raw score has declined 46 points since maths was last tested as a major domain in 2003, from 535 points to 489 points. The average decline across Australia in maths in 2003 was 20 points, so the decline in South Australia was 130 per cent greater than the average decline in performance across Australia.

In reading, South Australia's raw score has declined by 37 points since reading was tested as a major domain in 2000, from 537 points to 500 points. The average decline across Australia in reading since 2000 was 16 points. In South Australia, the decline was 131 per cent greater than the average decline in performance across Australia. In science, South Australia's raw score has declined by 19 points since science was last tested as a major domain in 2006, from 532 points to 513 points.

The average decline across Australia in science since 2006 was five points, so the decline in South Australia was 280 per cent greater than the average decline in performance across Australia. This is an important point because we hear the Premier continue to tell us that his plan for South Australia is a smart economy, which includes smart manufacturing. Of course, smart manufacturing requires science students to graduate from our high schools and go into university.

In 2003, as part of the Strategic Plan, this government presided over a decline, from 44 per cent in 2000 to just 41 per cent of students in 2003 who were attaining a pass mark in their ATAR in STEM subjects such as chemistry, physics and maths. They set a target that by 2010 they wanted to increase that by 45 per cent. The sad truth about that measure is that we did not make that figure in 2010; as a matter of fact, we went backwards in South Australia in the number of students.

Despite the fact that more students were finishing year 12, fewer students were attaining pass marks in STEM subjects. This is of concern to organisations such as Engineering Australia. Our universities—the problem has become even worse with the introduction of the new SACE and a compulsory research project preventing many students, particularly those in government schools that are not resourced, from studying five subjects in year 12.

In mathematics, reading and science, South Australia is the worst-performing mainland state in South Australia in PISA in 2012, with only Tasmania and the Northern Territory underperforming South Australia. Think about that: Tasmania and the Northern Territory are the only other states and territories that are doing worse than South Australia when it comes to mathematics, reading and science. Australia ranks 19th out of 65 countries in maths in PISA in 2012, significantly above the average; however, if South Australia were included as a separate country, it would rank 35th out of 65 countries, performing well below average.

They are shocking figures, and they are the legacy of 12 years of Labor government, a government with a leader who said he wanted to be the 'education Premier'. Well, the education Premier should be hanging his head in shame at the educational outcomes here in South Australia. Australia ranks 14th out of 65 countries in reading, significantly above the average; however, if South Australia were a separate country, it would rank 28th out of 65 countries.

Australia ranks 16th out of 65 countries in science, significantly above the average; however, if South Australia were included as a separate country, it would rank 27th out of those countries. We are not missing out by an inch or two, we are missing out by an enormous figure. We are not even in the ballpark when it comes to South Australia's outcomes in these important areas compared with other states in Australia.

I touched earlier on NAPLAN. NAPLAN, of course, has been debated at this time every year; we have the NAPLAN tests every May. For some reason, there are people who claim to have the education of children at interest who criticise the NAPLAN test as putting too much stress on children, and they claim that it stops children from learning other things in schools. But what we need to remember is that if children can read and write they can pass a NAPLAN test—basic skills for building an education. If children cannot read and write, they do not engage in their learning and their learning ceases.

We heard this morning about the number of reception and years 1 and 2 students who are suspended for bad behaviour. I put it to you, Deputy Speaker, that that is all about engagement of children in their education, and parents' engagement in their children's education. We are seeing poorer results here in South Australia.

If we look at the 2013 NAPLAN results, South Australia was below the national average in 19 out of 20 categories; that is after not meeting the national average in 2011, and not meeting the national average in 2012, in a single category. When South Australian students sat the first NAPLAN test in 2008, we did in fact at least meet the national average in five of those 20 categories, but we have continually gone backwards since then.

When the Premier was education minister, he said we were doing so badly because we have a bigger proportion of lower socioeconomic families here in South Australia. The former member for Hartley, Grace Portolesi, made the same claim when she was education minister: she blamed the family, she blamed the socioeconomic mix in South Australia. But what does that say? How can a premier suggest that as an excuse, that we have a higher proportion of lower socioeconomic families in South Australia? In other words, there is less opportunity for South Australians under Labor.

South Australia made no progress in 18 out of 20 categories since 2008. After 12 years of Labor, five education ministers, 10 directors of education or CEOs of the education department and acting CEOs and dozens of government programs and announcements, we continue to trail the nation. That is a standard practice of this government. Poor NAPLAN results: 'We are announcing some more spending in numeracy and literacy.' It is almost as though it comes out of their little red book: 'What do I say in response to these poor education results? What do I say in response to these poor results in our waiting lists in our hospitals? What do I say about these poor crime figures?' It is either the families, the global economic crisis or Canberra. That is all we get from this government.

I would like to touch on skills and training, which is another area I am responsible for as the shadow minister. There are some more frightening statistics here that I would like to advise the parliament. The latest NCVET (National Centre for Vocational Studies) figures for the September quarter showed a decrease in apprenticeship and trainee commencements in South Australia of 8.6 per cent, compared to a national increase of 47.6 per cent. The number of apprentices and trainees commencing training in the September quarter decreased by 16.1 per cent, while across the nation it increased by 17.1 per cent, and this is after the introduction of the government's Skills for All and its big promise to create 100,000 new jobs at the 2010 election.

Completions of apprenticeships and traineeships decreased by 41 per cent in September 2013. South Australia has the worst commencement and completions for apprenticeships and traineeships in the nation. Of course, we have seen the mess that is Skills for All. Every couple of months those that are providing training through proper accredited training businesses are advised that funding is no longer available for that training. They have to make staff redundant, go to the bank and extend their overdrafts against their houses. We have seen dozens of training providers that have closed their businesses because of the poor management of Skills for All.

It is important that we learn the lessons of Skills for All so we will know that when important government expenditure is spent we will get jobs outcomes. It is interesting that the government said it was going to deliver 100,000 new jobs in 2010 and also announced 100,000 training positions. Skills for All was going to deliver those 100,000 new jobs, but the facts are that the management of the Skills for All program had nothing to do with jobs outcomes, or employment outcomes. If it did we would not be 96,000 jobs short of the government's 100,000 job target just 22 months away from the target deadline of March 2016.

I would like to finish by making some comments on the absolutely disgraceful campaign of the now member for Elder against Carolyn Habib. It is not just me who is concerned about this new

Labor Party, this new blood, this Labor Party that is rejuvenating itself. I refer to Haydon Manning's article published online just last week. He made the comments that:

The stress upon Habib's surname and the deliberate absence of her first name combine with the invocation to voters to reflect on 'TRUST' set against a wall that conjures a war zone serves a targeted purpose. Namely to imply that Habib is trouble akin to what you'd expect to find with the strife we observe bedeviling Middle-Eastern countries and possibly terrorism.

It goes on to say that the leaflet's imagery begs the question: why this particular imagery and not the standard for negative campaign pamphleteering, such as the background used by Labor in its attack upon Liberals and other candidates, for example my colleague the member for Hartley, who was the candidate for Hartley at that time. There is his comparison as to the fact that Caroline Habib's surname was deliberately left off to provide the reader with the impression that they knew less about the candidate but the Labor Party wanting them to know more about the candidate with this snide and disgraceful campaign playing on her Lebanese heritage.

The member for Elder needs to come clean. She needs to tell this parliament: what did she know about this campaign? I put it to you that she knew about it. She is as racist as the other members of her campaign. In her maiden speech, she said, 'Demography shows—and she is talking about the electorate of Elder—that there is a significant Caucasian population in Elder.' She knew what she was doing when she put that out. He knew what she was doing. She is a racist, and she is in this parliament because of her racist behaviour as the candidate in the lead-up to the election. Shame on the Labor Party, shame on the member for Elder. It is a stolen election victory in the seat of Elder, based on the dirty tricks of the Labor Party and a racist campaign.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Schubert, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the former member of Schubert, and remind all members present that this is the member's first speech and, accordingly, I ask them to extend to him the traditional courtesies of the house.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption resumed.

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (17:01): Deputy Speaker, it is with great honour and no small amount of surprise that I rise to speak to the house today. As a young man heavily entrenched in the toils of growing the family business, I feel very privileged to have become only the second member for the seat of Schubert in the South Australian parliament. I have always been an activist, I have always been a joiner of things, but I did not think that the life of a parliamentarian was my destiny. My wonder is heightened by the fact that I stand here to represent what is inarguably one of the best electorates in this country.

Members interjecting:

Mr KNOLL: Hear me out. Schubert takes in all of Australia's most famous wine region, the Barossa Valley, extending from Freeling in the West, Nuriootpa, Penrice and Angaston to the north, my home town of Tanunda, Kersbrook, Williamstown, Lyndoch and Sandy Creek to the south. Schubert also takes in Eden Valley and part of the flats of the Murraylands, including Mount Pleasant, Keyneton, Eden Valley, Springton, Cambrai, Sedan and across to Mannum. Perhaps, though, my favourite part of Schubert is the turn off from the Sturt Highway to Gomersal Road. When heading back home from the city, that turnoff, with its view of rolling hills, changing with the seasons from golden to green, helps to put the perceived trials and tribulations of everyday life into perspective; indeed, life makes more sense.

Schubert has been home, since its inception in 1997, to a man who most of you know very well, Ivan Venning. The only other member for Schubert was one of the real characters of the Liberal Party and of this place. He has been and will continue to be a great mentor and friend, someone whose knowledge of his constituents never ceases to amaze me. I am humble enough to know that I do not know all of the problems that Schubert people face, but I hope to emulate Ivan's tireless

advocacy for his electorate, and I will use the mechanisms of this parliament to deliver the best I can for this great electorate.

An honourable member: Paint bridges?

Mr KNOLL: If need be! Schubert is best known for its wine, food and tourism. It is part of a rural South Australia that is highly productive and contributes over and above its population base to this economy. Perhaps, though, it should be better known for its sense of community. Schubert is a place of strong values, hard work, thrift, innovation and self-reliance. It is a community where people band together to get things done, where we put our hands in our own pockets first and ask for handouts last. Instead of wine, I would like to see these values become our greatest export.

Immersing myself within the local communities and experiencing the people of Schubert has solidified my understanding and, indeed, respect for the individual. To paraphrase some lines from John Howard's first speech to parliament:

The Liberal Party offers you an Australia built on deep respect for the individual, on his and her dignity and freedom, the right to succeed, to accept responsibility, to work harder if they wish and to be rewarded for it. The individual's success is the community's success.

This concept finds a very natural home in Schubert. One of the greatest proponents of these qualities was Max Schubert after whom the electorate is named. Max will deservedly take his place in our history as the inventor of Grange Hermitage, continuing to produce it against the wish of his superiors, but Max should be also known as a man whom, amongst others including the late Ray Beckwith, helped to change the face of both the Australian and global wine industries. The electorate of Schubert is certainly one of history, but it is also one of innovation, progressive thinking and a touch of irreverence.

My family and I have travelled and lived in many parts of the country, but community spirit has certainly made Schubert the easiest and indeed the best place to call home. My paternal grandparents arrived here in 1957 escaping the difficulties of post-war Germany. Being part of the incongruously named Silent Generation, they are anything but silent. Their rich memories and background have formed much of my thinking. Their self-reliance, ingenuity, strong work ethic and frugal nature have shown me the value and satisfaction of a hard day's work and taking pride in being a maker of things.

My grandfather was 14 at the end of the Second World War. As the oldest, his family was able to escape national service in the Wehrmacht, and if not for that I might not be standing here today. My grandmother Oma's family was not so lucky, suffering in many ways.

In Australia they toiled hard to put the money together to start their own business and did so in 1961. That business, Bavaria Smallgoods, grew and provided great experience to both my uncle and my father and was sold in 1987. This led to our family being uprooted and setting off on an adventure around Australia. After living in Darwin and Sydney our family came home to Adelaide in 1991 and bought a shop in the Central Market called Barossa Fine Foods. My earliest memories of the shop were standing outside the front on a Saturday morning with a card table full of smallgoods, hawking my wares to passers-by. Dad was tough on commission, but the joy of earning my own money taught me the value of it from an early age.

That business grew from three staff to a business with 15 shops, 230 staff, and national distribution. I was very fortunate to be born into this family and to be part of its journey. I was even luckier that in 2004, as a 21 year old, I had a father that would entrust the running of the family business to me. The mistakes I have made—and there have been many—and the lessons I have learnt about how to grow a business stand me in good stead here today.

As the business grew my role went from task orientated to people orientated. Indeed, what gave me the most satisfaction was the ability to give opportunities to people, and to see them grow and develop with the dignity and confidence that comes with a stable job. I have seen the effects of drug abuse, intergenerational unemployment, unstable family, and addiction. I have seen some with great talent fail and some with little overcome their shortcomings to make a better life for themselves. The only consistent indicator to success through all of this was hard work and effort, and the conscious decision to say, 'I want better for myself and I am going to take every opportunity to get it.'

I also learnt that family and business do mix. The greatest regret that I have is that I will no longer be able to sit down to breakfast and lunch with my father and my brothers, who are all here

today, and talk of all things sausage, politics and everything in between. We are an intense bunch signed on to a single dream—one where we make the best product that we can and say yes to every opportunity that we are able. Indeed, there is an old saying that there are two things that you never want to see made: laws and sausages. So, as someone who has helped to make some of the best sausages in the country, I hope I can bring the same to parliament and to lawmaking.

The issues we have had as a business are the same that all small businesses go through when trying to become bigger businesses. Knowing how to overcome them is at the heart of the recovery of the South Australian economy. Schubert, and indeed South Australia, is always touted as a small to medium enterprise state. This is true and indeed very laudable. Small business is the engine room of any economy and the greatest creator of new jobs and new industries. The problem with this statement is that there are not enough of them. South Australia lags behind every other mainland state in terms of businesses per head of population. This compromises our long-term strength, resilience and diversity.

South Australia is standing on the brink. We can either foster innovation that leads to increased dynamism and jobs growth in new industries or we can continue to seek out the big wins, the headline-grabbing wins which, while they look good in newspaper copy, are not the entire story. South Australia is standing on the brink. We can either look to be more like Silicon Valley with its great influx of talent, ideas and capital or we can end up like Detroit, reliant on large players and old industries that are not nimble enough to change with new markets and technologies.

We must do more to support the creation of new small businesses. We need to support those who take the risky step of investing their own capital, their own life savings in new ventures; it is the only way that we can grow and prosper. The Liberal Party understands this explicitly, and our policy platform on promoting entrepreneurship is something I am very proud of. I will be a tireless advocate for fixing the fundamentals. Talking to local businesses, as I have over the last decade, I know that the best thing that we can do in this place to generate growth and jobs is to fix the fundamentals. Tax, utilities, workers compensation and compliance are all handbrakes on our economy that must be reformed.

We still have in South Australia the opportunity to be a low-cost place to do business, not in an absolute sense when compared to the working conditions of the second and third world, but relative to other states and relative to the industries that we can compete successfully in. I believe in my head and my heart that the best thing we can do to promote greater prosperity for the people of Schubert and indeed all South Australians is to create the settings that will breed success, independent of government welfare or interference.

Joining the Liberal Party in early 2008 in the wake of the federal election loss has helped me to solidify my thinking on this. I was inspired to join to help advocate for changes in government at both state and federal level. As a young person I joined the Young Liberal wing of the party and was fortunate enough to be its president in 2011-12. My time spent there making friends, forming opinions and gaining campaign experience was formative and invaluable. I thank the many friends I have made, in particular those here today, but I would also like to thank recent past presidents Sam Duluk, Chris Browne, Michael Van Dissel and Dan Cregan. They are men of considerable intellect and I appreciate their counsel.

I also acknowledge other former Young Liberal presidents the Hon. Michelle Lensink MLC and the member for Morialta who are currently serving in this parliament. I also acknowledge former Young Liberal presidents Dean Brown, a former premier, and Legh Davis, a former MLC. The exuberance and enthusiasm of the Young Liberals may frustrate some, but the movement gives me hope for the future of our party and, to my mind, it is the best training ground for future involvement in our political system.

Perhaps the most informative discussion amongst Young Liberals pertains to the structure of government itself. Competitive federalism is at the heart of Liberal philosophy and should be in the heart of all Liberals. Our federation, though, has many issues. With three strong levels of government we are undoubtedly overgoverned. However, the answer is not to abolish a level of government; it is electorally impossible and impractical: instead, we need to better define government.

We must understand the strength and efficiency of national government, especially in relation to tax collection, but similarly respect the superior role of the states as a deliverer of services. Only

through further clarity can we hope to do more with less, avoid confusion and duplication, and deal effectively with the tensions of vertical fiscal imbalance. Even as far back as 1949 Sir Thomas Playford echoed these views, providing this cautionary opinion:

The people have decided on a Federal system, and there is no halfway course...The Commonwealth Parliament...has assumed complete sovereignty over the States...Experience has shown that unification of Government in countries like Australia is not in the interests of the people either from the point of view of effective government, the development of the country, or from the point of view of maintaining civil liberties.

Increased cooperation and clarity is something I have seen work well within my electorate. Schubert has small yet effective organisations to bring about change within the community. These organisations are efficient, work well together, have stakeholder buy-in and deliver good outcomes with strong institutional knowledge retention. I have seen countless examples of industry associations, allied health and care groups, town committees, progress associations, aged care groups and partnership brokers do so much more with so much less. I believe in this as a service delivery model for South Australia.

By contrast, too often I have seen the cost coefficient of the bureaucratic model, of a system with the best of intentions but outdated modus operandi. I see good, intelligent, committed people who came to effect change caught in an expensive system that has failed them and the people they seek to serve.

True leadership and power is having faith in letting others use it. Indeed, it is the mark of an insecure leader that seeks to centralise power for centralisation's sake. Genuine community engagement is the only hope that we have for improving the perception of our vocation.

The greatest fallacy of big government and those who support it is that it is sustainable. Indeed, big government inevitably begets smaller government. When we focus on growing the size of government, we do so at the expense of growing the economic pie. When we then try to take ever-larger slices of a smaller pie, there is less to go around. Small and efficient government begets growth and prosperity. Over time the proponents of small government will be able to do more—so much more—for understanding that the public sector relies on a strong private sector, not the other way around.

A man who understood this intrinsically and as a result kept a flat, small and efficient public service, was the great Sir Thomas Playford. There are not many advantages to sitting on this side of the house; however, being able to look up and see the great portrait of Playford here in Uncle Tom's Cabin does give me great comfort and inspiration. No politician has so affected the economic future of this state as Playford. To quote Sir Walter Crocker's biography:

He set out to bring about an economic revolution in South Australia: to industrialize it so as to end its old dependence on agriculture and sheep farming. At the same time he insisted upon, and he provided, administration which was efficient, thrifty forward-looking and conscientious. His government was quiet-spoken in tone, but its will, like its honesty, was never in doubt.

Playford's vision for South Australia has sustained this state for 50 years, and recent commentary around the current economic troubles being of his making are as offensive as they are wrong. The issue with Playford's vision is that it has not been renewed. Now is well past the time for us to renew that vision. We need to take on his honesty, his integrity, his passion for South Australia, his unrelenting focus on industrial policy as the basis for prosperity and his old-fashioned common sense.

One criticism of Playford was that he survived in this place only with the help of an electoral system weighted in favour of rural areas. There were strong cries at the time from Don Dunstan and others of 'one vote, one value'. This led to significant and justified change. One of the outcomes though has been a continual decline in the focus on regional and rural South Australia. In fact, this election was won by those opposite with an explicit Adelaide-only focus. I believe that the cries of 'one vote, one value' are now justifiably heard not only by those ignored in country areas, but also in metropolitan pockets taken for granted.

I look forward to seeing a system where all electors are valued equally, no matter where they live. Resilient against this continued neglect over the past decade though, the fact remains that over 50 per cent of our exports still come from our regions. This neglect threatens our future prosperity by ignoring the hand that feeds us. We are still in large part an agricultural state. We should not be embarrassed by this, but instead we should embrace it and value-add it.

There are many people that I need to thank who have helped me on my road to this place. I have previously said that without the thousands of hours by hundreds of people over the past few years I would not be standing here. It is to these people that I say I will devote my time, energy and passion to making you proud of your efforts.

To my wife Amy and my daughter Ruby, I have asked a lot of you and I will continue to ask. Everything I hope to do here I do for you, for making a better place for our family and to make sure that Ruby has every opportunity to stay and contribute here in South Australia. Amy, we have been together for 15 years. Back then, I was drawn by how easily and deeply we connected and to this day I am still fascinated by you. I feel so privileged to be one of the few people who truly get to know you. Amy, Ruby, you are my home; you are my heart.

To my interim staff Taryn and Natasha for the work that you have done during the transition: thank you. You have made the first two months an absolute pleasure, and I look forward to meeting the newborn Lincoln Todman-McGreen in the near future—I think he was born just yesterday. To my new staff Brendan and Courtney: I thank you for the work that you are about to do. Please note that I will not say this often enough, so at least at this time it has been recorded in *Hansard*.

To my grandparents, Oma and Opa, for your guidance and especially your example—thank you. To Mum and Dad, you have given my brothers and me every opportunity in the world. Instead of pocket money you gave us a job and you gave us a work ethic. Instead of possessions you gave us purpose, confidence and balance. Instead of empty words, you showed us by example and exposed us to enduring Christian values. Never could we have wanted for more.

To my boys, Andreas, Dieter and Alex, you are my best friends. With Barbara and Franz off running the family business, we were often left to fend for ourselves. Never could anyone have asked for better keepers. Only now, with distance and perspective, do I realise how lucky I was that our time spent terrorising the neighbourhood was amongst the happiest of my life. I miss working with you every day, and I will continue to miss you, but I promise that my time spent here will be worthwhile. I will make you proud.

To my mother-in-law, Cathy, who unfortunately could not be here today because trying to discuss with Ruby the Westminster conventions about non-members coming onto the floor during parliament sitting did not go down too well, I look forward to giving this speech to her in full when we get home. Cathy, thank you for showing me that family does come first. To my father-in-law, Phil, my greatest cheerleader, you have taught me how to appreciate the simple things in life and to stop and smell the roses, especially when those roses are really the homemade pies and pasties from the Barossa Farmers Market.

To the past staff and students at Christian Brothers College, as a holder of the Brother Murray scholarship for five years, I not only learnt about getting involved and giving back but I also learnt that, in the act of doing so, you always come out richer for the experience. My high school education taught me always to serve those who cannot do for themselves and stay true to my faith, lessons that I hope to take heed of in this place.

To my close confidantes and great many friends who have encouraged me to run for parliament, I am grateful and will look to repay that faith every day. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Senator Cory Bernardi, a man not without controversy but certainly one of conviction, for a conversation that sparked an idea that led me to where I stand today. To my campaign team of Susie, Steph, Peter, Christian, Tom, Michael and the members of my SEC, you have welcomed me as your new member and I thank you for all your wise counsel and support.

To the federal member for Barker (Tony Pasin), we have come into our respective parliaments together and we have plied our electoral trade together in our communal patch. Thank you for your friendship and support. To the people of Schubert, thank you for the faith that you have shown. I am your voice, your conduit, your servant. Together, we can make our community even better than it already is.

Lastly, I must speak of compassion. The left do not have a monopoly on compassion. I am here for the same purpose as they: to advance the greater prosperity and happiness of our people. But on this side of the house we understand the following: that good intentions do not create jobs, businesses do; that subsidy does not create long-term sustainability, it creates dependence; that we need to do more, so much more, for those who cannot do for themselves but ensure that we continue

to encourage those who will not do for themselves to fulfil their social contract, commitment to their community and, most importantly, to themselves.

I believe that unrestrained welfare is false compassion—paternalism at its worst—and does more harm than good. True compassion comes from providing opportunity and placing in people the faith and ability to grasp those opportunities for themselves. Mr Speaker, I thank you for your indulgence.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

[Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. J.M. Rankine]

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (17:25): I would like to begin by acknowledging the Kurna people on whose land we do gather today and respect their spiritual relationship with their land. Given that this is the Parliament of South Australia, I do wish to also acknowledge the cultural authority of Aboriginal people across the length and breadth of this state.

I congratulate you, Deputy Speaker, on your ascent to the Deputy Speaker's position, whilst also congratulating the Speaker, who just left the chamber, on his ascent to his position. I wish also to acknowledge His Excellency for the outstanding work that he and Mrs Scarce do in fulfilling their responsibilities as the Governor of this state. They do an outstanding job, and I have never been any more proud of the work they do. I look forward to their ongoing contribution to the people of South Australia.

Deputy Speaker, I am very pleased to be back here, as you might imagine. I did not necessarily want to do an Address in Reply but, who knows, this might be my last one, so I thought I would take the opportunity—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Well, who knows? We are at the will of the electorate, and I am very pleased that on this occasion the electorate decided to return me to this place as the member for Colton. I intended to do an Address in Reply for that exact reason: it could be my last. I wish to congratulate all the new members from both sides of the house. I believe that the contributions we have heard from new members have been not only outstanding but probably the very best of those first speeches I have heard in my time here. Some wag said to me the other day, 'Except for yours and the class of 2002,' but I say, no, this is the best group I have seen come into parliament. I congratulate them not only on their election but on their first speeches in this place and that ongoing standard of speeches and contributions to this place.

I also recognise and acknowledge retiring members. It is not always the case that we as members of parliament get to choose the timing of our departure. I particularly recognise those retiring members and their contributions to not only the electorates but to the state as a whole: the members for Kurna, Torrens, Reynell, Elder, Giles, Lee, Napier and, of course, Schubert as well. I acknowledge the presence of the former member for Schubert, my very, very good friend, and I look forward to that ongoing friendship as we grow older. His contribution in this place was also quite outstanding.

I also want to acknowledge those who were not re-elected—the members for Hartley, Bright, Mitchell and Mount Gambier—and again thank them for their contribution to their electorates and this place. I also want to congratulate the members for Lee, Port Adelaide and Ramsay and their ascent to the executive arm of government. I have no doubt in my mind that each has the ability to go all the way. There is no doubt in my mind that they are quality members of the executive of government, and I congratulate them on the positions they now hold. I also want to not only acknowledge but pass on my best wishes to the member for Fisher and wish him well in the fight of his life he is having at this point in time.

I wish to highlight some aspects of the Governor's speech, and I would like to start by listing or at least talking about aspects of the Address in Reply of the member for Heysen. I understand how difficult it must be to have spent 12 years in opposition with the outlook of having 16 years in opposition. I know how debilitating that must be for any member of parliament, but what I found today with respect to the member for Heysen's contribution was the negativity, the built-up anger, the pent-up anger, and the negativity of her contribution here today. As I said, 12 years in opposition is a hard task and, of course, there are four more years of that to occur.

What I would also like to say is that if you transpose that against the new members who have been elected here and the positivity they bring to this parliament on both sides of the house there is a stark difference between the contribution of the member for Heysen and the new members.

I am looking at the member for Hartley and I remember him saying in his speech—I will paraphrase him here and I might be wrong, and he can whack me behind the ear if I am. He talked about being a breath of fresh air. Indeed, the new members on both sides are a breath of fresh air; it is just better that someone else says it than yourself, but that is fine. There is no problem with that because, quite frankly, I believe they are a breath of fresh air.

I want to focus on the contribution of the member for Heysen with respect to a couple of comments she made. As I spoke about in my grievance previously, there is a little bit of distaste on that side about the fact that they are sitting over there and not here. However, for the member for Heysen to say, with respect to the Boundaries Commission and the Electoral Commission, that: 'They had a job to do and they failed to do it, as evidenced by the outcome of the election, and I think it was utterly hopeless, and that, combined with the person that I consider'—and this is very important—'to be an utterly corrupt electoral commissioner, I think is just a shame for this state.'

In listening to that today and reading that this afternoon—and I am going to talk about the perception that others have of us outside of this place and of us as politicians, but for that to be said actually perpetuates the idea that what we are is a mob of gutless wonders who are willing to say whatever we want to say here without having the guts to go and say it outside. I found that a disgrace and I think she should come into the chamber and withdraw and apologise for that particular comment. If not, go outside and say it.

Part of the Governor's speech, of course, was the recommitment to the seven strategic priorities but, just as importantly, the government's approach to making the most of the opportunities afforded our state. We will make the most of those opportunities by creating an environment where the people of South Australia have the support they need to collaborate, innovate and embrace an outward-looking approach.

When you look at South Australia—I have said this on numerous occasions—the six degrees of separation that occur elsewhere do not occur here in South Australia. There is no reason that we cannot set the appropriate standard, a standard that cannot be witnessed anywhere else and, because of our size, that business, government, academia and the broader community can collaborate and work together at a level that has never been seen in this state. I certainly welcome the government's approach to making sure that we do collaborate in such a way.

Innovation was the other pillar or plank underpinning how we will achieve and make the most of our opportunities. We have a great history of innovation in this state and, having had a crack at the member for Heysen earlier, I also acknowledge that in her contribution she highlighted some of the companies and organisations in this state that are doing an outstanding job of innovating and making this place, from a business perspective, a better place than it otherwise would be. We will continue to search for new and better ways of doing things. We will build on our strengths and we will create niche areas that distinguish South Australia from the rest of Australia and other parts of the world. That is the only way that we will go forward with confidence.

The other priority was the commitment to an outward-looking approach and finding our place in the world and our region. Of course, that will be underpinned by the South Australia-India Engagement Strategy and the South Australia-China Engagement Strategy. That is our place in the world and I have no doubt that those strategies will bear fruit.

I will touch on the Governor's comments regarding reforming our democracy. He spoke about the growing feeling of estrangement between politicians and the people they are elected to represent. He also spoke about further improving the perception of our democratic institutions and processes. I must say that my interpretation of the Governor's comments regarding the need to reform our democracy is somewhat different than the perception or the interpretation held by the member for Davenport. I spoke about it in my grievance. Unfortunately, I was unaware that I was going to have a grievance today, but I will continue that aspect of my previous grievance in more detail later, so I will not cover too much territory here.

The member for Davenport is all about reforming our electoral system and the processes within the electoral system that determine the result of the election. I believe that the Governor's

comments are more about how we as politicians serve, and are perceived through that serving of our community, by those that we are elected to represent.

I have long believed and often said the political party of either persuasion that creates the new paradigm of engagement and of involving our communities, that becomes relevant to its people, and its people feel relevant to the government of the day, will hold sway for a long, long period of time. It will be the party that achieves this, in my view, that will occupy the government benches for an extended period in the future.

If we look at it this way: our democratic system, and more importantly, those occupying positions within the system (in this occasion, I refer to politicians, whilst there are many other people that occupy positions within the democratic system) here in South Australia, across Australia and the rest of the world, have not changed their *modus operandi* for 50 or 60 years or more, with respect to engagement, in their communication with and the relevance to or of the people they are meant to serve.

Let us just have a quick look, Deputy Speaker, if we can, at this relationship by using two examples—only two examples, whilst there will be others, I am sure—of how and why the perceptions of us and the system held by the public is either failing or has failed. If we have a look at New South Wales: the ICAC investigations exposing the depth of corruption across the political spectrum in that state.

What is mostly concerning to me is that there appears to be, in the people that I have spoken to, an acceptance that this is common practice, and it is not. It is not common practice but, of course, perception is reality. We have a prime example of why it is that we are not held in the level of esteem that we perhaps would like to be held. It is interesting, actually, because when I was a firefighter, I was held up this high—for *Hansard*, that is much taller than me—with regard to public perception.

Then I became a union official, and I jokingly said—and I do not have any problems with these people, so don't say that I have—that I was now down here—for *Hansard*, that is very low to the ground; coupled with probably dog catchers and parking inspectors—I have friends that are dog catchers and parking inspectors, but I am just using that as an example. Then I became a politician, which, from a public perception's perspective, is even lower than that—just a foot off the ground—and I do not like it. I do not like it because the significant majority of politicians that I know in this house and elsewhere are dedicated to one thing: doing their best job to serve the people that have elected them.

There is obviously work that we have to do to raise that image, and that could only be raised through our actions and the way we operate. So, the ICAC investigations—the worst part is that people think, as I said earlier, that that is just the customary practice; it does not surprise them, and it should surprise them that this type of activity occurs.

The second and equally important example is the recent federal budget—not criminally corrupt, of course, because it is not, as was the previous example that I gave, but it is certainly morally corrupt. I say that the Abbott government was elected on a false promise: that is, 'the economy is wrecked and we will fix it.' It has been shown that it is not wrecked. That is not to say there was not some remedial work that needed to be done, but it was not and is not wrecked.

The budget, from my perspective, provides evidence and displays the lack of truthfulness of the federal government, both prior and after the delivery of this budget. It is the most recent example, and the most glaring, of why, for many, people have lost faith in our democratic system and those who serve in it. It is the most recent example, and will stay in the minds of many, of a government and its members that do not mean what they say, nor say what they mean.

It is incumbent upon all of us here to be part of a robust process aimed at transforming and redefining our democratic system, not simply through the electoral reform that many on the opposition benches want—of course they want it because in their view that electoral reform will get them over here, something they have been unable to do for 16 years, and I do not mean that disrespectfully. However, it is not simply through electoral reform, it is more so by the way we as elected members, as elected governments, as oppositions, go about our business in serving and representing the people of our great state. I am sure there will be much more said about this in the future, not just by us here but by those who we serve as their elected representatives.

Just to finish off, there is no doubt that I would not be here without the help and assistance I have received from so many, not just at this most recent election but in all campaigns since 2002. I want to thank a lot of people but I am not going to name many because there are too many to mention and I will be here beyond the 14 minutes I have left.

I do want to thank my wife Annabel and our boys James and Simon. Annabel would have been quite happy if I was not re-elected. She tells me she voted for me, and I hope that is the case, I am pretty sure it is the case, but she would not have been unhappy. I love her dearly and I thank her for the support she has provided me over many, many years. Everyone in this parliament knows that you cannot do what you do without the support of your family, they are the most important ingredient in anyone's life.

James and Simon have left, and that brings me to another point. I hear incessantly from the opposition and others that we have a drain out of South Australia, that we are not keeping our young people here. You can come to the Henley Football Club or the Grange Cricket Club at any time and see the amount of young people who stay here. I think we should encourage our young people to explore the world. I think we should encourage our young people to take their skills elsewhere so they gain further skills in whatever area they are in. James is in Sydney, he is there for a variety of reasons and he is doing really well. What is not to like about Sydney as a 26 year old living in Bondi? It is not a bad place.

Simon is working at Yulara and he is learning more skills than he did working at the restaurant over the road in Leigh Street. So, we should encourage our young people to go away because what we do know is, and everyone in this chamber would agree with this, they will come back. The reason they will come back is they are coming back to the best city in the best state in the best country in the world. We should encourage them to go, pick up those skills and bring those skills back. I have no doubt in my mind that that will be the case.

I have deviated slightly here but it does not matter, we still have plenty of time. I will just finish off with respect to Annabel and the boys. We had a tough year in 2013, with Annabel's mum dying, my mum dying and things like that. Things are looking up in 2014. It is always hard. You only have one mother and one father.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Beg your pardon?

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: I will get to that later—maybe. I acknowledge the member for Bragg who says she believes I should be back in cabinet. I thank her for that comment. So, 2014 is looking up. Life goes on no matter what—

The Hon. J.M. Rankine interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: That's right—hardships you might come across from time to time. I also want to thank the Colton sub-branch, and not just the members of the sub-branch but also those members of the community who are not members of the Labor Party who selflessly helped me during this campaign, and I have many supporters in that category as well. I acknowledge their contribution and I thank them—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Beg your pardon?

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: No, I think he was working his own electorate that day. I tell you what, we were embarrassed at Fulham Gardens at one stage in the afternoon, and I thank you for allowing me to say this—whilst my opponent ran a reasonably good campaign, and I quite like the bloke, I think we had 16 or 17 people between the 2 o'clock to 4 o'clock session at the Fulham Gardens Primary School. It was an embarrassment of riches. That is the level—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: No; a diverse group of people who were helping me on that particular day. I would have liked the fire trucks there actually, but I thought that might be a bridge too far.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: No, I am not finding this difficult at all, Deputy Speaker; it's fine. I do want to thank them. I want to thank them for their doorknocking, when they assisted me, their letterboxing, their telephoning, their putting up corflutes, and all the other work that each and every one here knows needs to be done to run a successful campaign. I thank them, and I love them very much for it.

I also want to thank the unions—my union and others—for the support I was provided. I am proudly a union member and a supporter of unions and the role that unions play in our society. I thank both the executive of those unions and their members. I thank the United Firefighters Union, the SDA, the MUA, the ASU, United Voice, the CPSU and other unions that are connected with SA Unions for their assistance and support. There are many others, too many to mention by name. I also want to acknowledge the party office—Reggie Martin, Steve May and the staff there. I want to congratulate them on their campaign strategy. I also want to acknowledge that poor Steven May was run over on election day whilst discharging his responsibilities representing the party.

An honourable member: Don Farrell?

The Hon. P. CAICA: No. I understand that it might have been an older woman from the Liberal Party who didn't know how to reverse. I shouldn't say that, because I don't know. But, anyway, he was run over and he broke his—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: I'm not misleading the house about the fact that he got run over and broke his leg.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: I withdraw that comment. It was stupid of me, and I apologise. In all seriousness, I wish Steven all the best, and I hope that he gets the total level of support of the party office in his long process of rehabilitation. That central campaign run by the party office was outstanding, and I congratulate each and every one of those people who was connected with that particular campaign.

Mr Marshall: It was grubby.

The Hon. P. CAICA: It wasn't grubby—and here we go. I shouldn't respond to interjections, but the simple fact is that it wasn't a grubby campaign.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: It wasn't a grubby campaign. Stop blaming other people. Look in the mirror and say, 'Why didn't I win Colton, why didn't I win these other seats?' The nature of the game is to win the seats. So, reflect on yourself and the way you do things. You have poor people over there—not that I am that sorry for them—who will spend 16 years in opposition—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Yes—and will probably retire at the next election, having served only in opposition. You have to do things differently. I am going to save that for my next griever. I have a lot more work to do. I will not focus on it now, and I apologise for being distracted by that rude interruption by the leader, who I like very much. I also want to thank Premier Weatherill.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey is not in his seat.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The leader.

The Hon. P. CAICA: It is safe to say that I have not always agreed with all of his decisions, particularly the decision he took in January 2013, but I am not going to dwell on that. I will just let that go through to the keeper, and I won't dwell on any other decisions that, from time to time, I might disagree with. But that is the nature—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey needs to be in his seat.

The Hon. P. CAICA: —of our party. We can have a robust discussion, and ultimately we are bound by the decisions that are made. I will simply say this—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: You lose count of how many leaders and deputy leaders they have had over that period of time. Indeed, the member for Unley, earlier—what was it that he said? I wrote down something. He said that he is excited by the packed agenda. Well, the difference was that we had an agenda going in the election and they did not, and the fact is that we were elected on the agenda. The other thing I found very off-putting was the member for Unley asserting that people on this side are racist. Again, he ought to reflect and look in the window and say, 'Dodgy documents' and all those type of things.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Well, they cost your side stability, and it cost them Marty's job—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: Notwithstanding that I am being distracted again, what I want to say about Premier Weatherill is simply this: his efforts during the campaign were outstanding. His work ethic was outstanding. I referred to him personally as 'the cork': he kept bobbing up everywhere. He was outstanding during that period of time. His ability to be able to clearly distinguish between the leadership and the values of both parties was outstanding, and all that he did was a significant contribution to the fact that we were, as a government, re-elected; I have no doubt about that. I congratulate Premier Weatherill on all he did during that period of time.

I also want to thank and acknowledge my parliamentary colleagues on this side of the house, particularly our marginal seat campaigners; some of them are in the chamber at the moment. I congratulate all the members who have been re-elected, but I have this special affinity for marginal seat campaigners because that is where things happen. It does not matter how many seats you have at 76.3 per cent, or whatever the member for Flinders' margin is, or 74 point whatever it is the member for Chaffey has; it depends on what you are able to do in your marginal seats where it counts. So, the member for Ashford, the member for Florey, the member for Newland, and all those other seats, I congratulate them and thank them for their commitment and the effort they showed to be re-elected and, indeed, return Labor to government.

Finally, I want to thank the people of Colton. I want to thank the people of Colton for providing me the honour and the privilege of continuing as their local member. I am both humbled by and proud of being their local member. I will as always discharge my responsibilities and service to each and every one of them without fear or favour, irrespective of how they might have voted.

I just want to give an example of a couple of things that happened during the election campaign. I have four minutes, so I will do it easily; if I speak too quickly, just say, 'Slow down, Caica.' During telephoning, we have this system—and I am sure you have the system as well over there—that identifies whether people are soft Liberal, hard Liberal, hard Labor, soft Labor, or whatever it might be.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: I won't say too much. We all have a system, and you pick up that system. It is my system that has been picked up over my years of doorknocking and people letting me know how they vote. I have this system that identifies what people's voting intentions are, so I thought, 'Well, I'm not going to just ignore that person there because he's down as a hard Liberal,' so I telephoned him, and he said, 'Well, I'm not going to vote for you.' I said, 'I know that.' 'How do

you know that?' I said, 'I know that because we've had interactions before. Do you want to speak to me or not?' 'Yeah, we'll have a chat for a while.' I said, 'If I spoke to every person in my electorate that voted differently than casting a vote for me, well, I wouldn't speak to 45.7 per cent of the people in the electorate.'

You have to serve your community irrespective of what they do, and I had a really good conversation, but I said, 'Look, I know your tactics. You're going to keep me on the phone for longer than I should be so I can't get to my people or those who are undecided,' and he just had a chuckle and we left as I would not say 'friends', but we left on friendly terms.

The other issue is this: people often say to me, 'Can I come to your office? I'd like to come to your office and have a meeting.' I say, 'Well, you're not coming to my office, you're coming to your office.' It is the office of the people of the Colton electorate, and it will always be their office; I am only a custodian of that office for as long as they want. That is another issue I sometimes raise with people when they say to me, 'We want to come to your office to see you.' I say, 'You're coming to your own office but, notwithstanding that, I'll go and make you a cup of coffee.'

I look forward to working with the people of Colton, the government and the opposition in advancing the interests and the welfare of the people of Colton—indeed, all South Australians. I thank them for the privilege of being here yet again.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (17:53): This is my fourth Address in Reply. The election in 2002 was a little similar to what we are seeing now, apart from the fact that I was actually in government for two hours and 55 minutes then. We had a vote of confidence on the floor of the house, when the Liberal Party was defeated 23-22, and what do we see in 2014? It is 23-22. So, it is a bit of *deja vu* for me. I am working very hard for the people of Morphett no matter what side of this house I am privileged to be on, and I thank each and every elector in Morphett for having spoken to me fully and frankly and, in most cases, supported me.

Despite the Electoral Commission having rejigged the boundaries in Morphett so many times in the last four years, we ended up at 3.5 per cent after the 2006 election. Through the hard work of my campaign team—and can I just say without any tickets on myself, trying to be the best member I could possibly be—we have the margin back up so that Morphett is a 13 per cent seat. It is not quite to the 13.1 per cent we had with John Oswald in the State Bank debacle where the Liberal Party held 37 of the seats in this place, but Morphett is back to a 13 per cent seat. It is a very safe seat, and that is because you have a lot of people doing a lot of work on your behalf.

I have heard every member in this place thank their electoral teams behind them but each of us should also be thanking our electorate officers because our office staff work so hard for us. Kate Cunningham, Heidi Harris, Andrea Stylianou and Sara Tripodo, who is our latest trainee, worked their backsides off making sure that the electorate was well served while I was out campaigning. They made sure that the electorate had been looked after to the best of our ability. I say 'our ability' because we work as a team. I have had Heidi and Kate on for 12 years, Andrea has been on for four years. I have had no staff turnover which to me is one of the best indications that you are working well with your staff because the staff are happy, and that reflects in the fact that your electorate is happy.

We also run a team of JPs because we have a very busy office in Byron Street and they also help serve the constituents of Morphett because that is what it is all about. For each and every one of us in here it is about serving the constituents, whether you have been here for five minutes, five years or in my case 12 years. I am not quite the oldest person in this place, I think the member for Finnis might be a bit older than me, but I feel just as energetic now as I did on that first day I came into this place.

What I have is 12 years of experience, 12 years of wisdom, having faced some of Labor's hard men in this place—the men who have gone like Kevin Foley, Patrick Conlon and John Hill. The Speaker now is constrained in his position. The member for West Torrens is a little more muted than he used to be. I think he is a hard-working member of parliament in this place. However, to face Kevin Foley, Mike Rann and Patrick Conlon in this place was tough. It was not slings and arrows, it was verbal baseball bats and handgrenades. We have the sword line here. When we have the school kids come in we talk about the sword line and how you could not cross that line with your sword drawn in anger otherwise you lost your seat in parliament. I tell you what, the barbs and the clever

wit in some cases was just as cutting as the direct derogatory comments and barbs that were being thrown in this place.

I look around this chamber today with the new members in here and I do not see those hard men in here any more. I see people who are just as determined but perhaps in a different fashion, and I look forward to a slightly more productive relationship with some of the members opposite, because certainly in those former days some of the relationships were somewhat constrained. I actually bought a book called *Working with monsters: the workplace psychopath* so I could understand how people in this place thought, and I must admit that I was having issues with people on both sides in those days, not now though. You could tick the boxes with some of those people.

The situation has changed, the scenery has changed, but one thing for me as the member for Morphett is that I feel extremely privileged to be one of the very few South Australians who have had the opportunity to serve in this parliament. In the 150-odd years we have been in this place, a lot of laws have been made, some have been repealed. The fact that we have an acts interpretation act always intrigues me. The fact that I stand in this place and say I am not a lawyer—and by that I am boasting not apologising—is something I do not resile from because the technical intricacies of legislation are well understood by parliamentary counsel, thank goodness, and they are able to explain it to me, a humble veterinarian, so that we achieve what we want to achieve in this place and that is the best outcome for all South Australians.

The campaign that was run in 2014 was an interesting campaign, very focused, very well resourced on behalf of the Liberal Party and led by Steven Marshall, Leader of the Opposition and member for Dunstan. He did an excellent job. He worked so hard. I know that ministers work hard, the premier works hard, I have seen their diaries. As I said, I came in under John Olsen when he was the Premier. We had breakfasts as candidates. I saw how hard the ministers worked, so I understand how hard they work.

But, let me tell you, from firsthand experience, the hardest job in this place is the Leader of the Opposition. It is relentless—24/7, 365 days a year. It is relentless, and then when you put a political election campaign in place, it is relentlessness on steroids. You have no rest whatsoever. To see the performance of the member for Dunstan, Steven Marshall, I was not only inspired but given a huge amount of confidence in the future of the Liberal Party.

To see the new crop of members of parliament in this place, I am further inspired. Every time we have the Address in Reply—and when I say 'every time', this is my fourth time—I am somewhat disappointed to hear new Labor members rattle off a whole grocery list of the unions and union affiliates they have been working with. Good on them! If that is how they want to get here, be here and do their job, well, that is their philosophy, their background. But, when you look at the crop of candidates, the crop of new members we have in this place—the member for Mount Gambier, the member for Mitchell, the member for Hartley and the member for Bright in this place and the Hon. Andrew McLachlan in the other place—you cannot help being inspired.

Listening to their maiden speeches, the emotion they showed when they spoke about their families is something all of us understand, because we know that without our families we just would not have the ability to do the job we want to do in this place. To see that emotion and passion, to listen to those words, to the experience we were able to hear from members on this side, I was once again given great courage and great comfort in knowing that not only the Liberal Party but the people of this state will be well served by these members in parliament for a very long time.

They are the sort of members who get out there and talk to people. Some people in this place actually think they are important people. Go out on to North Terrace and think you are an important person: you are just an ordinary person with a very important job. That is what it is all about, and the moment we forget that we should be thinking about what we are doing in this place. We have a very important job: to serve each and every one of our electors.

You see an interesting situation when it comes to conscience votes in this place, particularly on things like voluntary euthanasia and issues like that, where some members tend to run their own agenda and not, in my opinion, represent their constituents. I have an issue with that, but in this place we see, particularly with new members, enthusiasm and passion and it is fantastic. Our democratic system in South Australia encourages that.

I will have a bit more to say about the fourth estate later, bearing in mind that I remember the words of John Howard: 'Never start a fight with a man who buys ink by the barrel', but I will say something about it a bit later on because the effect of the media, the media cycle and social media, in my 12 years in here have really had a phenomenal impact on the way this place runs and on the way our lives run, which is just as important as the way this place runs.

I will quickly go through the new members. The member for Bright is a very young Scotsman; I understand him perfectly. I was with him last night at a public meeting, and to hear him speak to the residents association—it was really lovely to hear somebody speak fluently and knowledgeably, as the does the member for Bright. The member for Mitchell I am extremely pleased to see here. I am looking at Hansard now—he probably speaks more quickly than I did when I made my maiden speech. I have tried to slow down for Hansard—they do tell me I speak quickly, but I have tried to slow down and I will do my earnest best to slow down in this term of parliament. I have so much to say, so much to do and so little time.

The member for Mitchell, with his background and his experience, I look forward to seeing go on and have a long parliamentary career. The youngest member in this place, the member for Hartley, listening to him, having spoken to him outside and having worked with him in the election campaign, boy was he relentless with our office. With my social housing portfolios he was relentless—he was there every day and on the phone—'We have this issue, Duncan, we have that issue, Duncan'—and we did our best to help him. No wonder he is here today, and I guarantee he will be here for a long time.

We had the lion of Hartley, Joe Scalzi, in here for a number of years. The marginal seat campaigning that he went through was terrific, but I guarantee that the tiger of Hartley now will be here for a long time, because he is just as passionate, just as driven; he has that youth, enthusiasm and drive that we all admire and that we know he will channel into making sure he is an excellent representative for Hartley.

Going up against independents is always hard and I was a bit concerned about Don Pegler in Mount Gambier, a popular local bloke, but the moment I met Troy Bell I thought, 'We've got this seat,' because Troy Bell was a down-to-earth guy who was in touch, and he knew the people of Mount Gambier. He knew how to talk to them and how to communicate with them, and that is what it is all about. It is not like the *Cool Hand Luke* film where we have a failure to communicate and you have to beat up people to get them to listen to you, or cajole and coerce them. This guy, the member for Mount Gambier, knows how to communicate with people, and we saw that in his maiden speech today.

I have a huge respect for the former member for Schubert. I got to know him and his family personally. Having been in this place, he gave me a lot of advice and a lot of help. I guarantee that his replacement, the new member for Schubert, will be an equally good, if not better, representative for the seat of Schubert. I do not know whether the current member for Schubert has a drink or two but I know the former member for Schubert was a teetotaler when he came into this place, and he left last year as a baron of the Barossa. This place does have some effects on you, but I think that was part of his duty.

I should say one more thing about what the member for Mitchell said. He has one pub and a couple of schools in his electorate. That contrasts with Morphett. There are 106 restaurants and cafes within walking distance of my office. It is a tough job. Somebody said to me I have put on weight but I said, 'No, that's just a thicker skin so I can cope with the trials and tribulations of politics.' The member for Mitchell and I will continue to work on the Oaklands Crossing. It was one of the first things I campaigned on when I had that in my electorate, on the boundary.

I have videos on my website of the traffic congestion down there. It is an absolute traffic nightmare, and the sooner we get it sorted out, the better. My first meeting was in 2001 down there. I think the first costings 27 years ago were \$1 million and I think the latest costings are \$130 million for Oaklands Crossing, so it is going to be a real issue for us in South Australia. South Road is very important but bottlenecks like the Oaklands Crossing are just as important.

The thing that I should do, though, at this stage in my speech, is certainly congratulate the Speaker and you, Deputy Speaker, on your being promoted to this very worthy position. The history of the Speaker's job is one that is worth exploring, and I recommend the history of Westminster for members to read. The library has lots of books on the history of parliament and I recommend that

the new members here acquaint themselves with the history so that not only can they have their own understanding of the traditions and worth of the system we work in but, also, when they have visitors here they can give them a comprehensive understanding of why this chamber is modelled on St Stephen's Chapel in the Palace of Westminster and why it is laid out the way it is. We do not have dispatch boxes here, which were the hymn boxes in the original chapel, but we need to know some history like that, and to not observe the history of this place is something that I think would be remiss of us.

I know His Excellency the Governor of this state, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, very well. I have known him privately. I will tell you a little story. I took him sailing. We did the Adelaide to Lincoln yacht race. He is a sailor and did the Sydney to Hobart years ago but then he confessed it was on an old naval clunker which took seven days to get down there, but on his bucket list was the Adelaide to Lincoln yacht race. I have done a lot of offshore sailing but I have been getting more and more seasick as I get older. Unfortunately, a sou-wester came in and I got belted and decided to go below. I did come back up again as we were getting into Lincoln and His Excellency, with his normal dry sense of humour, said to me, 'Duncan, you should do this race one day.'

That, to me, just shows that this guy is a real person. He is a northern suburbs guy, like me. I moved from Gepps Cross hostel out to Elizabeth South. The Governor is an Elizabeth boy as well: I went to Salisbury High School, the Governor went to Elizabeth High School. We understand the trials and tribulations of the whole spectrum of the society we have in South Australia.

I lived in a tin shed for 14 months. When we first came back to South Australia from Perth, we had no money. We were paying 17 per cent on the mortgage and 23 per cent on the overdraft, but now I am in a very comfortable position, with a family farm and a wonderful wife and family. His Excellency also understands that: he is now the Governor of this state, but he has come from very humble beginnings in Elizabeth. We should all appreciate that. We should never forget who we are and where we are from. As I said before, if you start thinking you are an important person, you had better go and have a good look in the mirror and just see what you are doing in this place.

Just as our partners are very important to us, so Liz Scarce is to the Governor. Elizabeth Taylor was her maiden name; she is now Elizabeth Scarce, and she is the patron of many societies and many organisations and works just as hard as His Excellency. I congratulate them both on the job they have done and how they have been able to put South Australia on the map through their overseas tours and also hosting everybody, including royalty and other dignitaries.

I will quote from the Proclamation Day Ceremony speech made by His Excellency last year in my electorate of Morphett, where we have the Old Gum Tree and where every year, on 28 December, we celebrate Proclamation Day. In his speech (and I did seek the permission of the Governor to quote him, and he said that he said it, so I can quote him), the Governor said:

One of the key design features of our democratic process is a framework which ensures that power is not unduly concentrated in one place. Rather, power is distributed amongst a number of individuals and institutions, each exercising a restraining influence on the others.

In Australia today, I think that system of mutual constraints is being eroded, principally in three areas:

- by an increase in the power and influence of the executive arm of government and a corresponding reduction in the power and influence of Parliament as a distinct institution,
- by a diminution in the strength of the conventions governing ministerial accountability and their responsibility to Parliament, and finally
- by the politicisation of the public service.

From a man of his position and his background, to me, that is something that we should all in this place be very, very aware of. We should think about it very carefully. We should think about what we are doing with our democratic framework in South Australia. The Governor made those comments in all sincerity. He was not being judgemental—they were observations—and he certainly was not in any way indicating that his position should be changed or his influence increased.

The opening day speech, we know, is written for the Governor on behalf of the government. I will not go into that now. I will say a bit more about that on perhaps the Supply Bill, but there are issues in there that involve my portfolios and the general running of this state.

We have heard a lot about the federal budget, but the state budget coming up is another one that is going to be just as interesting for us. The feds are paying \$30 million a day in interest; in South Australia, I understand that we are paying about \$3 million a day in interest—not to the Belgian dentists, as it was in 1993. I do not know who we pay it to now.

I do not shy away from having a debt. I have had huge mortgages. Trust me, I have had seriously huge mortgages where you are just battling all the time. You bite off big chunks and chew like hell, but you have got to have the income and you have got to have a plan to make sure that, if you are paying off your debt, you are doing it with real money, not borrowing more to pay off your debt and, worse still, not borrowing money to pay recurrent expenditure, such as wages.

I understand the former member for Napier, in a moment of unbridled honesty—and he was a very honest man—told an audience in Mount Gambier that, if this government—the Labor government—were a company, they would be trading insolvent, or words to that effect, and that they were borrowing to pay recurrent expenditure, borrowing to pay wages. That is an atrocious situation for any business to be in.

I have had two sayings in businesses I have been involved with: turnover is vanity, profit is sanity; the other one is: it is not what it costs you, it is what it makes you or saves you. I have had big mortgages, I have had big debts, I have had big overdrafts, but you make sure that you build the business and expand the business, and you make sure that your employees are able to come to work each day and know that they are going to be appreciated.

This is where this state is really suffering. We have heard members on the other side in WorkCover debates before speak in support of not reducing workers compensation benefits, not changing workers compensation so that is going to adversely affect workers, but then they have to vote along the party lines, and I appreciate that, but let's just be honest about where we want to go. Whether it is WorkCover, whether it is land tax, whether it is all the other add-ons that this state is having to work with, it is a real state of desperation when you are borrowing to pay your recurrent expenditure.

The portfolios that I have got now I think are some of the biggest portfolios in this state. When you are managing millions or billions of dollars worth of assets in the community for social housing, when you are dealing with volunteers who return \$5 billion in worth to the state every year, when you are dealing with an Aboriginal community that has \$1.3 billion spent on it every year, these are very, very important portfolios. I have had just about every portfolio in this place other than finance and agriculture. Having a vet science degree and an ag science degree, that is something that I thought I might get a bit of a go at at some stage; but every portfolio I have had I have got into. You have to understand and it is very, very complex in many cases, but that is what we need to do, that is what we are paid to do as members of parliament, and that is what I enjoy doing.

Having social housing, disabilities, community and social inclusion, volunteers and Aboriginal affairs are a delight for me. It is a privilege to me to be serving on the front bench even in the role as a shadow minister where I would have loved to have been minister; and I am still working on that. When the Governor does ask me how I am, I say I am doing the work of Her Majesty's loyal opposition in trying to bring the government down, and I will continue to do that.

The election outcome is something that I will briefly talk about. I mentioned in the opening remarks the 2002 *deja vu*. I will just go back to 5 March 2002, when the then deputy premier Dean Brown was making some remarks about the then speaker-elect Peter Lewis, the former member for Hammond. The comments that were being made before the election were very, very interesting. Dean Brown said in his address to the parliament in 2002, when he was talking about electoral fairness, and what the then Independent member for Hammond had said before the election, and then what actually happened after the election:

...the principle of electoral fairness is unique to South Australia. No other Constitution Act has it, to my knowledge, but it exists in South Australia and should be the basis of forming government under the Westminster system here in South Australia.

Dean Brown went on to say to Peter Lewis:

I quote from *The Advertiser* printed on 8 February, and I add that have spoken to Kim Wheatley, the journalist who reported the statement and who assures me that the quote that I give is a word for word quote. The report says:

But yesterday Mr Lewis denied his statement meant that he would help Labor form government.

Then the journalist quotes, and I read that quote, as follows:

'You can quote me' [said Mr Lewis]. 'That's bull....,' he said. 'Clear, unequivocal, hot, green, sloppy, fresh bull.... I'm not into forming government with Labor.'

What did we see? We saw, after a vote of no confidence here that we lost 23 to 22, that a Labor government was formed with the support of the member for Hammond, Independent Peter Lewis. The hypocrisy of that position is something that I just cannot understand. You go out and say one thing, and you then come in here and just completely lose all of your principles. Graham Richardson said in his book, didn't he, that when principles and politics conflict politics always wins. Well, not in my case, because I can tell this house there have been offers made to me that would be very, very lucrative if I was to support a Labor government, but I am not going to betray my principles.

I sat down with one of my friends the other day and said, 'This has probably cost me close to \$1 million with the increased wages and superannuation, but I am going to keep my principles.' I do not know whether any other members on this side have had offers made to them, but if that is the case I am proud that they have not accepted those 30 pieces of silver.

Let us just move on to 2014 and the member for Frome. The member for Frome in a newspaper interview said on 20 March, when he was asked by a reporter from the *Port Pirie Recorder*:

Frome independent Geoff Brock has denied media reports that he might be leaning towards a Labor minority government.

It is my understanding that the member for Frome had actually spoken to the Leader of the Opposition a number of times on the Saturday morning—the Saturday that the Premier had pizza with him—saying that he was not going to make an announcement; he was not going to make a decision. So it was a complete surprise to all of us, particularly to the Leader of the Opposition, when Mr Brock had that sudden change of heart—particularly when you go back to the member for Frome's maiden speech on 3 March 2009. The member for Frome said, in that speech:

I know that every member here will put their constituents and South Australia at the top of their priorities and always place them ahead of politics and self.

Now I know the member for Frome well, and I quite like the guy, but I do struggle with his particular position. I also put him on warning—not in an aggressive way—to be aware of who you get into bed with. Back in February 2005 the then minister for families and communities, the Hon. Jay Weatherill, made the following comments about Independents in a speech about a bill to amend the Constitution Act brought in by the then member for Stuart, highlighting the fact that Labor Party members were compelled to vote in particular ways. The current Premier said:

Not all Independents go to their electorate with a clear platform of what they choose to do in the next election. Indeed, it is an exception, rather than the rule.

Premier Weatherill then went on to say:

Democracy is not served by having a representative for whom their electorate will not know where they are to vote on a particular issue.

So I tell the member for Frome to be very, very careful of the way he deals with members on that side, because it is my sad experience that you cannot always rely on what they say. There are many good people on that side, and there are lots of fresh faces, but you cannot always rely on what they say.

In the couple of minutes left to me I will quickly say something about the fourth estate. The media cycle is becoming more and more intense; in fact, there was an article in *The Australian* yesterday saying that politics is now a spectator sport. We have a lot of commentators and we have a lot of spectators, but let me tell those commentators and spectators: unless you come into the arena you really do not know what is going on—and 10 minutes in the arena is better than a lifetime in the stands. I am in the arena, I am playing this game for keeps, and I am playing it hard, but I know that the commentators and the spectators out there will keep up with their commentary, with their heckling and their conjecturing. That will not put off members of the Liberal Party.

Spectator sport is something for the football field, not for this place, so when you are making comments about members in this place, realise what effect it has on them and realise what effect it

has on their families. I have given up my Twitter account. I did notice that Twitter shares went down 15 per cent, but I do not think it was because of that. Be aware of the effects of social media.

In the last few seconds left to me I want to thank the most important people in my life. They are my wife, Johanna, my daughter, Sahra and my son, Lachlan. Those three people, along with Lachlan's wife Sonny, and my grandkids of course, are my rock and my stability. They are the people I live for, I love for, and I will keep coming back to this place for.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development) (18:23): I am very proud to rise and speak in reply to the Governor's speech today. In March this year I faced my fifth election, and I am very proud that the people of Wright have continued to show their faith in me. I appreciate that very much.

I think the reason Labor was returned to government in March was our clear and coherent plan to continue to build South Australia, to strengthen our communities, to provide opportunity, to stand up for our state, and the passion and commitment of our Labor team, led by Premier Weatherill. He knew why he wanted to be Premier, and he knew why he wanted to be in this place.

One of the important reasons I think we were re-elected was our clear and coherent plan to continue to improve educational outcomes for South Australian students. The South Australian electorate voted to continue our modernisation of the state's education system. We are currently investing something like \$310 million on our schools and preschools across the state, and that includes six new schools for children with disabilities.

They voted for our election commitments: to upskill our teachers and principals; to build a new city high school in addition to our expansion of Adelaide High, which is well underway, so that more inner suburb students can attend a city school. They voted for our commitments to provide additional supports to students by expanding counselling services to every single primary school in the state; to transform three more of our high schools into specialist schools, providing more opportunities for students to excel in their area of interest; and to expand services in our children's centres.

South Australians voted for building a stronger public education system, which is seeing record numbers of students stay on to year 12—91.9 per cent in 2013—and not a return to the bad old days under a Liberal government when almost a third of students did not complete their final year. In 2002, just 69.5 per cent of students stayed on to year 12. South Australians voted for an education system that recognises the importance of education from birth to 18 and that understands the importance of early childhood development.

Let us look at some of the Liberal election policies. Let us consider their flexible apprentice policy, for example. Not only did it fail to recognise that students could already learn at school as well as undertake an apprenticeship but it did not recognise that intensive support for students would need to be drawn up, that subjects may need to be tailored and changed, that off-campus classes would need to be resourced and that they would need to fund their vocational vouchers to make sure that kids could still achieve their SACE. Those opposite thought it was as simple as fewer kids going to school and scooping the cream off the top. There was no talk on whether that money would be re-invested in education. It was simply a saving, not an investment.

The Liberals also committed to introducing entrepreneurial curriculum. This is an admirable concept, but it is a pity they did not realise it already existed. Business and enterprise was actually introduced as part of the new SACE in 2011, and in 2013 1,504 students studied it. Students can also study business fundamentals, such as accounting and economics; undertake entrepreneurial projects through the research project, which the Liberal opposition said they would make optional; and study business through vocational education and training courses, including Certificate I and Certificate II in Business, which can count towards students' year 11 stage 1 SACE studies.

Of more concern was their proposal to introduce independent public schools by stealth through their entrepreneur high schools. The Liberals wanted to create an unfair two-tiered public education system. This model does not work and the public have clearly rejected it.

The Liberal's mechanism to allow more students to study in the city was to build a second Adelaide High School campus, boosting the school's capacity by 1,000 students to 2,450. This would make Adelaide High one of the biggest schools in Australia. This is astounding hypocrisy, given the Liberal's large school bias when we opened the Mark Oliphant College. Additionally, there was

confusion about which suburbs would be in the catchment of the new Adelaide High School, with a Liberal policy document clearly excluding Thorngate, Collinswood, Medindie, Medindie Gardens and Nailsworth, despite the fact that the member for Adelaide letterboxed her constituents with propaganda that said they were in. Were they in zone or were they being duped?

In contrast, this government will build a new city high school catering for 1,000 students which will become part of and benefit from the educational and cultural precinct on North Terrace, sitting alongside Adelaide University, the Museum and the Art Gallery. Additionally, work is well underway on Adelaide High School to boost capacity by 250 students, bringing it up to 1,450.

There was no policy on child protection released by the Liberal Party as far as I could see. Labor, however, continues to make child protection its priority. We have committed to a commissioner for children and young people, and we now fund around \$8 million in family support services to prevent children from entering care, and returning children to their families when safe to do so. We announced a new multi-agency protection service to bring elements of SAPOL, education, health, housing and Families SA staff together to provide another mechanism to better support and protect vulnerable South Australians. We are expanding our innovative Strong Start program into the southern suburbs which supports first-time mums to learn to care for their newborn.

The member for Unley has much to say about child protection; indeed, he described our commitment to child protection staff as 'unsustainable', leaving the public—in the absence of any policies and costings—to assume that a Liberal government would cut the number of front-line staff who work tirelessly day in, day out, to keep our children safe.

I also note that the opposition was critical of the government for placing the employment portfolio under a minister in another place. If the opposition believes that portfolios in the other place are not a high priority, why has child protection been given to a spokesperson in that other place? The Liberal education policy, what there was of it, was skewed towards senior school, showing just how out of step they are on child development.

For years now, early childhood has been recognised world over as a critical development period, yet the Liberals fail to formulate even one early childhood policy. They fail to realise that every student, especially budding entrepreneurs, need a solid foundation to build on. They did not have the bottle to turn up to a public forum on early childhood—my apologies, the member for Adelaide did attend that public forum but declined the invitation to speak on behalf on her party.

In contrast, early childhood has been a dedicated area of focus for Labor. We have pledged to expand services in our wonderful children's centres across the state, and we will establish preschool outdoor learning centres, including funding the Botanic Gardens to expand the kitchen garden program.

One of the few policies the Liberals did put to the electorate was to move year 7 into high school. This policy was claimed by the Liberal Party to cost \$29 million a year. This would only cover the cost of teachers and staff. It seems, however, someone forgot to include the hundreds of millions of dollars that were required for infrastructure costs. How embarrassing! In Western Australia, the move was estimated to cost \$835 million, over a six-year period, followed by an annual recurrent cost of \$122 million. In Queensland, it was estimated to cost more than \$600 million, with \$300 million alone on capital works.

The research project is one of the most important subjects in the SACE. It helps students hone their ability to be self-motivated, to question and plan, to evaluate and make judgements, and to innovate and solve problems—skills all vital for every student to succeed in school and in life. Liberal education policy was to make the research project optional for year 12 students.

This type of learning is at the forefront of educational practice in leading jurisdictions around the world. For example, the Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board requires all year 12 students to undertake project work, a full-year subject similar to the research project. The International Baccalaureate Organisation requires its students to complete the extended essay as part of its diploma program. Cambridge International Examinations offers global perspectives as part of the International General Certificate of Secondary Education. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority recently piloted the introduction of a full-year extended investigation for study at year 12 level.

Our SACE, complete with the research project, continues to be embraced internationally as preferred curriculum. 2014 marks a decade of the SACE International program being taught in China, as well as several colleges in Malaysia. Last year, we achieved the best school retention rates in a decade, with almost 92 per cent of public school students staying on to year 12, compared to a disgraceful, as I said, 69.5 per cent when the Liberals were last in power. That is almost 9,000 extra young people staying on to year 12 compared to 2002.

However, all of this is now at risk. The federal budget has ripped hundreds of millions of dollars from schools, children's services and essential programs for young people and families. The federal government has shredded the Gonski agreement; they will be withdrawing \$320 million in funding promised to South Australian schools, and scrap the skills national partnership (the VET partnership) after 2016-17, worth \$38 million—the equivalent of 2.6 million training hours for 12,000 students.

The cuts to our education system equate to approximate \$1,200 per student across 2018-19, or nearly 3,000 teachers. Funds that support high-quality childcare and family day care programs are also going to be cut. The Child Care Accessibility Fund has been terminated, and the Liberals have ruled out building any more children and family centres for Aboriginal families. Despite interfering in so many aspects of school life, the federal government is withdrawing funding for school education. You simply cannot have it both ways.

The Liberal premiers across the country are up in arms about this budget. The Premier met with them on the weekend to discuss a campaign against these cuts, and what have we heard from our state's Liberal opposition? Hardly a peep. They continue to stand by while their federal colleagues slash vital funding from our public, private and Catholic schools. The Liberals failed to stand up for South Australian schools, students and parents. The Liberal Party made no substantial commitment to improving our schools, and no doubt they would have been fodder for their inevitable Audit Commission.

Last sitting week, the opposition leader referred to the member for Unley's extensive time as opposition education spokesperson. Can I offer my congratulations to him; it is a sad case, however, of always the bridesmaid and never the bride. I want to congratulate all members who have been elected to this parliament, and those who have been re-elected.

In this last election—the 'election that we shouldn't have won', the 'election that should have been a gift for the opposition'—the member for Unley actually achieved a swing away from him. It was a 2.2 per cent swing away from a sitting opposition frontbench spokesperson. Meanwhile, the member for Ashford picked up a swing of 1.3 per cent in her seat, despite a redistribution reducing her margin to 0.6 per cent. The seat was practically gifted to the campaign team running against her, and I understand the member for Unley was heavily involved in that campaign. In fact, I saw him side by side, function after function, with the Liberal candidate. And all this, in an election, as I said, widely tipped to be a landslide for the Liberals. I guess we on this side can thank the member for Unley and his razor-sharp campaign strategy for helping us to retain government.

It is clear the member for Unley's campaign failed to capture their attention—or maybe it did and they just did not like what they saw. Perhaps it was his negativity, his carping, his constant running down of public education and the schools to which many of these voters send their children. Indeed, Labor's candidate in Unley was Lara Golding, a young female public school teacher, the very antithesis of the member for Unley. His form on public education is well known, so too his track record in relation to females—and I refer of course to the 'leather skirtgate'.

The response Ms Golding received from the electors of Unley speaks volumes about the value they place on our public education system; or perhaps it was the obvious inability of the Liberal Party, of the opposition's education spokesperson to stand up to their federal counterparts, hell-bent on clawing back hundreds of millions of dollars in funding promised for all South Australian schools both under the Gonski and the Trade Training Centres agreement. They lost the unlosable election. Perhaps it was the Liberal's small target strategy and lack of policies which delivered their downfall.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Gardner.

Bills

**ADMINISTRATION AND PROBATE (REMOVAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR SURETY)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 18:42 the house adjourned until Wednesday 21 May 2014 at 11:00.