

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 24 February 2015

The **SPEAKER (Hon. M.J. Atkinson)** took the chair at 11:00 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.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 12 February 2015.)

Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (11:02): I am delighted to see such a turnout in the audience today to hear my concluding remarks.

An honourable member: They're not here for you.

Mr SPEIRS: No, of course, they are here to hear the maiden speech of the member for Davenport. I wish to conclude my remarks on the Governor's speech by reflecting on a topic which is relevant to every aspect of his speech, and that is our state's largest employer, our Public Service. During my maiden speech I delivered a substantial statement around the dire situation facing our Public Service.

As someone who has spent several years working in the cabinet office, I reflected at the time with sadness on the hollowing out of the sector, its loss of capacity, collapse in morale and deep politicisation. This has led to an overall decline in standards and the loss of a civil service which people aspire to be part of. I uttered a statement in my maiden speech that I have made on a number of occasions since: 'The good people either leave or stop being good.'

It has not got any better in the year since my maiden speech. In fact, it has got much worse. While privileged to sit in this house I hope to use my experience of the Public Service to deliver an annual statement on the state of the sector. In making such a statement, I undertake to rarely mention names of public servants outside of chief executives. I believe that the deep politicisation of the chief executive role has meant that they are today an extension of the executive and as such open to significant public scrutiny.

My great gripe with the Public Service is its leadership values, or lack thereof. The quality, direction, productivity and plain decency of any organisation is reflected in its values, which in turn meld together as a catalyst for an overall culture.

The culture of our state's Public Service is in a very bad way. In about 2013 the government launched values for the Public Service. The values were devised by Change@South Australia, a program that I have spoken of favourably here in the past. The values are professionalism, service, collaboration and engagement, sustainability, courage and tenacity, trust, respect, honesty and integrity. On paper they all make sense, but to give values value they need to be put into practice by all and they need to be driven from the top by ministers, chief executives and other senior leaders. This is not happening.

When looking through the public sector values, the one that is painfully missing is external empathy. I see very little empathy demonstrated by the leadership of the South Australian Public Service to South Australian communities. Instead, I see political expediency, jobs for mates, waste, spin and kowtowing to political masters.

A fortnight ago I sat in a room with Michael Deegan, the new chief executive of the transport department. Mr Deegan replaced Rod Hook as chief executive last year. It seems that for that unlucky department it is a case of out of the frying pan and into the fire. We were talking about one of the

biggest issues facing my electorate of Bright today, being the sound of the train horns—a strangely intractable problem given that this is 2015—which is making the lives of hundreds of residents miserable.

The effort by the department to solve this matter has been woeful. Despite hundreds of signatures on an electronic petition, many representations by community members, two meetings between me and departmental officials or the minister, there has been no improvement. What struck me—in fact, what scared me—was the dark, cold, unfeeling nature of this man. During that meeting I felt like I was in a dank cell enduring torture. The minister smiled and made friendly overtures but beyond him looming large was 'Dr No'. There, wrapped up in one place, was all that was wrong with the public sector—avoidance, unhelpfulness, icy indifference, and not one smidgen of empathy.

The politicisation of the sector is a cancer spreading from department to department, draining purpose and ambition from individual workers, and breaking down morale cell by cell. Politicisation not only creates an environment where ministers and their advisers will only be told what they want to hear, it actually creates an echo chamber where bad ideas, thought bubbles and even daydreams suddenly become reality as an eager gaggle of underqualified, overpromoted, highly politicised public servants battle out preselection and factional battles within the bureaucracy, desperate to curtsy to their political masters.

I want to share a story. In 2012 I witnessed this echo chamber firsthand when I accompanied a group of departmental executives to meet Premier Weatherill. The Premier was delivering a presentation to COAG and I had been tasked with putting it together. As we sat around the table, the Premier, cradling his cup of tea, softly uttered, 'I think we ought to mention procurement in this presentation.' It was a throwaway line. The Premier wanted a dot point, a brief reference to public sector procurement.

Next to him, Jim Hallion nodded sagely, 'Yes, Premier. Procurement, yes, procurement.' Beside Mr Hallion, another executive said, 'Yes, Premier. Procurement, yes, procurement. Procurement, that's right. It should be all about procurement.' On the other side of the table, a card-carrying ALP executive's eyes started to light up. She pulled out a texta and wrote 'YES, PROCUREMENT' in capital letters on her notepad. 'Yes, procurement, Premier,' she said. 'That is genius. The entire presentation ought to be about procurement.'

A flurry of excitement went through the room as people scrambled to their Blackberrys to send emails to subordinates. I imagined instructions landing in inboxes throughout the State Administration Centre and, before we had even left the boardroom, an order had been placed with a Chinese manufacturer for 2,000 'Jay4SA' T-shirts with the subheading 'We're all about procurement.'

This is what happens when truth to power is removed, when frank and fearless advice becomes anathema. You create an echo chamber where the whisper of a dot point becomes an entire strategy. This is where our Public Service is today, and that is broken. What happens if you push back, if you want to adhere to your values, if you want to deliver frank and fearless advice? Well, to discuss that I have to change my phrase about what happens to good people because, today in the South Australian Public Service, the good either leave, they stop being good, or they are sacked for being good.

I refer to the dismissal of a number of executives from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet last month. I knew many of those who lost their jobs. All were long-term public servants who had collective work experience stretching to a couple of hundred years. Some were better than others; some were very good, long-term, hardworking, diligent, quality public servants with decades of service.

These executives were dismissed without emotion or care. Their execution came without warning. They were marched up to the chief executive's office one morning, told that their services were no longer needed, then escorted back to their desks to collect their favourite coffee cups, and then out. No farewell morning tea, no thanks for their service, no dignity; they were treated like white-collar criminals.

'This is the way it is done in the private sector' was the propaganda sprayed through the bureaucratic corridors. Well, that is wrong. In the private sector, industry leaders understand that their employees are their greatest asset and this cruel approach would not be tolerated. I return to

one of those values espoused by Change@SouthAustralia: respect. On the Change@SouthAustralia website, the 'shared organisational practices' of respect are outlined, and two of these are:

Applying empathetic people management skills to bring out the best in employees, and making the wellbeing of all staff a priority [and]

Being sensitive to the impact that decisions and policies can have on all involved, including employees and members of the community

I did not see that value demonstrated in the treatment of those sacked executives. Something is rotten in the state of South Australia, and the smell emanating from the upper echelons of the public sector would suggest that the decay starts there. Enter Kym Winter-Dewhurst, allegedly described by the Premier as his 'second chief of staff', and who comes with excellent pedigree worth, it seems, \$550,000 annually. Clearly, the Premier believes that Mr Winter-Dewhurst is something a superhero when it comes to public sector management.

As we know, superheroes often have their weapon of choice: Batman has his batarangs; Captain America has his patriotically painted shield; Thor has his hammer; and Kym Winter-Dewhurst, superhero of the public sector, according to the Premier, has his trough—an iron trough, forged using BHP ore. Chained to his ankle like a medieval cilice, he drags his iron trough across the South Australian landscape, feeding his bovver girls and sycophantic geezers as they munch down his putrid, politicised swill. Snouts in the trough. Mates and buddies, captains of spin, apparatchiks and hacks.

Those further down the hierarchy, fearful for their existence, do not know what to do. They know that if they give frank and fearless advice they will be sacked, or at least not make any career progression. Yet, they joined the Public Service to make a difference; they do not agree with the politicised environment and their advice is not listened to. Do they stop being good, just doing the basics to get by, save up for their next flexiday and thank God for a job in these tough economic times, or do they simply leave and go to some workplace where their skills will be valued and where career progression can occur? Or do they realise that if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, and sign up for their local ALP subbranch?

Sadly, I am not sure there is any recovery plan in sight. The politicisation is becoming worse. The message to younger, upwardly mobile public servants is that they cannot be part of a frank and fearless service so they can get on the gravy train or they can get out. It is a tragedy for good government, and it is the state of our Public Service in 2015.

As I finish up, I would like to thank my staff for supporting me during my first year in parliament: my office manager, Helen Dwyer; my adviser, Ruth van den Brink; my trainee, Aric Pierce; regular relieving staff member, Raelene Zanetti; and the many community volunteers who support our cause.

It gives me great pleasure to conclude these remarks and to hand over to the new member for Davenport, a colleague and friend who I look forward to working alongside as we hold this government to account and pitch ideas for our community and state. I know he will become a vital member of the Liberal team.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the former member for Davenport, Stan Evans; the former member for Goyder and former premier, Steele Hall; and the former member for Morialta, Joan Hall. The member for Davenport—I draw members' attention to this being the member's first speech, and I ask members to extend the customary courtesies to the member. The Chair will, as is also customary, give much latitude to his comments.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

Mr DULUK (Davenport) (11:14): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you to the member for Bright for his kind words and the very colourful ending to his speech. I am proud to speak to this Address in Reply before the house today, as the new member for Davenport. First, I would like to acknowledge the support of my party and the trust placed in me to represent the people of Davenport; equally, I thank the electors for their support and the privilege they have afforded me. It is with an enormous sense of gratitude and responsibility that I take on the new role as their representative in Davenport and in South Australia.

Davenport is an active district with its members contributing through business, community involvement and neighbourly actions. The seat of Davenport covers the Mitcham Hills suburbs of Blackwood, Eden Hills, Bellevue Heights, Glenalta, Craighburn Farm, Bedford Park, parts of Darlington, Upper Sturt and Belair, Flagstaff Hill, Coromandel Valley and Hawthorndene. In addition, the electorate is home to many excellent primary schools, Blackwood High School, Flinders University and the Flinders Medical Centre. Significantly, open spaces such as the Belair National Park, Colebrook Reconciliation Park, Sturt Gorge and Wittunga Botanic Garden create the beautiful environment that provides the seat of Davenport a unique connection to bushland within suburban Adelaide.

We have a proud volunteer history in Davenport which gives it a strong community spirit. There are countless volunteer groups and volunteer hours performed in our area, from the CFS and SES, service clubs such as Lions, Rotary, RSL, Probus and Meals on Wheels, scouting, walking and wildlife groups, residents' associations, sporting and social clubs, church communities, school parent associations and families just to name a few. These groups add to the vitality of our community.

Many of the issues and concerns that are important to the families of Davenport are applicable to many South Australians. However, I would like to touch on a few local issues, including support for our local CFS and SES. The Sturt CFS group, which includes the brigades of Belair, Blackwood, Eden Hills, Coromandel Valley and Cherry Gardens is, in many ways, the embodiment of community and volunteering within the Mitcham Hills. Without the volunteer service of the local CFS over many decades, we would not have the strong and generous community that we have today. We owe a debt of gratitude to our CFS volunteers. It is incumbent on us to ensure that the CFS and SES are always well funded, respected and supported. The CFS and SES act as the fire service for a large part of the electorate. They are at every car accident and emergency incident, day or night.

The Blackwood Christmas Pageant includes the CFS appliances at the end of the parade just before Father Christmas arrives. We rely on our volunteer services throughout the year and especially in the bushfire season, as we have seen recently. As the member for Davenport, I honour their commitment to protecting our community and, as one CFS member said to me last week in my office, 'Sam, you just can't mess with the CFS.'

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr DULUK: Road infrastructure, public transport and a dedicated transport master plan for the Mitcham Hills have long been on the agenda for local residents, councils and politicians. I am absolutely delighted that in the recent by-election my party announced the development of a master plan for the upgrading of the central road corridor through the Mitcham Hills: a plan to deliver improved bushfire safety for residents and reduce the peak hour bottlenecks that frustrate the daily commute on Old Belair Road, Main Road, Flagstaff Road and many other local road corridors. For too long master plans for the Mitcham Hills have been discussed with no funding attached. A future Marshall Liberal government has committed \$20 million to fund both the master plan and the first stage of the Mitcham Hills road corridor upgrade.

Open spaces, bushland and national parks form a significant part of the electorate of Davenport. The Mitcham Hills are renowned for some of the last large remnant areas of Eucalyptus microcarpa, otherwise known as the grey box woodland gum tree, particularly within the Sturt Gorge Recreation Park. The Belair National Park attracts over 250,000 visitors each year. The park sits within the Mount Lofty Ranges which is regarded as one of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots.

The Wittunga Botanic Garden is one of the three botanic gardens in Adelaide and home to a large collection of South African ericas and proteas. Wittunga holds a special place in the heart of

many residents. It would be wonderful to see this garden used to its full potential, just as it was last Friday, as part of the Wittunga Under the Stars. One of the drawbacks to its being fully utilised, in my mind, is the number of its regulations. Some of the regulations for this suburban botanical garden include: no bicycles, no skateboarding or rollerblading, no barbecues, no ball or throwing games. Does this mean 'no fun'? I am sure we can do better to ensure full use of our parks and gardens. The natural environment plays such an important part in our life. It is incumbent on us to generate its protection but also its utilisation for the benefit and education of all.

The seat of Davenport is named after Sir Samuel Davenport, one of South Australia's early colonial settlers and prominent landowners, and a member of the Legislative Council. He was a strong promoter of agriculture and new industries in the early colony, a strong advocate for the manufacture of olive oil, silk and tobacco, as well as a trustee of the Savings Bank, a director of several companies and, for 20 years, president of the Chamber of Manufactures.

I stand here as only the fifth member for Davenport. The previous members representing this seat can all boast significant achievements of service to this house and to this parliament, and I pay tribute to them. Joyce Steele, whose portrait hangs opposite me in this house, was the first female elected to the House of Assembly, and she served as a cabinet minister in the Hall Liberal government. Dean Brown, first elected as the member for Davenport at the age 30 and then, on his return to the house, as the member for Finniss, served as premier of this state from 1993 to 1996.

Stan Evans holds the record for the longest-serving whip in this parliament and the second longest-serving whip in the commonwealth—21 years. It was also Stan Evans who first put forward the motion proposing the establishment of the Ombudsman in South Australia. Recently retired, Iain Evans was the member for Davenport for the last 21 years. In my opinion, and in the opinion of many of his former constituents, Iain was a hardworking, dedicated and community-focused MP. Iain served as a minister in the Olsen and Kerin governments, and he had many notable achievements in his portfolios, especially his environment portfolio. Iain was also a former leader of the parliamentary Liberal Party. He leaves big shoes to fill, and he will be missed by many in Davenport.

I would like to personally put on the record my thanks to both Iain and Stan for their combined 29 years of service to the people of Davenport. I am grateful to both Stan and Iain and their families for their support, advice and belief in me on the path that has brought me here today. That journey began with my migrant grandparents. Three of them, having fled the horrors of war-torn Poland, arrived in Australia in 1949, and one of them arrived in 1957, a year that saw a change in the then Polish communist regime's attitude to certain forms of migration.

My grandparents' story is no different from that of the tens of thousands of postwar migrants who called Australia their new home. They, like our new Governor, came to this country with a suitcase filled with dreams for a better life. With limited English skills, they worked hard for themselves or in low-paid, unskilled jobs. They valued education and ensured that their children and grandchildren had the educational opportunities that were denied to them. It is a testament to my grandparents and the importance that they placed on education that all of their children and grandchildren have been tertiary educated.

My grandparents were hardworking, self-reliant, community-minded individuals. They had a strong faith in God, loved their adopted Australia but never forgot their native Poland. My grandparents' proudest day in the country was when they became naturalised citizens. In so many ways, they represented the best of our multicultural society.

I often draw strength from my grandmas (or *babcias*, as we would say in Polish) and reflect on what my *babcias* would say of the by-election result if they were alive today: one would say, 'Why didn't you win by more?', and the other would say, 'Be humble in your vocation.' For me, the enduring legacy of my *babcias* is one of self-sacrifice, as well as knowing that we must always work hard to achieve our goals whilst ensuring that we are humble in our success, remembering that the role of a parliamentarian is one of service.

There is no doubt that my calling for this parliamentary vocation stems from observing my grandparents' involvement in community and politics. My grandparents were founding members, office-bearers and active members of almost every Polish community group in South Australia. I have been active in the Polish community as well. Politically, *Babcia Duluk* was an active member of

the captive nations campaign in the 1980s. I recall many conversations about Lech Walesa and the Solidarity movement around the kitchen table. These conversations absolutely fascinated me. In his 1949 election campaign speech, Sir Robert Menzies, founder of the modern Liberal Party, said of freedom and liberty:

To worship, to think, to speak, to be ambitious, to be independent, to be industrious, to acquire skill, to seek reward. These are the real freedoms, for these are the essence and nature of man.

It was these values of freedom that my grandparents passionately believed in, and they are the same values that I seek to uphold and drive my desire to make a contribution to this state.

As I have previously put on the record, community and volunteering play a major role in the lives of the people of Davenport. They have also played a large part in my life. For many years, I was a St John Ambulance cadet, including being SA Cadet Leader of the Year. For quite a while, I thought I wanted to be a paramedic after completing high school. I then realised that you probably need to have the stomach to handle the trauma that our front-line healthcare professionals face. I finally chose accounting and commerce instead.

St John Ambulance Australia each year delivers 1.2 million hours of voluntary community service, trains 500,000 people and treats 100,000 people in Australia at public events. As an organisation, I have always had a lot of respect for St John Ambulance and feel that my involvement with the organisation, whilst many years ago, played a part in my journey to this place.

I have been an active member of the Adelaide University Football Club for many years. It has been said that I am possibly not the best player to ever have run out onto the field, but I have been a long-time team manager of our team's D grade. The Adelaide University Football Club is one of those great clubs that embodies the virtues of suburban sport in Australia: volunteering, community focused, friendship, and gentle larrikin behaviour. It is not always about winning; it is about being part of a team.

In recent years, two other groups which I have been involved in are Neighbourhood Watch and Lions International. Can I acknowledge and thank members from both clubs for being in the gallery today. Both Lions and Neighbourhood Watch are fundamentally grassroots service organisations. The loyalty and dedication of the members of these groups cannot be underestimated. It is a great pity that in today's society we are beginning to see a generation gap in volunteering and community involvement. We must continue to nurture, promote and support our volunteer organisations, whose contributions add so much to the fabric of our communities.

My professional life has been spent in the accounting and finance industry. I completed my Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Adelaide and I am a CPA member. While studying at university, I was employed part time as an accountant for Pitcher Partners, where I was fully employed at the conclusion of my degree. From my first day of employment to my last day working in the commercial and small-business banking arm of the ANZ, I have been a dedicated supporter of small to medium South Australian businesses. I come to this house with an understanding of the complexities of small business and will seek to champion their cause at every opportunity.

Small business forms the backbone of our South Australian economy. Davenport is a community home to many small businesses and business owners, from fish and chip and newsagent operators, local hairdressers and barbers (and it is a shame that I no longer have a need for their services), franchise owners and self-employed tradies, fruit and veg wholesalers to apple and pear growers. In fact, the typical Davenport business operator works 7 days a week, has his or her home as collateral for their business finance, ensures that their employees are well looked after and remunerated, and finally, at the end of the week, takes home for themselves a wage to look after their family, pay the mortgage and put a bit away for a rainy day. In many ways, the Davenport small business operator is the embodiment of Liberal Party ideals.

A high priority for small business operators in Davenport, and indeed all over the state, is business taxation reform. State taxation reform is well and truly overdue if we are going to create an environment where our business operators can grow and prosper into the future. With small business being one of the largest employers of South Australians, it is imperative that government does not put a handbrake on economic growth.

People are responsible for their own destiny, and decentralised decision-making powers within the framework of government help facilitate this. Like many on this side of the house, I am a committed federalist. Strong cooperative federalism within our commonwealth requires that states be visionary and experimental in policy formulation. It allows policies to be tailored to individual and regional community needs. Cooperative federalism fosters greater study of government decisions and promotes competition between states and territories to provide incentives to improve government efficiency. Canberra does not always know best.

Over the past decades, we have seen the states cede power to Canberra at the expense of the benefits and virtues that cooperative federalism brings to the table. A review of the roles and responsibilities of the states and the commonwealth in areas such as health, education, law enforcement, transport, electoral reform and fairness, and industrial relations is the logical first step in enhancing the workings of our federation.

One of the many challenges that faces our state is the need to reform our taxation base. Our state taxation regime is inefficient, penalises job creativity and transactions between individuals and corporate entities. A poorly designed state taxation system undermines our sustainable future within the federation. For example, payroll tax and land tax have narrow bases and high rates of tax and are a disincentive to economic transactional activity.

A comprehensive review of our state's taxation also needs to look at the possibility of transferring some of the commonwealth's taxing powers to the states to address our current vertical fiscal imbalance—the difference between expenditure responsibilities and revenue-raising powers. State governments have become captive to an inefficient taxation regime, a regime that can only be improved by embracing cooperative federalism.

I may be accused of being an economic conservative, but a conservative is someone who conserves that which is tried, tested and true and reforms that which is broken or harmful. In the footsteps of Sir Samuel Davenport, I want to spend my time in this house as a champion for industry, agriculture, new technologies and IT. South Australia must look to its natural advantages for its future prosperity—agriculture, education, tourism and renewable energies. We must provide the right regulatory taxation and incentive framework to achieve this.

It is economic growth that provides us with the dividend that ensures that our social capital can be built. We cannot maintain world-class health and education facilities, support the disadvantaged and the marginalised, protect the environment and promote the arts if we do not have a strong economy providing an economic dividend. It is economic prosperity that drives social cohesion and social progress.

It is paramount that young people stay engaged and active within the political process. We have all read the reports and seen the studies on the lack of current engagement by young Australians in the political process. The Australian Electoral Commission estimates that 300,000 eligible young Australians between the ages of 18 and 25 are not enrolled to vote. A 2013 Lowy Institute poll suggested that only 48 per cent of 18 to 29 year olds prefer democracy to any other kind of government.

These statistics and trends are a worry if we are to maintain our democracy. Democracy as we know it is losing traction in our society. It is important that the teaching of civics in our schools, public debate and political leadership are placed as a priority to engage young Australians. Young people vote with their feet when they are not engaged. Clearly, we can and must do better. We must ensure that all citizens of this state and country trust our institutions and believe in our democracy.

Higher education and the export of education services is now a billion-dollar industry for South Australia. Ensuring that our education institutions remain world class should always be a priority for any government. World-class education for all South Australians is paramount if we are to grow and prosper. Just as my grandparents saw the value of education in my family, so must we ensure that all South Australians receive and see the benefit in education. Education is the key that lifts individuals out of poverty, empowers the marginalised and underpins tomorrow's success stories.

Education is also about choice. Too often, young people enrol in university because it is seen as the right path. We must ensure that our vocational educational institutions are respected as much

as our universities. Our graduates from a well-resourced VET system will play crucial roles in our state's natural advantage industries.

I am a proud graduate of our state school system, and I am a strong advocate for public education. That is why I am concerned about our current state school system. Our NAPLAN results highlight the long-term decline in our education standards. Too many children are not reaching benchmarks in literacy and numeracy, leaving them vulnerable to disengagement in education in high-school years.

It is of great concern to me that too many of our teaching graduates are on 12-month employment contracts for years after their graduation. In fact, South Australia has over 3,000 teaching staff on contracts of 12 months or less. It makes little sense in having our teachers complete a master's in education if they cannot obtain permanency in our education system. Our current system is allowing our best young teachers to walk away from this important vocation.

Sadly, it is not only the vocation of teaching that young people are walking away from. They are walking away from the state of South Australia itself enticed by the perception of improved career prospects and a more vibrant cosmopolitan lifestyle interstate or overseas. South Australia is losing thousands of residents annually, the highest proportion being the 25 to 29 age group, to the Eastern States—a brain drain which costs our economy millions in lost tax revenue and human capital. We must do more to create a culture of fearless innovation to attract young people to and retain them in South Australia so that South Australia is a place of destination not departure.

The hallmark of a just and caring society is measured by how it treats its most disenfranchised and disadvantaged. As we sit in this house, we need to reflect on how our legislation impacts on those less fortunate than us. Assisting those who suffer from mental illness, supporting the disability sector and ensuring that up-to-date, accessible and well-funded palliative care services are available will always be priorities of mine.

We must do more to allow those with disabilities to actively participate in the workplace. A 2013 ABS report found that participation in the workforce by people with disabilities has fallen over the past 20 years. The 2011 study by Deloitte Access Economics found that closing the gap in labour market participation between people with a disability and those without a disability by one-third would add \$43 billion to the nation's GDP over the next decade.

It is vital to ensure that people with disabilities are able to access the financial and social benefits that come with employment. Improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities has the potential to provide for and enhance quality of life and independence. Barriers to workplace participation—especially through red tape, misinformation and employee concerns—can be reversed through positive government action and community engagement.

I was raised in a musically-rich environment and I have a strong appreciation for the arts. The value of the arts needs to be recognised not only for the intrinsic value of both enhancing and enriching our emotional lives but also for their far-reaching effects on the economy, health and wellbeing and education. The arts are crucial and need further development in our early childhood curriculum.

Early childhood professionals have long recognised not only the significant benefits to creative development but also the connection between participation in musical activities and educational success in literacy, maths and languages. In order to be the clever state, we need to invest in the creative development of our children and young people. The chair of the UK arts council, Sir Peter Bazalgette, recently wrote:

Imagine society without the civilising influence of the arts and you'll have to strip out what is most pleasurable in life and much that is educationally vital. Take the collective memory from our museums; remove the bands from our schools and choirs from our communities; lose the empathetic plays and dance from our theatres or the books from our libraries; expunge our festivals, literature and painting, and you are left with a society bereft of a national conversation about its identity, or anything else.

There is a saying that great cities have great orchestras. Our own Adelaide Symphony Orchestra is a great orchestra, but one without a home. It is time we had a dedicated performing arts centre for our orchestra—like the Barbican Centre in London or the Avery Fisher Hall in New York—with all the associated economic flow-on benefits in creating a vibrant cultural space. With Adelaide being the

only Australian capital city without a dedicated concert hall, can we truly claim to be the Festival State?

To champion education, disabilities and the arts is not simply the purview of those opposite. As Liberals, it is incumbent upon us to champion these issues, as it is through education that the individual develops, it is through empowering those with disabilities that individuals gain empowerment, and it is through art and culture that the individual's humanity is enhanced.

I come to this house ready to serve and to champion many causes; however, in the words of Martin Luther King Jr:

There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right.

It is only when we take the words of Martin Luther King Jr and apply them directly to our daily lives in this place that we will truly be able to progress and reform this state for our future prosperity.

I would like to put on the record my appreciation and gratitude to the South Australian Young Liberal Movement. I joined the Young Liberals when I was at university, and I am fortunate enough to be a former president and life member. The movement is a great training ground in the battle of ideas and policy formulation. It must also be a record that, including myself, four former Young Liberal presidents now serve in this current parliament: the Hon. Michelle Lensink in the other place, the member for Morialta, John Gardner, and my good friend the member for Schubert, Stephan Knoll. I look forward to continuing the battle of ideas with the member for Schubert, and thank him for his friendship, support and haphazard wine advice.

I would also like to thank former Young Liberal presidents Chris Browne, Dan Cregan and, in particular, Michael van Dissel for their support, loyalty and wise counsel over many years. I would like to acknowledge and thank the leader and the parliamentary Liberal Party for their hard work and assistance over the by-election campaign, especially on those hot January days.

Thank you for the support of the local Davenport Liberal Party and the wider Liberal family, who volunteered their time for my campaign. Manning phones, doorknocking, supermarket visits, letterboxing and polling day rosters all need volunteers. There are so many people who supported my campaign to win the seat of Davenport, and I am sure I will probably forget a few people; however, I would like to particularly thank Pam Lehmann, Ray and Pam Scottney-Turbill, Louise Flood, Jenny Coates, Geoff and Liz Bartlett, David Hawker, George and Pat Oram, Barry and Maria Caddle, Wayne Jobson, David Henderson (the master carpenter), Steve Murray, Heidi Girolamo, Helen Ronson, Travis Munckton, Alex Hyde, Brendan Clark and Marg Westmore for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to the campaign.

I thank all those who have been able to come along to the gallery today; it is wonderful to see so many of you here. I would like to place on the record that coming to this house as an elected member is no solo effort. I have received wonderful support from so many people over many years, and I would like to particularly acknowledge Joan and Steele Hall, Bin Irwin, the Hon. Terry Stephens, Hugh Martin, George and Helen Sobol, Brian Moran and the Bode Shed for their guidance, sharing of past experiences and belief in me. I owe you all a great debt of gratitude.

To my family and friends, thank you. To Gemma, thank you for your love and understanding. To mum and dad and my three siblings, there is no doubt that our family dinners have provided an invaluable training ground for the argy-bargy of politics. To the people of Davenport, thank you for the honour of allowing me to serve you in this place.

Finally, as a member of the Aberfoyle & Districts Lions Club, I would like to end my Address in Reply with the Lions Code of Ethics—a code that I like to think we can all live by, and a standard to which we should all aspire to. I thank the club for allowing me to read the code:

Lions Code of Ethics

- To Show my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

- To Seek success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.
- To Remember that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.
- Whenever a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.
- To Hold friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.
- Always to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act, and deed. To give them freely of my time, labour and means.
- To Aid others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.
- To Be Careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

I thank the house.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (11:47): Parliament is the cornerstone of our democracy, and so the opening day of the new session of the 53rd parliament is a tradition we should all value—a show of the importance this institution has in our society. I acknowledge we meet on the Kurna lands and thank Uncle Lewis O'Brien for his welcome to country on opening day.

I thank also our new Governor for delivering his first address with such natural sincerity, and acknowledge he and his wife for their continuing service to South Australia now in their new role as the vice-regal couple. I welcome the new MPs for Fisher and Davenport as they take their places for the first time. South Australia faces its share of challenges in the changing world, and there are a few matters in the Governor's address, among the many exciting initiatives it contained which raise the bar on the contest of ideas, that are of particular interest to the electorate.

Firstly, I welcome the significant agenda in reforming planning, transport and infrastructure legislation that has been foreshadowed. Of course, this comes off the back of the lengthy consultation process undertaken by the Expert Panel on Planning Reform. I note the government's continuing dedication to the task of urban renewal and look forward to seeing the benefits.

The Modbury regional centre forms the heart of the Florey electorate and of the wider north-eastern suburbs. It is a major centre in urban Adelaide which has significant potential to enjoy improvements, resulting in reforms to the law which will make planning processes more effective. The exciting public transport improvements and the O-Bahn tunnel in the CBD are important to Modbury. As part of the O-Bahn's corridor, Modbury is nominated as one of the major sites for transit oriented development in the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and, with the right investment signals to the private sector, community support and upgrades to transport, has the potential to be a major growth centre in years to come. I believe the local council will join with me in enthusiastically pursuing a new vision for the Modbury of the future.

The government's Urban Renewal Act, passed in 2013, seems tailor-made for revitalising Modbury and I will be urging councils and the government to look at ways this could be used to provide the investment signals the private sector needs, and to instil the confidence in the process that the community demands. I believe a new planning system could create the reset needed to revive the Modbury urban renewal agenda and I look forward to working with major landowners, the community and potential investors to bring viable propositions forward for consultation and then onto council and state government for approval.

Transforming Health will bring better health outcomes and further investment at the Modbury Hospital, increasing rehabilitation and recovery facilities. This can, in time, be a major local employment generator. It will become a major boost for this important medical facility and provide a strong basis for the Modbury Hospital in future years.

I have spent my entire public life advocating for the Modbury Hospital. Despite all the rumours, and they are just that, it remains a strong link in the provision of health services in this state, and while I am around, and beyond, always will. It is a shame the opposition, instead of supporting the Modbury Hospital and the essential reform initiatives proposed by Transforming Health, is intent on opposition for opposition's sake and continues to spread misinformation. The emergency department at Modbury is not closing and I challenge the opposition to be truthful about this—it is not closing. Rather than fearmongering on this issue, they would be wise to get behind—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader will not interject out of his seat.

Ms BEDFORD: Thank you, sir—the health initiatives that will truly transform health delivery in this state. The emergency department at Modbury is not closing. One thing we will not do, as a Labor government, is try to make patients pay extra for health care. We are trying to make the health system work even better for everybody, every time.

The future of the submarine and ship building industries, and all manufacturing, remains pivotal to this state's future. I think enough has been said on that matter to underline how important it truly is for employment for everyone in the suburbs that we all represent in the north and north-eastern suburbs, and beyond.

I note the government has committed to a review of legislation and regulation to identify remaining areas of discrimination in South Australia. Members will know I have a strong interest in equality issues and I was glad that, with the strong support of other members, I was able to get some of the first law reforms for same-sex couples through this parliament some years ago in a private members' bill. But more needs to be done.

We need to revisit the issues of exemptions in equal opportunity laws that are outdated and unaccountable. We need to allow same-sex couples to certificate or register their relationships, such as through civil unions, at least until the federal parliament acts to finally make marriage available to all on an equal basis. I commend this initiative and I am sure the South Australian Law Reform Institute will have regard to these and other issues as it undertakes this investigation.

I also mention the Transforming Criminal Justice strategic overview and my continuing interest in juvenile justice, prison reform and appropriate measures to see changes to spent conviction laws. Family violence remains an issue of grave concern, now highlighted by the championing of Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty. I hope to be able to help in a small way by introducing discussion on a paper prepared by a university intern looking at a program to assist in caring for companion animals owned by those caught up in family violence, which I hope will mean families can leave dangerous situations before circumstances escalate.

Educational opportunities will remain ever more important as our young people learn to live with the fast pace of changes in technology, changes which some of us take a little longer than others to absorb. With three grandchildren, my interest, awareness and concern remain as strong as when I first became involved in public activism as a kindy mum.

In closing, I return to my initial thoughts on the traditions and history of democracy. To this end, I urge all MPs to keep bringing their school and community groups here to watch parliament at work on sitting days or to see the building more thoroughly when we are not in session so as to nurture the notion of the value of the vote and how even one vote can change the course of events, and that democracy happens every day in a participatory democracy such as ours, not just on election day when the pencil, rather than the gun, can change leadership and policy direction. I commend the address to the house.

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (11:54): It is my pleasure to rise today to speak on the Address in Reply. It was a great honour to have His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le come to our parliament. As I previously laid on the record, this side of the house was delighted with his most worthy of appointments to this high office. We also lay on the record our appreciation for the work that his equally hard-working wife, Mrs Lan Le, does for the people of South Australia.

The Governor's speech, of course, laid out the Labor government's agenda for the Second Session of the Fifty-Third Parliament. Whilst it is always wonderful to have His Excellency here in the parliament, on this particular occasion it was nothing more than a personal indulgence by the Premier. It is his third such indulgence since he has become Premier of this state. Of the three 'visions' that he has created, this was by far the most disappointing. I say this because it provided no continuity with the previous two indulgences that he has put this parliament through.

I took the time this morning to read through the first of these visions that the Premier created: when the government at the time opened the Second Session of the Fifty-Second Parliament in February 2012. I think politicians should be judged on what they deliver, so I thought I would go back three years and refresh my memory as to what the Premier said he would deliver for the people of South Australia. He said that we were going to have these seven primary areas of focus for action, so it was with much hilarity that I read about some of these areas of focus. I do not have time this morning to focus on all of these areas, but I will pick out a couple that I think need to be dealt with.

The first is the establishment of a futures fund. I just point out to this house that since the Premier first floated this idea in February 2012, not one single solitary cent has been deposited into the futures fund here in South Australia. In fact, this lazy government has not even got around to putting the enabling legislation into place to establish the fund. So, we do not have a fund, we do not have any money to put into the fund, but that was one of the first items that this Premier raised in his vision for South Australia more than three years ago.

The second item he dealt with was the growing importance of advanced manufacturing here in South Australia, and I commend the Premier for that because this is a very important area. But again, let's not just talk about dreams and distractions, let's talk about deliverables. Where has this government been in terms of delivering for the advanced manufacturing sector in South Australia? It has been nowhere. We have fewer people employed in this area than we had when the government first made its pronouncement that advanced manufacturing would be so critically important to our future. But the government did do something: it established—are you ready for this?—the ministerial Advanced Manufacturing Council. This is a ministerial council.

The member for Playford, who is in the house at the moment diligently listening to my Address in Reply speech, was on this Advanced Manufacturing Council. I would love to hear what the ministerial Advanced Manufacturing Council has achieved in the three years from whence it was established, because I have never heard anything from this ministerial advisory council—nothing. In fact, not even all of the original members are in this house. But not content with establishing a ministerial advisory council, the government established its own Advanced Manufacturing Council, with legislation that we supported and passed through the house with alacrity. Again, what has this council done? What lobbying has this council done to advance the cause of the advanced manufacturing sector in South Australia? Not much.

When I turn to page 114 of this year's Budget Paper 4 and look at Program 12: Manufacturing Innovation in the Department of State Development, do I see a massive increase in the amount of money that the government is now spending on advanced manufacturing in South Australia? No, I do not. In fact, last year we spent \$22½ million supporting manufacturing and innovation in South Australia. Is it \$25 million this year or \$30 million, because let us not forget this is one of the principal focuses of this government? No, we are spending less. We are actually spending \$18 million this year—\$22½ million last year and \$18 million this year. See, we are going backwards.

There is a lot of spin in what this government has to say. This government is big on dreams and big on distractions, but not big on deliverables for the people of South Australia. In fact, if we look at the current situation in South Australia, there is no wonder that the government wants to talk about driverless cars. There is no doubt that the government wants to talk about banning cars driving into the CBD. I will tell you that it was pretty difficult to get into the CBD this morning. I think that they are already on phase 1 of their carless CBD this morning.

There is no doubt that the government wants to talk about distractions. Take a look at the statistics. The circumstances which we find ourselves in are frightening at the moment—7.3 per cent unemployment in South Australia. This is the highest rate in the nation. People say, 'Oh, that is the seasonal figure.' We will take the trend figure; that is also the highest rate in the nation.

Net interstate migration continues to spiral out of control. Net interstate migration was 3,000 people last year. That is the difference between the people who are leaving the state versus those who are coming back into the state—3,000 people. It is 38,000 people who appear in our net interstate migration figures in this state since this government came to power. We would be transformed as a state if those people were back here at the moment.

And, of course, our debt continues to rise out of control under this government—more than \$13 billion. We will have a state debt of more than \$13 billion by the 2016-17 year. And what are the consequences of that poor economic mismanagement? I will give you one statistic and this is a statistic that the former leader, the member for Heysen, always spoke about. She spoke about it because it was so critically important and that is the interest rate that we have to pay on Labor's economic mismanagement. Let me tell you that by the 2016-17 financial year we will be borrowing \$725 million per year to pay the interest on the debt that Labor has run up. Imagine what you could do in this state with \$725 million per year.

The member for Florey would not have to worry about services being cut at Modbury Hospital because there would be plenty of money in the budget to stop the cuts of this government at Modbury Hospital, like the closure of paediatric services and cuts to the emergency department. In fact, the member for Florey could be advocating on behalf of her constituents to the government to increase and enhance the services at Modbury Hospital.

Instead, she has to go to the people of South Australia and say, 'The Transforming Health report might be a whole pile of cuts to the people of Florey, but do not worry, it is all good. The Transforming Health report is all good for the people of Florey.' It is no good for the people of Florey; it is no good for the people of South Australia, but it is a consequence of 12½—nearly 13—years of gross economic mismanagement in South Australia.

Let us take a look at what was good in the Governor's speech outlining the government's agenda for this next session of the parliament. I particularly liked all of the Liberal policies which the government has put into place and plenty of those have been included. One of the first issues that they talked about was an inquiry into the opportunities of the nuclear industry in South Australia.

This is something that those on this side of the house have been talking about for years. In fact, I spoke about it publicly twice in the lead-up to the election, saying that we needed to have a government-led inquiry into the opportunities of the nuclear industry for South Australia, and I said that this should be done in a bipartisan way from government. At the time when I made these public comments, the Premier of South Australia rejected that. He said there was no opportunity for South Australia. In fact, he described my comments as 'a dangerous distraction' and now he has adopted the Liberal Party's position, and we thank him for that.

He has also talked about the long overdue need to increase event funding and the bid fund in South Australia. We have been left without a substantial bid fund to bring events into South Australia for an extended period of time. Do not forget Labor closed down the Liberal initiative, the very successful Liberal initiative, of Australian Major Events which bid for, and won, fantastic events here in South Australia—events like the Tour Down Under, events like the Clipsal—events which this government stands up and talks about how successful they have been over an extended period of time.

They never talk about their events. They never tell us about the KI Surf Classic. That has gone completely off the agenda. They do not go into that one in too much detail whatsoever, but they do talk about the wonderful events that were established under the Liberal government through that excellent mechanism of Australian Major Events which had a proper bid fund. So we do welcome the fact that this government is now going full circle and putting a proper bid fund back in place, like was in place when the Liberal Party was in power in South Australia.

Of course we support their initiative for the South-East Asia Engagement Strategy. Why? Because that is our policy. It has been our policy for an extended period of time. This government has ignored the opportunities in South-East Asia for a very long period and that has been to the detriment of our exporters in South Australia. Of course they should be doing that. They should have been doing it for many years.

In relation to the taxation review, I have talked about few things as many times as the need for tax reform in South Australia, and it is great that the government is finally going to get around to do that, but we are absolutely worried about their proposal to put an annual land tax on the family home here in South Australia. This government only wants to talk about shifting the deck chairs. They have missed the fundamental point and that fundamental point is that we want tax relief in South Australia. So whilst we will be supporting whatever proposal they have for engaging in a debate on tax reform in South Australia, our starting position will always be to reduce that burden on the productive component of the economy, not just shifting the deck chairs, and certainly not putting an annual land tax on the family home in South Australia.

Of course one of the other great Liberal initiatives that is taken up in the Governor's speech is the reform of the Department for Education and Child Development. Now if there is ever a department which needs fundamental root and branch reform it is the education department, and I know that the member for Unley, who has been the shadow minister in this area for—

Mr Pisoni: Six years.

Mr MARSHALL: —six years—and seen off, how many?

Mr Pisoni: Four.

Mr MARSHALL: Four separate ministers in this area—knows all too well that we must have decentralisation of this department. We must have a greater focus on autonomy in our schools and we must remove child protection from the education department. We need to go back to a situation where our education department in South Australia is focused on educating our children, not on child protection. That should be its own separate stand-alone agency with its own dedicated cabinet minister, and that is what should happen in this area, and we look forward to working with the government on that area.

So you see there were some good initiatives in the Governor's speech and, of course, they were all great Liberal initiatives. I do want to also speak about what the government should be doing. Often we get accused, and in fact I was accused just a few moments ago of being somebody who only talks about being in opposition. I think the member for Florey said, 'So often the opposition just wants to be the opposition for opposition's sake.' Well, what a load of rubbish. I have never heard so much rubbish. Again, the member for Florey was way off the mark with her comments in the parliament. I think she should take a good look at herself, quite frankly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maligning other members is a low form of criticism.

Mr MARSHALL: Was that an interjection now from the chair?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You'll suffer.

Mr MARSHALL: Usually when the Speaker speaks, we have to sit down. Were you making a—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wasn't standing up, sir.

Mr MARSHALL: Okay, so I will outline, at the member for Florey's behest, what our agenda would be if we were in government, and what we would be doing to advance the cause of this state. First, we would be reducing taxation, we would not be talking about shifting the deck chairs; we would be talking about reducing the tax burden on our businesses, on our families, in South Australia. Why? Because we are the highest taxed state in Australia. It is not good enough, when we have the highest unemployment rate, to have the highest taxation rate in this state. We should be reducing that to stimulate economic activity. That would be the No.1 thing we would do.

It was the No.1 thing we talked about in the lead-up to the state election. We were the ones who said that we would block the car park tax. We were the ones who said we would reduce land tax. We were the ones who said we would reduce payroll tax. We were the ones who said that we would have no new taxes and levies. It is interesting that the government did not match us on that promise to create no new taxes and levies, because what did they do immediately after the election? They whacked a massive annual land tax on the family home by removing the remission on the emergency services levy. We have said that we will reinstate that remission, because we do not

believe that the people, the families of South Australia, should be paying that additional tax burden to make up for the inefficiency of this wasteful government.

The second point is that we must not just trim red tape but must eliminate. We must start deregulating here in South Australia, and that would be our focus. We said, in the lead-up to the election, that we would establish the first state-based productivity commission, to do the important work of removing regulations and redundant legislation that encumber businesses and individuals in South Australia. The government has, in the small business sector, established a red tape reduction steering committee. It is great that they have created a steering committee, but when will they get on with the important work of pulling off that regulation from business in South Australia?

Are they or are they not serious about creating jobs in South Australia? Clearly, they are not, because they have not put a mechanism in place. You do not have bureaucrats deregulating; it needs to be a separate stand-alone agency, and that is why, in the lead-up to the election, that we said that the Essential Services Commission of South Australia should be morphed into the first state-based productivity commission. That is not a dream—that is a deliverable—something we would have delivered on, unlike this government that talks about dreams and distractions and not deliverables.

The third area on which we said we would focus was the establishment of a long-range productive infrastructure planning statutory authority, infrastructure SA: again, not a dream, not a distraction, but something that could have been delivered on. Why? Because we have very finite capital in this state, and we have not developed a good quality mechanism for determining which project gets that finite capital.

The decisions of this government are shrouded in secrecy. This government has a focus on delivering capital programs that are influenced by marginal seats and electoral cycles, rather than on the best outcomes for the taxpayers of South Australia. That is why we said that it needs to be done independently, so that we know that when we spend a cent of our finite capital it is focused on delivering the best outcomes and having the highest return for the people of South Australia. That would be a deliverable.

We said that we would back our exporters, and we must back our exporters. This government talks about China, this government talks about India and now this government is talking about its South-East Asian engagement strategy, but it is not talking about how much they have slashed the budget to support our exporters. If we go back to the 2011-12 year, this government spent—are you ready for it—\$30 million supporting our exporters. So, is it now \$40 million or \$50 million? It is \$18 million! We have gone backwards over the last three years in South Australia, because this government has no ability to focus on the things that are important for South Australia.

There are few ways to grow jobs in South Australia—few ways—but one of the most important and potent ways to grow jobs is to increase exports out of this state. Every time we sell goods and services interstate or overseas we are bringing somebody else's money into our state to grow the size of our economy, and that is why it is so important to support those firms that can do that. Well, we do not. We do not support our exporters in South Australia; in fact, we have slashed the budget, closed overseas offices and we are doing everything we can to get in the way of this important sector of our economy.

The fifth area that we would focus on, and this government should focus on, is the public sector. I must say, for those of you who maybe were not paying attention or were not in the chamber at the time, I commend the member for Bright's Address in Reply speech, which was a very eloquent, enlightening and insightful thesis on what is happening and what needs to happen in our public sector in South Australia.

I come from the private sector and probably three, four or maybe five decades ago the private sector determined that the biggest asset in any organisation is the people who work in that organisation. For some reason, the Premier of this state and this government seem to be operating in this time vacuum where they do not realise that to get the most out of their asset they have to listen to their asset and show it some respect.

Most recently, with the restructure in DPC, I heard some very disturbing and damaging renditions of what happened on the morning that 11 senior public servants were dismissed. It really

was like these public servants had been caught with their hand in the till. Can you imagine senior members of the Public Service, with decades of service to the people of South Australia, being marched out of the building? It is absolutely shameful.

The government uses the excuse that this happens in the private sector. I have operated in the private sector my entire life prior to coming into this place and I have never seen such a disgraceful exhibition as was played out on that morning in the Premier's own department. He needs to take responsibility for that. That was outrageous. If we valued our Public Service, we could improve the productivity in our Public Service, and that is exactly what we need to do.

I spent some time with John Key in New Zealand last year when I was accompanied by the member for Flinders and we visited there to look at how they turned around the productivity of their public service. They did not have a slash and burn mentality in New Zealand but they did look for productivity improvements in what they referred to as a constrained fiscal environment. They did not have massive increases in public expenditure each year—they tried to keep it at a very low growth rate—but they actually worked with their public service to deliver improved outcomes for the people of New Zealand. Public servants are a wellspring of ideas and opportunities to improve productivity. They are being ignored and, worse than being ignored, they are being treated appallingly by this government, which is out of touch with the most important asset in this state.

Moreover, to improve the productivity of the Public Service in South Australia, we need a government that has a better understanding of the enabling power of information technology. To get better outcomes, we must have a much better use of IT in South Australia and this government is scared of death of IT and computers. Why is that? It is because nearly every single solitary project they have touched they have messed up.

Take a look at the EPAS system at the moment, take a look at the Oracle implementation in the health department and the RISTEC implementation in the Treasurer's own department. Every single time they touch an IT project, it is a mess. Where are we now? We have a government which is scared, not implementing best practice and we are getting further and further behind and our productivity is falling down.

Finally, in my seven-point plan, we need to develop a single-minded focus on reducing costs on business and on families to create jobs. We have the highest taxes in the nation, we have the highest electricity prices in the nation, we have the highest water prices in the nation and we have the highest WorkCover rate in the nation. Every one of these things is chipping away at our opportunity and job creation in South Australia.

That is why, this week, we will be moving to establish an independent inquiry into water prices in South Australia. This is absolutely necessary because in South Australia we have the highest water prices in the nation. Last year, we had two former commissioners and a former chief executive of ESCOSA coming out and saying that this government has essentially cooked the books. They have artificially inflated the regulated asset base of SA Water, which has a direct flow-on effect to our water prices in South Australia.

If this is true, the government is in real trouble, and the only way the government can remove this spectre that they have been essentially overcharging South Australians—businesses and consumers—for an extended period of time, the only way they can clear their name is to have an independent inquiry into water prices in South Australia. If they are not prepared to do that, then I think they stand guilty in front of the people of South Australia in the lead-up to the next election.

There were explosive claims that the regulated asset base of SA Water may be overvalued by \$2 billion. The flow-on effect of that each year to water consumers is in the tens and tens of millions of dollars. Imagine if this were a private sector artificially passing on inflated prices in a regulated environment to households in South Australia: they would be prosecuted and directors would end up in gaol. The government, the Premier and the Treasurer need to clear their names, and the only way they can do this is by agreeing to the Liberal Party's proposal for an independent inquiry into water prices in South Australia.

There are just a couple of final things I would like to put on the record today. I thought it was most important, when His Excellency was opening this Second Session of the 53rd Parliament, to acknowledge our CFS, our SES and our volunteer heroes who had supported our state in the recent

Sampson Flat and Tantanoola fires. I would like to commend the Governor for those comments and echo those sentiments. The CFS, the SES, Red Cross, Lions—a range of volunteer groups across South Australia—acted extraordinarily when they were called upon to help with those fires.

I visited Tantanoola after the fire was put out and met with Michael Kemp, who is the Group Captain of the Wattle Range CFS. I know I am just pulling out one person, but I think this exemplifies the level of service: Michael Kemp joined the CFS in 1971. I joined the St James kindergarten in 1971 and he joined the CFS. He was made Group Captain of the Wattle Range CFS in 1976 and has served without a break since 1976 completely and utterly in a volunteer capacity.

The Wattle Range CFS attends 400 incidents per year. They have 400 volunteers in their group, which is extraordinary. We have a volunteer coordinating another 400 people from the local region. There are 21 volunteer brigades in the Wattle Range Country Fire Service with 26 trucks, and they include areas like Millicent, Glencoe, Tantanoola, Mount Burr, Penola, Meningie and a range of other areas. I have to say that these volunteers are really the heroes here in South Australia. I was so delighted when the Governor mentioned them in his address because they do not get the credit they deserve and they are doing it tough at the moment.

They are under attack from this government, and there is no doubt in my mind about this. We had to fight an election when the Liberal Party and the crossbenchers in the upper house were saying that we needed equality for our firefighters in South Australia and that there should be no differentiation in terms of cancer compensation between the paid and the unpaid firefighters. The government fought that. They fought it in the parliament and they fought it in the lead-up to the election, but we did not move away from our position. We continued the fight, and we now have equality between those two groups.

Of course, the massive increase in the emergency services levy has been very difficult for them to swallow. Much of their work for their equipment, for their sheds, comes through public fundraising. Do you know how difficult it is now to go out and sell a scone to raise money for your shed at the moment, when everybody has just had a massive increase with the removal of the emergency services levy? It is absolutely extraordinary and it has made it very, very difficult.

The massive increase in the emergency services levy on households and businesses in South Australia has not delivered one additional cent in terms of equipment to the CFS, and this is something which is absolutely shameful. To add insult to injury, this government and the minister responsible for this area have shamefully tried to remove autonomy from the CFS and the SES which has served it so well.

It was great that during the fires the Premier and the minister wanted to get into selfies, pics and photo opportunities with our heroes in South Australia, but immediately afterwards they want to take away the autonomy which has served the CFS and the SES so well. To show how arrogant this government is, how out of touch this government is, this minister actually put the advertisement in the paper, for the new position to start on 1 July, even before the consultation was over. How arrogant, how out of touch is this minister to operate in such a completely and utterly disrespectful way?

This minister, quite frankly, should have been going around mowing the front lawn of every CFS volunteer in South Australia and saying, 'Thank you very much. Thank you very much for giving up your time, often putting yourself in the line of danger, giving up your time to protect the lives of South Australians, to protect the property of South Australians.' They are our heroes and they should be treated with much more respect.

This government's latest attempt to create a vision is nothing more than dreams and distractions. At this point, at this time in South Australia, what we need more than anything else are deliverables. Every government should be held accountable for what they promise. It would be far more useful for this government not to talk about updating Housing Trust properties between now and 2030. What they should be doing is saying, 'This is what we're going to do this year, this is what we're going to do next year, and this is what we're going to do the year after, which is the pre-election year,' and then the people of South Australia can hold the government accountable for what they have achieved, not what they just dreamt about.

I conclude my remarks by acknowledging the comments made by the new member for Davenport in his maiden speech. I think that certainly those on this side of the house were buoyed by that excellent speech. He will make an incredible contribution to this parliament. He comes here with great qualifications in banking and finance, but what he also spoke about, and what was very pleasing that he spoke about, were some of the other issues which have been neglected by this government for an extended period of time,

He talked about people who were disadvantaged, people who have slipped through the net here in South Australia, and he talked about the disability sector, a sector which I have a great deal of interest in and I think most members on this side have had an active interest in. He talked about trying to have people who are living with a disability engaged in employment, providing those people living with a disability with their own income, but, most importantly, making a contribution to society in South Australia.

We have been left behind in so many aspects that this government should have been focused on but they have not been focused on. They have been focused on dreams, they have been focused on distractions: they have not been focused on South Australia, they have not been focused on delivering.

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (12:29): I thank the Governor for his address and for presenting a reinvigorated direction for South Australia's future. We can indeed be buoyed by his integrity and experience and visionary resilience and achievement. Triumphant over adversity, as demonstrated by his personal journey, our Governor, Hieu Van Le, and his wife, Lan, are people who all South Australians can be very proud of.

I congratulate our newest member of parliament, the member for Fisher. Member for Fisher, your sincere and energetic campaign saw the fruits of your labour materialise. Congratulations and welcome; Fisher is in good hands. Congratulations also to the newest member of the opposition, the member for Davenport. Well done on a first speech delivered today.

The Governor's speech gives rise to many areas of comment. Thankfully, I am an optimist and see the vision, direction and leadership in this discourse. I have chosen to speak today on but a few areas that I believe critical in supporting this renewed direction. I firstly will make reference to the Transforming Health project that sets out to ensure South Australians receive the best possible health care.

Pivotal to this refocusing of our health system are our nurses and midwives, for they play a critical and important role in shaping health care. In a few months' time, I will be paying tribute to nurses and midwives when I rise to speak in recognition of both International Day of the Midwife on 5 May and International Nurses' Day on 12 May. Both international days respectively have focal themes, being 'Midwives: for a better tomorrow' and 'Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective'.

This year's theme of 'Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective' gives recognition by the International Council of Nurses to the changing landscape of health care and the need to face head on the issues of our systems and the fact that nurses are central to these solutions. Healthcare costs are rising worldwide, placing a burden on healthcare systems, governments and populations. Nurses are the single largest healthcare professional workforce in the health system and are at the heart of this system. As such, they are well placed to drive both efficiency and effectiveness in improvements in quality healthcare provision, while attaining optimal population driven outcomes.

Nurses understand the setting of healthcare delivery, of cost effectiveness, resource management and financial management. Nurses are central to the attainment of the balance needed to deliver a successful health service managing the interaction between the best quality, best access and best cost effectiveness.

I know through my experience in a variety of roles throughout my nursing and midwifery career that these professionals are a resource of great knowledge, expertise, innovation and pragmatism, motivated by delivering services with patient care and good health outcomes as their focal point. We must harness their invaluable traits and engage their energy to shape a contemporary healthcare system.

When policymakers acknowledge and harness nurses as essential to shaping the direction of our healthcare system, they have a powerful group of professionals who know that being care effective and cost effective is key to improving health outcomes. It is essential to draw on the professionalism of nurses, with their experience as patient advocates, patient care experts and community needs experts. Their major contributions are much needed to engage changes in the healthcare systems.

Nurses are well placed to advise and work with policymakers, with their experience of close interaction with healthcare consumers in so many settings. They have knowledge of the impacts an environment places on clients and their families, and they know how people respond to different services and interventions. This experience and expertise must be harnessed to ensure innovation and progress are timely, with improved outcomes as the goal.

Before I leave my comments on the value of nurses and midwives, I do however believe we are well overdue for a conversation about the education model under which they study and gain work experience. To support the great work of nurses and midwives, I highlight the role of universities in their education and would suggest that a discussion on how universities relate with and coordinate places of employment, and how they can best support nurses through the pathway from when they first begin at university through the placements through to registration, is overdue.

From my experience and what I am told, many midwives, for instance, are placed under enormous competing pressures, from being their best during their studies to obtain core requirements for registration, and in many cases balancing their studies, work experience, follow through of pregnant woman, through to gaining the number of deliveries that they require for registration, while supporting themselves financially, and in many cases managing their own families on top of all of this. It raises the serious question of study/work life balance that I recommend we address.

Dovetailing into the area and expertise of nursing and midwifery is the serious issue of domestic violence, as these professionals work closely with many affected women and children. I know. I have been there at the coalface as women and children fight for safety and struggle to make sense of daily life. I have walked through the struggles with many and at times have been witness to very sad outcomes. Some of these people still haunt me today. As a clinician close to these victims as they face the most abhorrent of situations, the soul-searching can be extreme.

It is a complex situation, and I welcome the conversations and campaigns that we are now seeing as I believe we are heading in the right direction to make peace and safety everyone's right in this sphere. Our homes should be our sanctuaries where we live, love, work, play and nurture. On this subject I encourage us all to examine the use of language and, in fact, the word 'domestic'. This word seems soft, welcoming and docile. Synonyms to 'domestic' are words such as family, home and private. Words are powerful. This word perhaps can seemingly soften these horrific crimes when, in fact, acts of domestic violence fall into some of the most gruesome and insidious crimes of our community.

When we drop the word 'domestic', we are left with 'violence'. This word is cold and clear. This word is powerful and commands a different level of attention. We have seen as a case in point the use of words of a New South Wales family early last year when Daniel Christie was assaulted. The media kept referring to the perpetrator as applying a king-hit. This family knew this was the wrong term and insisted that it be called a coward's punch. A 'coward's punch' certainly changes the intent and the accent on these words.

I applaud the strategy of ensuring all government departments undertake and accomplish White Ribbon Workplace accreditation. I urge that this accreditation also be implemented within this house and be inclusive of all members of parliament. MPs are not immune to this issue and the mantra of 'walk the walk' is indeed powerful. To combat this violence it takes the engagement of all. This is everyone's business, everyone's responsibility. To undertake social change it must be integral to our community and must happen on all levels. The beneficiaries are all of us as we see the emergence of a more functional and equitable society. I hope that, in particular, the children who may have been innocent parties in such horrid situations will have the exposure minimised or halted.

The consequences and possibilities of such a strategy are enormous, allowing more women not only to survive but flourish.

I now turn to the entrepreneurial spirit of many of our wonderful South Australians who champion innovation and a can-do approach. I see this on a daily basis as in my electorate I have numerous dynamic and innovative businesses and business people who I engage with regularly. I am pleased to attend the meetings of a group of energetic people who gather on a regular basis, known as the Edwardstown Regional Business Association (ERBA). Late last year the treasurer attended a well received forum and they are keen to have him back again.

I am excited to have the fast-evolving advanced manufacturing hub of Tonsley also within my electorate. The Flinders University campus, where soon students will be in attendance, is due to open next month. Within this university complex is VentureDorm which offers a well patronised entrepreneurial program. Late last year I attended their awards night and the general view amongst the local experienced and successful entrepreneurs was that a significant commercial pathway for South Australia's future was by way of start-up ventures. They cited South Australia's suitability for such commercial activity as start-up company ventures because of such factors as appropriate culture, population size and a strong history of customer focus with a demonstrated track record as a state of many firsts.

Finally, I turn to the importance and role of leadership. An important component of leadership is role modelling and leading by example, and presenting what is possible. Our Governor is unquestionably an absolute in his obvious and proven credentials. Good leadership is inclusive, based on dialogue. The Governor's address introduced a bold plan that invites conversation on many progressive propositions.

This speech may be seen by some as simply rhetoric, and we have heard that criticism. I would strongly suggest to those doubters that the address contains a blueprint underpinned by a communication strategy of demonstrated sound values and leadership. Leaders produce results. The best leaders are focused on leading change and innovation, not building a static business environment with no vision and no strategy. Leaders do not make an opposing view or offer criticism with no solution.

Leaders need to be bold and raise the controversial subjects, have a demonstrated track record of success, be excellent communicators, place an emphasis on serving those they lead, be fluid in approach, and have laser focus and a bias towards action, leading and inspiring others to action. If these traits are not possessed by our current leaders or our emerging leaders, then a rocky road ahead may prevail. Leaders need to be brave and visionary. In finishing, I will end with a quote of unknown origin: 'Leadership is the art of leading others to deliberately create a result that wouldn't have happened otherwise.'

Ms REDMOND (Heysen) (12:41): It is my pleasure to rise today to respond to the address by His Excellency, Governor Hieu Van Le. Like other speakers before me, I would first of all place on the record my utter delight at his appointment, because I am sure he will serve this state extremely well in the office of Governor, and I know that his wife Lan will do likewise as his companion in that job. Certainly, these days it is very much a job that takes two people, given the various activities in which our governors now engage. So, I do want to place on record my appreciation for the wonderful contribution that they have already made and will continue to make to this state, especially now in these new roles.

If I can move on to the actual substance of what was said in that address, which of course is prepared by the government, not by the Governor, I would have to give it a D. I would give it a D based on three words: distraction, deceit and disappointment. I notice that the leader, when he addressed us, also used D words; his were 'dreams' and 'deliverables', being things that perhaps were not addressed.

Before I go into detail on this, I will take a moment to speak about another couple of Ds; that is, the member for Davenport and his maiden speech today. I think the member for Davenport's maiden speech was eloquent and well thought out. He had obviously taken a great deal of care in putting forward his vision for what he wants to achieve in this place, the way he wants to see this

state progress. Hopefully he will get the chance to do that in government at some stage, rather than simply from opposition.

When I talk about the speech being one of distraction, deceit and disappointment, I would have to say that, in its whole existence, this speech encapsulates that. As the leader pointed out, this is the third time we have reopened this parliament since the current Premier took office, and there is no reason for it other than to do distract us. It is an extremely costly exercise—costly in terms of the time taken, not just for the day itself and all of the pomp and circumstance that goes with it. I love the pomp and ceremony, I love history, and I love enjoying all of that, but for the third time since the current Premier took office seems to me to be simply over the top.

My view is that it is being done simply because he does not want to have to face up to the problems that this government has and he wants to distract us in the best way he can. Part of that is in simply reopening the parliament so that he will get to make a new speech, or have the Governor deliver on his behalf a new speech, about what his government is going to do. As the leader already eloquently pointed out earlier today, the fact is that if you go back to the earlier speeches, none of the things that have been promised in the earlier speeches have actually been delivered.

So, the government then reopens the parliament. When you think about the cost, not just for the people in here and the time taken in our Address in Reply and delivering that to the Governor and all of that but also the time of the Supreme Court justices away from their work on the bench, the time of the various military personnel who attend, the time of the police band who stay out the front and entertain the crowd, and all of the other people involved in this great big ceremonial reopening—it is for what? To distract us. Then, within the speech itself, there are all sorts of distractions, and I want to refer to a number of them. Towards the beginning of the speech the Governor said:

My government will establish a carbon neutral 'Adelaide Green Zone' to make it [Adelaide] the world's first carbon-neutral city.

It then goes on to state:

Within a decade, electric and hybrid vehicles will be the preferred form of transport within Adelaide's central business district.'

Indeed, at the bottom of that page, the speech goes on to talk about legislating for driverless vehicles in South Australia. Of course, we already know that driverless vehicles do exist, and in the mining sector there is the capacity for driverless vehicles already to be in use in some of our mining situations, particularly in open-cut mines.

However, the idea that in 2015 we are going to be legislating for driverless vehicles in this state is errant nonsense. It is simply part of the government's idea of distracting us with discussions about that and discussions about time zones. There is no doubt there is an impetus by this government to try to keep people out of the city. Either you live in the city and you can walk everywhere or travel by cycle or 'we don't want you' is basically the government's philosophy and hence their desire to introduce a car parking tax and their desire to put in cycle tracks and impede the flow of traffic.

This is a city that should, in fact, be the easiest city in the country to get around. It has the benefit of having been a planned city. It is not like Sydney, with four million people and narrow streets laid out back when it was first established as a convict settlement. This is a city that was laid out with broad boulevards, and it should be an easy city to get around. Indeed, in my view, we should be encouraging those from interstate (who could create quite a tourism boom for us) to come here, to drive here and know that this is a state and a city where you can drive easily in well signposted roads and go into the city without having to go on a tollway and get a bill for it unexpectedly a few days later.

You can come into Adelaide and have a wonderful holiday. Everything is accessible—the Barossa, McLaren Vale and so on and the wonderful wineries up in the Hills—you can do all of that. But, no, this government is intent upon trying to keep people out of the city and create congestion where none existed in order to try to force people on to public transport. I like public transport and when I go to other cities I use it, but the reality is that public transport reached its peak back when

men in suits worked Monday to Friday nine to five in the CBD. That is when public transport, in the mode that we have understood it, actually reached its zenith, and that was because of those particular factors.

Nowadays it is no longer men in suits, it is no longer nine to five, it is no longer Monday to Friday and it is no longer in the CBD: work has changed. To try to then adapt our public transport system and say we are going to get more and more people on it is simply a nonsense. I think there is a place, a continuing place for public transport.

Some years ago, I had a briefing by the heads of public transport in Victoria, where they have a very sophisticated bus, train and tram network. Their great agenda was their vision of what they called '20 by 2020', and that meant 20 per cent of journeys by the year 2020 would be on public transport. In the briefing, they said that, although that was their vision, they actually thought that, at best, they would achieve 15 per cent of journeys being on public transport, which meant that 85 per cent of journeys, even in their system, were never going to be on public transport. So, to spend all of your money to try to get people out of cars when it simply does not suit the lifestyle that our modern world requires is a nonsense.

Mr Speirs: Eight per cent.

Ms REDMOND: Eight per cent of usage here, the member for Bright tells me, is on public transport. So, this idea that everyone is going to be a cyclist, pedestrian or user of public transport or, indeed, in driverless vehicles, is just a distraction. On page 8, the government goes on to say—and I love this quote:

Healthy, inclusive communities will mean more South Australians will be ready to grasp the great opportunities in our midst.

What on earth does that mean, Madam Deputy Speaker? It is just words, it is just rhetoric, and it is just a distraction.

On page 12, the great old argument of the time zone is reignited—and I keep going to say 'the Premier' but, of course, the speech is delivered by the Governor. The speech does point out that South Australia's standard time zone has not changed since May 1899, probably, I would suggest, because the shape of the world has not changed since May 1899. We are at a distance from other cities.

Indeed, if ever there was an argument for us to move to Eastern Standard Time, I would have thought that argument has been going downhill since our engaging with Asia strategy. I would have thought that, since we are already only 1½ hours off, for instance, Beijing time, it would be eminently sensible to move the extra half an hour, which geographically should put us an hour away from the Eastern Standard zone and put us directly onto one hour from Chinese time—that would make sense.

As I have said, this was raised in the middle of this speech simply as a distraction: the government is interested in distracting people from what is really important for this state, and that is the economic malaise this state is in because of the actions of this government over the whole time it has been in office. They sat there for the first seven or eight years—seven, probably—up until the global financial crisis. Every year, their budget said that they would earn a certain amount, and every year, on average, they got an extra half a billion dollars above what they expected. So, over seven years, \$3½ billion—that is \$3,500 million—more than they budgeted for.

We should have had money in the bank to meet the difficulties then imposed by the global financial crisis. But, no, instead of that, this government not only spent every single penny of that \$3,500 million extra above its budget, it then dug a hole of debt that is so big that it is going to cost us more than a couple of million dollars a day just to pay the interest bill—not to pay it down, just to pay the interest bill. So, this government is anxious to distract us from the reality.

I would love to know, in fact, when the Premier had his epiphany about the nuclear cycle, nuclear fuel and nuclear waste because this Premier was a member of cabinet from the day he came into this house and not once in all of those years has he ever uttered a word in this chamber supporting the idea that we should even examine the idea that we have nuclear waste stored in this state. He sat there happily listening to the former premier berate the opposition over that very issue

year upon year upon year. So, my question to the Premier is: when did he decide that this was an appropriate thing, and is this not just another distraction?

Deputy Speaker, I will move on—because I know I will run out of time but I will seek leave in due course to continue my remarks—to the idea that there is a lot of deceit in this speech, again, I emphasise, not by the Governor, who is simply reading the speech provided to him by the government. On page 13, the government talks about:

From 1 July, less money should be spent on election campaigns. Parties and candidates will still be able to communicate their policies to the electorate—but the need for large donations will be reduced.

The difficulty, of course, is that at no time does the government ever address the issue of union spends on their direct advertising. That is because, obviously, there would be an imposition on the very principle of free speech if governments were to start trying to regulate what people could say on their own behalf in an election campaign. But the reality is we all know that the unions do not necessarily need to provide money direct to the ALP to fund their campaigns. They can simply mount a campaign directly by producing their own advertisements, and they have done so on any number of issues over a period of years. The government also talks about new mechanisms to involve people in debate. They say:

[They] will explore new mechanisms by which everyday people—

like the rest of us are not everyday people—

can, through the use of information and communication technology, become involved in the debates of parliament—

that will be interesting—

And we will further develop other initiatives, such as the citizens' jury, to ensure that South Australian voices are heard.

I have now been in this place over 13 years and I am yet to see this government ever listen to the voices of people unless they had already decided that they agreed with what they were saying. This government has redefined the idea of consultation to mean that we will tick the box that says we have consulted. Hence, the Minister for Emergency Services says that he is going to consult about the need to reform the structure for the provision of emergency services and amalgamate SES, CFS, MFS and so on, and, having already advertised the position, then says he is going out to consultation.

The reality is that consultation, for this government, simply means that they will go out and tell people what they have already decided to do to them, and I have seen it from the very first time I came into this parliament. Every single time they say they are going to consult, it is no such thing, because consultation actually involves listening and taking notice of what people are saying, but not this government. From their point of view, consultation simply means that they will go out and tell them what they are going to do.

The issue of reforming the state's education system, which is also noted in this speech, brings me to another area altogether. This is a state which has gone so far down in its public education that we are now sitting at the bottom of all the states in most of the areas tested by NAPLAN. We used to be, proudly, the leading state, and nowadays we are at the very bottom. Our education system has failed us. The leader pointed out that, of course, the government is finally coming around to our policy of autonomy for schools and giving principals and school communities more control over their own destinies, but this government has consistently failed to address the real problems in our education.

What has been their response? First of all, they increased the school leaving age, and ever since then they have been bleating on about how magnificent it is that we have so many people retained at school, when the reality is that they are retained at school simply because the government passed a law that made it unlawful for them to leave. That is why there are more people; that is why we have a high retention rate. I would like to seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: I welcome to the parliament students from Pembroke School, who are guests of the member for Bragg, and also Ms Mu Sochua, member of the Cambodian parliament, who is a guest of the member for Taylor.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is called to order.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is warned.

ANSWERS TABLED

The SPEAKER: I direct that the written answer to a question be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Attorney-General (Hon J.R. Rau)—

Regulations made under the following Act—
Burial and Cremation—Variation of Regulations

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

Development Plan Amendment—
City of Prospect—Historic (Conservation) Zone Policy Areas February 2015
City of Prospect—Local Heritage Places February 2015
Regulations made under the following Act—
Development—Variation of Regulations

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

Regulations made under the following Act—
Dangerous Substances—Dangerous Goods Transport

By the Minister for Finance (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Motor Accident Commission—Charter

By the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure (Hon. S.C. Mullighan)—

Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984, Review of the Division 1B—
Report – 21 November 2014
Addendum Report 13 January 2015

*Ministerial Statement***DEFENCE SHIPBUILDING**

The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Minister for Investment and Trade, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:10): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH: On Friday 20 February, the commonwealth government provided initial details of its evaluation process for the acquisition of future submarines. It is the view of the South Australian government that these details, and subsequent comments from

the Prime Minister, demonstrate a lack of serious rigour from the commonwealth in what is the nation's largest ever defence procurement.

It remains the South Australian government's position that whichever bidder is successful the federal government tender process must mandate maximum local industry participation. We would have welcomed a clear statement to that effect had the federal government made such a commitment last Friday. Instead—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leave has been granted. The deputy leader will cease interjecting. Minister.

The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH: Instead, the best we were promised was '500 jobs in South Australia'. So, a \$50 billion 30 to 40-year build, equip, sustain and maintain program will result in just 500 jobs. The chair of the South Australian Advanced Manufacturing Council, Professor Göran Roos, has delivered economic modelling that shows the flow-on effects of a local build with up to 1,600 suppliers nationally would need a workforce of between 15,000 and 25,000 workers—a far cry from the 500 offered last week.

Barely a few hours after the Prime Minister promised just a few hundred jobs, Great Britain's Prime Minister, David Cameron, announced that he would back Scottish shipbuilding with an £859 million investment in the next generation of the Royal Navy's Type 26 frigate. In his announcement, Prime Minister Cameron said that as well as keeping his country safe at home and abroad, the build was 'part of a long-term economic plan'. He said:

We're not just building the most advanced warships in the world—we are building the careers of many young people with apprenticeships that will set them up for life.

It would have been lovely to see such leadership last Friday. What are we doing in Australia by contrast? The federal government is telling the 10 year olds of today that when they graduate in 12 years' time they can expect little to be on offer in the shipbuilding industry. To the workers currently employed at the Forgacs shipyard in Newcastle, at the Williamstown shipyard in Victoria, at Henderson shipyard in Western Australia, and here at Osborne, the national government is saying that there is no genuine commitment to a sustainable naval shipbuilding industry.

The process announced by our national government appears to be skewed towards a strategic alliance with Japan that will boost jobs in Japanese shipyards. It is an alliance that also carries the risk of increasing tensions with China and all the strategic risks that go with that difficulty. To quote the words spoken yesterday by one of Prime Minister Abbott's own colleagues, the federal member for Grey, Rowan Ramsey, 'It's pretty murky.' We have also discovered that efforts by the commonwealth to favour an overseas build for the next fleet of Australian submarines fly in the face of the approach being considered by major corporations in the defence sector.

Saab, who have been building submarines for over 100 years, released a plan on Friday for a \$20 billion build based in South Australia, on budget and on time. Within hours the commonwealth ruled it out on the basis that Saab has not completed a total design and build of a new submarine since 1996. Perhaps they should have done some due diligence on why the royal navies of Singapore and Sweden have been willing to engage with Saab as it upgraded the Södermanland and Archer class submarines, integrating new combat systems and new hull sections.

Saab's design of the Swedish A26 submarine started in 2010, and the new class of submarine will become operational in the 2020s. A comprehensive midlife upgrade program for the Gotland submarines has been underway for three years. Just what due diligence has the federal government done on the Saab option before ruling it out before it even stepped up to the starting line? What was the open competitive evaluation process?

In effect, this decision has ruled out an evolved Collins and the entire prospect of a design by a company that has put our six existing submarines in the water and continues to join us in maintaining them. It is indeed a very murky business, but it is a business that defines our future prospects. A recent study by the national institute of industry research, commissioned by the Economic Development Board of South Australia, shows a local build would create 120,000 man years of additional jobs—wages and jobs—in our economy over the life of the project compared to

an overseas build. Our vision is a future for South Australia where young people can get jobs in this country—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH: —and not have to go to Japan or somebody else's country to get a job using manufacturers funded by the Australian taxpayer. The employment opportunity, industry stability and a \$21 billion bonus to the economy is what is on offer here. This is the biggest manufacturing decision this state and this nation have faced in a generation or will for a generation to come. South Australia deserves better.

The South Australian government will be fighting for what is right when it comes to advanced manufacturing demonstrated by this Future Submarines project. We will stand up for Australian industry and Australian workers and Australian families. We will stand up for ensuring Australia has the best defence capability, that we are self-reliant and that we have an industry and a workforce that can keep our Navy at sea in times of conflict.

We will hold the commonwealth accountable and make sure that they do not break their promise to South Australians that 12 submarines will be built in Australia and based in South Australia—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH: —and we would hope that every member in this house would join us in that endeavour. We want a better future, not more murky business.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I would normally have warned members of the opposition, especially the members for Heysen and Hartley, for interjecting during that ministerial statement, but it was a combative and rhetorical ministerial statement so I have made some allowances. However, those allowances do not extend to the government and accordingly I call to order and warn for the first time the member for Taylor.

Parliamentary Committees

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (14:18): I bring up the 510th report, entitled Upper Paskeville 100 ML Earth Bank Storage Reline Project.

Received and ordered to be published.

Ms DIGANCE: I bring up the 511th report, entitled South Eastern Freeway Interchange at Bald Hills Road, Mount Barker.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms DIGANCE: I bring up the 512th report, entitled North-South Corridor (Torrens Road to River Torrens).

Report received and ordered to be published.

Question Time

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister extend the consultation period for the Transforming Health report beyond this Friday?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:20): No, I won't be.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): My question is to the Minister for Health. Given the minister described the Transforming Health process as the biggest

change to the way our hospitals are configured in 30 years, why is it not reasonable to ensure that all stakeholders are given time to provide meaningful feedback by extending the consultation deadline?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:20): Because so far we have received over 1,000 submissions to the Transforming Health proposal paper. Over 1,000 people have been able to provide their submissions to this process.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: I know the Liberal Party are having difficulty catching up, and that this is something that has recently dawned upon the Leader of the Opposition as important to South Australia, but I think if 1,000 people can provide submissions, surely the Liberal Party can by this Friday.

The SPEAKER: I call to order the member for Hartley and the deputy leader.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): Supplementary: will the government release the submissions made to their Transforming Health report?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:21): I will do whatever we normally do with these, whether we make them public or not. I am prepared to give it some consideration, but I am not sure what the normal practice is.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): Why did the government delay releasing the Transforming Health report until 2015?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:21): Why did we delay it until 2015? Well, that is because that is when we were ready to release it. There was lots of work that had to be undertaken in order to prepare it, and 2015 was the appropriate time to release it.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): Supplementary, sir: previously, the minister has advised the people of South Australia that the Transforming Health report would be released and the government would have the ramifications of their final report included in the Mid-Year Budget Review. That was handed down just before Christmas last year. Can the minister please explain why Transforming Health was not released, in accordance with the minister's own public statements?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:22): Originally, it was my intention to release the proposals paper late last year. I had very strong representations made to me that over the Christmas break period was not a good time to undertake consultation. So, in accordance with that, we decided to delay it. It also gave more time to refine the proposals, and I do not pull back from that.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Before the leader asks the question, I warn the deputy leader for the first time and I call to order the member for Heysen.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): My question is to the Minister for Health. Given that the minister has failed to provide the data on emergency patient flows that he informed the house that he would make available, will he now ensure that the information is

put on the website immediately, and extend the consultation period to allow people time to assess and respond to this new material?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:23): All of the data that the clinicians who worked in the three clinical groups had a look at is already on the website. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition can get some assistance from the member for Schubert and he will be able to find it.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): Can the minister outline to the house when he proposes that the Noarlunga emergency department will close?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:23): The Noarlunga emergency department is not closing. This is a bit of mischief that the opposition have been spreading around for some time now. It is completely untrue that the Noarlunga emergency department is closing. What is proposed is that the Noarlunga emergency department be relocated to the GP Plus. That is something which we have received a lot of feedback about.

I appreciate that there are a lot of concerns about that from both the community and clinicians, and that the nature of a consultative process is that we have an opportunity to engage with people and they can put their proposals forward. Can I make it quite clear, as I have on many occasions in this place: almost 90 per cent of the presentations at the Noarlunga emergency department are able to seen, treated and discharged without requiring an admission to hospital. We want to protect that. We want to make sure that Noarlunga continues to do the great work it does in basically seeing, treating and discharging without admission to hospital nine in every 10 patients.

Of the remaining patients who are admitted to hospital, half of those aren't admitted to Noarlunga Hospital. They are admitted to the Flinders Medical Centre, which means that they are having their treatment delayed. It is so important that, if you are having an urgent medical incident or have an injury or a serious medical condition, you go to the right place the first time so that your definitive treatment can start as soon as possible. That is what these reforms are all about.

The SPEAKER: The member for Heysen is warned a first and second time, the member for Hammond is called to order and warned a first time, and the member for Hartley is warned a first time. The leader.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): Supplementary, sir: when will the new walk-in clinic open?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:25): We will have more to say about that once we have made our final decisions about those changes. I have indicated on previous occasions we will be looking at a 12-month time frame, doing something towards the end of this year or early next year. But, as I say, nothing is definitive. We haven't even got to the process of planning because we are still in the consultative phase of this process.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): Supplementary, sir: can the minister outline to the house the potential saving of closing the existing Noarlunga emergency department and replacing it with a walk-in clinic?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:26): We haven't modelled savings because this process isn't about savings. This process, from the very beginning, is about quality of care and making sure people in the southern suburbs get the best quality care. I know the Liberal Party's approach. I know what they would do. They would start sacking nurses and sacking doctors and expect the system to adapt. That's what they have done in Queensland, that's what they have done interstate and that's what their federal colleagues are doing.

The SPEAKER: Minister!

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: It's in their blood—the hospital haters.

The SPEAKER: Minister! Because the minister in his flourish did not respond to my call, I call him to order; and I do caution him on the use of the term 'hospital haters'.

Mrs Vlahos interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Taylor is warned a second and final time, the member for Adelaide is called to order and, astonishingly, the leader is called to order. The member for Elder.

EXPERT PANEL ON PLANNING REFORM

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (14:27): My question is to the Minister for Planning. Can the minister inform the house on the status of the government's response to the expert panel on planning's report, 'The Planning System We Want'.

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (14:28): Mr Speaker, as you would be aware, in February 2013 I commissioned an independent review of South Australia's planning system. The review was conducted by an independent expert panel chaired by Mr Brian Hayes QC. It was a review designed to straddle the last general election to ensure that substance rather than politics came first.

The expert panel received 245 submissions, involved more than 2,500 participants, held 92 meetings, briefings and workshops with interested parties, and engaged with 68 councils. On 23 September 2014, following the release of the expert panel's interim report, I invited the panel to provide a briefing for all MPs in the Old Chamber of Old Parliament House. My recollection is that on that occasion the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister were both present. I received a final report of the expert panel on 'The Planning System We Want' on 12 December 2014.

A week later, on 19 December 2014, my office briefed the shadow minister for planning (the member for Goyder) on the contents of that report, with two officers from DPTI. I am advised that the briefing was conducted in a bipartisan manner (as it always is with the member for Goyder), that is, that the member for Goyder raised a series of questions from his review of the report and the department officers responded with answers that (at least, it appeared) were well received by the member for Goyder. I'm also advised that the member for Bragg popped her head into the member for Goyder's office during the course of the briefing, but, alas, for an all too fleeting moment.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: We did see her but pass by.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: We did but see her passing by. In any event, on the basis of the timely briefing provided to the shadow minister for planning, it is now a little odd to see the Leader of the Opposition criticise the government for not providing a briefing and for being 'disrespectful'. This is simply not the case. In comments attributed to the Leader of the Opposition in a recent article in InDaily—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Man under pressure.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: —it was suggested the government is—

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

The Hon. J.R. RAU: It was suggested that the government is not responding to the opposition's request for a detailed briefing. Again, with respect, this is not correct. To the best of my knowledge, the office has not received any request since the briefing in December with the shadow minister. At best, the Leader of the Opposition has a communication issue with members of the shadow cabinet; at worst, he is relaying inaccurate information to journalists. The fact remains that the government is currently considering its response to the expert report—currently considering. We hope to finalise that response soon. This much was made clear—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: This much was made clear in the Governor's—that's why I've explained the chronology, so it all makes sense. This much was made clear in the Governor's speech to parliament. Once it has been approved by cabinet I will be happy to brief the opposition in detail. Should the Leader of the Opposition or the shadow minister request that briefing, they will receive it, and, indeed, right here, right now, in this place, on this day, I offer it now. When I have something to brief those members on, I undertake they will receive that briefing, and I'll offer that as soon as I have something to brief them on.

Mr Marshall: Don't make the commitment verbally; you've got to put it in writing.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I'm getting ahead of the request. I'm actually making the offer: as soon as there is something to give a briefing on—

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is called to order.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Mr Speaker, it is difficult to brief anybody, including the opposition, on something that does not yet exist. The government understands that successful reform to the planning system—

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order: in response to this being a question, which clearly is hypothetical—

The SPEAKER: I hope it's a point of order.

Ms CHAPMAN: Absolutely, because it's hypothetical. The minister just said there's nothing to report. It's completely hypothetical. The whole thing is just a complete fizzer—completely hypothetical.

Members interjecting:

Ms CHAPMAN: He's just said there was nothing to report.

The SPEAKER: If the deputy leader continues, she'll go out under the sessional orders. I'll listen carefully to what the Attorney-General is saying. The question was not hypothetical; it was about the status of the government's response, but the minister appears to be talking about the opposition's response.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: No, no; I was making the—

Mr Gardner: That's because they don't have one yet.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Look, he took the words right out of my mouth: I can quote Meatloaf. Anyway, can I just finish?

Mr PISONI: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: Yes, and what sessional order is the member for—

Mr PISONI: Time.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I was about to finish my answer and I was about to say something very important.

The SPEAKER: I'm willing to give the minister 10 seconds' time-on for the points of order.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the government understands that successful reform of the planning system is too important to be held back by petty politics. I welcome the intimation by the Leader of the Opposition that he will be helpful in driving these reforms through the parliament.

The SPEAKER: That's it. Thank you. Leader.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister release the past morbidity and mortality rates for the Flinders

Medical Centre and the Noarlunga emergency department to back up the minister's recent statements that more patients will die if they present to the Noarlunga emergency department?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:33): I'll have a look and see what data's on the internet, but we have all the data the clinicians had available to them when they were providing me with advice. That's been put on the internet, and I'm more than happy to investigate that.

Let's be quite clear about what I am saying about the Noarlunga emergency department. What I'm saying is that it is so important, if you have a life-threatening condition, to go to the Flinders Medical Centre in the first instance. We don't want people going and presenting to the Noarlunga emergency department if they have a serious life-threatening illness or injury that requires that sort of specialised attention that can only be had at the Flinders Medical Centre. If you go to the Noarlunga emergency department in the first instance you are having your care compromised.

That is something everyone accepts; it is something that is accepted by the clinicians who work in the Noarlunga emergency department because they know—not because they lack the skills or expertise but simply because in the way that the Noarlunga Hospital was established and the facilities it has there is only a certain amount that can be done.

For the vast majority of presentations at the Noarlunga Hospital, those people are able to be seen, treated and discharged without an admission. That is a very important role that the Noarlunga ED plays and that is a role we want to see it continue to play. With regard to the data, I am more than happy to have a look, see what we have put on the internet and see if there is any other data that has so far not been made available. However, as far as I am concerned, my understanding is that all the data that was made available to the clinicians who are advising me on Transforming Health was put up on the internet late last year.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:35): I have a supplementary question. Is the minister suggesting to the house that the data upon which he has relied (it has yet to be determined whether it has been publicly released or not) shows that the morbidity and mortality rates at the Noarlunga emergency department are higher than the Flinders Medical Centre?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:36): I think the Leader of the Opposition is somewhat confusing the issues. I am not saying that the Noarlunga emergency department is a dangerous emergency department. I have never suggested that; I have never suggested that people should not go there. It is a very safe emergency department and does wonderful work.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: Mr Speaker, I am happy to give an answer but I can't do it over the cackle of those opposite. I am more than happy to treat this as a serious question and give it a serious answer but it is somewhat difficult when the opposition is cackling. I have never ever suggested that care has ever in any way been compromised at the Noarlunga emergency department. It does an excellent job. However, we need to be realistic about what that emergency department can do and the sorts of presentations it can deal with.

This is not an issue of controversy among the people who work at Noarlunga. They are quite up-front about the fact that there are only certain presentations that they can deal with and the more serious presentations, the life-threatening type presentations that are likely to require an admission into hospital, are transferred up to the Flinders Medical Centre where their definitive treatment is to be started that will get that person better.

It is so important that, as much as possible, people don't go to the Noarlunga emergency department if they are having a presentation of that nature and that they go straight to the Flinders Medical Centre. If they go to the Noarlunga ED there will be a delay to their definitive treatment being started and, inevitably, their care won't be of the same quality as if they had gone

straight to the Flinders Medical Centre. However, for the vast majority of people—no need to say it 100 times—for the almost nine out of 10 patients currently going to the Noarlunga ED they don't require admission to hospital. They are able to be seen, treated and discharged and that's the strength of the Noarlunga emergency department and it is a strength I want to build upon.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): Given the minister's answer, will the minister now apologise to the staff of the Noarlunga emergency department, as requested by the senior doctor group, for the professional and personal offence that the minister caused by stating that their patients were more likely to die?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:38): If anyone should be offering an apology to the people in the Noarlunga emergency department it is the opposition. Let's not forget that last year the opposition dragged into this place in the most despicable way possible the case of an elderly lady who had died—

Mr PISONI: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley: what is the point of order?

Mr PISONI: The minister is not responsible for the opposition and yet that is what he is speaking about.

The SPEAKER: Yes, the minister is, indeed, not responsible for the opposition.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: Sir, perhaps others—who I shall not name—who dragged into this place the case of an elderly lady who had died, not through any lack of care, not through any inability of the hospital to effectively look after her, a certain person (who shall not be named) dragged that case in and suggested that this person had died because that person had not been able to be given the appropriate care. That caused enormous distress to that elderly lady's family, and if anyone should be apologising, it should be the Leader of the Opposition.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr MARSHALL: My question, sir—

The SPEAKER: Order! The interjection was, 'That person has apologised.' I think that Hon. Stephen Wade has; I'm not sure that Mr Sandy Biar has. The leader.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:39): Thank you very much, sir. My question is to the Minister for Health. Who will pay for ambulance transfers from Noarlunga's walk-in clinic to the Flinders Medical Centre?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:40): If it is an inter-hospital transport, in the normal course of things, it's picked up as part of the health budget: the person doesn't pay.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is on the edge of being removed, under the sessional order.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:40): My question is to the Minister for Health. What capital expenditure will be made at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital site to accommodate the Transforming Health proposals?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:40): We're spending \$2.1 billion there in building a new hospital. That's roughly the amount.

HEALTH REVIEW

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:40): The scope of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital was set well before the Transforming Health report was out, and our question was specifically about what capital expenditure will now be on the new Royal Adelaide Hospital site to accommodate the Transforming Health proposals.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:41): I am very confident that the current configuration of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital will more than be able to deal with whatever ramifications there might be of Transforming Health. The new Royal Adelaide Hospital is something that we are very proud of and we are looking forward to opening—something that has been consistently opposed by the opposition for the last 10 years. They have never wanted a new hospital. They are quite content with 1950s buildings filled with asbestos. That's their vision of our health service.

Mr PENGILLY: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: If the point of order is that the minister is not responsible for the opposition's policy to support the old Royal Adelaide Hospital, I uphold it.

Mr PENGILLY: I'll go with that one then.

The SPEAKER: The member for Kaurana.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Mr PICTON (Kaurana) (14:41): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. Can the minister update the house on the recent GOVchat session on public transport?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The minister.

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) (14:41): They are all looking at me, except one, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for his question and for his keen interest in improving public transport services and infrastructure around metropolitan Adelaide and, indeed, South Australia. As part of the government's commitment to improving our public transport system, and the government's commitment to continue consulting with more South Australians, last week I joined the Premier and senior staff from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to participate in the government's first GOVchat session.

Last Thursday's GOVchat session provided the opportunity for members of the public to call in over the period of two hours to talk directly to the government about public transport issues important to them. Overall, almost 400 people called in and made the most of the opportunity to speak with the Premier and myself or senior transport public servants. Others who were unable to get through on the phone line due to the high volume of calls were able to submit a question through the government's YourSAy website.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is warned for the second and final time.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Topics included bus services and timetables, train and tram services, taxis and associated infrastructure that supports public transport, such as the very popular park-and-rides. Of the 71 email responses received, almost half raised issues with the frequency of bus services, suggestions about how buses can be better scheduled to provide connections between services and also to be provided to more locations. Some emails praised the public transport system, including how changes to bus services and the electrification on the Seaford rail line have improved the service for them.

Taking advantage of direct calls to the Premier, myself or senior executives, a large number of calls came from our regional areas regarding the provision of public transport services and

infrastructure, and many suggestions have been taken on board. I noted with interest that the first two calls that I personally took related to bus services within the electorate of Hammond, a week after these same issues were raised with me by the member for Hammond.

All of the calls and emails will be responded to in the following days and, importantly, the comments and ideas received will be considered in the government's current and future public transport planning. I should also take this opportunity to note that GOVchat is only one of the ways now in which this government engages with the community on public transport.

Of course, the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure speaks directly to commuters on a daily basis, whether it is face to face at our information centre or at our Adelaide Railway Station, or direct contact with the Adelaide Metro staff, including passenger service assistants, the Adelaide Metro telephone information line, and of course the department's social media presence. I look forward to participating in a future GOVchat on public transport.

CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr PISONI (Unley) (14:45): My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister confirm to the house that a second city high school at the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site will open in 2019?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (14:45): That was the commitment made at the election and that commitment will be kept.

CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr PISONI (Unley) (14:45): Supplementary: is the government, or any of its agencies, looking at alternative sites for a second city high school?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (14:45): I thank the honourable member for the question, and it is a matter that is primarily—

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is warned for the first time.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I don't think it is any secret—and has not been—that the Royal Adelaide Hospital site is presently occupied. It is presently occupied by the Minister for Health's people, who are running it as a hospital.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I am starting with the known knowns and working out.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will not assist the Deputy Premier.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Obviously, there are issues about the timing—

Mr Marshall: Delays to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: No. I think, and the Minister for Health knows more about this than I do, obviously—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I'm responding to the point that has just been made by—

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is warned for the second and final time. The Deputy Premier.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Where did I get up to?

Mr Marshall: You haven't started!

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Because you keep stopping me. You keep slowing me down.

Mr Marshall: Did you have a big lunch today?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: No, I had the roast pork and—

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will not answer the question about his lunch.

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir. The question was whether any government agencies have been looking for an alternative site to the school that the education minister said not five seconds ago was going to be built on the RAH site. Surely the minister should find that simple to answer.

The SPEAKER: Well, so far, with all the heckling, the minister hasn't said anything and we are now almost two minutes in. Could the minister get a wriggle along? The minister.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. With your protection, I hope I am able to complete my answer. There are a series of unknown times over which all of the functions which are presently performed by people either who are—

Ms Sanderson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Adelaide is warned.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: The government continues to consider options in that precinct.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Stuart is called to order.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: The government continues to consider options in that precinct and, because of a range of issues, including the complex nature of the site and various other things, a very detailed consideration needs to be undertaken. There is presently no resolved position in relation to that matter.

Mr Gardner: That's not what she said a minute ago.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: No, no.

Mr Knoll: The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing.

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is called to order.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: The member for Morialta was doing so well with the last question, too. He got right on the money and, with this one, he is way off. Look, as I am trying to explain, the undertaking that was given at the time of the election did not include a reference to any particular structure or spot.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will have an extra minute of time-on.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. So, we are continuing to examine the options that are available. There is yet to be a resolution of that matter and, when there is, it will be announced.

Ms Chapman: Ask Jennifer.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: The member is not presently—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: As I understand it, she is not presently particularly engaged on this particular topic. I think she is paying a courtesy call to the Treasurer.

The Hon. J.M. Rankine: It is a courtesy call.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: It's not to provide any other—

The SPEAKER: The member for Wright is called to order for interjecting out of her seat and for not genuflecting to the Speaker on her way in. The Deputy Premier.

GILLMAN LAND SALE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:51): That's a felony, indeed, Mr Speaker. My question is to the junior assistant minister for planning. Has the minister commenced work on the rezoning of the potential industrial land at Gillman, as per your appointment as the minister delegated to deal with this matter, and as recently gazetted?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will not provoke the opposition with silence! Deputy Premier.

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (14:52): Perhaps if I hummed a tune or something it might be less provocative. Look, the situation—

Mr Gardner: Do you have ministerial responsibility for this?

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is called to order. Deputy Premier.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: As I understand the question, although it was laden with what I think were intended to be pejorative references to 'junior', which is not something that we actually have as part of our titles—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: This is not the United States where every second person's name is 'something or rather junior', you know, so that's not the situation here. The situation is that there was a delegation—that much is clear from matters on the public record—and the minister to whom the delegation has been referred will deal with that matter in the minister's own good time. How that minister deals with that matter is a matter for him, and it is not something about which any minister in his position is expected to or, indeed, properly should be giving a commentary. Can I also say that the notion that, from time to time, these delegations occur from the Minister for Planning is quite unremarkable. It happens from time to time.

Ms Chapman: Once.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Well, actually, that's not true. There is nothing sort of remarkable about it. I say this, too, to the members of the opposition who might be interested in this matter. It does occur to me that one of the complexities of this matter is, given that I am presently the minister for Renewal and, therefore, am minister for the entity which has actually participated in the negotiation of the agreement—albeit not during my term; nonetheless, that entity—it would, for the sake of things not only being done well but being seen to be done well, be appropriate that I did not appear to take one hat off whilst sitting at the same desk and put another hat on.

I actually have the view that had I done that, I would be potentially criticised for having done precisely that because how was I separating my knowledge in respect of one matter from my function in respect of another? So, I am capable of doing that. Indeed, I think one has to in a range of ways. But from the point of view of the right thing being absolutely transparent on the surface in that the same person was not exercising a discretion under the planning development legislation, whilst at the same time having been a signatory to matters relating to contractual arrangements with the parties proposing the development, I thought that was appropriate. What we have done is enter into an arrangement which preserves the independent decision-making, not only in an actual sense but in the sense that it is separated so that there are two completely separate individuals exercising both of those matters.

In my opinion, particularly given the significance of this matter and the attention to which the opposition has paid to this matter, and the fact that there has been considerable scrutiny and discussion about this matter, it is entirely appropriate that that complete separation of decision-making should occur—

The SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired. Supplementary, deputy leader.

GILLMAN LAND SALE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:56): My supplementary question is to the Minister for Planning. Given the answer of the minister in respect of maintaining the integrity of an independence that he has referred to, why didn't the government delegate the development rezoning for the Riverbank project, which is also a project under Renewal SA?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (14:56): If I recall correctly, the DPA in respect of the Riverbank was done some several years ago when, if I'm not mistaken, the present Treasurer, or it might have even been the former member for Elder—I can't remember which was the relevant minister in terms of being the—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: We will have to find out, I can't remember, but my recollection is—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: No, as I'm saying, my recollection is that the Riverbank exercise occurred when the equivalent minister for Renewal—whatever that was called at the time—was either the former member for Elder, or it might have been the present Treasurer—I can't recall. In either event I was not, as I recall it—and the member may be able to prove this incorrect—but my recollection is that occurred some years ago, the rezone of the Riverbank area, and it certainly predates the 2014 election, I'm positive of that, and I did not have ministerial responsibility for Renewal until after the 2014 election. So, the matter is that I was concerned to make clear in respect of this current matter, that particular overlap of responsibilities, as best I can recall, didn't occur.

The SPEAKER: Deputy leader.

GILLMAN LAND SALE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:58): My question again is to the assistant Minister for Planning—junior, senior, whatever—

The SPEAKER: Leave is withdrawn from the deputy leader.

Ms CHAPMAN: Thank you—well, I make this point, sir—

The SPEAKER: The member for Giles.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: No, leave is withdrawn. Just ask a question within the standing orders and don't make an impromptu speech or demeaning remarks.

Ms CHAPMAN: I seek clarification—

The SPEAKER: No, I didn't ask you for clarification. If the deputy leader doesn't be seated, she will be removed under the sessional order. The member for Giles.

GAWLER CRATON

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:59): My question is to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy. Can the minister inform the house of any significant outcomes from the completion of the Gawler Craton gravity survey under the government's PACE initiative?

The SPEAKER: I am pleased the Treasurer is able to answer this while he is here.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:59): Thank you, sir, for no predetermined outcome to the remaining 21 minutes. I want to thank the member for his question and, indeed, the continued interest of all members of the parliament and the house in the expansion of our state's mineral resources industry.

The Gawler Craton is a hugely prospective area. This geological province is at the heart of our state's economic prosperity, already the home to Olympic Dam and Prominent Hill, two world-class copper-gold projects generating jobs and prosperity, not just for the state, but the nation. These two major mines are just the beginning. To unlock the full potential of this geological—

Mr KNOLL: Point of order: the Gawler Craton gravity survey to which the question refers is available on the DMITRE website as we speak.

The SPEAKER: The minister is referring to significant outcomes, but if the member for Schubert cares to bring it to me I will rule on it.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: To unlock the full potential of this geological province, the state government recently undertook several important initiatives. The first initiative was to convince the federal government, and through it the Department of Defence, to provide greater access for explorers to the Woomera Prohibited Area that sits within the Gawler Craton.

A new access regime will ensure explorers are well aware of the rules, both when taking up tenements within the WPA and when designing their exploration programs. A further initiative was to fund a geological survey of the Gawler Craton through our world renowned PACE program so that geologists have access to the most up-to-date precompetitive data.

I would like to acknowledge the role of the Premier in supporting the Gawler Craton survey. The Premier, as treasurer, understood perfectly that unlocking the potential of our state's mineral resources requires investment and knowledge today. PACE has already shown its value through the discoveries of Four Mile and Carrapateena, both supported by the government's drilling partnership program, but we should not overlook the value of the precompetitive data provided through PACE. It is by better understanding the geology of our state that we will be able to pinpoint the next Olympic Dam and the next Carrapateena.

The \$2 million in funding allowed us to commission more than 34,000 gravity measurements across the length and breadth of the Gawler Craton, including the Woomera Prohibited Area. The result is high resolution data covering a mass of 42,500 square kilometres. That is an area the size of Switzerland, an area that is estimated to hold \$35 billion of potential development.

This foresighted investment is already beginning to deliver returns for South Australia. Last week ASX-listed Maximus Resources announced that it has secured more than \$3 million to spend on exploring and evaluating its Millers Creek project within the Gawler Craton. In announcing it has secured the funding for its exploration funding through a farm-in agreement with Monax Alliance, Maximus acknowledged the role of the PACE gravity survey data in identifying six target zones within its tenements. Maximus also pointed out that the access regime of the WPA was a factor in the design and timing of its initial exploration program.

The copper-gold targets for the Millers Creek project are located between Prominent Hill and Olympic Dam, about 600 kilometres north-west of Adelaide. A significant factor in this announcement is the involvement of Monax Alliance in the exploration program. Monax has secured major Chilean copper producer Antofagasta as a strategic partner in the Millers Creek project.

Having major international miners, such as Antofagasta, take up strategic partnerships in exploration in South Australia sends a powerful signal to other would-be investors in South Australia. We, as a government, welcome the \$3 million in exploration spending secured out of our \$2 million investment in the PACE 2020 Gawler Craton survey, and I suspect this will be the first of many. Every mine begins with the first exploration hole drilled. The more we can encourage exploration and remove barriers to search for our mineral resources, the closer we get to progress to our next discovery.

SCHOOL AMALGAMATIONS

Mr GEE (Napier) (15:03): My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. Can the minister provide details on how the new voluntary amalgamations program will work for schools and preschools?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (15:03): I am very pleased to give some further information about that. The idea of offering voluntary amalgamations was mentioned in the Governor's speech and I will not belabour the details that people may already be aware of in this chamber, but what it does permit is voluntary engagement by school communities—they might be two high schools close to each other, or a high school and a primary school, or even a preschool mixing in there as well—that choose to co-locate. The mechanisms that we have established to facilitate that are to allow the school that is vacating the premises to sell that piece of land and to receive immediately the market value of the property from Treasury so that they are not held up by waiting for a sale process. That money can then be used to establish the co-located school, and we are offering up to three years of the savings that are reaped from merging two entities to go back into that school community to really establish it.

What may not have been elaborated on so much in public before is the way in which this can be tremendously helpful for the communities that the schools are servicing. I recall (although I was not paying quite such close attention back then) a lot of debate about the wisdom of super schools and whether that was something that was going to be welcomed by communities.

I am really happy to tell people that the reaction from communities who have access to super schools has been incredibly positive. The schools are, if not full, almost full, and the results that they are able to generate have been quite remarkable. For example, I note that year 12 completion at Dame Roma Mitchell College has increased by 35 per cent, and that Mark Oliphant B-12 College has seen an increase in the number of students completing SACE, an improvement in their ATAR scores and an increase in post-school pathways.

These are all the kinds of results that we wanted to see from the super schools. By providing parents and students with a variety of curriculum offerings, not just within the academic curriculum, but the capacity to offer those pathways into VET courses and into work, we believe that we have been able to offer much higher quality education to those areas.

What we are now providing is the capacity for schools to enter into voluntary amalgamations in order to replicate the success. That will vary in different places, depending on what suits the different communities. Some amalgamations might be of a relatively minor scale but make a big difference to their communities. I have written to all of the principals and governing councils to inform them about this, and I intend to be going around to as many schools as I can, and part of the question to them will be whether they see that that is something that may add to their educational offerings.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (15:07): My question is to the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion. Minister, how is the government supporting vulnerable South Australians and their communities?

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) (15:07): I thank the member for Reynell for that question. I know that she has a keen interest in supporting the important work the community services sector undertake every day to support vulnerable people in their local community. Just yesterday, I had the opportunity to be in her electorate, and I know the great work she is doing with some really fantastic grassroots community groups and also some of the more established community centres.

Earlier this year, I announced that the government had decided that community interests are best served by implementing the outcome of the 2013 tender process undertaken in the Family and Community Development Program. Funding under this program is provided to organisations to deliver services in local communities which support vulnerable families, children and individuals.

From 1 July 2015, our government will invest more than \$8 million to 32 organisations to deliver 63 services across South Australia.

The 2013 tender process followed a comprehensive review of the F&CD Program. This was undertaken in strong consultation with the community services sector, which enabled us to identify current levels of need across target populations in South Australia. This means that, for the first time, funding under this program will be matched by need, based on evidence gathered by our world-leading disadvantage mapping tool. You may recall that last year I said the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion received an international award for this mapping tool. The focus of this tool is to ensure that resources are provided to those most in need in this state.

As a result of our government's decision, we will deliver a more equitable division of funding to regional Australia, recognising that regional communities face unique and complex challenges which require place-based approaches to solving. The split of the fund is around 64 per cent in the metro and 36 per cent in the regional areas, which is quite a significant increase in the regions.

Through the revised program guidelines, our government will place a key emphasis on preventive and early intervention services, which identifies people who are at risk of becoming vulnerable and delivers holistic and proactive case management to support them and their needs. I think that is particularly important in our regional areas where it is best if people can work together to support people who need that.

We will also provide funding for services to operate on a regional basis across South Australia, ensuring that service providers embrace a collaborative and partnership approach in conjunction with other service providers that deliver outcomes for families, children and individuals. Importantly, this decision will provide certainty and stability to the community services sector.

At the end of the day, I guess this is one of the messages that the sector gave me: we have a really high level of professional tertiary-trained people doing our community services who are very committed and dedicated, and what they want is stability to continue the great work. What this means is that organisations can better plan their services with a view to the longer term which, in turn, helps to retain trained staff in the sector.

In particular, I know this is good news for the member for Reynell's local community. The southern Adelaide region will benefit from an investment of just under \$1.5 million each year for the next six years to deliver eight services. It will deliver \$500,000 to the City of Onkaparinga to establish the Onkaparinga Community Hub Network which will deliver services in partnership with eight community centres across southern Adelaide, including the Christie Downs Community House and the Woodcroft-Morphett Vale Neighbourhood Centre. I am proud that our government remains committed to working in partnership—

The SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired. The deputy leader.

GILLMAN LAND SALE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:11): My question is to the Minister for Police. Prior to being delegated powers to rezone the land at Gillman and Dry Creek, did the minister participate in any discussions regarding the use of the land for industrial purposes?

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Stuart is warned, the member for Hammond is warned a second time and the member for Schubert is warned. Deputy Premier.

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (15:12): Mr Speaker, there has been, so far as I am aware, quite a separation between any conversation about the activities on that land (in other words, the business managed by Renewal) and the work being done by the planning department. They are separate entities. The only matter which has been referred to the minister for his consideration in due course is the matter in relation to planning.

Can I also make this point. Given that I am not exercising discretion in this particular case, I think it is important that I say this on my colleague's behalf.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: They titter so, Mr Speaker, but that's because they don't understand. I am trying to explain something which, if they just listen for a minute, might not be quite as humorous. When the planning minister is making one of these decisions, the planning minister must have regard to, obviously, the information provided to them by officers of the department and must come to an independent decision about how they wish to proceed with the matter.

That decision is not the sort of thing that is the subject of inquisition and, indeed, it would be inappropriate for the minister to engage in that sort of interaction on the matter. I know that the Minister for Police, having had a background in local government, is fully aware of these matters and understands these matters.

This is why, on occasions, the member for Bragg, occasionally the member for Unley and occasionally other people have invited me to various events, usually at town halls, where people who have been whipped into a state of high excitement by inaccurate or misleading statements about development—

Mr Pederick: Inaccurate.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Inaccurate, I beg your pardon: yes—invite me to attend to give an account of myself. I can't do that because if I were to attend and I were to say literally anything which in any way gave some indication as to what my thinking process was—

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order: I'm not asking the government what the Deputy Premier would be doing—relevance—

The SPEAKER: The point is that the Deputy Premier is not answering the substance of the question?

Ms CHAPMAN: Indeed.

The SPEAKER: Alright, I'll listen carefully. Deputy Premier.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I don't think I can add anything.

The SPEAKER: You don't think you can add anything. The member for Mitchell.

SEAFORD RAIL LINE

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (15:15): My question is to the Minister for Transport. Will the minister confirm that, despite spending more than half a billion dollars upgrading and extending the Seaford train line, fewer people caught the Seaford train in the past year than in 2009-10?

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) (15:15): Can I thank the member for Mitchell for his question. I know that he's been keenly interested in the success of the Seaford train line since it commenced its operations with electric trains approximately a year ago.

Indeed, I had the pleasure to report publicly to the media yesterday the success of the newly electrified Seaford train line; in fact, I announced that there had been a significant increase in patronage on the electrified Seaford rail line compared to the last full year of operation which we had, from February 2012 to January 2013.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is warned and the member for Mitchell I call to order.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I'm pleased to report that, even excluding the Footy Express passengers, the Seaford rail line carried over four million visitors in the previous 12 months, an increase of 33 per cent, or 999,109 passengers.

SEAFORD RAIL LINE

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (15:16): To the minister: given the report from your own department from the rail commissioner back in 2010-11, the figures that are stated here for the train line and the patronage in 2009-10 are, in fact, 4,290,000, which is up on the 4.1 million. In fact, from 2009-10 to now it has gone down 110,000; is that correct?

The SPEAKER: Is that a question?

Mr WINGARD: Yes, I'm asking if that's correct.

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) (15:17): I haven't seen those figures, Mr Speaker. I'll take it on notice.

TRAMLINES

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (15:17): My next question is also to the Minister for Transport. Given that on 4 December the minister said he didn't know about the legal action pending between the department and Coleman Rail, based on a report done by engineering company GHD which outlined more than 1,000 defects on the tram electrification from Victoria Square to the Morphett Street Bridge, has the minister since been briefed and/or read that report, and what is the government going to do about the defects?

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) (15:18): As I think I reported to the parliament at the time, I was particularly surprised to learn of this issue and, indeed, when the member for Mitchell raised this matter immediately subsequently with my predecessor, now Treasurer, who was then the minister for transport, I think he was surprised. I was very disappointed to learn that, according to a record search, neither I nor my predecessor, now Treasurer, had been briefed about this matter. Believe me, Mr Speaker, I have made it clear in no uncertain terms that I expect these matters to be brought to my attention.

What I have learnt is that this was the matter which not just the member for Mitchell has referred to but has been subject to a court action. These papers, my understanding, as I am advised, have been lodged with the court and have been available. My understanding is that the discussions between the department and Coleman Rail, which is the company at the heart of this dispute, have been continuing. My current advice is that some pleasing progress has been made whereby Coleman Rail has been more willing than they have indicated previously to undertake some rectification works.

HOUSING TRUST PROPERTIES

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (15:19): My question is to the minister for Social Housing. Can the minister provide a guarantee that the Playford, Manitoba and Pope Court Housing Trust properties in the CBD will not be bulldozed as part of the minister's announced plans to redevelop some housing enclaves?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (15:19): I should answer this question because it relates to matters which are now within the province of Renewal, or more particularly—

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morphett is called to order.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: There is no present plan in respect of those properties. What the government has announced is that—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: The government's policy, which was announced at the time of the Governor's speech, is that we will be looking at renewing properties which are pre-1968 Housing Trust properties. I have had a bit of a chat with the member for Adelaide and if they happen to be a

character bluestone heritage building obviously we are not including them. However, those pre-1968 buildings—

Ms Chapman: Didn't stop bulldozing those at Glenside.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: And there are some magnificent buildings at Glenside which are heritage buildings and they are going to look magnificent when they are restored as part of the great project.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: In the interests of everyone being able to get on with their afternoon, I will end now and simply say that there is no plan.

The SPEAKER: Is the Deputy Premier finished?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I am, sir.

The SPEAKER: It would seem that the persistent interjections of the deputy leader have entirely obstructed the giving of an answer.

Ministerial Statement

GREYHOUND RACING

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (15:21): I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to live baiting in greyhound racing made earlier today in another place by my colleague the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (15:22): I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to Site Contamination, Environment Protection Authority Board Review made earlier today in another place by my colleague the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation.

Grievance Debate

STATE BUDGET

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (15:22): I rise today to talk about the budget process that I have been witness to as a new member of parliament over the first year of my time in this place. May I say first and foremost that as a conservative I believe fundamentally in the institutions of our government. I have a strong respect and a strong faith in documents that the government puts forth and the process by which government goes through to let the people of South Australia know what is going on, especially when it comes to their money and especially when it comes to the treasury and finance department.

Last year was my first opportunity to be part of a budget process and to see the excitement that goes on with budget day. There is quite a lot of hype when it comes to the budget release. There is the tense waiting in our offices during the morning, then the journalists all in the lock-up having pizza and full-strength Coke and quizzing the government on its figures and numbers and, in this case, basically an extended repartee on all that is wrong with the federal government without actually detailing any issues that the state government has with its own finances.

Then, as an opposition, we get a singular copy of this budget which is then madly photocopied and madly given to shadow ministers to see what it means for their portfolios. Then we come down to the chamber to listen to the speech. At this time can I thank the work of the attendants and the muscular strength they must have in order to be able to deliver these hefty tomes to each member, as we sit here: these beautiful piles of blue books which have become very good friends of mine over the past seven or eight months, as I read through them page by page to delve into the wonderful detail that is the state budget.

Very much this budget, in returning to surplus after years and years of deficits, is relying on a taxation revenue-led recovery. It contemplates a 6.9 per cent nominal growth in payroll tax;

14 per cent nominal growth in conveyance duty; 3.9 per cent in gambling taxes; and 6.5 per cent in motor vehicle taxes. I thought, 'Okay, those figures seem quite high; any business would love to have those growth figures.' But let's go down the process—and I trust that the government, having delivered a budget over the life of South Australia's history, should be able to get these things right.

But then I read with interest the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies report, which contradicts the Treasury's forecast on gross state product: the government says that 2¼ per cent will be the gross state product growth, yet the Centre for Economic Studies contemplates only 1½ per cent growth. But, again, I thought that I would give them the benefit of doubt.

Then we move onto the Attorney-General's Report and Moody's comments that it noted that the state is counting on conveyance duties and payroll tax rising annually to drive annual rises in revenues through to 2017-18, which could be optimistic. I thought, 'Okay. Those words are a little bit cautious,' but I understand that a little bit optimistic may give rise to the fact that these revenue figures could be a little bit heroic in their assumption.

Then I went to the Economic and Finance Committee report, where the wonderful member for Bright asked questions on this same topic, and the now retiring Mr O'Neill (and I thank him for his wonderful service to South Australia) contemplated these figures. He said:

That's against the background of the global financial crisis, but it is also against the background of the ongoing global economic uncertainty, and budget policy dimensions and decisions for revenue and expense management as a component of management and responsibility by governments in terms of setting revenue targets...

If anyone understands what that means, they are a smarter person than I—but I think that it is his way of saying that these figures could be a little bit optimistic.

Then, lo and behold, we get to the Mid-Year Budget Review, a much thinner document, and we see the fact that payroll tax has been written down by \$25 million, that conveyances have been written down by \$39 million, gambling tax by \$10 million, land tax by \$10 million—for an overall writedown in taxation revenue of \$84 million. I do not want to be cynical—I am too young to be cynical—but in this place I am so often given examples to be cynical. When it seems that so many people were able to predict the fact that the assumptions in the budget were a little bit heroic, that everybody could do it, except for the government itself. Can I say that, on this point, my faith in this institution has been dented, and that is an unfortunate reality.

MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (15:27): On Saturday night, I had the opportunity to share in an important multicultural community event that is part of an annual observation which is not so well known, despite its worldwide reach. International Mother Language Day aims to promote the awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to champion the retention of all of the world's mother tongues.

It is recognised each year on 21 February because that was the date in 1952 when university students demonstrating for the recognition of their language, Bangla, were shot and killed by police in Dhaka. Their people were under pressure to cease the use of their natural language. They made the supreme sacrifice for their own language: they gave their life.

Sixty-three years on, we recognise the vital importance of preserving the vast number of mother languages across the world. We know that, regardless of our circumstances of birth, our culture or creed, our gender or sexuality, our ability or disability, we all have a contribution to make to society. The languages of our forebears have an important function, not just in our history but also in our future. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO):

...when languages fade, so does the world's rich tapestry of cultural diversity. Opportunities, traditions, memories, unique modes of thinking and expression...are all lost.

I thank and congratulate the organisers of Saturday's event, including the Adelaide Bangladeshi Cultural Club President, Alamgir Hussain, and Vice-President, Zaman Khan. I was appreciative of the opportunity to be part of such an important and moving occasion, which was marked by the children singing, dancing and displaying their drawings.

According to UNESCO, more than 50 per cent of the 7,000 languages spoken in the world are likely to die out within a few generations, and 96 per cent of these languages are spoken by only 4 per cent of the world's population. Only a few hundred languages are truly recognised through education systems and less than 100 are in use in the digital world—less than 100 of 7,000, a staggeringly low figure.

The situation is no less grave for Australia's Indigenous languages. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, at the time of the first European settlement more than 500 dialects may have been spoken by the Indigenous population. These dialects made up about 250 distinct languages. Over time in Australia many languages and dialects have been lost—speakers have died and others have shifted to speaking other languages. The most recent report into Australian Aboriginal languages in 2014 stated that there are around 120 Indigenous languages still spoken today in this nation, which is down from 145 Indigenous languages identified in the previous 2005 report, and most of the remaining languages are critically endangered.

The South Australian government has developed the South Australian policy framework, Aboriginal Languages, Interpreters and Translators, to demonstrate its commitment to closing the gap through providing a coordinated policy approach across South Australian government, agencies and services for the effective provision and use of Aboriginal languages, interpreting and translating services. Hearteningly, the document notes that in August 2009 the then federal minister for the former department for families, housing, community services and Indigenous affairs, and the former department of environment, water, heritage and arts, announced a national Indigenous languages policy focusing on five key areas, including making sure that, in areas where Indigenous languages are being spoken fully and passed on, the government recognises these languages when it interacts with Indigenous communities.

Languages play a unique role in communication, education and social integration, and are fundamental to maintaining a community's or an individual's identity. As our world becomes seemingly smaller due to globalisation, languages are increasingly becoming endangered or disappearing completely. International Mother Language Day celebrates our diversity, embracing those things that make us different from each other, including our mother tongues, but it is also important to celebrate the things that unite us: our common humanity, and the quest for peace, harmony, equality and social justice.

I am always inspired when courageous people face tragedy and from the depths of grief are able to find the strength to shape something positive, something for the future, and to see hope through tears. International Mother Language Day is one such example.

LITTLE CORELLAS

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (15:32): I have a few words to say regarding the subject in *The Advertiser* and in the media this morning of little corellas. Mr Simon Rothwell, the chair of the governing council of Willunga High School, was on this morning. Mr Rothwell is also a councillor on the Yankalilla council, and I will turn to that in a minute. Quite frankly, over many years communities have suffered, and continue to suffer, from the impact of little corellas. They are not protected. They are in their tens, if not hundreds, of thousands—probably more—and the issue goes on and nothing is done about it.

I point out that we sterilise koalas to stop them breeding, although I am not sure how you would sterilise a corella, I might say. We allow a reduction in numbers of kangaroos and wallabies simply by a permit. We poison rabbits, dingoes and termites—all animals, insects or whatever—yet the very mention of anyone doing anything about destroying corella numbers brings howls of protest from around the community. We have the wrong end of the stick as far as I am concerned.

Quite simply, we have to do something about these birds. They are doing approximately \$200,000 worth of damage just at Willunga High School alone. In the Yankalilla area, the bowling club is being decimated by thousands of little corellas on a nightly basis and each morning. I was there the other day to check out for myself just what is going on and you can almost reach out and touch the corellas in the trees around the edge of the oval during the daytime, and they screech all night. They screech at night in the Willunga area. We have a unit near Glenelg North by Camden Park oval and they screech there at night. We have to do something about this issue.

They are only thriving because we provide the food for them—that is the reason they are thriving. Our way of life and our agriculture and everything that goes with it means that they are particularly well fed. They are increasing in droves, and there is little or nothing that anyone wants to do to reduce their numbers. The NRM boards are the next best thing to useless. The Yankalilla council was told by the NRM board, 'Yes, we realise there is a problem, but we will not allow you to reduce the numbers.' Well, hello, they are not protected.

Willunga is not in my electorate, and I have talked about Yankalilla, but further out from my electorate Strathalbyn has had huge problems for years and they are also on Kangaroo Island around Kingscote. The Native Vegetation Act puts draconian measures on some clearance of native vegetation, yet the corellas are absolutely decimating the eucalyptus *cneorifolia*—the narrow-leaf—just outside Kingscote. They are just wiping out the trees. They are wiping out the Norfolk Island pines along the foreshore in Kingscote. In fact, they have just about completely stripped some of those trees over the years, and still nothing happens.

My view is that it is time we got serious about doing something about these birds. They have tried everything. I think Mr Rothwell said this morning that they have even tried bringing in a bird psychologist. I am not quite sure how that works. They have hung artificial hawks around the place. They have tried starting pistols. You can go out with a dozen shotguns, and I would suggest you would not even put a dent in them because they will fly off and come back, and it is just a—

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: The member for Newland has some experience in shooting, as I am well aware. We might invite him down to Yankalilla, and we might get the Hon. John Quirke to assist him down there. This is an important matter and it is critical to these communities. I am aware that people connected with Yankalilla Bowling Club have been in tears over what these things are doing to the bowling green, and I have no doubt that the people at Willunga are highly emotional about what they are doing to the kids' facilities at the school. It is not good enough. It is time we stood up and started to put a few things like that right in this country, so I urge the house to give it some thought.

ALDINGA BEACH CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Mr PICTON (Kaurana) (15:37): Over the past 10 years, this government has had a policy to establish children's centres across our state to improve the care, education and services available to children in their early years, which we know are so important in helping children become fantastic adults in our state. Currently, over 40 children's centres have opened across South Australia, which is a magnificent achievement, and they are now a firmly entrenched part of our education, health and social services systems.

The community in the south, in my electorate, is lucky to have one of the newest children's centres at Aldinga Beach. It is co-located with the Aldinga B-7 Primary School. While the official opening of the children's centre is some months away still, it has been operating since mid-last year. It has already provided a huge range of services and has become an essential part of this dynamic and fast-growing community. It has really become a hub and has helped develop a whole lot of other things that have happened in the community.

The services that have been provided are many and varied and include the kindergarten, which is the centre of all the children's centres. This kindy is truly world class and has 80 students at the moment, which is up significantly from when it opened last year. It has relieved the pressure on the existing Aldinga kindergarten, which had a huge number of students—over 150—which made it one of the biggest in the state. That pressure has reduced and the services have been able to be provided at the children's centre.

Also provided are child and family health services, including an immunisation clinic. Uniting Communities runs mental health services and youth development classes. The Salvation Army provides financial counselling. Playgroups are run from the centre. Disability support groups and occasional care are also run from the centre, as well as Autism SA workshops, grandparents carers groups and Circle of Security parenting groups. A huge range of services are run from the centre and one of the great things about it is that it works hand in hand with the primary school in delivering those services.

I would like to pay credit to all of the staff at the children's centre for the fantastic work they have been doing, including Jane, Lauren, Tracey, Fiona, Mel, Sue, Jamie, Jules, Mea, Alex, Josh, Tara and Leigh. The director, Jane, has also had a role coordinating reception classes at the Aldinga school, and it is a sign of the close collaboration across the two sites. Of course, Aldinga primary is now one of the largest primary schools in South Australia, with over 700 students, and it is growing at a very fast rate. There has been huge growth in the last few years alone.

Yesterday, I was lucky enough to be at both sites for the Aldinga Family Fun Day, which is jointly held by the children's centre, the school, Anglicare, the ANZ Bank, Onkaparinga Children's Services, and supported by other great organisations including OZ Harvest, Aldinga CFS, Parenting Playground, Aldinga Cricket Club, and others. I was delighted that the Premier and the Minister for Education were able to come along as part of the southern metropolitan cabinet meeting, visit the family fun day and meet lots of the parents, students, and other workers taking part in the family fun day.

I think I can speak on their behalf and say they were very impressed with the services the children's centre provided, as well as the school. The minister was able to have a tour of the school site and see some of the fantastic things happening there, including the Stephanie Alexander kitchen garden scheme and the literacy programs. I would like to thank the principal, Lyn Langeluddecke, and the chair of the governing council, Jess Sweet, for their hospitality and the great work they do at the school.

Aldinga is a very fast-growing area and, as most people would know, it is an area where lots of new families or soon-to-be families are buying houses and having children grow up there. Over the coming years, we are going to see more and more demand for education and children's services in the area, and that is going to mean that there will be more demand on kindy places, on school places and on high school places.

Of course, Aldinga does not have a high school of its own at the moment; its students have to graduate from Aldinga primary and go across to Willunga High School for their continuing higher education. So, one thing I will certainly be advocating for as long as I am in this place is that we make sure that the supply of education services and the number of places that are available for our children in the local area keep up with the growth in families and the growth in the number of children.

COUNTRY PRESS AWARDS

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (15:42): I rise today to talk, firstly, about an award won by a newspaper in the electorate of Flinders. If I have time, I will go on to talk about a football match that is going to occur in the next week or so in the electorate of Flinders because I think it is always good to use the grievance debate to talk about local issues.

Last Friday night, in the Barossa Valley, in the seat of Schubert, the Country Press Awards were held. Newspapers from all over South Australia competed in various categories, and I am going to congratulate a couple of them from my part of the world that won awards. Firstly, the *Eyre Peninsula Tribune*, which comes out of Cleve, was a runner-up award winner in the under 2,500 circulation category, and big congratulations go to the *Port Lincoln Times*, which won best newspaper in the 6,000 and over circulation category. It was a wonderful effort by both those papers and, in particular, congratulations go to the *Port Lincoln Times*.

The award ceremony was attended, as I understand, by the managing editor, Chris Coote. He was very pleased to win the award and gratefully accepted it, and they went on to have a very enjoyable night. The *Port Lincoln Times* also won the Best Advertisement Feature award for its eight-page feature on DK Quarries' 50th year in business. I recall that feature; it was very well done, and my congratulations go to DK Quarries and the McDonald family on spending 50 years in business.

According to the Best Newspaper judge, Bruce Morgan, the 'outstanding commitment to community journalism came through on every page' of the *Port Lincoln Times*. I think that highlights the commitment and the effort made by the paper to reflect a broad range of views and to report any number of events that might occur in a small community newspaper. He also went on to say, 'Overall,

this seems a proud community newspaper that takes its leadership role seriously.' They were welcome comments, indeed.

In fact, the *Port Lincoln Times*, as a country newspaper, has been in existence for almost 90 years. I mentioned Chris Coote, the managing editor, but also congratulations must go to all his staff for the work they do in a relatively small community. The *Port Lincoln Times* enjoys wide readership, and at one point the circulation almost matched the number of households within the district, so the importance of local media was highlighted through these award nights. In these days of digital and social media, it is nice to see that a focus can come back onto the printed media.

The *Port Lincoln Times*, along with the *Tribune* and the *Sentinel*, service Eyre Peninsula. It is also worth mentioning that a number of local radio stations and Southern Cross Television also report and broadcast into the area, so what these local media outlets manage to do is keep their local communities well connected. Country communities tend to be well connected anyway, but certainly when you have local papers and local media, such as the *Port Lincoln Times*, that local content and local connectedness are certainly encouraged.

I want to briefly talk about the upcoming football season, and of course football is particularly important for a lot of people in the country. It is not far off and many of the teams are training already—not that I ever started this early, Tony. Many of the teams are training already, and I am particularly pleased to inform the house that the Adelaide Crows are coming to Port Lincoln to play the first of its NAB Challenge matches. They are playing against North Melbourne in Port Lincoln this coming Sunday, 1 March. That is very exciting for no doubt the Adelaide Football Club but also the people of Lower Eyre Peninsula and Port Lincoln.

The match is at Centenary Oval and starts at 4.10pm local time. I am glad they have highlighted that it is local time—nine hours 30 minutes ahead of GMT, plus daylight saving. I make light of it, but it is 4.10pm local time. They are expecting the game to sell out, so I would encourage anybody who is planning to get along, and I am one of them, to get their tickets very soon.

ABERFOYLE PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Ms COOK (Fisher) (15:47): I rise today to inform the house of the fantastic work of one of the high schools in my electorate, Aberfoyle Park High School, and their great work in improving the attendance rates at their school. I had the great pleasure of attending the high school's governing council annual general meeting on 10 February, where I was updated on the progress of the school in improving their class attendance.

I had the honour of talking to the school's principal, Ms Liz Mead, who updated me on what the school was doing to increase attendance. The school now has improved its attendance in classrooms to 97.8 per cent, which is above the Department for Education and Child Development's goal of 95 per cent attendance. This is one of the best performing schools in the southern area.

One of the policies that has helped the school reach this goal has been the implementation of the Day Map program at the school. The Day Map program allows parents to track their child's attendance at school, giving parents a unique ability to take part in their child's education. It has been fantastic to see that so many parents of the students have actually taken this information on board to actively take part in their children's education.

The school has also paid a lot of attention to building a community within the school. They have established six houses which are overseen by one staff member for a student's time in middle school. This allows students to build a relationship throughout their middle schooling and means that in a large school students are still able to develop a close and meaningful rapport with one of the school's staff members. This relationship provides support to keep on top of their studies and provides assistance to students when they have difficulty, as well as guiding other relationships with fellow students and faculty members.

School attendance must not be underestimated in the importance of the educational development of our children. A University of Western Australia study undertaken in 2013, entitled 'Student attendance and educational outcomes: every day counts', unsurprisingly found that there is a strong correlation between school attendance and better NAPLAN results, irrespective of the student's socioeconomic situation.

The report found also that whilst there was a universally high attendance rate by students throughout primary school—usually around 92 per cent attendance rates—there is a major dip in students' attendance across years 8, 9 and 10. This attendance dip was fairly marginal amongst the most advantaged students; however, amongst the most disadvantaged students, this reduction in attendance was fairly pronounced. This is why it was so great to see that Aberfoyle Park High School has done so much work to try to improve their attendance. This improvement was especially pronounced over years 9 and 10, with improvements of 3.3 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively.

Aberfoyle Park High School has always been committed to strong educational outcomes. It is one of three IGNITE schools in South Australia. IGNITE gives the opportunity for gifted students to further themselves during their education. The program allows students who excel academically to accelerate their middle school studies into two years instead of three. They also get the opportunity to pursue their accelerated education among other gifted colleagues.

Acceptance into this program is done on a purely merit-based acceptance, where students must demonstrate their abilities in their written language, mathematics and cognitive thinking. It is a fantastic program which ensures that all students can have access to high-quality education irrespective of their financial situation. I think that our federal minister for education could really learn something from the ethos of this school, given the recent education reform attempts.

Than you, principal Liz Mead, for your dedication to education, as well as that of all other staff at Aberfoyle Park High School. Thank you to the parent community, who have demonstrated their commitment of the high school unequivocally. This dedication across the school community will ensure a bright, creative and strong future for our community.

Address in Reply

ADDRESS IN REPLY

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

Ms REDMOND (Heysen) (15:51): I am pleased to have the opportunity to resume my remarks. Interestingly, at the point that I stopped, just before the luncheon break, I was commenting on the fact that it was no wonder that in this state we have such improved attendance rates at our schools. This government made it unlawful to leave school before a certain age, so of course we have high attendance rates.

I noticed that in the speech for the opening of parliament, the new promise of the government was that we are now going to require new teachers to have a masters degree as a prerequisite to becoming teachers. There are lots of things that I would suggest could be done before instituting that requirement, because otherwise we are going to end up with a similar thing to what we have in Health. What we will have in Education will be students who are not allowed to leave, and very well qualified teachers, but not necessarily any focus on achieving better outcomes.

Our NAPLAN results are dredging along the bottom of the whole country. We were once a proud state who had fantastic outcomes in education. The reference by the Governor in his speech to the fact that he was educated in a society heavily influenced by Confucian thought gives me the opportunity to do something that I have been promising to do for a number of months.

Last year, I had the great honour and privilege of leading a delegation of a number of other members of this parliament to China, as guests of the Chinese government and the Confucius Institute in South Australia and in the Shandong province. One of the things that we had the great pleasure of doing was go to Qufu, which was the home of Confucius, who lived a very long time ago, I think between 551 BC and 479 BC. We visited Confucius' home and Confucius' temple, and indeed the family burial ground of Confucius (the Kong family) which is still going, and is the largest private burial ground in the world.

As a result of that trip, I happen to have *The Analects of Confucius*, in both Chinese and English. I am on a promise, at some stage, to quote from both this book and Mao's *Little Red Book* (which—no surprise here—the Greens leader, Mark Parnell from the other place, bought). All of the members of the delegation were challenged. I thought there were a couple of quotations in *The Analects of Confucius* that might be relevant here. I will just keep them brief, but the first is:

The Master said,—

and by 'the master', one can read 'Confucius'—

'When the Way prevails in the state, be upright in speech and upright in action; when the Way does not prevail, be upright in action but modest in speech.'

It seems to me that, in fact, this government is doing precisely the opposite, being anything but modest in their speech and anything but upright in their actions. The other quote is:

Zizhang asked how to get on well. The master said, 'Be sincere and true to your every word, and serious and careful in your acts, then you will get on well, even among the rude tribes. If your words are not sincere and truthful, and your acts not serious and careful, will you get on well even in your neighbourhood?'

I will leave my quotation from *The Analects of Confucius* at that, because there are a couple of other topics upon which I wish to touch in regard to commenting by way of response to the Governor's address.

The first of these, at the moment, is this mention in that speech of Transforming Health. We have heard today that the government is not prepared to extend the consultation time. They are going to close that down on Friday. In my view, it makes little difference because, unfailingly, while I have been in this place, when the government says they are going to consult, as I said before lunch, they mean they are going out so that they can tick a box to say that they have done a consultation but they take absolutely no notice because they have already decided what they are going to do.

There are a few points I want to make about Transforming Health, and I have put it under the heading of 'deceit' in my list of what is happening in this speech. It is deceit because of this. This government has so far announced that they are planning to close the Repat hospital, they are planning to relocate the Women's and Children's, they are planning to relocate the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre and they are planning to sell off land at Glenside. It is extremely obvious to me—in fact, it is self-evident—that this has nothing to do with Transforming Health. This is to do with this government needing to do something to try to balance its budget.

They have already sold the forests in the South-East and they have already sold the Lotteries Commission—anything that was producing money. They need to get their hands on that land because they are going to sell it. Talk about selling the farm! They are selling us out: they are selling us down the drain. We have this massive debt, they have no way to solve it, and they are going to get their hands on those four particular pieces of land—prime land close to the city—and they are going to sell it, and it is all about trying to rebalance their budget. It has nothing to do with Transforming Health.

In this state they keep bleating on about how much money they spend. More money than any other state, per head, is spent on health in this state. They never ask themselves the question, however, as to whether we have any better health outcomes. The fact is, for all the money that is spent on health in this state (albeit I am prepared to accept that their contention is correct, that they do spend more money per capita on health than any other state), why are our health outcomes no better than any other state? The fact is that we have a heavily bureaucratized state and this government just insists on thinking that the way to solve a problem is to throw money at it.

If I can go back, Madam Deputy Speaker (and you were certainly in the chamber when I first came here), to talk about the Menadue report. In the very first year of this government they imported a chap by the name of John Menadue. John Menadue's sole brief was to look at health and its structure and what they should do about health in this state. Of course, there was a big announcement, as usual (I will go back to Confucius in a moment, if I am not careful), with lots of words. If you read the Menadue report, the fundamental thing that he says is that we cannot keep spending more and more money on centralised acute care in hospitals. What we have to focus on is primary health care and preventive health care out in the community

Having spent quite a lot of money getting Mr Menadue over here to give us that report, what does this government do? It turns around in year 13 of its government and says, 'We are going to transform health and, not only are we completely ignoring what Mr Menadue recommended when he did a complete study of it', as an independent outsider that they brought in, 'but we are going to do exactly the opposite.' They are going to focus all their funds on acute care hospitals and, indeed, centralise them even more they already are.

No-one should forget that the arrangements for the new RAH mean that we will be paying, from the day it opens in 2016 (if it opens on time and on budget), \$1.1 million every single day for that hospital, just to have the building and the maintenance and cleaning of it—no services, no doctors, or anything like that, just the building, to be there for us. The idea of Transforming Health is nothing but a deceit, and it's a tragic deceit being perpetrated by the government against the people of this state.

I know that the removal of services from hospitals like Noarlunga will come as a detriment to the community, even though the member for Fisher sits there nodding every time it is mentioned, nodding her agreement with this government's proposal. I will make sure personally that every person in Fisher knows that she is agreeing with the closing of the services at the Noarlunga Hospital that are going to be taken away by this government, because that is what she is doing to help the people of her area—absolutely nothing, just agreeing with what the government does.

I want to also talk about a couple of other things. I am not going to have lot of time, so I might just focus on the public sector for a moment, because again—and I think the member for Bright spoke very well and also the leader spoke about our Public Service—we have a fabulous Public Service. The difficulty is that we have bureaucratized the Public Service. I always say they have double degrees in backside covering and buck-passing. It is not the fault of the public servants. There are some stunning examples of where this government has gone to town on public servants, so people become too worried about their jobs to act without fear or favour in the best interests of the community, and that is a problem.

What we need to do is instil confidence in our public servants so that they know that, if they are trying to do the right thing and make the best decisions they can, they will be backed in by a minister. I seem to have this strange idea that ministerial responsibility means that the buck stops with the minister, rather than putting public servants onto the radio when the minister finds the whole process a bit intimidating, rather than allowing public servants to take the flak when it should be the minister who says, 'Yes, it's my responsibility.' Not everything will always go perfectly, but we should have the courage to back-in our public servants.

One of the other problems, however, is that our Public Service now, they tell me, is paid at a higher rate than people in the private sector, because of the global financial crisis. It was the case when I was a public servant that basically you understood you were getting paid a bit less but you had the great security of your employment and you knew that you would get your holiday pay and your long service leave, and all those things. Now, however, we have public servants who are paid astronomical amounts. I do not know whether anyone saw the report that came out just recently pointing out that we have public servants in this state—at least one—paid as much as Barack Obama, the President of the United States. We have public servants paid that much. In anyone's world that surely has to be laughable.

How can we have a Kym Winter-Dewhurst come in and dismiss all those people? As the leader said, that was a shameful act. There were people there who had been public servants for decades, and without any warning, without having done anything wrong, with no suggestion they had been diddling the books, or anything like that, no opportunity to say anything, they were just thrown out after decades of loyal service. This government, as the leader said earlier, should hang its head in shame for the way it has treated those loyal public servants, and that sort of treatment engenders nothing but distrust in the Public Service. I will close my remarks at that moment, Deputy Speaker.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (16:03): I rise to deliver an Address in Reply to the speech delivered by our Governor, His Excellency Hieu Van Le, on 10 February to mark the opening of the Second Session of this Fifty-Third Parliament. It is with genuine pleasure that I acknowledge the honour conferred on all members by His Excellency in addressing the parliament and outlining his government's visionary program of reform.

Before I turn to that program, however, I wish to offer some personal observations in relation to both our new vice-regal representative and his predecessor, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, CSC, RANR. I spent a considerable number of hours in an official capacity in the company of Rear Admiral Scarce and Mrs Liz Scarce during their period of service to our state from August 2007

until 2014, initially in my role as a South Australian senator and more recently as a member of this parliament.

Rear Admiral and Mrs Scarce are, I know, held in the highest esteem by the community. I know, too, that they will continue to participate in our civic life with the constant commitment and enthusiasm they have demonstrated so amply during their tenure at Government House. I take this opportunity also to congratulate Rear Admiral Scarce on his appointment as Chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

I turn now to His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Hieu Van Le, who is highly regarded by South Australians, and I am proud to be among their number. I had the honour of being present at His Excellency's swearing in on 1 September 2014 and of hearing the words of this gifted, yet profoundly humble man as he described the extraordinary journey he and Mrs Lan Le undertook from a war-ravaged Vietnam right through to the ceremony of that important event.

The words our Governor spoke on that occasion really are the measure of the man. Recognising the endless generations and the ancient cultures of the first people of this country and the waves of migration that followed the arrival of the British settlers, he said of his appointment that it is an acknowledgement of all the migrants and refugees and their families and descendants who have built South Australia into this place, one of the best in the world.

Ours is, indeed, a unique state in a unique country; a state built on our ideals of opportunity, democracy and inclusion, underpinned, as His Excellency then said, by a deep belief in the voice of reason and the idea of a fair go. Our state has benefited enormously from the reflection of those ideals in the work of our Labor government over recent years. The government's achievements are well documented and one need only look at our vibrant city and our bountiful regions for evidence of those achievements. His Excellency has set out an ambitious agenda for the years to come. It is an agenda that:

- builds on the economic and social advances of the past;
- encompasses reforms in the area of economic management, education, climate change and the environment, energy management, business and investment, urban and regional planning, transport, health, public housing, justice and democracy, social equity, international engagement, culture and the arts, and tourism;
- plans include the renewal of all Housing Trust stock that predates 1968 with more 4,500 old homes located within 10 kilometres of the city to be renewed by 2020;
- the establishment of a carbon-neutral Adelaide green zone to make it the world's first carbon-neutral city, with access to the city made easier through improvements to our cycling infrastructure;
- the establishment of a new body focused on investment attraction with its principal objective being the creation of new jobs—an agenda that embodies the continuing vision of our government, one where we join with all South Australians in realising our collective aspiration for a stronger, fairer, more just society;
- an agenda that builds on the significant achievements of Labor governments, including the outstanding Adelaide Oval, with the associated benefits to our community, both socially and economically; the new trams running on new tramlines; a rejuvenated Riverbank precinct; the new Royal Adelaide Hospital; the expanded Convention Centre; and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, where ground-breaking research is taking place.

In closing, I welcome and congratulate the new member for Fisher on the heartfelt contribution made by her in her first speech in this place. I also congratulate the new member for Davenport on his first speech today. Finally, I again thank our vice-regal representative. His Excellency and Mrs Le are truly an example and an inspiration for us all. I look forward to taking part in positive and constructive deliberations in this place and to contribute to the betterment of the lives of my constituents in the seat of Torrens and to all who reside in our state of South Australia.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (16:09): I take this opportunity to say a few words. First of all, I congratulate the Governor, Hieu Van Le, and his wife, Lan Le, not just on their appointment but also on their entire life journey that led them here to Australia. There is no doubt that those of us who have had the privilege of hearing the story of the time on the boat from Vietnam that the Governor and his wife went through when they were in their early 20s to arrive here in Australia: they were continually pushed offshore, towed offshore, whenever they came to the shores of Malaysia and other countries, given food and water and told to go away.

There is one particular story the Governor tells where, because he was able to point the boat in the right direction, because of his limited knowledge about the stars and about where he thought Australia might be in relation to the stars, he was tagged 'the Navigator'. I think that it is a very interesting comparison for Australia, in the growing relationship we have had with the United States, because, of course, in California they had a governor, Governor Schwarzenegger, whom they called 'the Governorator', and here in South Australia we have our own Governor whom we can call 'the Navigator'. I think that there is absolutely no doubt about that.

Just from my quick research, and I stand to be corrected, I think that, certainly for a very long period of time, Mr Van Le is the first Governor to serve an apprenticeship as the Lieutenant-Governor, and for seven years he served that apprenticeship. There have been many occasions, certainly in recent years, when he and I would bump into each other at three different events on the same day. So, I know how hard he worked in that role, and there is no doubt that he continues to work hard in the role of Governor.

For the very first time, the organisers of the Glendi Greek Festival were invited to Government House by the Governor, who understands the importance of the multicultural community in South Australia and the role that particularly those post-war migrants played in shaping South Australia into what it is today and the successful multicultural community we have. There is no doubt that many people who observe multicultural politics around the world and new countries, which are big takers of people from all over the world, would look at South Australia as being one of the most successful places in the world where people from all around the world have become part of the community and not just brought with them their cultures and their background but also shared them with everybody else. In fact, in my electorate just a few weeks ago, we had the Carnevale and the Oxford Street Greek Festival held on the same weekend. That will give you some idea of how the multicultural communities have made such an impact in South Australia.

There is no doubting the dedication of Governor Hieu Van Le and his wife, who works just as hard as the Governor, in representing the government and The Queen at functions right around the state. I know that they certainly appreciate and acknowledge the work that has been done by those multicultural communities.

I would like to refer to the Governor's speech, which, of course, is prepared by the government and delivered at the opening of parliament. In the speech, there is a reference to planning. I know that one of the Labor Party's favourite pastimes or favourite sports is bashing the eastern suburbs in the media, even though many of them choose to live there—they do not, of course, live among their constituents. They are happy to take their votes, but they do not want to live there, of course.

On the weekend, we saw a group of residents from in and around Glenside—those living in Eastwood, Fullarton, Glenside, Frewville, Glenunga, Parkside—very concerned about the loss of open space at the Glenside site, with the government's proposal to put up to 1,000 dwellings on that block. These will be tower blocks six or seven storeys high.

We need to remember what is the motivation for the government doing this. We know that the government has a 30-year plan, where they want to have an extra 400,000 people living within 10 kilometres of the CBD to improve density; we support that and we think that is a great idea. Of course, there is no shortage of privately owned land suitable for such developments in South Australia. There is plenty of land; as a matter of fact, I think there are at least 40 sites within the CBD itself where a heritage building has been knocked down and the land has been left empty for years, if not decades, waiting for a developer, or the person who originally had a plan to develop it, to come along and develop the land.

There is one particular development in the city at the moment that has been for sale for 2½ years. They need to get about 80 per cent of the sales on the books. People have to pay their small deposits so that the developers can go to the bank and say, 'We have an 80 per cent commitment here. Can we now have the money to develop this land?' They have been trying for 2½ years to sell these apartments in the West End of the city so that they can get the finance to get going, and it still has not happened.

The sale of the open space in Glenside for housing development is more about the state government's budget than it is about the government's 30-year plan. Let's look at what is important in a 30-year plan that is going to see more people in apartment-style living where they do not have private open space—they need public open space. The government says, 'We've got the Parklands.' Is the government actually suggesting that the Parklands be the only public open space available to people who are living in the inner suburbs? Do they need to catch a bus or drive to take their dog for a walk, to have a picnic or barbecue with friends or to play with their children? Or are we looking at the models that are so successful in other countries, whether they be in Europe or the United States?

In New York, for example—and I know it is probably a little ambitious to compare Adelaide with New York, but they are both lovely cities to live in and there is no reason not to aspire to live in the best city in the world—they have Central Park, but Central Park is supported by many smaller parks. You can walk to a park in New York. It might not be a park where you can play a game of baseball, but it is a park with plenty of open space to socialise, to take your animals, to take your children, to get some sunshine or to have a meal, where you are interacting with other people.

What the government is proposing with the sell-off of land in Glenside is going to be counterproductive to their plan to have more people living in high-rise accommodation without private open space. I put to the minister, the Deputy Premier, that by having less public open space in areas zoned to have higher-density housing we actually make it harder for those projects to take off.

If you look at the illustrations in the real estate pages, particularly those on the internet, where they show some lovely photographs of the outside of the house and the rooms, of course they show what is in the neighbourhood: they show the shops, they show the parks. What will the developers who are selling those high-rise apartments on Glen Osmond, Fullarton Road and Unley Road put in their photographs? Will they put a tower block of a dozen six or seven-storey buildings and the odd park bench and say, 'Look at the amenity you will be buying in to by buying into this area'?

Make no mistake that the sale of land at Glenside has nothing to do with the government's plan for more urban consolidation; it is all about fixing the budget mess that this government has delivered after 13 years. Remember, last year brought the second budget deficit in a row of over \$1 billion. They promised budget surpluses five or six years ago, but they have delivered budget deficits every year bar one, and that happened to be in the lead-up to an election. There is no doubt that this government has a very difficult problem with its budget. It is looking at whatever assets it has and is trying to turn those into cash, and that is what the Glenside sale is all about.

What I am saying to the Deputy Premier is, yes, we support you in your plans for higher density of population in our thoroughfares, but we want public open space. My electorate of Unley is geographically the smallest of all of the electorates in Adelaide with just over 12 square kilometres, and the reason for that is that it has the least amount of open space—3 per cent of open space—and it has the highest density of housing, so we are already in need of public housing. The government will say, 'People do not use Glenside.' I beg to differ. Anybody who has birds in their garden gets the benefit of those century-old trees that are growing on the Glenside site. People use it for walking their dogs. Why would we not make it a much more accessible area?

It used to have an oval that was used by schools and sporting groups; that is no longer available. The solution for Mercedes College, when they were told they could no longer have that oval, was to contact the other sporting groups that are using the Parklands, but of course the Parklands are fully booked. I know that, when my kids were at Unley Primary School, we did not have enough land to even play soccer on the school site so we had to use land in the east Parklands, and that is just the story of one school. There are schools right through the inner ring that use playing fields in the Parklands.

Unfortunately, the bad news for Mercedes College is that there is no available space for their sporting facilities that they can rent or hire within the Parklands, and yet the very oval that they had been using for decades was taken from them for the first proposal, which was based around mental health in 2008, which was going to be a commercial development of Glenside that never got off the ground. The market could not make that work. It has been sitting idle for the six or seven years since they were told they could no longer use that oval. Of course, it was used as a dumping ground and needed severe rehabilitation that never happened.

It was used for open public space, it was used for sport, so this argument that it was not is simply a furphy. I say to the minister, 'Please rethink this plan. Look at saving money through stopping waste in your government rather than selling off prized public open space in areas where you want people to give up private open space in order to live.'

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (16:23): I rise to make my Address in Reply, and I would firstly like to congratulate His Excellency Hieu Van Le on his appointment as Governor of South Australia. I have already been to many functions which His Excellency and his lovely wife have either hosted or been present at, and they are doing a wonderful job of representing our state. I would also like to welcome our newest members to parliament—the members for Davenport and Fisher—and I look forward to working with them in the future.

The things that matter to the people I represent are mostly about the cost of living. What is the government doing about the cost of living? Firstly, the Labor government tried to introduce a car parking tax which would have cost \$825 per annum for each car park in the city, which the Liberals have blocked. That would have actually hit all the residents who live in the city who lease car parks, and businesses that lease car parks. It would have added another cost, so we are working hard as Liberals to block that tax, which we have done.

What else has the Labor government done to help the cost of living? It has doubled the emergency services levy over which there has been a huge outcry, and many people who are really struggling to pay their bills have been really hit by the doubling of the emergency services levy which the Liberals have stated we will reverse if elected in 2018.

What else has the Labor government been doing to reduce the cost of living? If that was not enough pain for South Australian residents, the Labor government has decided to remove the council rates concession for pensioners and self-funded retirees which was \$190 and \$100, respectively. This was due to a federal cut of \$28 million which the state Liberals are definitely against and wish had not happened. However, every other state in Australia has managed, through its state budget, to pick up the cost of the reduction.

The \$28 million that the federal government cut represents approximately 10 per cent of the concessions, which is a state government responsibility. However, they have had that funding in place since 1993, so it is fair to say that the state government had counted on that money. It represents only 10 per cent of the total concession discounts offered to pensioners and self-funded retirees. Although it would still have been bad, it would have been easier for pensioners to cope if the government had taken 10 per cent off transport concessions, electricity concessions and rates because those payments occur throughout the year and they could save up. However, for political purposes, the state Labor government has decided to completely remove the concession on council rates so they could get the most political mileage out of it and blame the federal Liberal government.

The council rebate is worth about \$34 million and the loss to the state government was \$28 million. So not only are they doing it for political gain but they are boosting their own coffers by around \$6 million. They are actually making a profit at the expense of pensioners who are coming into my office in tears, many of whom are now signing our petition, and they are very, very upset.

This Labor government is consistently showing it has total disregard for those who are most vulnerable in our community and are happy to just keep increasing taxes over time. If increasing the cost of living is not bad enough, we now see that the Labor government is considering a \$1,200 extra tax on the family home. I do not know where they think people on fixed incomes are supposed to get all this money, but it is certainly concerning a lot of people. It is just another property tax.

Currently, there is no land tax on your primary place of residence, and I think that is fair. However, this would add \$1,200 to the primary place of residence. That is on top of water rates—and the sewerage charge is based entirely on the value of your home. For residents in my electorate, property values have gone up considerably through no fault of their own, or just by luck. Many of the elderly in my electorate were born in their homes and their family homes were left to them, or they got married and that was the first home they owned when it was worth only about \$5,000. It is fortunate, or unfortunate, that the cost of land in the inner-city areas has risen dramatically higher and faster than in the outer suburbs, even though they could have paid the same amount for a house at that time.

So, people in my electorate who are on a fixed income, be it a pension or a superannuation fund, are charged a lot more to go to the toilet and use their sewerage, they are charged a lot more for their rates and to have their rubbish collected, and they are charged a lot more for their emergency services levy. And now this Labor government would like to charge them around another \$1,200 a year simply for owning a home, whereas that might be the only home they ever own and they might plan to live there until they are at the end. I think it is completely unfair.

The reason that the Labor government is adding all of these, or attempting to add all of these taxes to the everyday person is because they have not managed their budget and their finances for 13 years. The total debt for South Australia is expected to be around \$13.2 billion by the year 2016-17. The debt level for the State Bank disaster, as it is known, was \$11.6 billion, so we are heading towards debt levels in 2016-17 that are higher than the State Bank disaster, with an interest payment of \$725 million per year. That is why this Labor government is trying to tax the family home, double the emergency services levy, put car parking taxes in the city, and all of the other taxes that they are attempting. It is because they have mismanaged their own budget and they want the residents of South Australia to pay for their own disaster and their inability to run the state.

As for my portfolio areas, I believe that child protection should not be part of the education department; it is a separate issue. The education department should be run by a visionary with a passion for learning, someone who will be looking at new ways to improve children's wellbeing and their educational results, and somebody who will be looking at why we are performing below the national average in 17 out of 20 of the NAPLAN indicators. Why are we not working on this? I do not mean that we should think up some new indicators that will get a better result, but why do we not have such people leading that department? Why is a police officer leading our education department rather than an educational visionary? Why? It is because Families SA and the education department have been racked with sex abuse claims, convictions and scandal, and that is why we have to have a police officer running the department.

Although I think he is a wonderful guy, it is appalling really that that would be the person you would have in charge of your education department. We have had five ministers in five years and 11 heads or acting heads of department in 13 years of this Labor government in the education department. The unfolding inquest into the death of Chloe Valentine is giving us all an insight into the complete dysfunction of Families SA and gives even more push or weight behind the cause of why child protection should not be part of the education department.

The restructure of the emergency services has caused an outcry. If we look at the recent Sampson Flat fires we can see that the volunteers, the CFS, and the emergency services all did such an amazing job. There were no deaths, so clearly whatever the structure is currently, it is working and it is working really well. It is disappointing that the minister would attempt to completely restructure how that is run and I am glad to see that he has withdrawn his intention for the time being and is actually listening to the people, but it did take a long time and it did take a lot of effort from many people to get the minister to listen, which should be a given. Apparently there will not be 'announce and defend', there will be consultation, which brings me to the Park Terrace expansion.

Whilst I agree that Park Terrace and Fitzroy Terrace should be expanded or widened given that South Road will be out of action for several years while the redevelopment occurs, the consultation is what I draw to your attention. It was for two weeks in January during the time that most people were away on holidays. It ended just after the Australia Day long weekend when people were only just going back to work or to school. It did not give any plans or detailed drawings of the current roads or current intersections, it just gave drawings of what the future road will look like, and

if you do not have a comparison of what it looks like now, it is completely impossible to give adequate feedback and to even be able to assess how this would affect you.

I have had lots and lots of people contact my office, particularly in Ovingham where the houses are a lot closer to the roadway and more extensive widening will occur. They are concerned about the noise, they are concerned about the pollution, and they are concerned about wildlife. One thing that I am also concerned about on their behalf is the fact that, if they are using the median strip in order to widen the road, the right-hand turn must be taken away, which was not mentioned, so that will push more traffic through Telford Street and Guthrie Street in Ovingham, which also has not been brought to those residents' attention. Along Fitzroy Terrace it is unclear whether all the parking for the aquatic centre will be removed because, if they are widening the road where is it coming from? Are any Parklands being removed?

I have asked for briefings from the minister's office. I have contacted him by phone and by email, and my office has as well, on around eight occasions, and I have not been able to have a briefing to clear up any of these questions. If that is how this Labor government thinks they consult people, well I beg to differ, and I think that they have a lot to learn about proper consultation.

The Governor's speech mentioned nuclear power. The Liberals have been calling for a discussion on this in a bipartisan way because, clearly, this is an issue in which a lot of scare tactics are used to stifle any debate when it comes up. However, we need to have a proper debate and an adult discussion not only on nuclear power but all sources of power that can be used throughout South Australia.

People have been written to my office and I have been lobbied by different groups regarding thorium, solar thermal and wind. There are so many different sources of power, including as gas and coal, which we are already using, but I think that we need to broaden the terms of the royal commission into nuclear power to include all of the forms of power that are available in South Australia so that we can compare them equally. What are the set-up costs? What are the jobs? What are the risks? What is the cost to the environment? What is the potential risk to the environment?

Let us have this information in a comparative form, because everyone who comes to me with information and is keen on a certain type of power will only give information on the power they are interested in, and they give it in a format that is not comparable to any of the other formats. I welcome the discussion—I think that a royal commission probably was not really required; we should be adult enough to have a bipartisan discussion—and I think it definitely needs to be broadened to include all forms of energy so that we can have a really clear analysis of what our options are and what is best for the future of this state, and so that all South Australians can be part of the debate.

There was also a mention of all pre-1968 Housing Trust housing within 10 kilometres of the city being redeveloped. I had a briefing with the minister today to clear up that 'redeveloped' does mean demolished; it does not mean refurbished. I then asked, 'Why would you even say pre-1968? What about all the bluestone cottages?' I see today in question time the minister said it would not include heritage housing, so why then would they say 'all pre-1968'?

When I asked about Playford, Manitoba and Pope Court estates, which were built post-1968, the minister could not rule out that they would not be redeveloped. As soon as this announcement was made, as shadow minister for social housing, I had inquiries to my office from people living in houses built before 1968 who are now concerned and asking, 'When am I moving? When is my house being demolished? Where will I go?' I think it is just reckless of the government to make a broad statement like this without any information, because people are very concerned.

We know from recent history that the Pope Court, Manitoba and Playford redevelopment was an absolute debacle. People even went to hospital due to anxiety and stress at the thought of being kicked out of their homes and their homes being demolished. In the end, it was cancelled. We do not know for how long; however, at least it has given them some temporary respite from the stress of thinking that their houses will be demolished.

Firstly, why would you say 'only within 10 kilometres'? Surely, any housing throughout the state that is in disrepair should be able to be demolished or redeveloped. Surely, any property

manager that has a property portfolio would always be redeveloping, refurbishing and reconfiguring their properties just as a matter of course. Why would that be something that you have to put in the Governor's speech?

It indicates to me that this government has completely run out of ideas and has nothing to talk about. So, they throw in time zones, driverless cars and just crazy things because they have no idea. We need vision. We need jobs. We need some hope for the future. We do not need more debt. We do not need a government that borrows money to pay its overheads like staffing costs. I have nothing really good to say about the way that this government is managing their budget other than I strongly recommend everyone to vote Liberal at the next election.

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (16:40): I will be very brief. I had not intended to speak on this Address in Reply after many addresses in reply over many years, but I feel compelled for a couple of reasons, given the fact that the member for Adelaide just urged everyone to vote Liberal, and I thought that we cannot let that go because the reality is that you have been doing that for the last four elections; and, of course, the Leader of the Opposition at that time made it clear who he expected people to vote for if they were to get good government—and that was not the Liberal Party.

I want to also congratulate Hieu Van Le on his speech and also the outstanding work he does as Governor of South Australia, ably and well supported by his wife, Lan. I am very proud, as I know every member in this chamber and many people across South Australia are, that we have His Excellency Hieu Van Le as this state's Governor. I also want to acknowledge the role that he played, prior to becoming Governor, as the chair of Multicultural SA and the work he put in there.

I want to touch on a couple of areas in the Governor's speech, and I will start with Transforming Health. Of course, as you might expect, there have been a few phone calls to my office regarding Transforming Health, in particular as it relates to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. There was a lot of concern expressed by my constituents on this particular matter, but that concern was expressed because, without being disrespectful to my constituents in any way, they just believed what they had heard on the radio and what they had read in the paper, and there was a fair bit of misreporting on what Transforming Health is all about.

Mr Picton: The former mayor.

The Hon. P. CAICA: That's right, and I think she is doing some stuff. We saw the rally out the front here last week by those people concerned about the Repat Hospital. Interestingly, when I had a look out there—because I like going to look at rallies and have participated in a few in my time and, if I am not participating, I certainly like to observe them—there were not too many people there I could see who were necessarily veterans or others. There was certainly a large number of the Liberal opposition, a former member of the City of Charles Sturt and any other people looking for a port in a storm when it comes to complaining and whingeing about things.

Interestingly, I think a large contingent was from this group I was not aware of because I do not think they have ever stood in the seat of Colton, that is, the FREE Australia Party. I looked it up on the computer—I was assisted by a friend looking it up on the computer for me—and they are actually against the association laws and, in particular, those laws that relate to bikies. I think it was an interesting group of people out there, but I am not quite sure how many of those purport to use the services of the Repat Hospital or, indeed, that there were many veterans out there.

In relation to Transforming Health—I do not often say this about all my colleagues—I think the Minister for Health has done an outstanding job here. Why do I say that? We know, in its current form, there are going to be some difficulties associated with the delivery of health services in this state, under its current structure. That is not to say that we do not have a system that is effective, but do we have a system that is as effective as it can be?

In getting people together in the early stages, the minister worked out with them the standard of health delivery people want—the service wanted by the people of South Australia and, in particular, in this instance, the people of Adelaide. They determined the standard. Then the next logical question was: can this standard be achieved under the existing structure? The fact was, no, it could not. So that necessitates us altering aspects of our health system to deliver the highest possible standard that we can—indeed, the standard that medical doctors, other people in the industry, members of

the community, nurses and others say is the standard that we should have in South Australia for the delivery of health services.

I think it has been a very good exercise and I support this. When I explain to people in my electorate about The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, they are quite satisfied with what I discuss with them. Contrary to what was their perception, that the emergency section will close, it will not. It will be an enhanced emergency section that will still be able to take 80 to 90 per cent of all presentations. It will also have a rehabilitation centre, and it will also focus on those ailments that are particular to our area there. I only have to look in the mirror to know that one of those ailments is that which comes with the ageing process. I am quite thankful that our hospital will have a particular focus on those ailments that are caused by the ageing process.

I think The Queen Elizabeth Hospital will continue to be one of the very good hospitals throughout our system that is delivering services as part of a system. I have learned over the years that you cannot have a hospital that is one size fits all for everyone and able to deliver on all aspects of all medical conditions. We need to have specialist hospitals. I know that if I get crook I want to go to one of those hospitals that has the very best people to provide that particular service, knowing full well, as I said, that a significant number, if not the majority, of ailments will still be able to be looked after at our general hospitals across the system.

I want to congratulate the Minister for Health. I look forward to the ongoing discussions that will occur. Those discussions will continue beyond the closure of submissions. I urge the opposition, if they have not already, to put in a submission instead of standing out the front with people from the FREE Australia Party, and others, complaining about what they believe is going to happen without having some input.

I think I read in InDaily yesterday that the leader wishes to be treated with some level of respect, or certainly not with the level of disrespect that he believes the Attorney-General and others have shown him. Well, respect comes from being respectful. I think that he would get far more respect if he decided to put some effort into challenging effectively what it is that we are doing and then putting up alternatives. If the Leader of the Opposition or his party do not do that, they need to come up with alternatives or, in a proper bipartisan approach, assist us in making this state a better place than it otherwise would be. I cannot see them being able to transform this state into a better place than is today, given the fact that they are bereft of any policies.

I want to quickly turn to the nuclear fuel cycle. Everyone in this chamber, and even outside this chamber, knows my view on nuclear energy, but I am very pleased that the Premier has decided that we should have a debate on this area. I have no problems with that discussion and debate occurring. Do I think that we will ever have a nuclear reactor producing energy in South Australia? I do not think we will, but at the same time we should have that debate to see what might occur. My understanding of anywhere around the world where they have nuclear reactors is that they are heavily subsidised by the government of the day and of course require a critical mass to be able to ensure that you can deliver the energy produced to make it more cost effective than otherwise would be the case.

The member for Adelaide talked about the fact that there should be a broader discussion on renewables. I think this debate on the nuclear fuel cycle will in turn lead to a further debate on renewable energy, and that is a discussion that can only go hand in hand with having the nuclear fuel cycle debate. It reminds me of a debate a long time ago on genetically modified crops and products. I know that it was not part of the Governor's speech, but if you are going to reject something you have to reject it on the facts that are available and not on what you think are the facts. I think South Australia is a good place to be non-GM when it comes to our food crops, but we should have the debate. If you have the debate, then you can at the very least reject or support things based on facts instead of people saying to you, 'This is what can happen if we have this or if we have that.'

I am very pleased that we are going to have a mature debate on the nuclear fuel cycle, and I congratulate the Premier for ensuring that that debate will occur. I look forward to participating in that debate. In turn that will, by its very nature, lead to a broader debate on how we expand our renewable energy sources here in South Australia beyond the wind, geothermal and the other forms that, I think, are likely scenarios for the production of energy in this state into the future.

Regarding public housing renewal, we heard the member for Adelaide talk about that and, obviously, I support that. You only have to look at other areas where renewal has occurred: the Peachey Belt is an outstanding project where we have seen a transformation of that public housing estate. You do not even have to go that far; you can go to my area in Kidman Park, abutting the Kidman Park Primary School and see where houses have been demolished and replaced with a mixture of both public housing and private housing. Woodville West is another fine example.

I think that we will continue to have very good public housing in this state, but it is tired and it does need to be renewed. I look forward to the development of that plan to drive and guide the public housing renewal in metropolitan Adelaide. It also goes without saying that, whilst that will be the particular focus, there will need to be ongoing work as per the Peachey Belt and other areas beyond the 11 kilometres that is being proposed that will continue to be renewed simultaneously.

With regard to public transport and improvements to the public transport system, I certainly want more people to travel to Adelaide from the suburbs using public transport. I want Adelaide to become a clean, green city and that can be enhanced by more people using public transport. I heard the member for Heysen, either before lunch or after lunch, talk about why people might not use public transport. I think she used the example that in this day and age (I will paraphrase here and I apologise if I am wrong but I think I am getting the thrust right) we no longer live in a time when people work 9.00 to 5.00 and travel to the city. I was on Henley Beach Road this morning coming to town and if that traffic was not as a result of people coming to town to work because they have a 9.00 to 5.00 job I will go he.

What we want is an effective public transport system that makes it more attractive for those people who are currently travelling in cars to actually board public transport. That is what we are aiming to do, to make sure that public transport becomes a more attractive option than hopping in your car and driving into the city. I know my friend, the member for Kaurna, travels to town on the train, do you not?

Mr Picton: I did today.

The Hon. P. CAICA: He did today, and why? Because it is a far more cost-effective and efficient way of getting into the city than hopping into the car and driving. I often catch the train from Grange. It is one of the most wonderful 22 minutes of my day any day I travel on it. It allows one the opportunity to sit back and read a book or read the papers and not have to worry about weaving in and out of traffic. Why do I use the train? Because it is an effective, efficient way of getting to town. That is what our plan about public transport is about—to make it efficient, effective and understood by people who travel to the city that the best way of travelling to the city is by public transport.

Admittedly, we have a way to go but we have to have a plan and that is what we have. We have a plan to ensure that public transport patronage is increased and it will be increased because, in doing so, that plan will ensure that it is a far better way for people to travel to the city than otherwise would be the case.

On the matter of education, again, His Excellency talked about that. I think that we have a good education system in South Australia. There are various components to that system. Of course there is the public stream, which I attended and which my kids attended, there is the private sector and then you have the faith-based sector. All of them deliver good educational outcomes in the main but, again, can we improve our education system? I think we can.

I am very pleased that we have a plan, and I am very pleased that we have a new minister who is looking at ways by which we can improve the educational outcomes for the students and the people in this state, because we know that the most important aspect of anyone's life is the education they receive. We know how it opens doors and leads to things and provides opportunities.

I get sick of people talking down our education system, just as they talk down our health system. We have a good one. But if you are not trying to improve it and you are not trying to get better, it really means that you are going backwards, and what we have are plans to improve our education and health systems in this state.

I want to finish—and I think that I have done this previously—by congratulating our outstanding new member for Fisher, who has done an outstanding job in being elected. I know that

she will be not only a great contributor to this parliament but also a great and long-serving member for her constituents. I also congratulate the new member for Davenport. In fact, he made a good contribution today. After his contribution, I thought, 'That's leadership material.' I know that it is very early in the piece, but certainly he has the hallmarks of being a future leader.

I am sure that there are others on that side who would agree with that because, God knows, they need some leadership in the future because they do not have it now—or very little of it. I think that the new chappie, Sam, the member for Davenport, will be a very good addition to their side. I am going to finish there because I think that I have said enough—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You haven't mentioned Muriel Matters yet.

The Hon. P. CAICA: I haven't mentioned Muriel Matters, and I will do that. In fact, I did show around the years 6 and 7 children from the member for Port Adelaide's school on Friday—

The Hon. S.E. Close: St Joseph's.

The Hon. P. CAICA: —from St Joseph's School. They were nice children. Interestingly, they did not have a great understanding of suffragettes or, indeed, Muriel Matters. In fact, I received an email today from the teacher of that year 6/7 class, which said that we struck a chord for the students in providing information, that they have not stopped asking questions and further questions about parliament, part of which, of course, is about Muriel Matters and those who paved the way for our becoming a better society because we have enhanced through that the roles that are available, and should always be available, to women. So, I have mentioned Muriel Matters, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I think that I will stop there.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: They laughed at Edison! The member for Morialta.

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (16:57): Thank you, ma'am. It is with great pleasure that I am able to give my thoughts on the Governor's address. I congratulate the Governor, Hon. Hieu Van Le, on his appointment, and also his wife, Lan Le. As the member for Unley described earlier, the extraordinary workload that he carried for a number of years as the Lieutenant-Governor and as the chair of SAMEAC would be recognised by anybody in this chamber, and I think that is most of us who spend time attending the range of events of which he has been a supporter or patron or to which he has contributed in one way or another over a number of years. We appreciate that effort, and it has been recognised through his appointment as Governor. I think that he will do a tremendous job in the years ahead as he continues his work with South Australians of all backgrounds in achieving those things they desire to do.

In the Governor's speech, I was particularly pleased to see a positive description in a way of removing politics from a very important issue, that being the Sampson Flat bushfires. In his speech, he said:

South Australia appreciates the support that it received from the commonwealth government and other state governments. My government also acknowledges and thanks the state opposition for its contribution to the collective effort to respond to this emergency.

In talking about this emergency, I thought I would start by thanking the Governor for his remarks about this important issue, this significant fire which devastated the landscape and, indeed, many of the properties in the communities not only in Morialta but also at Kavel (the member for Kavel spoke well about the effects on his community and his experience of the fire), Schubert and Newland and, of course, many other communities which may not have felt the lick of the flames themselves but which were certainly affected by the flow-on effects.

I understand that the member for Florey's office was opened on the Saturday of the fires, and a number of residents appreciated the opportunity to go there. I think that was a good initiative that I know a number of us will probably look to emulate in the future. All of these communities were affected.

There are banners, some of which are still up and some are no longer there. There have been banners, signs, posters and placards across the Morialta district, particularly in areas like Paracombe, Cudlee Creek, Inglewood, Millbrook and Chain of Ponds reading the same thing: 'Thank

you'. In particular, 'Thank you to the CFS' is written on many of them or 'Thank you to the volunteers. We appreciate it.' 'Thank you for saving our house' is written on a number of them.

In that spirit, I want to begin my contribution by saying thank you to the CFS, to the volunteers who did marvellous work and put in an extraordinary effort. There were extraordinarily long shifts served by so many of those volunteers, as well by some paid staff. There was also support given by volunteers across a range of other services, as well as the other emergency services such as the police and the SES. Marvellous work was done by the water bombers and the bombers that were dropping retardant ahead of the fire front. There could not be too many incidents where such heavy firepower of bombers, water tractors, helicopters and even those massive C-130 Hercules planes were used. Those bombers did significant work in ensuring that, while this was a significant natural disaster and a major incident, no lives were lost.

Thank you to groups such as Country Health, PIRSA, Recovery, a group called South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management (SAVEM), as well as a number of other charities that dealt with issues to do with livestock and pets. Anybody who was paying attention during these fires would have noticed the extraordinary generosity of spirit of so many South Australians from across Adelaide, in particular, and the Adelaide Hills range and the other districts affected. As the fire was starting to take hold, people were concerned about livestock and horses on their properties. There were volunteers who drove from all over, if they had a horse float and were able to assist in the safe removal of those animals as the fire front was approaching. Thank you also to those residents who were staying and fighting the fires and looking after their neighbours' homes, working with their neighbours in fighting those fires.

I have never pretended to be a firefighter, but my office was represented on the ground by my assistant, Scott Kennedy, who is one of the lieutenants in the Norton Summit-Ashton brigade and worked every day when the fire was going. Unfortunately, he was not available for my needs in the Morialta electorate office and as Opposition Whip, but he was doing far more urgent and important work on the ground. Thank you to the member for Kavel, who gave such good service to my community as well as his own, and all our communities, in going around assisting in the provision of water after the event, as people were starting to rebuild but did not have water available to them. I also recognise the shadow minister for emergency services, Duncan McFetridge (the member for Morphett), who was on the front as an active CFS firefighter performing those duties.

There were thousands of South Australians contributing in all sorts of ways. As well as the people I have mentioned, councils, businesses and individuals also found ways to help. Those who were not able to volunteer often made incredible donations, whether that be financial, in-kind support, providing places for livestock and horses to graze, or providing emotional support for those who were affected through the loss of property and pets. Thankfully, no lives were lost, but of course 24 houses were lost, and those people's lives have been affected and marked significantly. To those who have come around to help them in this difficult time, we say thank you.

I have been appreciative of the dozens of residents—CFS volunteers in particular—who have taken the time to talk with me. Since the incident itself was concluded and the roads have been reopened, they have taken the time to show me around so that I could have a full appreciation of the extent of the fire myself. Residents who have been affected have taken me into their living rooms, their kitchens and their businesses and talked to me about the ways that their life has been impacted, the experiences they had and their ideas on how things might be better managed in the future.

It is tremendously important because those experiences will obviously be investigated and are being investigated by the appropriate bodies. Those experiences are vital in informing how best we manage these issues in the future. While there were no lives lost, and as I think the CFS representative at one of the community meetings I attended identified, every house lost was tragic, every shed lost was tragic, but there could have been so many more houses lost.

We are grateful that there were not any more houses lost than there were, but it must be, as all of these things must always be, a cycle of constant improvement, so that will hopefully continue to be the case. There have been some signals from the government along those lines. We will of course be keeping a close eye on that, and we look forward to hearing much more about it.

I want to talk a little bit about the experiences of the fire that were shared with me both by individuals in their homes and, indeed, also at public meetings. One in particular I will talk about more than the others was attended by me and the member for Kavel at Cudlee Creek. Just to put it into context, the residents were put on high alert on 2 January due to the catastrophic fire danger rating issued because of the high temperature and wind speeds. Shortly after 12.30pm, everyone's fears were realised when a fire started at Sampson Flat. While it was not known at the time, of course this fire would go on to burn over 12,000 hectares.

As always, the CFS volunteers and staff did an amazing job protecting life, property and the environment, and worked with other agencies, including MFS, SES, DEWNR and SAPOL, to bring the fire under control. A national effort was seen with firefighters travelling from New South Wales and Victoria to assist, and, of course, some of those aerial water bombers that I described before came from Victoria.

It is a tragedy that 24 homes were lost but, had some of the forecast weather been realised, the result could have been even worse. I think there is an official number of 27, but I understand from the CFS that that number may have been downgraded to 24. I apologise if that is not the accurate number, but I am working from the most recent information provided to me.

John Hutchins, the regional commander at the CFS, gave a time line to the public meeting at Cudlee Creek that I will share with the house. At 12.32pm, the fire started. At 12.34pm, the first brigade was turned out with four appliances heading towards the fire. At 12.35pm, two bombers with 3,000 litres of water left the ground, and a second alarm was called from One Tree Hill at this point with another four appliances sent out. At 12.36, two more bombers were sent up. At 12.40pm, there was a third alarm and four more appliances were sent out.

At 12.42, the first warning messages were sent to the community—10 minutes after the fire started, according to the time line. At 12.59, the skycrane was deployed, which has 6,000 litres of water, and two aerial observation platforms were deployed. These water bombers do not just drop water but also foam and gel which is a retardant that spreads through the undergrowth in a way that can slow down the fire significantly, rather than just going straight into the ground.

At 12.43pm, the first appliance was at the scene. At 12.54, the bushfire emergency warning messages and Alert SA messages were sent out. At 1.01pm, two more strike teams were sent out, which led to 22 appliances in total. At that point—and I will be careful about what I say because obviously the investigation will continue to look into this, so I will be careful in my choice of words—it seemed like the fire might well not have gone too much further, but two spot fires came along and there was the suggestion that maybe embers had blown around some distance from the main fires, and all of that is now being investigated.

When that second fire was discovered at 2.14pm, it was identified to the public meeting I attended that the bombers were released at 1.53, and then at 2.14pm the second fire was identified. At 2.19pm, two more bombers were requested again, and then by 3.12pm it was well and truly underway and more than 50 appliances were attending the fire, and that continued to be the case for some time after that.

I am no longer quoting from John Hutchins' time line, but other CFS officers have reported that in the six days of the fire until it was under control at no stage did the fire head only in one direction. Over 36 hours, the fire headed in all directions and at all speeds, up and down. No two firefighters on the scene had exactly the same experiences. To put that into the context of the speed at which the fire travelled, it went from 10 hectares to 700 hectares between 1.30pm and 6.00pm on the first day.

One and a half hours later, at 7.30pm, it was up to 1,400 hectares. By midnight, it was at 2,500 hectares, with a perimeter of 25 kilometres, and by 6.30am it was 4,000 hectares, spreading in multiple directions—south towards Cudlee Creek and Kenton Valley, along inaccessible terrain that the bombers could not access—and so CFS crews had to change on the fire ground not in the staging areas, which is a sign of the ferocity of the blaze.

Nine aircraft were in use by Saturday afternoon, and there were aircraft in the South-East where there was an incident happening simultaneously. Community meetings at Cudlee Creek and

Gumeracha had to be cancelled because the CFS were not confident that they could guarantee the safety of those meetings. Talking to landholders, and visiting some of the properties where significant damage had occurred, was a very emotional experience, I must say. I walked around with residents who described how they were feeling when they were at certain points. At one point, a resident said that the sound was so loud that he thought it was helicopters come to drop water on the property: in fact, it was the fire front.

I was hoping to bring in a scrap of warped metal that had once been a tank for carbon dioxide, but I am afraid I neglected to do so. It exploded when hit by the fire and was found 100 metres away in a neighbour's paddock. It is now just a charred mess. The heat and the ferocity of this fire was incredible, and I pay tribute, as I said before, to not only those who fought it in their CFS uniforms but also those who stayed and fought it and protected their properties—that was a house the CFS did not have to look after. Of course, only those who had the suitable infrastructure could do so—and I certainly encourage the 'stay or go' decision to be made early—and who had the capacity to fight the fire in that way.

In relation to the investigation, that will go on. There will be issues raised in relation to burn-offs. Obviously, everybody has a strong opinion, and I look forward to the investigation identifying where improvements can be made. Clearly, at the public meetings a lot of people had suggestions about how council, SA Water, the environment department, individuals, and landholders, must work together in a way to get the best solutions.

In terms of controlled burning, one of the residents at the community meeting at Cudlee Creek identified that Gorge Road was bombed more than 50 times. They suggested that it was necessary because that area had not had any controlled burning in decades, and they wanted to see more burn-offs in the future. Obviously, the CFS will have to continue to have those discussions, but we will take an active interest in the matter because at the end of the day people's lives are just so important in this area.

As to other challenges facing residents, I have to say that the most significant one, and the one which I had most discussion about on the days immediately after the fire was under control, was to do with the road closures. I have had correspondence with the minister, so I will share some of the stories and then talk about the correspondence.

Some people had been on their properties throughout and had no access to water or food and needed to get out and then come back in, others had been off their properties and were wanting to get back in, and other people were back on their properties and wanting to rebuild—all experienced various elements of frustration. This is an area that particularly needs to be dealt with better in the future.

One of the biggest frustrations was the inconsistency in the application of the roadblocks. Some people reported to me that they were going back to work—because, of course, they had to make a living—not knowing if they were going to be able to come back home that night. People who wanted to go out to clean up, to put out spot fires on their property and to get back on their property to do those things were often frustrated at the way that situation was managed.

One very articulate individual at the public meeting who identified a series of problems—and I am quoting him from the cursory notes I took—said that each police officer had their own interpretation of what the rule was. Some people were let in and out, but they were told by the police what time the shift was going to be changed because they could not guarantee that the next person would let them back in again. One police officer was identified as stopping cars but allowing people to walk through or hand stuff over to people who were inside but not letting people in.

One incident was described where a six by four trailer was unhooked by a stopped car on one side of the roadblock, pushed through the roadblock and then hitched to a car on the inside of the roadblock so that they could drive off, but the car that was originally pulling the trailer was the only thing that was stopped. There were many stories about groceries being handed over from one family to another at the roadblock.

There were stories about people walking through and having to then pile into a car in a manner that might not be completely compliant with the road safety code because they were being dropped back at their house by people on the inside. It was described as a Checkpoint Charlie type

situation. I know that is not what was envisaged by those who were requesting that the roads be closed, so there are significant issues about how those things can be managed in the future, but fundamentally some common sense would be handy to start with.

It was identified that roadblock issues were, in fact, raised at all the CFS community meetings, and another issue I will perhaps touch on a little later was that the activities of media inside the fire area were raised at all three public meetings as well. Also on roadblocks, one produce grower identified that their local road was cleared by locals, but then the road was shut. There was a lot of frustration that while safety was very important—of primary importance, obviously—local knowledge should be taken into account.

I must say that I have also spoken to a number of CFS officers who, while feeling the frustrations of local residents, were very passionate about the importance of safety being critical. There have been other fires in South Australia in recent years where residents, having been let through a roadblock confident of their own safety, have in fact died because trees have fallen on their car. There was also an incident where an individual was injured in the recent fires. I am not just arguing for these road closures to be ignored by residents, but I think that we must find a way to manage this situation more sensibly and preferably have consistent application of the rules with a hearty dose of common sense. When there is inconsistency without common sense, it is very frustrating.

One of the particular frustrations occurred days after the fire had been and the rain had been, when the people in the community were starting to rebuild. Of course, the usual thing that happens if somebody loses a shed is that everyone rallies around them and helps them out, but so many people in the community were in the same situation. Rallying together has been important. Community spirit has been important. I note that this Friday at the Cudlee Creek Café there will be another community meal to share that experience, so that neighbours can catch up and help each other out.

Largely, neighbours were unable to help each other out in the rebuild because everyone had their own sheds to repair and their own losses to make good. People who do not live in these areas might not understand that when we talk about a shed being lost, we are not just talking about the old jigsaw puzzles or the bric-a-brac that you might put at the end of your garden shed. We are talking about sheds in which every tool that a tradesman has ever owned in his life might have been stored; every tractor that a landscape gardener has bought for their property; or their boat, in which they might go fishing.

I met a number of residents who had lost hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment and property, and their entire life's work. I met winemakers who lost all of their property, and all of the chemical equipment that they use to make their wine with the grapes on their property. These are significant emotional and financial losses and the community is hurting, so it is important to fix that.

Thankfully, for the most part, I have had good stories about insurance, but I have had a couple of individual cases that I will no doubt spend a bit of time talking to the minister about how we might be able to help these people a bit more, where there has been, through no fault of the individual landowner, some problems with insurance. But, there is more to come out of that.

Further on the roadblocks, someone at one of the community meetings suggested that they would like to be able to sign a waiver to free the government from liability so that they could return to their property. I am not 100 per cent sure about whether that is feasible. It has also been suggested that the community postal agency be given the potential to issue access passes into the emergency area, with liaison through SAPOL and the local CFS. One of the reported stories from the roadblocks was that CFS trucks were dragged to the roadblock to identify whether it was appropriate that somebody should be able to get back in.

This is important because people from outside needed to get back in to help the local residents. Whether it be tradespeople, family or whoever else, we needed support from the outside. This is one of the issues on which I corresponded with the minister and the Commissioner for Police. One of the suggestions I made was that, in helping to make that more consistent plan, contractors should be able to be verified by local residents to ensure that when contractors come in, firstly, they

are allowed in, but, secondly, that it is people who are verified by residents so that we do not have looting situations.

I indicate to my constituents and to the house that I have received a response from the minister, and, for the record, I wish to read out the minister's response in relation to this matter:

South Australia has developed and refined its road closure policy a number of times, with the latest amendment [being included] in the December 2014 edition of the State Emergency Management Plan. The development of that policy has been subject to discussion by all emergency service Chief Executives at the pre-fire...strategic meetings including the 2013-14 briefing and the 2014-15 season briefing.

The State Emergency Management Plan contains extensive guidance to all agencies, including SAPOL, in the development of traffic management plans at emergencies. Those requirements clearly identify that the community must be allowed to return to their properties as quickly as possible in order to commence recovery. The 11 underpinning principles require that safety of responders and the public is to be the highest priority.

A further aspect of the principles clearly identify the Control Agency responsibility for traffic management as part of their incident management arrangements, but then allow them to delegate those responsibilities to another agency that has the legislative authority to undertake those roles. In the case of this fire, CFS rightly identified the need for road closures and this task was delegated to SAPOL to support them due to SAPOL having the legislative powers and capability to undertake this role on behalf of the CFS.

During the fires the State Emergency Centre was operational from 3...to 8 January...The subject of road closures was discussed regularly during that time to ensure that the principles in the State Emergency Management Plan were being applied by the CFS and SAPOL. Road Closures were constantly being moved as safety works were completed and roads were opened as soon as [DPTI], or Local Council, advised that they had been checked and any required urgent safety works had been completed. During this period three emergency service vehicles were damaged by falling trees (two while travelling on roads within the area).

Furthermore the only serious injury that occurred during the fires was to a member of the public injured by a tree falling onto his car. Previous experience has shown that premature travel into areas affected by fire has resulted in deaths and serious injuries. All of these considerations were factored into the ongoing decision making relative to road closures.

Once the main danger of fire was controlled, SAPOL handed the responsibility for road closures to DPTI, who in partnership with Local Councils continued with their legislated roles to ensure that the roads that each group is responsible for were made safe and returned to public use as soon as possible. Both groups had already undertaken a large amount of restoration work and were clearly focused on the need to open the roads in as short a time frame as possible.

Your correspondence seeks that local residents be given the authority to verify the bonafides of tradespeople attending their properties once the residents have been allowed to return. It appears that the definition of local traffic restrictions have prevented the attendance of those tradespeople to the respective properties. This suggestion has merit and will be included into the final debriefing process that is underway at this time.

I thank the minister for his correspondence and I thank him for agreeing to take that matter into consideration. I look forward to the outcome.

Other issues relative to this were Telstra towers, water and other utilities being down, and return was obviously desired in a speedy way. I have a couple of constituents who have issues with massive water bills as a result of leaving sprinklers on at their properties. When they were fearful of losing their house, they left sprinklers going on the roof. A couple have been offered \$20 discounts on bills that were \$800, to take one example, more than normal; so I will be working to try to help them get those alleviated.

In relation to firewood, I was pleased that at the community meeting at Cudlee Creek there was a question asked about what is happening to all the trees that are being removed. Can they be used for firewood? By and large, the trees are the property of the Adelaide Hills Council and I was sitting next to the Mayor of the Adelaide Hills Council and he identified to the meeting that he will endeavour to make that firewood available to members of the community, particularly those who have suffered loss.

The Governor in his speech said that it was also evident during this period that Australians can overcome political difficulties where it is necessary to do so. I was disappointed in the way that the leader of the Greens federally, Christine Milne, sought to politicise this issue while the fires were going on. I was also disappointed to see the ALP SA Twitter account taking pot shots at the Liberal Party for having our Prime Minister in Iraq when the fire was going on. I think that we all can be better than that and I know that we all will be in the future.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member's time has expired but he will, of course, have time to contribute to the debate on Thursday, if there is anything left for him to say.

Mr GARDNER: I will get a briefing on this matter, ma'am.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I'm sure you will. Member for Newland.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland) (17:27): I take this opportunity to congratulate the Governor on his speech and thank him for coming into parliament and delivering it. I must say, I enjoy the opening ceremonies of parliament—from a time past, I think, but a good link, in many ways, back to our history and to the way things have previously been done.

I might follow on from the member for Morialta's comments on the Sampson Flat fires and record my thanks to the volunteers who fought those fires and those who supported the volunteers during the fires. It is not just the firefighters, of course, who undertook the great bulk of the activities during the course of the actual fire but there are many people since who have stepped in to assist with the rebuilding of those communities where it is needed and who continue to assist. Organisations such as BlazeAid do fencing. One group of people from Sydney came down from the Tzu Chi Foundation, a charitable foundation formed in Taiwan. They have a branch in Sydney and a number of people flew from Sydney and helped hand out cash and blankets, and so forth. It was not just South Australians. There were, of course, many South Australians involved in supporting those caught up in the fires, but people from interstate as well have lent their assistance, which is a good thing to see.

Of particular note in the Governor's speech, from my point of view, was the establishment of a royal commission into the nuclear fuel cycle. I have to take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier on instigating the royal commission. Given his history over a long period of time, it is no small thing to be prepared to even open up a debate about something that you have previously been staunchly opposed to. I have been a lot more comfortable with our involvement in the nuclear cycle over many years than perhaps the Premier may have been in his history, but he has reached a point where he is prepared to consider that now, to consider a change in his stance, to look at that cycle in a complete way. There is probably no more complete way than a royal commission, which will go into a very great number of details about it.

Mr Gardner: They should make you the commissioner.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: I don't know that I'm allowed to be a commissioner as a member of parliament. I don't think I'd be able to.

Mr Gardner: No, you wouldn't be able to do that.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: Oh; it's a small price to pay. Coming back to the point and not being distracted by the member for Morialta—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was just going to say, it is disorderly.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: I'm self-correcting there, ma'am; I beg your pardon. I must say, it takes a great deal of courage to do that, and that should be acknowledged. It is an excellent opportunity. Personally, I think there are tremendous opportunities in the nuclear fuel cycle. I suspect that the commission will find that some aspects of that cycle provide greater opportunities than others. I will be making a submission to it. I will be clearly advocating a position on it, which I will put to the commission, but I am really looking forward to being part of the debate.

I know that a few people in my electorate are obviously opposed to the nuclear cycle, but equally there are also a number of people who are in favour of it and probably thought it is about time to have that debate. It is greatly refreshing to be having the debate. It is an excellent change. It goes back to the very start. After the Second World War, when the nuclear industry was burgeoning and beginning, the Labor Party had a position of being involved in all parts of the fuel cycle: mining, refining and nuclear power. That then changed, obviously, during the course of the seventies, and it may possibly be changing back, but we will see. We will get to that, but the important thing is to have that debate, to have that discussion. Let us not anticipate what may come out of it, but it is interesting how times change, how people's views on things change, and that is a good thing.

I take the opportunity to congratulate also the Minister for Health on his reforms to the health service. Genuine reform is not easy. If it were easy everyone would do it. I mentioned courage in my maiden speech. If you are ever going to be a decent reformer in politics you need a good dose of courage. Keating had it, Kennett had it, and they were prepared to take on the views of their society to change, argue their case and to persuade people. I think the changes that have been made to the health service are in that mould. They are doing what needs to be done. It may not necessarily be particularly popular, but it is the right thing to do and they are arguing that case, and I think that is a good thing.

I think the system needs to work as a system. We have an excellent public healthcare system, a genuinely excellent public healthcare system. I have friends in the United States, and when I talk to them about life and everything else they are terrified of getting sick, particularly with really serious diseases like cancer and others, because they know that they can basically lose everything if they get sick. One of my friends in the United States runs an arboricultural tree surgery business. It is a thriving business and he has about 20 men working for him. They do a lot of work in Oregon.

However, he is terrified of contracting cancer or something such as that because he knows he could lose his business, he could lose his house and lose every asset he has ever owned just because he got sick and he needed to pay for that. He might end up in dispute with his insurance company and the insurance company may not cover full costs. It is hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions of dollars. In Australia we are not terrified of that financial consequence of getting ill. Obviously some of us are more terrified than others of becoming ill; I am more terrified than most I suspect of getting genuinely ill like that but it is not for the financial consequences so much as just the health consequences—and that is a good thing.

I think we need to acknowledge right from the very start that we have a genuinely good health system in this country and in South Australia. However, there are always reasons to improve and a lot of those have been outlined by the Minister for Health: the need to ensure a more consistent quality of care over the whole 24-hour time frame of a day so that you get, as much as possible, the same care at two in the morning as you get at two in the afternoon. That is not necessarily happening in all cases at the moment. That has consequences, and there was a newspaper article talking about 500 deaths a year, I think, from memory. That has to be fixed. If that means making some significant changes to the health system then that is what needs to happen. I think, in the end, my constituents will get a better healthcare system and they will get better health care as a result of having a better system.

I am confident that the Modbury Hospital will remain and will work better. The services at Modbury Hospital are changing to reflect the changes in the community. A very large chunk of people in my electorate have not moved. They came to the electorate in the sixties, the seventies or the eighties and they bought a block of land and built a house or they bought a spec build house and they have been there ever since. They brought up their kids and often their children have moved out but they still live there. They do not want to move. They have been in their house for 20, 30 or 40 years—some of them—and they like living there. That is a large chunk. Modbury is important to them. As you age, you are more inclined to use hospital services, so it is really important that the hospital services that are available at Modbury reflect the majority of the demand in the area, and that is what I think is happening there.

I note that the hospital will be staying open; it will not be closed, contrary to some scaremongering in the community; that emergency care will be staying 24/7, which is another good thing; and that in fact 99.5 per cent of people who currently use services at the emergency department will be able to continue using the services of the emergency department. There will be very little change in many ways to the way the emergency service operates there. Again, it is really important that the hospital changes to reflect the changes in the local population, and that is what we are seeing.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing the changes that the government will propose around planning laws. There was some talk about it today in question time. My experience of the planning system is that it is overly complicated, that it needs to change, that it is holding back and stifling progress and development. On the whole, most development is fairly straightforward but things take too long. It should not take six months to approve a house. In my view we should not see some of

the overly authoritarian and intrusive use of planning regulations that we have seen recently, and I refer, for instance, to the Burnside council telling someone that they cannot have a neon sign (that they have had for 10 or 13 years or however long it was) advertising their business inside their actual business. The fact that someone even has the power to stop that happening is ridiculous.

The complete lack of common sense by the council in that application is not unusual, I do not think, in terms of my experience with Burnside council, as they are not the most sensible planning department in the state. It is certainly not the most inclined to approve development and make life easy for people. Any changes have to address that: they have to free up the system to allow things that are straightforward and easy to be straightforward and easy, or things that should be straightforward and easy to be straightforward and easy, rather than catching them up. Obviously, I will be very keen to see what the Deputy Premier does in that area. It is important, and the effect of it, getting it right, will make a big difference to the future of the state.

Once again, I congratulate the Governor on his speech, and I thank him for taking the time to come and give it to us. I look forward to joining my colleagues here in the chamber and in presenting him with the Address in Reply.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You need to speak about sport in your electorate, I think.

Mr Gardner: Tell us about your experiences with the Burnside council. Is there much of Newland in Burnside?

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: No, but I know people in Burnside, some fine people. I play rugby in the Burnside council.

Mr Knoll interjecting:

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: Why don't you come and play?

Mr Knoll interjecting:

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: Your wife doesn't let you play rugby? I will tell a story about the Burnside council. A woman who was employed as a land valuer was retrenched because of circumstances at the time; she was caught up in the events of 2008-09 during the global financial crisis. She then changed her career and took up ironing. She had a spare room in her house. She took in ironing and put a little A-frame sign out on the street. When I was the small business minister, she contacted me because the council, which had already approved this little A-frame sign, decided that it wanted to revoke it.

She had complied with all of the conditions: it had to be a certain size, which it was, and it needed to be chained to something, such as a tree or a pole, so that it did not fly away in the wind, which it was doing. It was because of the road where it was situated, which was just down from her street. Her street, in fact, ran off Glynburn Road. Because of the passing traffic on Glynburn Road, that was basically the only effective form of advertising for her; she would get a lot of traffic because she had this sign out there.

The council suddenly decided that, even though they had given permission for this sign, they wanted to revoke it, along with a whole heap of other A-frame signs right around the council area, just because some people did not like the look of them. The effect would have been a massive dent if not the closing of her business. Happily, I was able to communicate with the council when I was the minister for small business, and the council saw fit to change its view on these matters. It was just a lot of people wasting time on something which was incredibly trivial but which had a big effect on an individual's life. If changes to the planning laws proposed by the Deputy Premier—and, hopefully, we will see them soon—do something about that, they will have my full support.

Motion carried.

At 17:44 the house adjourned until Wednesday 25 February 2015 at 11:00.

*Estimates Replies***MOUNT GAMBIER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

In reply to **Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett)** (18 July 2014) (Estimates Committee A) (First Session).

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries):

1. The Junction in Mount Gambier is one of several Mental Health Activity and Resource Centres (MHARCs) across country South Australia. It is a non-government organisation staffed by volunteers and supported in kind by Country Health SA Local Health Network through provision of the building, payment of utilities costs and providing staff to deliver some specific educational and therapeutic programs. A volunteer coordinator works two days a week to coordinate activities. Country Health SA Local Health Network has not forgone funding for this service.

In 2009, Country Health SA Local Health Network provided seed funding to the One Voice Network for two years for the period 1 July, 2009 to 30 June, 2011. The funding was for the employment of coordinators in each of the MHARCs. One Voice Network was advised in writing that the funding would be provided for a period of two consecutive years only to enable One Voice Network to establish its processes and governance arrangements and secure financial support from other sectors. Country Health SA Local Health Network does not intend to reinstate the funding to One Voice Network at this time.

The \$778,916 figure quoted is actually \$778,916,000 and represents the total budgeted expense of Country Health SA Local Health Network for 2014-15. All funding is allocated to deliver the range of health and aged care services across country South Australia including Mental Health services.

2. The provision of psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery services across country South Australia remains an ongoing challenge given the vast geographical factors, demographics and individual consumer need. Country Health SA Local Health Network is employing a number of strategies to support people who experience mental illness to continue on their recovery journeys and contribute to and engage with their local communities. For example, a number of non-government organisations are contracted through a state-wide procurement process to provide psychosocial support to consumers across the state in partnerships with local community mental health teams. New services offering community based rehabilitation have been established in Whyalla and Mount Gambier to assist consumers gain or re-gain independent living skills. These services complement the activities of non-government services such as The Junction. In kind support is provided to other local groups in a manner similar to The Junction.