

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 2 July 2015

The **SPEAKER (Hon. M.J. Atkinson)** took the chair at 10:30 and read prayers.

Matter of Privilege

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (10:31): Mr Speaker, I wish to raise a matter of privilege. On 25 February this year, I asked the Minister for Emergency Services in question time:

Did the minister issue a ministerial direction to the SAFECOM board to supply Mount Barker CFS brigade with two type 1 pumpers, 25 sets of structural PPE and extra structural firefighting equipment...

The minister, in his answer, denied he had issued a ministerial directive. Then, on 17 June 2015, I asked the Minister for Emergency Services a question:

Did the minister issue a ministerial directive to the SAFECOM board to investigate the provision of additional equipment to Mount Barker CFS and will he table that ministerial directive?

In his answer to the house, the minister said, and I quote:

The answer is no I did not give a direction.

In a copy of a letter released under freedom of information from the minister to the captain of the Mount Barker CFS, dated 6 October—and I will enclose that for your deliberation, Mr Speaker—in the fourth paragraph, it says:

I have directed SAFECOM and the Country Fire Service to investigate the provision of additional equipment for your brigade.

This is in complete contrast to what the minister told the house and, as the minister has had ample time to come back and correct the record, I ask that you investigate this matter.

The SPEAKER: And you are seeking precedence for a debate of this?

Dr McFETRIDGE: I am, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: So, you are seeking that this debate have precedence over other debate?

Dr McFETRIDGE: Not at this time, Mr Speaker. Perhaps if you deliberate on the matter and come back to the house, then we can debate the matter.

The SPEAKER: Well, no. I am in the hands of the Clerk to some extent here, but my understanding of the procedure is that you raise the matter of privilege if you are seeking the debate to have precedence over other business on the *Notice Paper*; otherwise, you would merely draw it to the attention of the house and then move a motion about it.

Dr McFETRIDGE: Mr Speaker, I—

The SPEAKER: No, I am getting advice from the Clerk. I am wrong.

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I thank the member for Unley for his assistance. The member can raise a matter of privilege, and then I will look at it to see if I think it is a matter of privilege and, if I think it is, I will give precedence to a motion to debate it. If I do not think it touches on privilege, then the member is free to move a motion about it in private members' time. If the member for Morphett will give me all the materials, I will busy myself this morning and this afternoon looking at those documents.

Dr McFETRIDGE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You should have that in the envelope taken by the attendants.

*Bills***ROAD TRAFFIC (ISSUE OF FREE TICKETS BY PARKING TICKET-VENDING MACHINES)
AMENDMENT BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

Mr PISONI (Unley) (10:35): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Road Traffic Act 1961. Read a first time.

Second Reading

Mr PISONI (Unley) (10:35): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

In the way of background, in mid-2007 the City of Unley attempted to begin a 12-month trial of fee-free time-limited parking on council-owned land. In this instance, it was the Boffa Street car park off King William Road. The trial would require motorists who use the car park to display a valid ticket on their dash allowing them to park for up to three hours. The ticket was obtained through a parking ticket vending machine and provided free of charge to the motorists.

After January 2015, the City of Unley council and the council administration raised the issues with me as a motorist had disputed the fine that they received for not complying with the instructions at the car park and was electing to take the matter to court. Subsequently, the motorist had decided not to take the matter further; however, the case demonstrated that the trial was possibly not legally defensible and was halted.

Upon receiving legal advice, the City of Unley determined that the car park could not be operated under the private parking act because, despite the land being owned privately by the City of Unley, the car park is not used for the parking of vehicles by persons frequenting the premises of the owner. There are no council offices nearby, nor any venue used by the council, and the Australian Road Rules, together with the South Australian Road Rules, do not permit a ticketing system where there is no payment.

Advice from the RAA suggests that the main problem lay with Australian Road Rules, part 2, rule 207 (Parking where fees are payable), which states:

...a driver must pay the fee (if any) payable under the law of this jurisdiction; and obey any instructions on or with the sign, meter, ticket, or ticket-vending machine.

This implies a fee-free ticket is permitted; however, the ARA refers to the South Australian Road Traffic Act regulations 2014 because rule 22 (parking and parking ticket vending machines or parking meters) states that:

For the purposes of rule 207(1) (Parking where fees are payable), if the word 'ticket' is displayed on a permissive parking sign, the word is to be taken to indicate that a fee is payable by buying a ticket through the operation of a parking ticket-vending machine.

While the intention of rule 22 is to prevent people claiming that they did not realise that they had to obtain a ticket, it inadvertently rules out the ability to provide time-limited parking, which is administered through obtaining a ticket from a ticket vending machine without paying a fee. One can imagine that free ticket parking was simply not considered at the time of the South Australian Road Rules regulation being drafted.

The City of Unley was attempting to provide car parking free of charge, but also to ensure that motorists abide by the sensible time limit and avoid all-day parking, which is of course a problem that residents in the inner city suburbs know too well. This is a growing problem in my electorate of Unley, in particular on the northern boundary, as people drive in from elsewhere, park in the streets, and open the boot and get their bikes out of the car or alternatively walk into the city. Of course, it does have an effect on the ability for not only visitors and residents who may want to park in front of their houses but also for parking spaces for businesses so people can park freely and use the services that those businesses provide.

Recently, it has been reported that motorists found the system of free three-hour parking through obtaining a free ticket confusing, but I believe that the lack of certainty about the legality of

this system may have, at least in part, caused this confusion. Additionally, the City of Unley will now be charging a dollar for motorists to park for three hours in a car park, with one local shop manager suggesting that customers would boycott the car park if fees were introduced. Of course, he was reflecting the feeling of many other traders in the area.

Within the Unley electorate there is an ongoing debate about how to get more shoppers into King William Road, Goodwood Road, Unley Road, Glen Osmond and Fullarton Road shopping districts, and the lack of suitable parking is one of the factors driving the downturn in shoppers visiting the area. We all know, when we have driven through many of the suburbs of Adelaide where we are seeing strip shopping in particular that relies on street parking for its customers, that many are suffering, with many 'For lease' signs going up. There is no doubt that traders in my electorate are very concerned about any barriers that may be put up for people wishing to park and use their shops.

I think that any way that we can make it easier for local government to manage parking and traffic for shoppers, that is, spending their money in local centres, whilst managing the equally contentious issue of all-day parking in surrounding side streets, should be supported. I commend the bill to the house.

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

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS (SURROGACY) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 4 June 2015.)

The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland) (10:42): I rise to oppose this bill that we are debating today, noting that it is a conscience vote for the Labor members and I believe for other members of parliament as well. In line with my objections to these bills as they have come to the parliament in my time, from time to time, I object largely to surrogacy anyway, and this is no different. The last time I think we spoke on surrogacy I objected to it on the ground that it was becoming part of the commodification of children, that we are seeing a move within our society where having a child is becoming a right and, in the worst cases, which I admit is not very often, an accessory or something to achieve or something to do.

This is not an easy topic for people. I understand the very strong desire among many couples to have children, which is a good thing—couples having children is a good thing. Sometimes that is not possible and, whilst the surrogacy bill we are debating today is very well intentioned, it is another step down the road as this one allows for the payment of medical expenses and other things, which on the face of it is reasonable in that we are allowing a woman to undertake surrogacy on behalf of a couple because they are unable to have children, and to then be reimbursed for the costs she experiences as a result of the pregnancy which, let's face it, is not a cheap thing. Medical expenses are involved in that. Again, it frees up surrogacy, it frees up the ability for that to happen and it is the next step down the road.

While this bill does not allow for profit and does not allow for someone to make money from having children, that is the next logical step. It will still be difficult to find surrogate mothers, I suspect, especially where there is no profit to be made, only the reimbursement of medical costs, so that people are not out of pocket. That is the next step in allowing people to suddenly become surrogate mothers for the purposes of making money.

What I suspect will happen down the track is that it will still be difficult to find surrogate mothers. It will still not be easy. Certainly, as people delay having children until they get older, the demand for surrogacy will increase because it gets more difficult to fall pregnant, particularly for women, as they get older—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Fall? Do you fall pregnant? You become pregnant.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: Become pregnant—well, that's true. It's a very deliberate act in this case; that's correct. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for correcting me on that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was musing to myself. You shouldn't be listening.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: No; it's a good point that you make that, in fact, given that there is a difficulty becoming pregnant involved here, it is a very deliberate act to create this pregnancy—it is not 'falling pregnant'.

As women get older, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to become pregnant. It is a fact of our society that women are choosing to wait longer and longer and get older and older before they have children. You can see that in the statistics of the average age of women having their first child, and that will mean that, over time, there will be an increasing demand for surrogacy.

What I suspect that will mean is that the demand for surrogate mothers will outstrip the supply even of people who are prepared to do it altruistically less the cost, so that they do not have to face the cost of surrogacy. The next logical step to make it easier for people to have surrogate children, is to then allow people to make a profit, to be paid for being surrogates.

There will be strong arguments for that because, when women are pregnant, they find they have to take time out from the workforce. There is a loss of earnings, an interruption to a career, and all those other things. It will become arguable that, more than just the medical cost, there is still a cost associated with being a surrogate mother and they should be compensated for that. It is something I find even more objectionable in that, again, we are turning the process of motherhood into a commercial transaction or a commercial process.

It is deeply unfortunate that some couples are not able to have children. I have friends in that category. It is distressing to them and I have a great deal of sympathy for them. Often even the simple act of coming to our house with our kids, at the wrong time, can be difficult. That was particularly true when the kids were younger—not so much now—but it was difficult sometimes just to visit us as friends, so it can be a little bit isolating for people in that position.

I understand that and I accept that it is a difficult position, but I do not think the answer is the process of commodifying motherhood and commodifying this process of surrogacy or childbirth to such an extent that children become part of a commercial process or transaction. I, for one, will not be supporting this bill and I encourage many other members in this house to oppose it as well. I just think it is another step down a road that we really should not be going down. With those words, I look forward to further debate.

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (10:49): I thank all those who have contributed to the debate. A number contributed last month, and I thank the member for Newland for placing on the record his personal views on the matter, which I believe are utterly well-intentioned and I understand are strongly felt. I disagree with him on a number of them. Given that the member for Newland has in effect stated the case against the bill as such, without meaning to be personal in any way, I will go through some of the points that he made and explain why I disagree with them.

I remind members that the bill contains four main things that it does. They are, firstly, in relation to creating a state framework for altruistic surrogacy and surrogate register; so that does two of those things. One of the impacts of the state framework for altruistic surrogacy is it describes what the bill defines as 'prescribed international surrogacy agreements'. Whereas at the moment there is a somewhat laissez-faire approach to international surrogacy arrangements for parents seeking to find a surrogate in what are mostly vulnerable women in poorer countries, this bill will in fact restrict the opportunity for that to those where the minister responsible has created what was a prescribed international surrogacy agreement, where there will be an opportunity to protect the welfare of those vulnerable women.

We are obviously relying on the department forming the regulations to deliver some of the detail there, but this would in fact, I think, restrict what the member for Newland described as the commercialisation of childbirth, in that currently the major ill in this area is in those international situations where people are exploited in countries that are poorer than our own. I think that this bill will actually go some way towards restricting that opportunity.

On the other side of the token, it makes it easier for South Australian families who do not have the current capacity to have children to obtain the opportunity through a surrogate through some relaxation of the opportunities in South Australia, but I do not think that it goes any way towards, again as the member for Newland described it, commercialisation of the process. There are three aspects to this. Firstly, the creation of a surrogacy register, an altruistic surrogacy register, where

those people who are willing to assist couples who need their support by being a surrogate may register themselves as a surrogate and make it easier for people seeking surrogacy to find a suitable surrogate.

Secondly, it imposes requirements on the commissioning parents to make sure that they cover the costs of medical expenses, counselling and other out-of-pocket expenses. In particular, the third aspect is making counselling for surrogates and their partners, whether that relationship is characterised as marital, de facto or domestic, both before the pregnancy and after the birth—and, I note, after the stillbirth if that is the case, unfortunately—available at no cost to them.

To be clear, we are not creating a new right. People in South Australia are currently able under the laws that were passed in 2009 to obtain surrogacy. This bill does create some administrative changes to how that altruistic surrogacy is able to take place, but it maintains the offence of commercial surrogacy, the 'commodification of children' as described by the member for Newland, or as he also said, 'another step down the road'. I am not sure that that is in fact what is taking place with this bill. I think this bill is a re-alignment of the current law, which makes it ever so slightly easier to have surrogacy take place in South Australia under suitable circumstances, but it provides protections for vulnerable women in other countries through the requirement of the prescribed international surrogacy agreements.

I think that this is a step forward for altruistic surrogacy in South Australia. It is a step forward for families in South Australia who are seeking to be able to experience the joy of raising a family through altruistic surrogacy, and I think that there are suitable restrictions on exploitation of the vulnerable. I urge all members to support the bill.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (10:55): I thank everyone for their support in the second reading. I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

NATIVE VEGETATION (ROAD VERGES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 18 June 2015.)

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel) (10:55): I am pleased to continue my contribution in relation to the bill the member for Morphett has brought to the house. From memory, I was making some observation and remarks in relation to the previous chief officer of the Country Fire Service, Mr Euan Ferguson, when he would come and speak to community meetings and provide briefings to us and others in relation to how best to prepare a property against the risk of a bushfire.

I was illustrating the fact that Mr Ferguson said that fuel of the diameter of a pencil or a pen is such that it catches on fire very easily. If an ember blow comes through or some fire comes through that smaller fuel catches first and then, obviously, the bigger items of fuel catch on fire and it goes from there. It has a snowballing effect, if I could use that as a description. It makes sense, and I said previously that this is a sensible approach and a reasonable proposition to mitigating the risk of bushfire damage and reducing the effect of a bushfire being able to spread across the landscape.

It therefore makes sense that, if you are able to reduce the fuel load in and around your own property, then, obviously, it makes sense to carry out that work further out into your rural holding, as the member for Morphett has. His wife owns a farm—a beautiful property, actually—down in Meadows. My wife and I own a few acres up in a different part of the Adelaide Hills. It makes sense to clean up your property and to collect that fuel and to dispose of it accordingly—build a big bonfire and burn it through the winter months.

It therefore makes sense that along the road lines, on the road corridors, the road verges you would carry out the same work. I know myself that immediately adjacent to our property, on the other side of the Paracombe Road, there is quite a number of gum trees growing and some old wattles that have died, but I have got on to the local council. This generally is a local government issue; it comes under local government jurisdiction.

I know the fire protection officer quite well in the Adelaide Hills Council, and I have contacted him and he has had some work carried out on a section of road adjacent to my property and my neighbour's property, because pretty much everybody who lives in the Adelaide Hills, as I have said on a number of occasions in this place, live in a very high fire risk area. It is one of the highest fire risk areas in the world actually, and I have said that before.

So the member for Morphett's bringing this bill to the house makes absolute sense because if you are able to clean up along your road verges it obviously reduces the risk of fire being able to spread across the landscape. Where you have heavy, dry, dense fuel on verges, it has been described to me as acting like a wick on a candle. If a fire comes through—and it might be burning several kilometres away, but if it is a day of strong winds we all know that the ember blow can blow those embers and start fires ahead of the actual firefront. So if you have these road verges of dense, dry material and high fuel loads it acts as a wick to start another fire, so you have fires leapfrogging in front of the actual firefront. We saw that in the Sampson Flat fire back at beginning of the year in January, and we have seen it right across the landscape on days of catastrophic conditions and severe, extreme conditions when fires do occur for one reason or another and start spreading across the landscape.

As I said, the member for Morphett brings a sensible approach and a reasonable proposition and he has shown me some photographs of how he has cleaned up along his verges. I have spoken to a number of CFS brigade captains and they are fully supportive of this proposition. So if the people on the ground, the volunteers on the ground who go out and attend these incidents and look to keep our communities safe and secure by putting these sometimes horrendous fires out, are supportive then surely we need to take notice of these people—the senior officers within the CFS volunteer brigades—because I know they have spoken to the member for Morphett and the same people have spoken to me. I think it is definitely worthy of support, so I commend the bill to the house.

I also want to talk about an issue that has been raised—and some people in the community will say, 'This just gives carte blanche to cut down beautiful, majestic eucalypt trees.' Well that is not the case at all; we're talking about the grasses, the fallen limbs and the branches that are lying on the ground. Nobody is talking about clear-felling avenues of gum trees down roads and so on, because when a fire comes through, it catches that fuel on the ground.

As the member for Morphett said, the actual flame height is usually three times the height of the fuel, so if you get a hot fire going in that heavy undergrowth on the verge it will catch up into the canopy of the trees, and then it is very difficult to manage when it is in the canopy in the trees. The only effective way to deal with that is through aerial firefighting water bombers, the aircraft that are used. As I said, nobody is talking about clear-felling great tracts of roadside or anything like that but it is a sensible, reasonable approach to this. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (11:04): I also rise today to support the bill to amend the Native Vegetation Act and I commend the member for Morphett, a good hardworking member in touch with his community, for once again bringing a bill of this nature to this place.

As we have heard, the bill will allow property owners to clean up their road verges in their area without having to go through the stifling red tape of applying to remove native vegetation and also the cumbersome state government and local government regulations as well. I think this is very much a common-sense bill. It is a common-sense bill to reduce red tape, which goes to the heart of common sense.

We have all, in recent times, been made aware of bushfires far too close to home. Deputy Speaker, you might say to me, 'Does Hartley have any of this bushfire zone?' and the answer to that is: it is right on the border. The north-eastern part of my electorate actually runs quite close to the Morialta Conservation Park. If you look at areas like Auldana, once again, that is very, very close to areas of dense native vegetation. Morialta Conservation Park is laden with dense vegetation and so

it is really important that we do consider these things, because they are very close to the city. At the moment, you will see in parts of Campbelltown Council and also Burnside Council that some areas actually have a low to moderate fire rating, even now in winter.

I would also like to pay tribute to the many voluntary organisations in my electorate who do a fantastic job fighting fires but also cleaning up in many emergency situations. I had the privilege earlier this year to actually visit the Campbelltown SES, a wonderful group of people. They are absolutely tireless. It is quite touching when you go there to see this sense of community, the sense of warmth and the fantastic job that they do putting their bodies on the line to make sure that they fight fires and get to these emergencies and make the community as safe as possible, and they go where others dare not.

We also have the wonderful Burnside CFS and Norton Summit CFS, and I would like to also congratulate and thank them for their ongoing support in putting out fires close to and around our area. The member for Morphett has, I note, consulted with many of these groups, and there is no real opposition, as far as I am aware, to the bill.

It is worth noting that there is definitely confusion that exists because of the current application process, which prevents people from doing, if you like, the right thing, as they have been too scared to clean up at the cost of worrying about whether they are doing the right thing. To me, that seems absolutely ridiculous. If we, as members of parliament, can cut through that red tape and make the community a safer place and they can get on with the business of actually looking after their local area—we have heard from many of the speakers before us that a lot of the time these embers could be prevented from flying through the air to create smaller bushfires when the main ones are starting. If we can create laws that cut through that red tape to allow the average farmer or property-owner in the country to clean up native vegetation to stop that outburst of fire continuing and growing, why wouldn't we do that?

I commend this bill. It is a common-sense bill by the member for Morphett. I congratulate him for bringing it to the house's attention, even in the face of adversity. He knows it is a good idea; he believes in it. Let's by all means have that battle of ideas and, if we need to tweak it, fine, but it would be foolish of the government to not support this bill. Why wouldn't we cut through the red tape that exists in fighting fires? Why wouldn't we do it? We need to help people. We need to give them the tools to fight these fires.

I acknowledge that there are groups out there that do a fantastic job; no-one is taking anything away from them and what they do and what they aim to do, but if we can make it a little bit easier, we can stop the doubt. Obviously, there are property owners out there who have doubts, who are worried to do certain things because they think they might be breaking the law when they remove this native vegetation. Let's make it easier for them. What is the downside in making it easier for them? Let's just make sure that they have no doubts so that they can go out, clear this vegetation if it poses a risk, and prevent fires because, like I said, it is not just about the country: a lot of the outskirts of the city are close to these areas.

As I mentioned, not much would have to go wrong in the dense bushland at the top of Morialta Conservation Park for that to really get into a residential area, and I do not want that to happen. That is why I will always stand here representing my area, making sure that we give emergency service volunteers the tools they need so they are equipped to fight these fires. Let us also do whatever it takes to enable homeowners, the property owners, to be reasonably equipped with the tools they need to fight fires in and around their areas. I commend the bill to the house.

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

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (COMMERCIAL OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 14 May 2015.)

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (11:10): It is a pleasure for me to wholeheartedly support the member for Hartley on the Controlled Substances (Commercial Offences) Amendment

Bill. As the member for Hartley has made very clear, this is a recommendation that has come from the Chief Justice and the other two justices of the Supreme Court. This happened well over a year ago and the government has had plenty of opportunity to act on this yet it has chosen not to, and I think it is outstanding that the member for Hartley, with care and interest in his own community, and South Australia more broadly, has brought this private member's bill forward. He is also legally trained, so he is the right type of person to understand all the implications of what he suggests and, of course, what he suggests is that a series of offences which cannot currently be jointly prosecuted as a recognised crime should be bundled together so that they can be.

The main purpose of that is because it may simplify the pursuit of some criminals, but it will also allow the ability for courts to impose greater sentences on people who are convicted of this law if this recommended change is implemented. I hope we would all be supportive of tougher penalties for people who are involved in the trafficking of drugs. I cannot imagine a member of parliament in any state who would not be supportive, whether it be Liberal, Labor, a minor party, or whoever. We do all want that. The member for Hartley is trying to be sensible and proactive to allow that to happen. As I say, he is proposing something that the court system itself has recommended, so I think that is very important.

I would be very disappointed were the government not to support the member for Hartley in this effort because he is doing what we would all want to do, which is to attack the illegal drug trade. I made an effort last year to try and do that, which the government did not support, and I was very disappointed in that. That was the drug diversion bill which would mean that people who were convicted of fairly minor possession offences could then request, of their own accord, to participate in drug diversion programs, so programs which would essentially re-educate them, and they could make that request as many times as they like.

I fully support people being allowed to improve themselves; essentially, to try and get themselves back on track when they have committed simple and minor offences. To be allowed to do that multiple times—in one case up to 32 times—and to be able to continually ask for one more chance I thought was crazy. I asked the government to limit that to two times, and on the third time they must face a magistrate. That magistrate could, if he or she wanted to, allow further access to drug diversion programs, but the government did not support that.

The member for Hartley is coming from a different angle. I was trying to play a part with regard to addressing essentially the customers of the drug trade; the member for Hartley, to his credit, is directly attacking the trade itself. I think that no opportunity to directly attack the trade itself in a responsible way should be forgone, so I support the member for Hartley, I support this amendment bill, and I hope that all members of this house will do the same.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 14 May 2015.)

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (11:16): The Freedom of Information (Offences) Amendment Bill will require stricter controls to be placed on the way that freedom of information applications are treated by government offices. As a member of the opposition, it is critically important because we believe that, where possible, information must be freely available to the people of South Australia.

As I recall, the last time I was discussing this I raised the report done by Thinker in Residence John McTernan, who came to South Australia from Scotland at the request of former premier Rann to do some work on the way that data and information could be freely presented to the South Australian people. It was ironic, I remember at the time, that at the conclusion of him doing that work it took about 18 months for it to be released to the public, and his six-figure fee for being a Thinker in Residence, justified through a release of a report to the public, at the conclusion of the work that he had done.

We had a number of Thinkers in Residence, but I think that John McTernan, as I understand and have been told, held the record for taking the longest to release his report advising on the free availability of data and information—which is somewhat ironic in itself. This bill, I have no doubt, would provide perhaps an example where John McTernan's report might have been sought under freedom of information. A bill like this, if it were in place, might have seen it released a lot earlier than it was because somebody might have been able to get it under freedom of information.

Of course, Mr McTernan went on to work for former prime minister Gillard and helped to free the Australian people from the situation of her government. More recently, he went on to help the Scottish Labour Party and, in the context of providing free information to all around, I believe the Scottish Labour Party now holds one seat. That is a fine body of work created by Mr McTernan and it all comes back to freedom of information and freedom of data; therefore, I support the bill.

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (11:19): I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words on this particular bill of the member for Hartley. Myself, along with many other members in this place, use freedom of information regularly to try to find out exactly what is going on around the place, whether that be in government departments, at the local government level or whatever. Indeed, in many cases it is a frustrating exercise.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before you keep going, member for Finniss, the table staff have informed me you have already spoken on this bill.

Mr PENGILLY: I don't mind going again.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. It is just one of those things; unfortunately, it is not going to be allowed to happen, so we are going to ask you to sit, which you have done, and recognise the member for Mitchell, who I believe has not spoken on the bill.

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (11:20): The confusion may have come around because this bill was introduced—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, according to our very efficient table staff, you have already spoken on this bill as well.

Mr WINGARD: Was that before parliament was prorogued or after?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think you want to get into an argument about it. If the table staff say you have spoken, you have spoken.

Mr WINGARD: No, I am genuinely asking the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can come and speak to them about it. It was 26 March, so it was not that long ago, and I would not be drawing attention to the fact that you do not remember. Perhaps we could get you some *Hansard* on it. Anybody else?

Mr Gardner: I understand it to be the member for Morialta's fault.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh well, you can take that up between yourselves. I am looking at the member for Newland.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland) (11:22): I rise to oppose the bill, and the government opposes the bill, for a number of reasons. The member for Hartley has come in here and he has explained why he has introduced the bill. He has talked about Mr Richard Bingham's audit: 'An audit of state government departments' implementation of the Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA)', which was released in May last year. There are a number of recommendations in that document. Recommendation 26 is apparently the one that has driven this bill.

The government has a number of concerns about it and I will talk about a couple of them in particular. Firstly, the government has not finished considering that report and is in fact in the process of formulating its response to that report. It would be better for that to happen first, in the government's view. The second thing is that the bill goes further than recommendation 26 requires, in that a prescribed officer must report the matter to the Office for Public Integrity. The commissioner must

then provide written notice of any report to the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly, which must then be laid before their respective houses.

The bill requires that a notice of a report made by a prescribed officer to the Office of Public Integrity be laid before both houses of parliament, without those reports first being investigated. Obviously that is a circumvention in some ways of the provisions of the act that set up the Office of Public Integrity, which said that investigations must be kept essentially secret until they are done and completed and that has gone through. This bill is going around that, which is a bad thing in my view and in the government's view, more importantly in this particular case, seeing as it is not a conscience vote.

I would like to remind the house of a little bit of history, because it is interesting that it is the Liberal Party that brought in widening of the Freedom of Information Act. In my experience as a minister and also as a member of the house, there is a greater flow of information through freedom of information than there ever has been. When I was a minister there were regularly reports coming up to me of what was being sent, which is fine, and we never got in the way of that. We did not make an attempt to stop it. There were reams and reams and reams of paper, and quite a lot of time was taken up by the department sending this information out.

I suspect that a large chunk of it sits in offices in this building and does not even get read. I think it just gets asked for. I suspect a lot of it is fairly routine, and, to be honest, a large part of what was originally being regularly requested is now going up on websites—office expenses, travel details, all of those sorts of things—

Mr Knoll: Overseas travel.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: Even overseas travel. It all goes up on the websites; ministerial offices put them up all the time. All of the information that perhaps the member for Schubert may have requested once through freedom of information is now available on websites where he can happily look them up to his heart's content. He spends a lot of time on the web during question time; he can look up all that information as he chooses to do so.

I would like to remind members of a time not so long ago, around 2002, during the formation of the government. Members might recall at the time that it was a minority government, and the then member for Hammond (Mr Lewis), who eventually became the Speaker, was considering his options about which party he would support: whether he would support the Liberal Party, where he had come from, or whether he would chose to support the Labor Party. As people know, he chose to support the Labor Party, Mike Rann became premier, and it turned out reasonably well for all concerned, at least on this side of the house.

The Hon. P. Caica: Yes, very well; and has ever since.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: That's true. But, at the time, as part of those negotiations, the member for Hammond put forward to both parties the same document, and a large chunk of that revolved around freedom of information. People with long memories will remember that during the unhappy period between 1993 and 2002, when there was a Liberal government, it was very difficult to get information out of the government. Freedom of information requests were regularly held up.

As part of that compact for good government that the member for Hammond was introducing, he put it to both parties that there should be a reform of the Freedom of Information Act. It was something that we on this side of the house accepted, and, when we subsequently got into government, enacted. That is why it is so easy for those on that side of the house to actually get information that they request under freedom of information. We, as the Labor Party and the government at the time, put through those reforms that were needed to open that up.

Often, copies of documents that went to the Liberal Party arrived in in the Labor Party at a later date. When one copy of that agreement that was negotiated between the Liberal Party and the then member for Hammond, it was really interesting, because a lot of them involved things around freedom of information. You will note clause after clause promoting open and accountable government was crossed out. Points 1 and 2 were crossed out and initialled. 'Rebuild freedom of information legislation to give full and proper access to government documents' was crossed out and not agreed to by the Liberal Party, initialled by Rob Kerin and Dean Brown.

Points on 'reducing the restriction on access to documents on the grounds of cabinet confidentiality' has been crossed out; 'removing restrictions based on commercial confidentiality', crossed out; 'removing obstructions, such as excessive cross-claims and appeals against documents', all crossed out. These are all things the Liberal Party never agreed to, and this was when they were negotiating to get back into government.

The commitment of the Liberal Party to freedom of information is somewhat obscure, in my view. I am looking forward to seeing more of the hypocrisy of the Liberal Party at some point in the future, but, for now, the government is very happy to oppose this somewhat ridiculous bill as it comes to the house.

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (11:28): It is very disappointing that this government, after 13 years, cannot handle the truth. They cannot handle the truth, Deputy Speaker. They are afraid of truth, and they are afraid of transparency. We have had a report given by an independent ombudsman—May 2014. How much time do you need? What is the Attorney doing? I know what he is doing: the Attorney is writing poor dad jokes; that is what he is doing. Instead of writing poor dad jokes, he should be looking at the report of the Ombudsman.

If the Attorney looked at that report, he would see that there are a number of recommendations. He needs to get off his backside and put these recommendations into law, because this is a farce. The government is a farce; they cannot handle the truth. There are sensible recommendations, and they should put them into law and show the people of South Australia that they have nothing to hide.

I thank the speakers and all those who were consulted in the process, and, of course, the drafters of the bill as well. I commend the bill to the house.

The house divided on the second reading:

Ayes 16
Noes 19
Majority 3

AYES

Bell, T.S.	Gardner, J.A.W. (teller)	Goldsworthy, R.M.
Griffiths, S.P.	Knoll, S.K.	McFetridge, D.
Pederick, A.S.	Pengilly, M.R.	Redmond, I.M.
Sanderson, R.	Speirs, D.	Tarzia, V.A.
Treloar, P.A.	van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.	Whetstone, T.J.
Wingard, C.		

NOES

Bedford, F.E.	Brock, G.G.	Caica, P.
Close, S.E.	Cook, N.	Digance, A.F.C.
Gee, J.P.	Hamilton-Smith, M.L.J.	Hildyard, K.
Hughes, E.J.	Kenyon, T.R. (teller)	Key, S.W.
Koutsantonis, A.	Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K.
Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.	Rau, J.R.
Wortley, D.		

PAIRS

Chapman, V.A.	Vlahos, L.A.	Duluk, S.
Rankine, J.M.	Marshall, S.S.	Weatherill, J.W.
Pisoni, D.G.	Snelling, J.J.	Williams, M.R.
Bignell, L.W.K.		

Second reading thus negatived.

Motions

SOUTHERN EXPRESSWAY

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (11:35): I move:

That this house—

- (a) congratulates the government on the completion of the two-way Southern Expressway project, allowing nonstop two-way travel between Old Noarlunga and Darlington;
- (b) notes the benefits of this project for commuters, businesses and tourism in the southern suburbs; and
- (c) agrees that the state should never again make the embarrassing and costly mistake of constructing a one-way reversible freeway.

I am very proud to move this motion before the house today. I start off by congratulating all who were involved in the construction and completion of the duplication of the expressway, which is very important not only to people in my electorate but everybody in the southern suburbs, as well as people across the state who like to come to our beautiful region.

As members would know, this was a \$407.5 million project. It was delivered on time and on budget and was funded exclusively by the South Australian government. Tomorrow we will celebrate 11 months since the two-way expressway was opened. We had the Premier and the Minister for Transport there. The member for Reynell and I were there at Old Noarlunga to officially remove the closing boom gate that prevented people from accessing that side and forever stopping it being a one-way road. It has been a magnificent change for people in the south. Previously you would have to calculate in your head what time it was versus which way you needed to travel. No longer—you just head straight for the expressway.

What did this project include? It was 18.5 kilometres, two lanes from Old Noarlunga to Reynella, and then four new lanes from Reynella to Darlington, and the new track was built as members would know on the western side towards the city and the old track on the eastern side is now what takes you down to the south.

It was a particularly complex project, given the need to keep the road running during peak hours and the major part of the construction was the demolition and extension of 12 road bridges along the length of the expressway and five pedestrian bridges, which as you could imagine is quite difficult to keep a bridge upright while you are extending it at the same time and removing all the earthworks associated with that. Everybody did a fantastic job to make that happen. In addition, there were a number of bridges that formed part of the expressway itself such as the Smith Creek Bridge at Reynella, which is incidentally South Australia's tallest bridge, that we have over the expressway.

Some of the statistics are incredible: 250 tonnes of explosives were used to blast away hillsides and rocks, 200,000 tonnes of asphalt were used, and 1,400 tonnes of steel were used for the bridges and retaining walls. There is now also a shared use recreation path on the western side of the expressway, in addition to the sealed veloway on the eastern side of the expressway which now gives more options to pedestrians and cyclists.

I particularly thank everybody who was involved in the project. Firstly, the ministers for transport that we had over that time period—initially, the former member for Elder, Pat Conlon; then the current Treasurer; and now the current Minister for Transport and Infrastructure—who have all been fantastic in their support for this project. I congratulate the Minister for Agriculture, who lobbied very hard for this project in the lead-up to the 2010 election (it formed part of our election promises then), and also my predecessor as the member for Kaurna, John Hill.

I congratulate the construction team, which was led by Lend Lease. They worked hand in hand with the DPTI project team, which was led by Lou George, and they worked very closely together. There was significant public information sharing about the project. They were very responsive to issues that arose for local residents. They held a number of community days for the general public to find out about it and through their tireless work they managed to keep the expressway open during those peak traffic times, right through the construction period.

I congratulate the 1,870 workers who worked tirelessly to see the project completed, and I thank all of them. Remarkably, 90 per cent of those workers were from this state and 58 per cent of them were from the southern suburbs. There was also significant focus on employing Indigenous workers, with 3½ per cent of the workers being Indigenous, 8 per cent were trainees and apprentices and local workers from the south with barriers to employment represented 19 per cent of the workers on the project.

I thank commuters for their patience during the construction period, particularly since the expressway and the train line were under construction at the same time. There was significant disruption and, understandably, some frustration for commuters, but I think everybody agrees that the outcome has been fantastic. I also thank all of those people who live near the expressway, particularly in the member for Reynell's seat as well as the members for Mawson and Mitchell's seat, who were tolerant of the disruption that occurred adjacent to their properties.

What are the benefits of this expressway? Firstly for business, there is better access for commercial traffic to the south's industrial areas and facilities, which helps attract businesses to the south. There is better access for residents of the south to employment, education and community facilities, both in getting to the south but also in getting to the city. It is helping our tourism industry because it has reduced travel times to the southern tourist regions, such as the beautiful McLaren Vale wine region—

The Hon. P. Caica: Forty minutes from my house.

Mr PICTON: That is right, 40 minutes from the member for Colton's house—the southern coastline, the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island, and we on this side of the house are very supportive of Kangaroo Island as a tourist destination. It helps in terms of emergency services and reduced travel times for emergency services. It improves road safety because we know that roads that are built properly, like the Southern Expressway, are much safer for motorists. It also helped employment, employing thousands of people, with that large percentage from the southern suburbs, during that time after the GFC when employment was very much needed. The last part of my motion, which in my view is the most important, is that this state should never again—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Could I just ask the member for Kaurana to wait while I ask the members for Chaffey and Colton to take their discussion outside or to desist.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I would like you to stop the discussion or take it outside. Member for Kaurana.

Mr Pengilly interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: And the member for Finniss can keep his thoughts to himself, please.

Mr PICTON: That would be a first.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask myself what Speaker Bishop would do in a case like this—

Mr Pengilly: You're not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: —and I hear audible laughter but I am not Speaker Bishop, you are quite right, but I would ask members to observe standing order 142 and listen, as I am, to the member for Kaurana in silence.

Mr Duluk: She would remove more Labor members.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will be called to order if you keep on being cheeky.

Mr PICTON: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and I think you should reflect more upon the rulings of Speaker Bishop.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I think you should continue with your debate, thank you.

Mr PICTON: The last part of my motion, which I view as the most important, is that this state should never again make the embarrassing and costly mistake of constructing a one-way reversible freeway. I would like this house to make a statement that we ban one-way reversible freeways for evermore in this state. As members would know, up until this project that this government embarked on the expressway was a one-way reversible road; in fact, the only one in the entire world.

On weekdays it opened northbound from 2am to 12.30pm and southbound from 2pm to 12.30am, with the reverse on weekends. So, for three hours every day the expressway was totally closed to all traffic, which equalled the equivalent of over six weeks every year that the road was closed. It also meant that for 13½ hours a day the expressway was not open for traffic either northbound or southbound, depending upon which way you wanted to go, and that is the equivalent of 29 weeks of the year that you could not go in a particular direction. So it is no wonder that the community, the tourists, and in particular business, regarded this as a road that never seemed to be open the way you needed to travel, and which sent thousands of cars on to busy Main South Road or rat-running via Majors Road, delaying travel by over 10 minutes.

Everybody knew this. You just have to look at quotes from as far back as 2002, when Peter Goers, in his *Sunday Mail* column, said:

The Southern Expressway confounds me. It's always closed when I need it. It is the only reversible freeway in the world. We were so relieved to get it we failed to notice it was one-way.

This was a fundamentally embarrassing road that was constructed by the former Liberal government. It became a point of ridicule for our state and, in particular, a point of ridicule for the southern suburbs, which was particularly embarrassing. We had commentators—who I do not often quote—such as Michael Owen from *The Australian*, saying, in February 2010, that it was 'a national laughing stock,' and I could not agree more. Rex Jory from *The Advertiser* said, 'It's only redeeming feature is that no other transport planners in the world would consider building it.'

So while it was helpful for the group of commuters who had to travel into the city in the morning and home to the southern suburbs at night, for everyone with a more variable time when they needed to travel, a one-way freeway was completely impractical. In particular, I think it was very bad for businesses in the south. They could not give one set of directions to people on how to get to their business, trucks and deliveries were delayed by having to go down Main South Road instead of on the expressway. It basically became a point of difference and disadvantage for the south, as opposed to other areas in the city, as a place to do business.

As I mentioned earlier, it was a big problem for tourism. You could not give directions to tourists on how to get to the south; it became a much more complicated area to get to for McLaren Vale, Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu. It was always the road that seemed to be going the wrong way.

In addition to all that, it was also a fundamental waste of money for this state to build a one-way only road. The problem was that the people who built it, the former Liberal government, did not think that one day we might need a two-way road; they wanted a one-way road and they were so proud of this one-way road that they thought one-way roads would start popping up all around the world. People would see this vision and would want to copy it. Back when it was originally completed it would have only cost some \$73 million extra to build a two-way road instead of a one-way road. As we know, to go back and do it later, to do all the difficult work that we had to do to bridges, cost \$407.3 million.

Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kavel is not in his seat, and even if he were he would be out of order.

Mr PICTON: That is some \$330 million more that we have had to spend than if the work had been done to begin with. Just look at people like Dean Jeansch, who said, 'One would think adding a lane or two at the time of construction would be cheaper than doing it all again,' and I could not agree more. An editorial in *The Advertiser* said, in 2003, this was 'a myopic vision—a failed attempt to provide essential infrastructure on the cheap.' I think that sums it up: we got the cheap

option in the southern suburbs. We were let down by the former Liberal government; we should have had a proper road leading to the south, not a cheap solution.

Even if you were going to build a one-way road you could have spent a little bit more money to build proper bridges that would have enabled a two-way road to be built in the future for a much cheaper price. I have seen figures quoted of about \$20 million, that is what it would have been back in the 1990s, to extend the bridges just a little bit more when they were originally constructed, to ensure that a second road could have been built in the future for a much cheaper price. Instead we have had to go back and rebuild all those bridges, which has been a significant expense. It would have saved a huge percentage of the cost that this state has now had to absorb.

As we know, those wider bridges did not happen. That is because the Liberal government took the position then that they thought an additional track of expressway was not needed in the future. They were proud of that one-way road. They thought these would pop up all over the world. Well, on this side of the house we think exactly the opposite: we believe that business in the south has a bright future, that it is not just commuter suburbs, that people need to get back and forth to the south at all times. We also want to encourage tourists to go to the south, and they are not going to be following a commuter pattern back and forth.

I believe that we should now make a statement in this house today that we will no longer be building one-way roads. I ask the house to endorse that all roads built in the future should have two ways that you can travel on them. I know this is a remarkable proposition, but two-way roads is what I think we should do, and this is what this government has been doing.

We have been investing significantly in infrastructure since we were elected in 2002. We have built the Northern Expressway, the Port River Expressway and the South Road Superway. We are about to build the Torrens to Torrens project and the Darlington project, and all of those will be two-ways. You will be able to go both ways on all of those roads.

I expect some opposition to this motion from members opposite, but I ask them the question: if they do not support this motion, are they saying that they will be building one-way roads in the future? I ask them to outline where those one-way roads will be built to and what suburbs will have to have the embarrassing future of only being able to go one way to or from their suburbs. I think they should be honest about that in the lead-up to the next election, if they oppose this motion.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I ask the member to speak, I would like to acknowledge the presence today in the gallery of a group from the Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia organisation, who are guests of the members for Unley and Taylor. We hope they enjoy their time with us in parliament today and thank them for their presence. The member for Schubert.

Motions

SOUTHERN EXPRESSWAY

Debate resumed.

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (11:51): I rise to discuss this motion which the member for Kaurna has brought twice to this house. Certainly, the comments that he made in relation to parts (a) and (b) make sense, but part (c) is where I take huge issue. Part (c), can I say, shows the ignorance of the member for Kaurna on this issue.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr KNOLL: I would like to take my time on this motion to remind the house of the history of this piece of infrastructure, so that we can recognise the facts in their entirety, because I can tell you, Deputy Speaker—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I just ask you to sit down? We have guests in the gallery, and I know you are going to start respecting standing order 142 as we go into this debate and listen to the member for Schubert in silence. Member for Schubert.

Mr KNOLL: Those who are ignorant of history are doomed to repeat it, and I think that is why it is important in my time over this contribution today—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr KNOLL: I listened in silence to the diatribe from the members opposite. This issue dates as far back as the Metropolitan Adelaide Transport Study which was published in 1968. The plan made provision for a third arterial road through the south called the Noarlunga freeway. Indeed, land was bought by the government of the day for that very purpose, then we came along into the Dunstan decade and I ask you: did the road get built during the Dunstan decade? The answer is no. After that, what happened? The land was sold off. The Labor government believed in the project so much that they sold off the land that was there for the third arterial road.

We then move onto the 1980s when the Bannon government went to at least two elections promising to build a third arterial road down in the south. Did it get built? No, it did not get built. It is an absolute disgrace that they can sit here in this place at this time and suggest that this is some great Labor initiative when the truth is it should have been done 30 years ago.

Then, there is a little thing that came along called the State Bank collapse—a little thing called the State Bank collapse—and this is where I find part (c) of this motion so galling. I would like to read from a book. I was doing a little bit of reading on the State Bank collapse, and this may remind the member for Kaurua of things that happened at that time. I quote:

...on a quiet Sunday afternoon on 10 February 1991, Premier Bannon announced that the taxpayers would have to rescue the SBSA. The initial indemnity was \$970 million, rising eventually to \$3 billion. When the government bailed out the bank it set in place an inquiry, headed by the Auditor-General Ken MacPherson, who, under the State Bank Act, was charged with the responsibility of investigating the causes of the debts. This inquiry was to be conducted in private and to report to the parliament. However, under pressure from the opposition and the media, Premier Bannon was obliged to hold a Royal Commission into the bank...The Royal Commission was held in the public (the media's) gaze, headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Samuel Jacobs, whose terms of reference were basically set at examining relations between the SBSA and the government.

Justice Jacobs constructed his inquiry as a 'whodunit', and found Premier Bannon guilty of not controlling the bank's irresponsible growth and therefore considered that the Premier was legally responsible for the losses. Expressed in the terms used by Commissioner Jacobs it was Premier Bannon 'whodunit' because he should have exercised more control over the SBSA and concomitantly should have intervened less in the SBSA on political issues, such as interest rates at election time.

That little piece of history will stand the test of time and we on this side of the chamber will remind the government of their little slip-up that is the State Bank disaster on as often a basis as we need to.

Then what happens? Quite obviously, the Liberals got elected at the next election. In the shadow of this was an attempt to get on and build an expressway that had received no support from the Keating government. Currently we hear about the standard funding ratios for projects such as major road projects and, indeed, the Abbott government has committed a lot of money to co-investing in road projects in South Australia, but this was not the case back then.

To summarise, we have a situation where the road has been promised for generations and never delivered. A new Liberal government is elected with \$3.5 billion worth of core debt from the bank and another \$1.5 billion worth of associated debt associated with the bank's collapse. We have a hostile Keating government unwilling to contribute and a Liberal government that was intent on delivering for South Australia and delivering on their promises. So what do you do? You build the road that you can afford. You build a road that preserves the corridor to ensure that when the money is available, you can duplicate the road.

The only reason that the member for Kaurua was able to stand up in this place is that the Liberal government had the foresight to make sure that the corridor was preserved. You listen to the road studies that tell you that it would handle traffic to 2025. So when the member for Kaurua wants

to lay blame for this embarrassing and costly mistake of constructing a one-way reversible freeway, then he should look no further than his own party and save the parliament from his sanctimonious and self-righteous approach that ignores the history and his party's atrocious place in it.

If you want to talk about what is the most embarrassing and costly mistake in South Australia's history, it is not the one-way Southern Expressway: it is the collapse of the State Bank and the Labor government's role in it, and those on the opposite side should stand condemned for this issue for all time.

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (11:56): I rise to wholeheartedly support the member for Kaurna's motion. I would like to thank and congratulate the member for Kaurna on this motion which is about an issue of utmost importance to the fabulous people in my electorate of Reynell and to the very good people of Kaurna, Mawson, Mitchell, Fisher, Hammond and Finniss, and also to the many visitors to our beautiful state, particularly to our stunning southern vales region and the Fleurieu Peninsula.

In the time this motion has taken to come to the house the expressway has been open, not embarrassingly one-way but two, for some time. In some ways I think it is actually very fortunate that we can speak about the expressway today because today we can let everyone in this place know about the few nights following the opening of the two-way duplicated expressway that many local residents spent driving up and down the expressway cheering and, in many cases, making a night of celebrating what they should have always been able to do and that is travel both ways, down the road, at any time, day or night.

For more than a decade, these residents suffered from the lack of vision of those opposite, but on that night they were unshackled from this lack of vision and celebrated long and hard as they drove up and down the expressway. They were cheering as they were coming past when we took down that barrier. They were very happy to be finally, after more than a decade, able to go up and down the road, both ways, any time, day or night.

Today we can also let everyone here know about the excellent employment and contracting opportunities that were opened up for our local people through the duplication process. As the member for Kaurna has already mentioned, 90 per cent of jobs created from the duplication process went to South Australians and 58 per cent of the jobs to local southern residents, and on every target in relation to employing young people and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people we exceeded those targets.

It is also great to speak today about the two-way expressway because we can inform all of the members here about the difference that the duplicated Southern Expressway makes to the lives of many community members in Reynell and our broader southern community. Our commute times in and out of the city are down, confidence is up and, as someone who regularly needs to travel between the south and the CBD, sometimes several times in a single day, I can assure you that being able to travel on it any time, day or night, in either direction, makes all the difference and sees valuable time saved.

This investment for our southern community is such an important part of our future prosperity, properly connecting the south to the CBD and inner suburbs and beyond, improves travel times for business operators and increases opportunities for southern young people to travel more quickly to employment, study (particularly at Flinders University) and other pursuits beyond the south. Making it easier and more streamline for people not from the south to come and experience our beautiful beaches, wine regions and community is so important for our local people, for local business and for our growing food and tourism industries. Everyone in the south wants to show off our beautiful southern regions, and we are so glad that this duplicated Southern Expressway enables us to do this.

It is also very nice not to have the embarrassment of an expressway—an expressway—that only goes one way. Thankfully we have rectified this international disgrace and embarrassment, and we have also made a significant investment in the health and wellbeing of our southern community. As was said by the member for Kaurna, thank you very much for to our current and former ministers for transport, to the extraordinary duplication project team, led by Lou George, and for everybody—every worker, every contractor—who was involved in this extraordinary project.

As I said in my speech on the Appropriation Bill on Tuesday night: I love South Australia, I love our southern community, and this is a fantastic achievement—one that we should never have had to make—and we no longer have to be embarrassed in the south, and we can celebrate this duplication and all that it brings. I expect that some members opposite may be just about to talk down the expressway. I do not understand that, I do not understand the negativity. I thank the member for Kaurna for this motion and thank every worker, every member of the project team who finally took away that embarrassment and created this duplication for us that works so well for our southern community.

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (12:02): I rise to speak on this motion and note that it is the second incarnation for the member for Kaurna to get this up. In fact he withdrew it from the *Notice Paper* (or it was not moved) before parliament was prorogued, because it was not finished, because it was quite unusual. It was opened a handful of times before it was completed.

Mr Whetstone: How many times?

Mr WINGARD: At least a handful of times it opened and it was not actually complete at the time. I am glad the road has been duplicated. I am led to believe it was promised at the 2002 election and the 2006 election by the Liberal Party, and then the plan was stolen in 2010 by the Labor Party, so it is great to see them following suit. I really admired the revision of history that was outlined by the member for Schubert, and the articulate way he described the set-up around this freeway and maintaining of the land for the corridor, and also of course the point about the State Bank collapse, which was very much beholden to the Labor Party. They might want to groan and moan about the State Bank collapse, but that is their history and they must take ownership of this.

It is interesting also to have the member for Kaurna raise this issue, and I know that it is very beneficial for his suburb and the suburbs deep in the south of Adelaide, but it runs through the heart of my electorate, through Sheidow Park and Trott Park. It was interesting that in the revised plans the government did not put an on/off ramp for Sheidow Park and Trott Park. It was very disappointing to have this corridor go right through their heartland and they were ignored from this end. He was happy to look after his own patch, but really did ignore a couple of other suburbs going through there.

Likewise, at Reynella: we heard the member for Reynell talk about the availability and the beauty of this new Southern Expressway, but not make mention of the fact that you actually cannot get on at Reynella to go south on the Southern Expressway. You can go to the north, you cannot go to the south. If you are coming from the south you actually cannot get off at Reynella as well, which is a bit of a bugbear for people who live in that area and for constituents of mine. I also know that it causes immense frustration for people living in Happy Valley and the areas around there, and that would be a bugbear for the member for Fisher as well, no doubt.

The member for Kaurna also talked about businesses in the south, and how this road benefits them, and I am sure it does, but he has again ignored other parts of Adelaide, and I find this a little bit disheartening to not look at this as a whole. A mate of mine from Noarlunga took the Southern Expressway to come to Darlington to hire some works from a business on the corner of Seacombe Road and South Road. He actually had to go right down to the end of the freeway—because, as I said, he could not get off at Reynella to get down South Road—get off and come back up Sturt Road, up Marion Road and then along Diagonal Road to get to the corner of Seacombe Road to hire the equipment that he needed.

If you have a look on a map, it is actually very long and convoluted and it makes it very hard for businesses in that precinct. Then, to get back onto the Southern Expressway, he had to do the loop all over again. He worked out that, in fact, it was better just to take South Road to get where he needed to go and not take the expressway at all.

I commend the Minister for Transport on one point. We are always looking for positives, as the member for Reynell says, despite the fact that she just found many negatives in her speech a few moments ago. When I was first elected, quite a number of constituents who had this piece of infrastructure run right through their backyards came to me. They had put up with a lot of inconvenience while it was being done. A lot of the promises that were made to them during this project were not delivered. In fact, the noise wall and the associated works that had to be done

around this project were not complete. It was the first thing people were knocking on my door about; in fact, they were coming to me raising this issue before I had actually been elected.

There were a number of people who all had issues with this—Dianne Vivian, Ryan Harding, Bianca Robson, Adrien Van Der Wegan, Emma Watts, Michael Van Dyk, Robyn Smalldon, Tracy Gniel, Jenny Morton-John, Brian and Pamela Williams, Val and Malcolm Earl, Richard Davison, Marilyn and Geoff Linn, Andrew Scheer, John Edyvean, Bev Ellis and Beverly Rowady. They were just a few of the people who came to me, talking about this issue.

You will see the rusted iron walls, as you drive down the Southern Expressway, which were overlooking these people's backyards. They were promised a whole lot of finishings that did not come to fruition—a lot of planting and other accessories that were supposed to make the project complete, and, sadly, they were not delivered.

We had to make a bit of noise. We got the minister's staff along and, again, I will commend him for listening and taking our calls. We have had to go through quite a bit of pain to get moving forward on this, but we are getting somewhere and, hopefully, we can get this finished. I do make the point, too, that the member for Kurna has said in his motion that it is finished: there are still some elements, I have to point out to him, that are not finished.

I am sure it is probably fine down at his end of the electorate, but not across the whole electorate, so we are still working, and we will keep working, for the residents of my electorate to get this finished. We do not want to just get partway through the project, wash our hands of it, not follow up our commitments and walk away. It would not be right for the government to do that and we will not let the government do that, so we will keep working on that.

Those are a few points that I think the member for Kurna must take into account. I do commend the member for Schubert once more for his narration of the history of this project, and I recommend that everyone read it to see exactly how we got into this situation, as far as the Southern Expressway is concerned.

Ms COOK (Fisher) (12:08): I rise to support the motion from the member for Kurna and to speak alongside my friend the member for Reynell and represent our community very strongly. I thank the government for continuing with determination the project of duplicating the Southern Expressway.

I am probably one of the most qualified people in this house to speak on the area of 5162, as it has been my home for my whole life. I have lived in that area for 46 years and have used the Southern Expressway in both its one-way and its duplicated forms. I can tell you that I heard the audible screams of delight when the Southern Expressway was opened, and I know that the members for Mitchell and Bright would also appreciate that humour.

I am really proud of the Southern Vales as a tourist destination and a centre of industry, and I am very proud to see how much it is growing in terms of its capacity to deliver on its agriculture, wine and general tourism industries. I have spent much time during my life travelling down through the Southern Vales and cannot tell you enough how happy I am that people can easily access that area now via the Southern Expressway, which is now a road for everybody. It is used in both directions by people coming from all areas and it is not now in fact just a road for one set of people. It is an incredible piece of transport infrastructure.

I remember using the Southern Expressway as a one-way road on the very first day that it was opened, on my journey to work. It reduced my travel time by 15 or 16 minutes when it was opened as the one-way expressway, but it was with great disappointment as I travelled home from night shift at a hospital that I experienced the same terrible delays that I had always experienced, when it was not available for me to use on my return trip home.

With great celebration, when it was opened last year, using the Southern Expressway on my journey home from a night shift, I reduced my travel time. That in fact actually leads to increased road safety, because travelling home after a night shift is one of the most frightening experiences you will encounter as a road user, possibly not just for the driver but for other people around them, unfortunately.

The Southern Expressway was not around for the southern people on the weekend, as it was used in the reverse direction. When people from the south who worked in the city used to want to travel north on the weekends, they still had to use the other road, because the Southern Expressway had been flipped around, in acknowledgement, I believe, of the incredible value of tourism in the south.

The duplication itself has been a sight to behold and the pleasure of many children and families to watch over the last few years. I just want to again express the numbers that the member for Kaurna expressed, that if it had been built as a dual expressway right at the beginning, the cost would have been \$73 million, but in the end the duplication has now cost the taxpayers of South Australia \$407 million, on a piece of infrastructure that was absolutely essential.

This was a mistake not to be repeated when this state government built our sensational desalination plant, which I visited only two weeks ago. We should all celebrate with great gusto that the desalination plant is not in mothballs; I could not find one mothball anywhere. It had some very dedicated workers, and in fact it had some extraordinary people who have taken on the role of running this scientifically excellent plant from Spain. It meets incredible world standards and can actually produce half of Adelaide's water supply, using only about 30 workers on site. I just find it really incredible and am thankful that we built it to the size that we did and we are not going to face the same problem as duplication.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Marshall interjecting:

Ms COOK: You would not want to get kicked out two days in a row.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The leader is called to order.

Ms COOK: I'm sorry, I lost my concentration when the opposition leader was shouting at me, but I will go back and say that I really enjoyed—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms COOK: —my tour around the desalination plant and I am very grateful that we are not going to face the difficulties of having to increase the size of that down the track. It would cost us many millions of dollars more than what it in fact has cost us to build it once. I remember what it was like to be in drought, as do all my colleagues, and I am sure the colleagues opposite remember. I am sorry, but I am sure that we are going to have to use it in the very near future.

Yes, the people of Fisher do enjoy the use of the Southern Expressway, but not so many from Happy Valley. A lot of people are very grateful for the way it is. I consult with them daily when I am in my electorate around many transport issues, and they all do really enjoy the use of the expressway. I will continue to express any feedback that I get from them to the transport minister.

Recently, the people of Fisher have received some excellent news in terms of the revised Darlington project, which has come about as a result of consultation from people in my area and those of the members for Reynell and Kaurna, and also of the Minister for Tourism representing Mawson. We have all expressed to the transport minister what is needed in terms of their capacity to travel to city workplaces, etc., and I was very pleased, on behalf of my constituents, when the transport minister announced the changes to the Darlington project whereby constituents who use Flagstaff Road and South Road, through to Darlington, can access that non-stop Darlington connector.

That is what lobbying and discussion can do in terms of transport corridors. In fact, that is what has happened with the Southern Expressway duplication, and I thank the member for Kaurna for bringing this motion before the house and I commend it.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Speirs.

MEMORIES OF LEMNOS

Mr PISONI (Unley) (12:16): I move:

That this house—

- (a) congratulates the Organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia (SA) for its efforts to commemorate the centenary of ANZAC with the Memories of Lemnos and the Australian nurses and the ANZAC centenary ceremony on Sunday 19 April at Keswick Barracks;
- (b) recognises the service given by Australian nurses on the Greek island of Lemnos during the Gallipoli landing;
- (c) recognises Greece for supporting Australia's war effort through its support for Australian nurses stationed at military hospitals based on Lemnos island during the Gallipoli campaign; and
- (d) considers a permanent memorial specifically commemorating the Australian women who served as nurses on Lemnos island be incorporated in the soon to be constructed Anzac Walk.

In supporting the motion I would like to give some background about the history of Lemnos island and the close connections that Greece has always had with Australia and some of the early work that we did together in fighting for the freedom that we enjoy today.

Lemnos island is located about 80 kilometres from the entrance of the Dardanelles Strait, so it became the main assembly point for the allied troops' Gallipoli invasion force. Australian troops first encountered the Greek population on Lemnos when they landed en route to Gallipoli on 4 March 1915.

The Greek government at that time was led by prime minister Veni-zelos who offered the island as a naval base along with three divisions of Greek troops to help the allied campaign to capture the Gallipoli peninsula. Lemnos played a major role in the nine month Gallipoli campaign as a key transit point for troops, housing large hospitals and convalescent and rest camps. More than 3,000 Australian nurses volunteered for active service in the First World War.

The Australian Army Nursing Service had been formed in July 1903 as part of the Australian Army Medical Corps. During the war more than 2,000 of its members served overseas alongside Australian nurses working with other organisations, such as Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Red Cross and privately sponsored facilities.

The 3rd Australian General Hospital, AIF, was set up in response to a request from the British War Office by Thomas Henry Fiaschi, a well-known Italian surgeon. Fiaschi had had a distinguished career as a military surgeon serving with Australian forces during the Boer War where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and he was appointed the commanding officer of the 3rd Australian General Hospital.

On 15 May 1915 the new unit sailed from Circular Quay, Sydney, on the *Mooltan*, just one month after its formation had been requested. On board were a number of Australian Army Nursing Service nurses, including Matron Grace Wilson who would go on to lead the 3rd Australian General Hospital at West Mudros. It should be noted that her brother Lance Corporal Graeme Wilson of the 2nd Australian Light Horsemen would be killed on the peninsula before she arrived on Lemnos island.

The *Mooltan* arrived in Plymouth, England, on 27 June and the unit travelled to London. There, preparations were made for their service in France at Etaples; however, on 1 July the 3rd Australian General Hospital received orders to proceed to West Mudros on the island of Lemnos in the Aegean Sea near Gallipoli. They were advised that the site had been selected for the tent hospital and that they would be provided with huts about six weeks after their arrival in Mudros.

The days before embarkation were spent in organisation. Both the Australian Red Cross and benefactors in Australia had assisted with equipment and donations for the hospital. All of these, as well as further purchases made in London, including a small laundry plant, had to be loaded on the supply ship *Ascot*. On 12 July, Colonel Fiaschi and most of the male personnel embarked on the transport *Simla* at Devonport. The men arrived at Mudros on 27 and 28 July before the arrival of the *Ascot*.

The nurses, who had remained in London, embarked in two groups six days after the men. Sailing on the *Themistocles* and the *Huntsgren*, they disembarked at Alexandria on 30 July and

1 August. Those who arrived first were distributed between other Australian hospitals pending their boarding for Lemnos. The tents and equipment was delayed for three weeks, water was in short supply and there was no sanitation.

On 7 August, after lots of hard work, the hospital site was pegged out and some marquees that had been found in a small store were erected. At about 7pm on 8 August, 40 of the nurses were landed and, accompanied by a piper, were marched to their new tents. The remainder landed at North Pier the next day and the hospital opened.

These days marked the height of the August Offensive on ANZAC and thousands of wounded were being brought to all the hospitals on Lemnos. Although it was an Australian unit and the policy was, where possible, to treat Australians in Australian hospitals, the 3rd Australian General Hospital admitted a large number of wounded from all the allied armies. Of the 32 who died of wounds at the hospital during the August Offensive, only seven were Australian soldiers. After the end of August 1915, most of the deaths at the hospital were from disease.

In late October, when staff nurse Anne Donnell arrived at Mudros, she wrote that although huts were being prepared for them, the Australian nurses were still in tents, unlike their Canadian and English colleagues who were already living in comfortable huts on the island. The 3rd Australian General Hospital was not the only hospital on Lemnos. There was also the 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital, the 1st and 3rd Canadian hospitals, convalescent camps and various English hospitals situated at Mudros and East Mudros.

Their diet did not include fruit or vegetables but included butter and eggs about once a month. For the nurses, life on Lemnos was spartan. The travelling kitchens would burn on windy days and people got dysentery from the Greek bread—no reflection of course on the Greek diet. The nurses did not even have a bath tent as water was so short and many nurses cut their hair short. The bitter winter winds added to the discomfort of the exposed position of the hospital and blew nurses' and ward tents down. On 4 November, Colonel Fiaschi, who was seriously ill, was evacuated to London and Lieutenant Colonel Constantine De Crespigny took over as commanding officer of the hospital unit.

When the 1,040-bed hospital closed in Egypt in January 1916, it had treated 7,400 patients of whom only 143 had died. The hospital later went from Egypt to Brighton in the UK and then to Abbeville, France, where it was based until 1919. While there is a Second World War memorial specifically for women service personnel on King William Street near the Memorial Gardens, the parliamentary library has confirmed that there does not appear to be a dedicated war memorial for First World War nurses in the square mile of Adelaide.

Some key facts about the role of Lemnos in the story are that the Australian hospitals on Lemnos treated nearly 4,000 troops in the first few months, of whom only 30 per cent were Australian troops, with Allied troops from Britain and India making up the vast majority of its patients. Lemnos was also the key assembly place and supply point for the Gallipoli landings. The Gallipoli landings themselves were practised on Lemnos prior to the troops' deployment to Gallipoli. The Lemnos harbour was a major staging post for naval operations, including submarine, during the Gallipoli campaign, and it was the location of the major nursing station for the Gallipoli campaign and also the first overseas deployment of Australian nursing units to a war theatre.

Lemnos was also the location of the armistice signed by the Allies and the Ottoman Empire in 1918, and today it is home to two major war graves where 148 Australians and 76 New Zealanders are buried. I think the story of Lemnos island and the story of the Greek government's involvement really do show the strong connection that Australia has had with Greece for an extended period of time. I commend the motion to the house.

Ms VLAHOS (Taylor) (12:25): I rise today to support this motion put up by another Philhellene in the parliament, the member for Unley. It is something I have been aware of since 2010, when I first visited Crete and Greece for the ANZAC anniversary of 70 years of our assisting the Greek people fight the fascists in the Second World War. On Saturday 19 April this year, Treasurer Koutsantonis attended the 'Memories of Lemnos: Australian Nurses and the ANZAC Centenary' commemorative event organised by the Organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot

Women of South Australia. The event highlighted the service of Australian nurses based on the island of Lemnos during the Gallipoli landing in 1915.

I would like to speak today a little bit about some of the forgotten roles of the Dardanelles campaign that Lemnos undertook and perhaps some of the more connected events that Greek people share with Australians. Lemnos' role in the Dardanelles campaign should not be forgotten, and I know from the work of the ladies in the gallery who are visiting today that it has not been, and that makes me immensely proud. It was the principal assembly, embarkation and supply point for the Gallipoli campaigns. The landings at Gallipoli were practised at Lemnos prior to deployment and the island's harbour was a major staging point for many naval operations in the campaign, including Australia's submarine campaign.

The vast majority of ANZAC troops spent some time on Lemnos, whether preparing, resting in the beach areas, recuperating in the rest camps or indeed the hot springs that are located on the island, or recovering from the horrors of war in the field hospitals. Lemnos was the location of many major nursing stations for the Gallipoli campaign, with 130 Australian nurses, led by Matron Grace Wilson, the first major deployment of Australian nurses to a war theatre apart from the Boer War.

By the beginning of August 1915, the 3rd Australian General Hospital was landed on the island. As a medical facility, the island was intended initially to be for light cases only, and those classified were likely to be well within 28 days. But the rush of wounded from the early August offensive at Lone Pine and the Nek, and the flood of sick that followed in late August, September and October, necessitated its development as an intermediate military base for medical care. The Australian Red Cross Society was represented on the island and, though its aid depot and the distribution of aid parcels, gave great comfort to many nurses and soldiers alike.

The number of Australian military figures who visited the island was considerable: Albert Jacka VC and Generals Birdwood and Monash were photographed on the island during the time of this theatre of conflict. An armistice was indeed signed with the Ottoman Empire on the HMAS *Agamemnon* in Mudros Harbour in Lemnos in 1918. Lemnos is the site of two special major commonwealth war graves, with 148 Australian war graves located there. Over recent years, with the Lemnos Gallipoli Commemorative Committee that has been based in Victoria under the leadership of Victorian MPs, particularly Lee Tarlamis, a friend of mine, it has been great to see plaques and walkways and those war graves given the stature they deserve in our ANZAC pantheon.

Lemnos and ANZAC represent the beginnings of Australia's lasting connection to Greece, and it is also a very sombre time of reflection over the next four years as we embark on the storytellings that will come through our nation's history. World War I marked Australia in a way that is almost impossible to fathom in current times, with 337,000 service personnel deployed overseas and 210,000 becoming casualties. On average, 38 members of Australia's armed forces died every day for the 1,560 days of World War I. Today, these statistics are quite staggering, considering we lost around 40 in our longest war in Afghanistan recently.

Gallipoli was not our bloodiest campaign—that would unfortunately come later—but it was our first. The landings at what would become known as Anzac Cove, and the events that followed until the withdrawal eight months later, are recognised as the defining moments in nationhood for Australia. What then is the legacy we take from Gallipoli, ANZAC and, indeed, Lemnos? For me, it is more about the values; they become our legacy. ANZAC is not about loss. It is not about war. ANZAC is about courage, endurance, sacrifice and, above all, mateship.

As Australia's official war historian, Charles Bean, said, 'Men would rather die than let a mate down.' I know that in the heart of hearts of all Hellenic people these are the values they consider core, and they go back to the time of the 300 Spartans and the first invasions by the Persians. You stand next to each other and you fight tall.

One of the best examples of this commitment was Sister Rachael Pratt who nursed the wounded in Turkey, France and elsewhere. In 1917, while Germans attacked her casualty clearing station, Rachael worked, despite the shrapnel that pierced her back and lodged in her lungs, until she collapsed. Rachael was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry under fire. She never really truly recovered from her wounds, suffering chronic bronchitis for the rest of her life; she would never recover from the trauma. Eventually, Rachael was deemed totally and permanently

incapacitated and admitted to a hospital for the insane. Sister Pratt died in Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital in 1954.

The government is committed to commemorating a century of service during the centenary of ANZAC, and I praise the work of the ladies in the gallery for keeping these memories alive. The development of the Anzac Centenary Memorial Garden Walk, bordering Kintore Avenue in the city, as a state flagship project is very important. It is designed to be a memorial for all of us, not just a few. It will provide an appropriate commemorative and reflective space that will enable all South Australians to remember the service and sacrifice of all those who have served and all those who will serve in the future to preserve our way of life in this country as a true, great and vibrant democracy.

ANZAC is about good humour and a sense of decency in the face of almost an incredible and indescribable horror. That sense of decency was first extended to the ANZACs when they were training for the Gallipoli landings on Lemnos as early as 4 March 1915 when the 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade, including South Australia's 10th Infantry Battalion, arrived on the beach with many of the local population giving them clothes, food, bread, water and even their own beds to billet them. That is true friendship.

I commend the organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of South Australia for their work in commemorating the role and achievements of Australian nurses and our soldiers involved in the Gallipoli campaign in this centenary of ANZAC.

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (12:33): It is my great pleasure to rise and support this excellent motion which has been brought to the house by the hardworking member for Unley.

I first understood the impact of Greece's generosity to Australia during the First World War when in April of this year I attended a very moving ceremony at Keswick Barracks which was arranged by the Organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia to commemorate, as part of our centenary of ANZAC commemorations in South Australia, the memories of Lemnos and the Australian nurses. It was a very moving and dignified service followed by a lunch and an excellent talk that really outlined to me the great debt we owe to the people of Greece for allowing us to use Lemnos in such a strategic and important way to support our efforts at Gallipoli and beyond.

We also recognise in this motion the service given by Australian nurses—and this was something which was very much part of the presentation given at Keswick. I strongly support the suggestion that we have a permanent memorial to the contribution of Greece and of our Australian nurses who were stationed on Lemnos as part of our centenary walk proposal. Those of us on this side of the house, and I understand all of us in this parliament, support this motion and I hope it is something that we can absolutely deliver. It is a great honour for us today to have in our gallery a group of people from the organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women who were the ones responsible for that service, and to them I say thank you very much.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr MARSHALL: It is also a great honour for us today to have in the gallery the Consul-General of Greece in Adelaide, Andreas-Konstantinos Gouras. He only arrived in Adelaide and South Australia this year but he has already endeared himself to the entire Greek population in our state—the very significant Greek population in South Australia—and certainly on behalf of the Liberal Party we welcome him here and hope that he has a wonderful time in our state.

We have a great relationship with the people of Greece in South Australia and that is a relationship that is built on mutual respect. The Greek people have been great friends to us and I think that there is no greater example than the friendship they extended to all of Australia during the time that we prepared for the Gallipoli landing. On behalf of the Liberal Party I say thank you very much.

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (12:36): I also congratulate the organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia for its efforts to commemorate the centenary of ANZAC with the memories of Lemnos and the Australian nurses and the ANZAC centenary ceremony on Sunday, 19 April at Keswick Barracks. I also recognise the service given by Australian nurses on the Greek island

of Lemnos during the Gallipoli landings. I also recognise Greece for supporting Australia's war effort through its support for Australian nurses stationed at military hospitals based on Lemnos island during the Gallipoli campaign, and also to consider a permanent memorial specifically commemorating the Australian women who served as nurses on Lemnos island to be incorporated in the soon-to-be constructed Anzac Walk.

It is also my great pleasure to welcome the new Greek Consul formally in this place, Mr Andreas-Konstantinos Gouras, and also those in the gallery today. Mr Gouras is certainly a friend of ours in Adelaide. Obviously, many people of Greek origin reside in my electorate, and to commend what the leader said earlier, Mr Gouras has certainly endeared himself; he is a strong ambassador for Australians in Greece but also for people in Australia with Greek origins.

He also educated me about columns, and if I am not mistaken those in this chamber are Ionic columns. I hope I picked that up, so Efharisto' to the—

An honourable member: Ionic capitals.

Mr TARZIA: Ionic capitals, thank you very much.

Mr Marshall: And these are fluted pilasters, and they are fluted columns and Ionic capitals.

Mr TARZIA: There you go. The leader has corrected me—it wouldn't be the first time either! I commend the member for Unley for raising this motion, and I applaud the government for also supporting it. The member for Unley spoke of the history involved in this cause and he spoke of the rugged conditions, the conditions that many of these nurses endured when trying to save people's lives and caring for them on the battlefields.

When you look at some of the diary entries from some of the nurses it is really quite touching. I thought I would relate some of them to the house. There is an account from Sister Ella Tucker, for example, who served as a nurse just off Gallipoli, dated 25 April 1915, where she summarises, 'Red letter day. Shells bursting all round, we are off Gaba Tepe.'

Other nurses go on to talk of the sickening conditions and the pain that was endured in and around that area. Matron Wilson and her nurses, for example, experienced much inefficiency of military administration in relation to the hospitals that they served in. These were conditions that were appalling. Much of the time there was wind. The member for Unley spoke of how women would sometimes have to cut their hair to prevent other conditions from happening as well.

There is another diary entry on 9 August. Matron Wilson goes on to say: 'Found 150 patients lying on the ground—no equipment whatever...had no water to drink or wash.' On 10 August: 'Still no water...convoy arrived at night and used up all our private things, soap etc, tore up clothes [for bandages].' It is really quite awful stuff. It really puts things into perspective. It puts into perspective how much sacrifice was made back then and especially by the nurses—thankless. It is a thankless profession. I have a sister who is a nurse and I know the member for Elder was a nurse. These people have the most amount of empathy you will ever find and they served in such tough conditions. I know that the Greek people and the Australian people are certainly grateful for all that they did during that time.

As the member for Taylor alluded to, it is fitting to say that that was the beginning of quite a strong relationship between Greeks and Australians. We pay tribute to the sacrifice that was made. It puts things into perspective and we are very grateful. We are very grateful for those who have served before us to make sure that we enjoy the liberties and the luxuries that we have today.

We do have a proud history in Australia. Certainly in my electorate I have two local Greek parishes: the Norwood parish and the Athelstone parish. I know that many of those families, who are here today, are also very grateful for the migrants and what they have endured before them, and for the sacrifices that their grandparents and great-grandparents made in coming to Australia to share in the wonderful community that we have today.

I thank the ladies, especially Helen Haltis, the President of the Organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia, and her committee and her supporters, as well as Mr Andreas-Konstantinos Gouras, for coming in today. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:41): I too rise to support this excellent motion brought forward by the member for Unley, that the South Australian parliament:

...congratulates the Organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia (SA) for its efforts to commemorate the centenary of ANZAC with the Memories of Lemnos and the Australian nurses and the ANZAC centenary ceremony on Sunday 19 April at Keswick Barracks.

As the leader said, it was a very giving service and it was celebrated on the day. Obviously more than 3,000 Australian and Greek nurses volunteered for active service in the First World War. The Australian Army Nursing Service formed in July 1903 as part of the Australian Army Medical Corps. During the war, more than 2,000 members served overseas alongside Australian nurses, working with other organisations, such as Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Red Cross or privately sponsored facilities.

The partnership between the Australian and the Greek nurses is something that will be in the history books forever and it is something that will be long remembered, particularly in my electorate of Chaffey, which has such a large Greek population that has been there for more than 100 years. Greek communities in the Riverland have developed over that 100 years to be a very important cultural institution as part of the Riverland. When many South Australians talk about Greeks fondly they talk about the Riverland, because we have such a binding relationship.

Obviously, many years ago the number of farms that belonged to Greek people in the Riverland grew significantly. What the Riverland offered was a land of opportunity. From the 1950s through to the 1970s, they were given the opportunity to develop soldier settlement properties, to come up there and to grasp what that opportunity was, and that was to build an empire. To be part of that empire was to raise families, and that has gone on.

I think I would be correct in saying that I know of five generations of good Greek families. I have been very proud to employ many Greek families on my citrus and wine grape properties over the years. They have always been able to tell me great stories about their great relationships over the course of their families' history and particularly what it means to them to be part of a community and to bolster what its real meaning is within the Riverland.

Obviously, Greek culture, traditions and customs are very well preserved in the Riverland community, particularly with the community centres, function centres and, of course, the Greek radio. We cannot forget it is home to the *Greek Tribune*, a national Greek-language newspaper which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2013. Peter Ppiros is the founder and editor of the *Greek Tribune* and he was also the founder of the Riverland Greek Festival. That is a festival I hold dear, because, having moved to the Riverland in my newly married era of life, the Greek community was the first to embrace me, and to take me in and feed me all that beautiful Greek food, particularly the baklava and the little floured, sweet, nutty biscuits—I cannot think of their name, but anyway—

Ms Vlahos interjecting:

Mr WHETSTONE: Yes. They were the things that I always remember and hold dear to my heart. Obviously, I have a very close affiliation with the Greek community in the Riverland. I welcome the Greek women here today. This motion by the member for Unley has been well orchestrated, as you are having a visit here today, and I thank you all for being here. I am proud to have been a part of a large Greek population in Chaffey, and I commend the motion to the house.

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:46): If I may briefly indicate my support for the motion to recognise His Excellency, our Honorary Consul who is present today, and, in particular, Helen Haltis and her committee, for the work they have done in recognising, in the year of the Gallipoli centenary, the sacrifice and, in particular, the activities that occurred at Lemnos. It certainly was a moving occasion, as our leader has pointed out, that was prepared and hosted. It takes a lot of work to do that.

It takes a lot of work and research to ensure that the museum, which continues to work and undertake research at Keswick, is supported to ensure that the legacy of the sacrifice does endure. Just as we have, on many occasions, recognised the sacrifice of the Bangka Island massacre of nurses in World War II, and the extraordinary story of the survival of nurse Bullwinkel, so too should we recognise the sacrifice that was made by these women, and the extraordinary hospitality given to us in so many ways during the conflict for Gallipoli.

More recently (around 100 years later, in fact) my son was on Lemnos, having a good time and working in a resort, surrounded by beautiful Greek girls. I got lots of photographs. I thought he would come back with a Greek wife but it did not transpire. He too was injured and had to attend the military hospital on Lemnos. He had the benefit of all of the hospitality, courtesy and care that was given, which we respect and recognise, and we appreciated that. So, it is enduring for my family at a personal level, but something which I hope that all of South Australia continues to recognise.

In conclusion, Greece is having some difficult times at the moment. When the Ambassador of Greece recently visited South Australia on his goodbye tour, I had the privilege of meeting him. Clearly, when he returns to Greece, he is going to have a major amount of work, in his retirement from this position, to assist his country with its restoration and to be able to economically participate in world affairs, as it has so extraordinarily contributed over thousands of years.

At no greater time than when we recognise the significance of Australia's contribution to the Gallipoli conflict, we also recognise that Greece is in her hour of desperation at present, and we should be doing everything we can to support those in our community who have friends and relatives in Greece and who need our support and kindness. We need to ensure that we maintain that respectful relationship. I commend the motion.

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (12:49): I rise to speak in recognition of this motion. I welcome members from the organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia, South Australian Branch, here in the gallery today, as well as the Consul-General. Welcome. It is really fitting that you are here to hear this motion today. You have heard, courtesy of the member for Hartley, that I am a registered nurse, a registered midwife. I have had the fortune to work in conditions so much more modern, clean and inviting than did these nurses.

I applaud you for your commitment, your passion and your vision in commemorating Lemnos and the Australian nurses with the ANZAC centenary ceremony. To visibly cement this specific event through a permanent memorial is very welcome. I pay tribute to those nurses, in particular Matron Wilson and the 96 nurses who arrived on Lemnos to set up a hospital to care for those soldiers. I think we all, if we are familiar with those events, realise that they did not know what they were letting themselves in for.

Picture this committed group of nurses arriving on what I am told is an arid, windswept island to be greeted by the lone bagpiper—no hospital, no supplies, living conditions described as unbearable, little water and scarce provisions of any type. This would be enough to bring most human beings to tears, but these nurses were determined and they set about setting up their hospital, although I believe they did treat many of the soldiers in the open. Their improvisation skills were second to none. They ripped up their petticoats and improvised, using what little they could find. A quote from Matron Wilson in August 1915, I think, sums up what they faced. She said:

Things here are just too awful for words...we found only a bare piece of ground with wounded men in pain, still in filthy, bloodstained clothes, lying amid stones and thistles. As we lacked tents, beds or medicines, we could do little for most of our patients.

That is the stark reality of what they dealt with every day. Their humility, resilience, commitment, passion and undying faith is certainly worthy of the recognition that you are so deservedly giving them. I commend you for that and I commend the motion to the house.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (12:52): In closing I would like to thank members of the South Australian parliament, the member for Taylor for the work that she did in making sure this was supported throughout the entire parliament, as well as my own party room for recognising the significance of this motion and how important it is for the South Australian community to be reminded about the work that the Greek government did a hundred years ago and the role that it played in fighting for the democracy that Greece is so famous for, we being, of course, one of the first places in the world to recognise democracy.

To the organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women, I thank you in particular for bringing this to the attention of so many more South Australians, and now to the attention of the parliament. I know you have worked very hard at it and I am very pleased that, through the member for Taylor and I, through the parliamentary process, this parliament was able to formally recognise the work you have done as well as recognise those nurses on the island of Lemnos.

I would also like to thank the Consul-General for his work and his enthusiasm in seeing this motion debated and his joy at being successful today, as I anticipate it may very well be in a couple of minutes. Thank you to the member for Taylor, thank you to members opposite and my parliamentary colleagues on this side of the house, and thank you to the Greek community in particular for the work they do in making sure we know just how important they are as members of our community. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

FUR SEALS

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:55): I move:

That this house calls on the state government to immediately prepare and implement an Over-Abundant Native Species Management Plan, noting the effects caused by the rapidly increasing population of New Zealand fur seals on South Australian marine life, the environment and the fishing industry, and the provision for a plan for the sustainable harvest of the seals.

This is something I do not do lightly. This is something that I brought to this house three years ago. This motion has been reinforced by my local paper today in *The Murray Valley Standard* where several things are reported, including a so-called factsheet from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) that has been pulled off the website because so many people in my electorate were telling them about the untruths that were in that factsheet. It only came out because I posted my petition regarding this matter on my website and my Facebook page which currently, as far as I know, has at least 500 signatures coming to my office, and there are many more getting collected around the electorate and in a broader manner.

We have much support across the electorate. In fact, Darryl Sumner, an Aboriginal elder from the Ngarrindjeri, has voiced how they hate these things. They have not been part of Coorong life in the ancient history or in the recent history, and the Ngarrindjeri are right on board. Darryl has called for the government to implement a cull—and they are his words. He has called for direct action. Apart from that we have the environmental damage that these seals are causing. They are invading the northern lagoon of the Coorong. They are heading to the southern lagoon where the rookeries of the native birds are like the vulnerable fairy tern and other birds and they will be at significant risk. People are already noticing fewer number of pelicans around the Coorong.

These seals keep doing more damage as they invade both Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina, and the Coorong, and they are basically killing off the Coorong and Lakes fishery. The total population of these seals is over 100,000 and they can consume in three days the total allowable catch for the Lakes and Coorong fishery. It is outrageous to think that we have these fisheries that are so well managed—and at world status they are number one—that we have this threat. They tear into nets, they cut fish in half just for fun because they can. I know of one worker who mutually agreed with his employer only this morning to leave his employ because he cannot make enough money. I will say his name—young Tyson Bradley. He was one who brought this issue to light and raised it again recently. He is dismayed that he does not have a future in the fishing industry at this stage.

In the short moments I have left, I want to talk about the impact on recreational boating. The speed ski titles at Murray Bridge had to be called off on 5 June because a New Zealand fur seal was accidentally hit by a boat, and it was a great tragedy. That fur seal was put down. I do not even know if the boat had hit that. I also warn the state government because of their inaction: what happens if these fur seals keep invading further north of Murray Bridge—I know they are heading towards Mannum—and put a whole \$500 million per annum boating, fishing and recreational industry at risk? It is madness, something needs to be done. The government condones culling feral goats, feral donkeys, feral dogs, feral camels, they also condone kangaroo culls, so what is going on? There needs to be some positive action.

There is talk of pingers, there is talk of waterproof firecrackers. Well, use them. However, already the marine scale fishers will tell you that after a couple of months the pingers start attracting the seals. Action needs to be taken. These seals are devastating the environment and the fishing industry. There is talk of the fishing industry losing its accreditation if a sustainable harvest is put in place. At the end of the day, there will not be a fishing industry. People in the industry fear their jobs will be gone within six months. I fear for my community. I 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 parliament pupils from Kangarilla Primary School, who are guests of the member for Heysen.

Petitions

COUNCIL RATE CONCESSIONS

Mr KNOLL (Schubert): Presented a petition signed by 91 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to retain and index state government concessions on council rates.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012 (Section 40)—Evaluation of the Practices, Policies and Procedures of the Police Ombudsman
[Ordered to be published]

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

Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme—Report to the Board on the Actuarial Investigation as at 30 June 2014

By the Minister for Disabilities (Hon. A. Piccolo)—

Flinders University—Annual Report 2014

Ministerial Statement

ENERGY PRICES

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:02): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I am disappointed with the public comments made by some energy retailers that they will not pass on the full amount of savings to South Australian households as approved by the Australian Energy Regulator. As I have stated, the government welcomes the decision of the national regulator which recognises the need to provide power bill relief to South Australian households. The decision will see power bills for South Australian households reduced by an expected \$188 in 2015-16 on average.

Unfortunately, AGL, Origin and EnergyAustralia are claiming a number of factors will not allow for them to provide the full amount of the savings. I disagree and urge them to do the right thing by South Australian households.

I encourage South Australian households to shop around for the best retail offer that meets their requirements to ensure the benefits of these price reductions are passed on by retailers. A recent report by the Australian Energy Market Commission found that deregulation of the electricity market is increasing competition among retailers and providing cheaper electricity prices for South Australian householders.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The best market offers are available at www.energymadeeasy.gov.au to make sure your households receive the maximum benefit. The Australian Energy Market Commission analysis found South Australians can save up to \$400 a year on electricity bills by shopping around for a better offer as a result of increased competition in the market.

The national regulator's Energy Made Easy price comparison website provides an independent service to assist customers in selecting a retailer that can save them money. The Energy Markets and Programs Division of the Department of State Development will continue to monitor whether retailers are passing on the reductions, and I intend to update the house at a later date.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is called to order, as is the member for Hartley for an interjection earlier in the 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) (14:05): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH: The Senate Economics References Committee of the federal parliament has released its third and final report on the future of Australia's shipbuilding industry to which I draw the attention of the house. Its majority findings and recommendations focus on long-term planning for Australia's defence capabilities, whilst also recognising the benefits of a strong, sovereign, domestic shipbuilding industry. The findings underline the strong position taken by South Australia as it advocates for our defence industries, whilst also acknowledging the needs of our defence forces.

As Minister for Defence Industries I appeared before the committee, as did several representatives of our local industry. On future submarines the Senate committee's findings align with the government's view that the competitive evaluation process for our future submarines procurement is risky, while also noting concerns that a reduction to eight submarines will fail to satisfy Australia's strategic imperatives.

The committee recommended the government commit to 12 submarines, conduct a 12 to 18-month procurement process and invite all prominent designers to participate, including Saab from Sweden. The process should include a funded project definition study and down-select two builders to provide full designs and fixed price bids. It recommends that the submarines should be required to be built and sustained in Australia, a naval construction authority should deliver them and that Defence should heed and apply lessons in knowledge transfer from Collins and the air warfare destroyer program.

On air warfare destroyers, the committee found that recent criticism of the performance of the air warfare destroyer program was completely misdirected. It states that the air warfare destroyer problems stem from an initial poor understanding and analysis of cost and schedule, teamed with poor management at commonwealth government level. It also calls for the public release of the Winter White report and the recent audit relied upon by the Coalition government to criticise the workers of the ASC in Osborne right here in South Australia.

On supply ships, in respect of those particular builds, the committee found that the limited tender failed to adequately account for Australian industry participation, damaged industry confidence and harmed Defence's relationship with industry. It recommends that the tender be opened up to all companies and that a high value be placed on Australian content and continuous build.

While South Australians wait for the commonwealth government to release its naval shipbuilding plans, workers are losing their jobs right now at the ASC in Adelaide, at Forgacs shipyard in Newcastle in New South Wales, and at the Williamstown shipyard in Victoria. The Senate report

notes that government should be doing more to maintain industry. It is fine to look back over the past and complain about the years preceding these decisions, but the government has a responsibility to make decisions now.

The Senate recommends a continuous build program mandating a hybrid build for the first supply ship and an Aussie one for the second, 12 future submarines to be built here, fast-tracking patrol boats and bringing forward frigates, both to be built here. The committee also raised concerns about the denigration of industry by government using dubious figures, a position taken by our Premier at the launch of the new air warfare destroyer, *Hobart*, in May at Osborne.

The house should note that there was a dissenting report from Coalition senators on the committee, where they queried the importance of economic benefits in defence procurement. It claims that rumours of a commitment to a Japan build of our submarines were no more than gossip. This government's advice is that the Japan option is far more than gossip. That is why we have advocated so strongly, questioning that very choice.

I commend the Senate on its review of naval shipbuilding and repeat this government's call that the Coalition government stand by its election promise to build future submarines in Australia, centred on the shipyards in South Australia, so that Australian workers and Australian businesses benefit from the Australian taxpayers' defence in Australia's future. We have to defend the nation, but we also have to build the nation.

Parliamentary Committees

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (14:10): I bring up the 521st report of the committee, entitled Anzac Centenary Memorial Garden Walk.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms DIGANCE: I bring up the 522nd report of the committee, entitled Port Lincoln Health Services Legacy Asbestos Remediation Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms DIGANCE: I bring up the 523rd report of the committee, entitled Barossa Water Treatment Plant Filter Refurbishment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Question Time

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13): My question is to the Treasurer. As the minister responsible for the budget for the EPAS, can the Treasurer advise the house on the expenditure of the EPAS program to the end of June 2015?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:13): I don't have those figures here with me. I will get a detailed answer for the member and give him a response.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13): Can the Treasurer explain why the submission, which the Auditor-General stated was originally to go to cabinet in early 2015, has not been presented?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:13): Cabinet deliberations are not a matter for the parliament.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13): We're not asking for the details of the submission, but the Auditor-General in his report states that—

The SPEAKER: And the question is?

Mr MARSHALL: Can he explain why it hasn't been received by cabinet?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:14): Cabinet decides its own timing, so cabinet will decide when it wants to consider submissions.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: After the day the opposition has had, I wouldn't be talking about processes, if I were them. After the confusion and the backstabbing going on in the Liberal Party today, I wouldn't be talking about process. Having a knife right in the middle of your shoulder blades is no time to be talking about process.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader, the point of order is?

Ms CHAPMAN: Relevance. The Treasurer is starting to talk about the alleged actions of the Leader of the Opposition. How is that to do with the submission to cabinet?

The SPEAKER: So, standing order 127. I uphold the point of order. Leader.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14): Has there been any cabinet oversight of this project since October 2014?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:15): Again, cabinet deliberations are not a matter for the parliament. The cabinet is the master of its own destiny, and as we make policy announcements we make them public. Obviously, cabinet has considered a number of issues and, I have to say, I won't be lectured about process by the opposition, especially after the Leader of the Opposition misleads the public on what the South Australian police do or do not believe about bokie laws.

Mr PISONI: Point of order: the minister is obviously entering into debate and straying from the substance of the question.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the member for Unley's point of order and, in my haste to uphold the deputy leader's previous point of order, I neglected to call to order the member for Unley, the deputy leader, the member for MacKillop and, I am shocked, the member for Flinders, and I warn for the first time the member for Unley and the deputy leader. Leader.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): Can the Treasurer outline to the house who authorised the decision not to roll the EPAS system out to the existing Royal Adelaide Hospital in advance of the move to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital?

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon: Who authorised your comments about the amendments?

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:16): An exceptionally good point, though, Mr Speaker: who did authorise those comments? I don't have that information here with me, and the health minister is away on important business.

Mr Knoll interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: When he returns, I will get a detailed answer for the member.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): Is the decision not to roll out EPAS in the old Royal Adelaide Hospital consistent with the September 2014 cabinet submission that the clinical system solution needed to be deployed at the existing Royal Adelaide Hospital at least nine to 12 months prior to initial operation of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:17): Ultimately, these questions the Leader of the Opposition is asking will be answered by the minister. If you want to talk about process—

Mr Marshall: Wasn't it your area?

The SPEAKER: The leader is warned a first time, and I neglected to call to order the member for Schubert.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: A biblical passage comes to mind: if you see a speck in your brother's eye, how about the log in your own?

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): Can the Treasurer explain to the people of South Australia how staff can be expected to learn how to operate this new system, a system plagued with issues since it was first envisaged, while still ensuring the safety and wellbeing of patients as they adjust to the new hospital?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:17): Our health system is one of the best in the world, and our nurses and doctors are dedicated public servants who ache to do the right thing by South Australians. They will be working tirelessly, as they always have, to give South Australians the very best health care they possibly can. Quite frankly, the remarks from the Leader of the Opposition today about can we guarantee good health care in our healthcare system—yes, we can, because our doctors and nurses, like our police, are dedicated public servants who are aching to do the right thing, and they won't be verbally by the Leader of the Opposition.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Before the leader asks what I imagine will be a supplementary, I warn for the second and final time the deputy leader and for the first time the member for Schubert.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18): Can the Treasurer guarantee the safety of patients at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital when staff will be implementing the new EPAS simultaneous with working in a new environment?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:18): I will never deliberately mislead anyone about any piece of advice I have received. I will never get up and verbal people about what it is they think we're doing—

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: Answer the question.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I am answering the question. I know interview time is happening now. I understand. Now is the time to get up and lead; now is the time to make your move. But we won't be lectured about our support of our hardworking public servants, whether they are doctors, whether they are nurses, or whether they are police officers. We stand by them and we don't verbal them.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I call to order the members for Stuart and Hammond and I warn for the first time the member for Hartley. Leader.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:19): What does the Treasurer have to say in response to the Auditor-General's Report when he specifically says that a September 2014 cabinet submission noted that, in order to mitigate the substantial risks of a new system in a new facility, the clinical system solution to be used needed to be deployed to the existing Royal Adelaide Hospital at least nine to 12 months prior to initial operation of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:20): Ultimately, these are matters for the Department for Health and these are matters—

Mr Marshall: It's a cabinet decision. Are you in cabinet?

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: A bit like a shadow cabinet decision about bikie laws? This is a matter for the Department for Health.

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon: I imagine they both want to be out of here today.

The SPEAKER: The member for Newland is warned.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I have complete confidence in the department, I have complete confidence in the team working on the transition, I have complete confidence in our doctors and nurses, and I have complete confidence in the police commissioner and our police.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): What is your role in the monitoring of the EPAS system?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:20): As Treasurer, I do all I can to make sure my colleagues spend their money on budget and on time, and we have robust discussions.

An honourable member: Vigorous.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Vigorous discussions. Can I just say that they do an exceptional job of making sure that their products are delivered on time and on budget.

Ms Sanderson: How many millions have you overspent?

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: My job is to make sure that our public servants have the tools that they need to do their jobs. When the Attorney and the police minister come to me and they say, 'We need more resourcing for our police,' or, 'We need new laws for our police to go out and give them the tools that they need to keep us safe,' we don't verbal them, we back them. We don't make up fibs.

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order. The Treasurer was asked a question about—

The SPEAKER: The point of order is relevance?

Ms CHAPMAN: Relevance.

The SPEAKER: I uphold it.

Ms CHAPMAN: Thank you, sir.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): How many months ago was the EPAS program budget transferred to the Department of Treasury and Finance?

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:21): I don't have the exact date here or the decision, but I can get that for the embattled Leader of the Opposition, who is so brave he was hiding before question time and wouldn't answer questions in front of the media. That's how brave he is.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): Can the Treasurer confirm for the house that in fact he is the minister responsible in cabinet for the EPAS budget?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:22): I am always available to the media to answer—

Mr Griffiths interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I am always fronting up to the media. I always answer their questions. I don't hide in my office and send out someone else to do my dirty work.

Mr PISONI: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Treasurer, I will save the member for Unley the trouble of having me uphold a second point of order of his. The Treasurer is warned a first time.

Mr PISONI: I want to throw in repetition as well, sir.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I accept the Leader of the Opposition's advice in my ruling on the member for Unley's point of order. The leader.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): Given that the Treasurer is responsible for this line in the budget, can he outline to the house today what the total budget for the EPAS project is for this current financial year?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:23): I don't have that here with me, but I will get it for you.

Mr Marshall: You are responsible for this.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I tell you what, Mr Speaker. How about I hold a press conference straight after question time and I will front the cameras and I will tell them what the budget is for Transforming Health if the Leader of the Opposition fronts the cameras and tells everyone who advised him that the police commissioner liked his amendments.

Mr PISONI: Point of order: 128, irrelevant and repetition.

The SPEAKER: No, I don't uphold the point of order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: No, it was new material. The Treasurer is engaging in hyperbole, but not outside standing orders. The leader.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): Given that the Treasurer is responsible for this area of the budget, can he perhaps announce to the parliament what the original budget was for this project?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:24): Like I said, Mr Speaker, I will join him in a press conference straight afterwards. We will go outside, invite the media down and we will stand there. He can answer questions about the police commissioner and I will answer questions about Transforming Health.

The SPEAKER: Point of order.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Standing order 128: tedious repetition.

The SPEAKER: I don't uphold the point of order because we are in question time of a parliament, and a minister is allowed to engage in a bit of argy-bargy, a bit of hyperbole, and a bit of joining together two topics that one would have regarded as not related for the purpose of making a rhetorical point. I don't think the Treasurer is impeding the business of the house.

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon: Impeding the business of your leadership, maybe.

The SPEAKER: The member for Newland will withdraw under the sessional order for 15 minutes.

The honourable member for Newland having withdrawn from the chamber:

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:25): If the Treasurer does not know what the original budget was, if he doesn't know what the budget for this current financial year is—

The SPEAKER: Can we get to a question?

Mr MARSHALL: —could he perhaps tell the people of South Australia what the total budget for this project now is?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:25): I will get a detailed answer—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and what I say is—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —the moment the Leader of the Opposition can remember—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —the moment he can remember who told him the police commissioner supported his amendments, I will come back and tell you exactly what the budget is. How about you man up?

The SPEAKER: I think we have enjoyed this show just long enough, and so I hope that was the closing performance of the season. I warn the member for Goyder, and I call to order the member for Mitchell. Leader.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): Can the Treasurer confirm that SA Health is running EPAS on contingencies in the 2015-16 budget?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:26): Yes, I can confirm that Department of Treasury and Finance and Health are working together collaboratively to make sure that the rolling out of EPAS is done in line with the Auditor-General's recommendations. I can say that we do have an excellent working relationship with Health.

The great thing about being in a cabinet as collegiate as ours is that we work together; we talk to each other. When the Attorney says to me, 'This is the advice I have received from the Chief Justice,' I accept that advice as being accurate. When the police minister says to me, 'This is the advice I have from the police commissioner,' I accept that advice as being accurate. Same as the health minister—when he says to me—

The SPEAKER: Point of order.

Mr GARDNER: The question was very specific: is the EPAS line running out of contingencies—98.

The SPEAKER: I think the Treasurer is saying, if I am not mistaken, that he accepts, without demur, the advice of the Minister for Health.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I do, sir, because—

The SPEAKER: Do I read the Treasurer correctly?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We have an excellent working relationship with the Minister for Health. What we don't do—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: What we don't do, Mr Speaker, is, for example, give information that may not be accurate to each other, or attempt to set each other up.

Mr PISONI: Point of order: the question was about contingencies, and the minister was clearly—

The SPEAKER: I think the member for Unley is being over-sensitive, and if he pursues that point of order, he will be joining the member for Newland. Leader.

Mr MARSHALL: Was that the answer?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): Why is EPAS running on contingencies, rather than through normal appropriations?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:28): Cabinet decided that is the best way to do it, and we support that decision. I have to say—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: That is the beauty of a cabinet process: we decide when we talk about it. The truth is that we have an excellent collegiate relationship with the Department for Health, because we are all working together to deliver a very good health system for the people of South Australia. What we don't do, Mr Speaker, is, for example—I don't know, let me give you a hypothetical example: let's say, for example, there is a piece of legislation before the parliament, and then come out and make up stories about who—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Treasurer, I—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Sorry, sir.

The SPEAKER: —had your assurance that that particular pantomime had had its last show.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Sir, the sugar fix is just too attractive; it is just too easy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will be seated. The members for Mount Gambier and Morialta are called to order. The member for Adelaide is warned a first time, as are the member for Chaffey and the member for Mitchell. Leader.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:29): Can the Treasurer update the house on what the total contingency budget for this project is?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:29): No, sir, and the reason—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Well, perhaps the Leader of the Opposition wants me to reveal more contingencies, and, of course, we do not do that. What I will be doing is working with my colleague the Minister for Health to make sure that, as the EPAS system is rolled out, sufficient funds are made available for an efficient rollout to make sure that we have the very, very best healthcare system in the land.

That is why Transforming Health is such a successful piece of policy, because we are attempting to do what no other government has done in this state, and that is actually take on the tough questions of reforming our healthcare system—the same way we are reforming our justice system, the same way we want to reform our taxation system. We are taking on the tough issues, taking on the tough questions because this government is a reformist government and it will rely on facts.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Finnis is called to order. The members for Morialta and Mount Gambier are warned a first time and the member for Unley is warned a second and final time. Leader.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): Has there been any further contingency provided to this project since the last update of a \$49 million contingency which was reported in the Mid-Year Budget Review at the end of 2011?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:30): I will get those details for the member.

Mr Marshall: Don't you know?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: But what the member should do, if he is so outraged by this, is to hold a press conference straight after question time. Walk outside, hold the press conference, call—

The SPEAKER: I warn the Treasurer for the second and final time for persistent, wilful digression.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I'm sorry, sir. I just wanted to make a point that if the Leader of the Opposition was so outraged by the EPAS—

The SPEAKER: One more word and the Treasurer will be joining the member for Newland. Leader.

ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): Given that the Auditor-General's Report tabled in the parliament this week suggested that the remaining budget may not be sufficient to undertake all in-scope activities, has the Treasurer created any further contingency whatsoever to the \$49 million already made clear to the parliament of South Australia?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:31): 'May' is the key word in that statement from the Auditor-General. The government is working to make sure that we can bring EPAS in as close to budget as we possibly can and to make sure that we do not have to expend moneys that are not necessary. But it is fair to say that Treasury and Health are working collaboratively together to make sure that we can deliver this system in an efficient way; and I have complete confidence that the Treasury and the health department are working quite collaboratively.

If there needs to be a change to the budget, if there needs to be an alteration, we will make that known in the fiscal statements. People will see that. It is transparent. We do not hide these things, Mr Speaker. But what I do say to the opposition is that we are working collaboratively to make sure that we can minimise any moneys that shouldn't be spent on EPAS that—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Davenport is called to order and the members for Adelaide and Mitchell are warned for the second and final time. Leader.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): My question is to the Treasurer. Given the government's persistent push for the GST base to be expanded to include financial services, is the Treasurer able to inform the house whether the government wants bank account deposits and withdrawal transactions to attract the GST?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:33): That would require an amendment in the commonwealth parliament and we have no control over that. We have not advocated that.

Mr Marshall: So you're pushing that?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We are not pushing that. The only people who are advocating changes to the GST are our political opponents, not us. We think that the GST is a regressive tax. We do not think it should be extended to food, health or education, but I do believe—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Members opposite have always called on us to work with the commonwealth government, and there is a commonwealth government white paper on taxation reform that has been released. Now, the government has just embarked on what is wholesale tax reform in this state. We have released a discussion paper and we responded in the budget with a comprehensive tax reform package, which has been welcomed by business and welcomed by industry and it is quite a stimulus for the South Australian economy.

We are keen to work with the commonwealth government to make sure that, now that we are getting our house in order, we can go to the commonwealth government with a clean slate and say that we are here to assist. We are not here to be—

Ms Sanderson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Adelaide is on the precipice.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —disruptive in this process. We want to work with the commonwealth government with its tax reform paper. We hope that it has some courage with its tax

reform process. Indeed, I have had discussions with Treasurer Hockey about payroll tax, and other state treasurers have also indicated their willingness to discuss and research whether or not we want to have a national scheme for payroll tax or, indeed, adopt the Henry review position on payroll tax which is some form of turnover tax rather than one on payroll. These are all things being canvassed by the white paper, and the white paper does look at GST.

Of course, the Prime Minister has been steadfast. He has said that if the states want changes to the GST they need to come to the commonwealth government with a proposal. What we say is you can't cut funding to the states, get us on our knees, and have us come to you on our knees with our hands out saying, 'Please increase the GST.' We won't do that. That will not work. That is not a way to run a collaborative federation. The way we want it to work is to work through the white paper process, the green paper process, through COAG and through the premiers' and Prime Minister's retreat—working together for a collaborative outcome. That is what we want to see.

This sort of gotcha politics—do you want a GST on this or do you want a GST on that—serves no purpose. It serves absolutely no purpose. I say to members opposite—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —put out a response about what taxes they want changed. Put out a response about what they want done with the GST. Tell us what your views on the GST are.

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker. I am sure you, Mr Speaker, are quite capable of telling the government what you want on tax reform, but this was a very simple question—

The SPEAKER: Yes, I think we've got that. Treasurer.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I think it is incumbent on all parties who ask questions about taxation reform to also put out an alternative.

Mr Marshall: No, it's not.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: 'No, it's not.' The Leader of the Opposition says it's not important for the opposition to put out an alternative tax policy. There you go—no policy on oil and gas, no policy on health, no policy on public transport and, now, no policy on taxation.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:36): Supplementary: given that the Treasurer has just said that he does not believe the GST should be broadened, does he agree or disagree with the Premier, who has publicly said that he does advocate for the GST to be expanded to financial services?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:36): Again, sir, another example of a Liberal front bencher verballing people. That's not what I said.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Go back to the record.

Mr GARDNER: There are remedies for the Speaker in this environment where a member of parliament continues to defy your rulings.

The SPEAKER: I don't think he is defying my ruling on that. There is no standing order against hurting the opposition's feelings. The Treasurer.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The Leader of the Opposition talked about GST on bank deposit withdrawals and cheques.

Mr Marshall: No, we didn't.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The Leader of the Opposition said, 'No, we didn't.' Okay. Mr Speaker, I wasn't talking about all financial services. The Leader of the Opposition asked me a specific question and I said we are going to this COAG process after having our house put in order through our own tax reform process. We are getting rid of inefficient taxation. We are getting rid of deadweight taxation that harms the economy. We are having a very efficient tax system which encourages and incentivises businesses which we think (and a lot of experts tell us) will actually go out and stimulate a lot of activity.

What the commonwealth government is asking the states to do through their green paper and white paper process on tax review is to talk about what it is we are prepared to look at. 'Financial services' is a broad piece of finance where GST could be applied. The idea that specifically I disagree with the Premier is just not accurate, just like saying—I don't want to upset the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A very wise withdrawal. Member for Bragg, deputy leader.

ROAD NETWORK CHARGE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): Thank you, member for Croydon. My question is to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. What scoping work has been done on the road network charges on trucks for the new Northern Connector project?

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) (14:39): What the government announced—indeed, what the Premier announced—last November was that the South Australian government was willing to consider a network access charge for heavy vehicles across the state not necessarily to apply to a particular road. That is, obviously, a markedly different concept from the concept of a toll which would apply to a single stretch of road, to all vehicles (heavy or otherwise) that traverse that road. It's obviously a very significant difference and a difference between the political parties in this chamber.

We've made it clear that while we're happy to investigate a network charge to apply across the state and while we would embark on work to investigate that and potentially to trial it with the involvement of industry, what we wouldn't support is a toll. That's obviously something the opposition now supports, despite telling people in the lead-up to the last election that they didn't support tolls. In fact, I remember the comments which were made by the deputy leader herself on 7 January 2014 where she said tolls on trucks were the slippery slope to tolls on light vehicles and they would never be supported by the South Australian Liberal Party. Of course, 130 days later there was a complete and utter backflip by the deputy leader.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: It's wrong, is it? Well, move the motion and let's have a debate.

The SPEAKER: The member for Stuart is warned a first time. Deputy leader.

ROAD NETWORK CHARGE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:40): Supplementary: can the Treasurer confirm then if any of the scoping study has been concluded, if that work has been concluded and provided to the government?

The SPEAKER: Minister for Transport.

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): I don't know if this is an ABBA film clip, sir, that we're filming here where she's asking the Treasurer a question and looking at me. Would you like me to answer this, or the Treasurer?

The SPEAKER: I was just looking for a minister to answer it. Anyone may rise.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I call to order the member for Kavel, who has caused that outbreak of disorder.

Mr GARDNER: Point of order: as ministers often point out, any minister can answer the question and speak on behalf cabinet. Can one of them please have a go?

The SPEAKER: That was probably a bogus point of order, but I will overlook it on this occasion. Minister for Transport.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Nonetheless, I'm happy to oblige, Mr Speaker. As I was saying in my previous answer, despite the interjections of the deputy leader when she said that that's not correct, it is indeed correct. There was a press release issued by her on 7 January 2014 when she said those exact same things, that she believed, she personally believed, that the introduction of tolls on heavy vehicles was something that would inevitably lead to the imposition of tolls on all vehicles in South Australia and that the South Australian Liberal Party would never support this in South Australia. Yet, 130 days later she snuck out a little article into *The Advertiser* saying that they have reversed their position and they now support a toll.

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order: if, as the minister says, a road network charge is not a toll then why is the minister only talking about tolls?

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader will withdraw for the next half an hour for that impromptu speech under the guise of a point of order.

The honourable member for Bragg having withdrawn from the chamber:

Mr Gardner: It could have been a supplementary.

The SPEAKER: It could have been a supplementary, as the member for Morialta interjects, if it were expressed to be a supplementary, but it didn't seem to be interrogative to me, it seemed to be a statement. Opposition?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: On my list it is the member for Goyder.

MARINE PARKS

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (14:43): And your list is correct, sir. My question is to the Minister for Regional Development.

Mr Pengilly interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Finniss is warned.

Mr GRIFFITHS: What is the Minister for Regional Development doing to support the livelihoods of commercial fishers and recreational communities impacted by marine parks, given the government's apparent refusal to act on any evidence given for the need for change to occur? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

The SPEAKER: The question was already full of comment, so you don't have my leave to explain it.

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, sir?

The SPEAKER: Yes?

Mr GARDNER: Are you expressly, as a member of the house—

The SPEAKER: Yes, I am.

Mr GARDNER: —personally refusing leave?

The SPEAKER: I am, yes.

Mr GARDNER: We look forward to similar exceptions on the other side.

The SPEAKER: Yes. Minister.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:44): Mr Speaker, can we have the question again, because I was anticipating the explanation?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Goyder—

Mr GRIFFITHS: Amusing place, sir. My question—

The SPEAKER: —if you could just ask a question without it being laden with comment.

Mr GRIFFITHS: The explanation is important though, sir, it is.

The SPEAKER: Well, the minister has now necessitated the explanation, so I revoke my veto.

Mr GRIFFITHS: You are a true gentleman, sir; I appreciate that. I will go back to the question. What is the Minister for Regional Development doing to support the livelihoods of commercial fishers and recreational communities impacted upon by marine parks, given the government's apparent refusal to not act upon any evidence provided to it?

The Minister for Environment in a radio interview approximately two weeks ago said, and I quote, that 'no matter what evidence you get you are not going to change the actual zones or the places of those zones or the geographical locations'. The Minister for Environment, in responding to a question in the other place said, and I quote, 'No, the zone boundaries won't be changing.'

The SPEAKER: I don't know that that added a lot to the question. Minister.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. As we know in this house, in October last year, I organised a regional impact assessment statement. They have been through the Goyder Institute and also through SACES. There are regional impact assessment statements being carried out in the three locations; that is, the West Coast, the Port Wakefield area and also Kangaroo Island.

I will be waiting for the regional impact assessment statements to come back. I have monthly meetings with the minister from the other house. No decision has been made on where we are at the moment, but can I also add that, if anyone on the other side has any collaboration or any confirmation of anything that may be affecting those three areas that we are talking about—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: —I encourage them to put an application in through the proposed system, through the regional impact assessment statement and the final decision will be made when the RIAS is completed in October.

Mr GRIFFITHS: A supplementary, sir.

The SPEAKER: Before the supplementary, I warn a first time the member for Kavel and the member for Hammond. I warn a second and final time the member for Finniss, and I am anxious about the member for Heysen because she hasn't been on my scoresheet all week. The member for Goyder.

MARINE PARKS

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (14:47): Given the response from the minister, I do ask the very serious question: how can he support a minister and a government who have already flagged, by statements publicly and in the Legislative Council, that they will not make any changes to marine park sanctuary zones without the impact study having been completed and, therefore, they are not meeting your requirement, which you set in place before you voted for the government to retain those spots?

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:47): I don't think I can be any clearer than my answer a minute ago. There have been no decisions. I am not going to make comment on what other ministers say but, certainly, I reinforce that anyone who is out there, including people in the caravan parks, the fisheries and in the tourism industry, I encourage them to participate in the regional impact assessment statement. I hear lots of comments in the media.

Again, the member for Goyder should be very, very clear. He has been pushing this subject for some months now. I want him to go out there and encourage those people to participate in the

regional impact assessment statements. As you are aware, we have a process going through. I have made it quite clear, and there is a commitment there, so I think I have explained it very clearly.

The SPEAKER: A supplementary, member for Goyder.

MARINE PARKS

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (14:48): And, indeed, to put on the record that I have forwarded on to the minister concerns put to me by business operators in Port Wakefield. Minister, is this an example of the response by the Minister for Environment and your response now, which contradicts somewhat an example of the collaboration or not that supposedly exists within the cabinet?

The SPEAKER: Was there a question in that?

Mr GRIFFITHS: Basically, sir—

The SPEAKER: Could you state the interrogative aspect in one sentence?

Mr GRIFFITHS: In a very succinct way: do they take notice of what you say and do?

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:49): I am not going to make comment on such a silly question.

MARINE PARKS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:49): Supplementary: why is the minister encouraging people to participate in the regional impact assessment work which is currently being done when the Minister for Environment has already said that no matter what that assessment shows there will be no changes to the sanctuary zone arrangements whatsoever?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (14:49): As the minister representing the Minister for Environment in this chamber I am happy to get a full answer about the way in which that study is being undertaken.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

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

BELAIR TRAIN SERVICE

Mr DULUK (Davenport) (14:50): My question is to the Minister for Transport. With one in every six trains running late on the Belair line, will the minister advise the house on how the government plans to increase the efficiency of the Belair train service?

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) (14:50): I am pleased to respond to the member for Davenport. The latest on-time running statistics for the week ending the 27 June show 93.3 per cent of trains were running on time on the Belair line, so I am not quite sure where the one in six statistic comes from except his imagination.

But I am glad that he has raised the issue in this parliament because we have been actively investing in our public transport, including the Belair line, and reopening a train station, which I understand is in the member for Unley's electorate, despite the lack of support or encouragement from him. That was all left up to the member for Ashford—and what great local representation for a much needed desired initiative that was on the Belair line.

We do continue to invest in our network and, despite having given an Appropriation Bill speech without apparently having read the budget, the member for Mitchell made reference yesterday to the need to invest in signalling infrastructure to make sure that we don't have the frequency of outages due to signalling interruptions. Those are the sorts of investments that we continue to make, despite having no impetus, no guidance or support or any policy, of course, from the opposition when it comes to public transport.

I am very pleased that one side of politics is happy to support the communities along the Belair line and continue to invest in upgrading the Belair line, as well as our other lines around metropolitan Adelaide, and we will continue to deliver improvements on on-time running.

BELAIR TRAIN SERVICE

Mr DULUK (Davenport) (14:52): Supplementary: can the minister advise the house what the efficiency of the Belair train line was on Monday 29 June?

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) (14:52): No, I don't have that figure in front of me.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (14:52): My question is to the Acting Premier. Given the minister's answer earlier this week about the GOVchat session around justice reform, can the minister explain what happens to the contact information provided to the government by callers to the session?

Mr Bell: They harvest it.

The SPEAKER: The member for Mount Gambier may be right. The 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): I thank the member for his question. GOVchat was actually a very worthwhile exercise. Not all ministers have yet been through the GOVchat exercise, but I can say that some of my staff were a bit sceptical about it until they got in there and experienced it for themselves and it was very good. The basic principle is this—

Mr Marshall: Name one thing you learnt from it.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: The member for Schubert is a sincere asker of questions, that much I have worked out.

Mr Marshall: He's an 'asker'.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: He's an asker, that's right. It might help to explain the format. One is seated at a cubicle-type arrangement: it is a cubicle built for two. My fellow ministers would know this, as they have done it. It is a cubicle—

Mr GARDNER: If we are going to have four minutes of the Attorney-General—

The SPEAKER: Prolixity is not a point of order. Let's take it as read that this is four minutes of our life we are never going to get back. The Attorney.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I did actually speculate to myself one day during question time that question time was proof that Einstein's first theory of relativity was, in fact, flawed, because this is one place where space-time doesn't behave in the usual way and it can seem like an awfully long time when one is in here when the clock is only—anyway, can I get back to the cubicle?

There's a cubicle built for two, and we receive information that a call is coming through. The minister or the public servant, as it could be, or members of my staff (who were a bit reluctant to be involved, but got into the spirit of it pretty quickly, I have to say), take the phone call. There is a scribe who sits next to them who takes notes, and the purpose of taking those notes is to follow up.

Mr Marshall: Are they members of a political party?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Are they members of a political party? I haven't the faintest idea. The person who was sitting next to me was a public servant, and I have no idea whether she has any political affiliation at all—no idea. We take down these notes. Sometimes these people do not identify themselves, as they need not; sometimes they say, 'Hello, I'm George,' or whatever; sometimes they give their full name. Sometimes they want a call back; sometimes they don't. The treatment of these things—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: 'I'm Commissioner Burns; this is my view on the bikie legislation.'

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Well, the commissioner was actually there.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Was he?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: He was. And they—

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will not pursue his panto by way of interjection.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: At the end of the session, we then counted up the number of calls and classified them into different categories of inquiry. The purpose of that was to get some judgement as to what level of interest different topics had for those who had decided to call in. I think I took about 15 or so calls and, in my own experience, very few of the people I spoke to wished to have any follow-up. Those who did gave us some follow-up details, and I've asked those people in my department to help those people by following up with those details.

Mr KNOLL: A reluctant supplementary, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: There's a supplementary?

GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (14:57): Given his answer, can the minister rule out that any of the information that has been provided by these callers to the government is used for further communication by the government outside that initial inquiry? Is that information passed on and used for further communication by the government to those people?

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) (14:57): Again, I thank the honourable member for his question. If I can just explain it this way, in my own personal experience, because I took a number of these calls, some of the people did not identify themselves at all. They just said, 'Hello—

Mr Knoll: The ones who did.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: The ones who did? I think, out of the 15 or so that I spoke to, probably two or three identified themselves and one or two wanted something else to happen. As far as I'm aware, all that happens is that it goes to the relevant Public Service entity—in my case, it was mainly AGD, but it could have been SAPOL or it could have been something to do with youth justice or whoever—

Mr Knoll: So the information is not harvested by Premier and Cabinet?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: To the best of my knowledge, all that happens is—

Mr Marshall: All the answers are 'to the best of my knowledge'. Why don't you just make a statement: yes or no?

Members interjecting:

Ms Vlahos: Do you need a red frog?

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

The Hon. J.R. RAU: When I say 'to the best of my knowledge', that is something that I think is important, because it's very good not to make statements that aren't accurate to the best of your knowledge. It's good to do your research, and it's also good not to be misleading, if you can avoid it, by simply asking what the true set of facts is.

What I'm saying is that, as far as I'm aware, all that happens with any of these inquiries is that they go off to the relevant agency if they can help. That might mean that the person receives a phone call from a public servant; it might mean there's a letter written; it might be that some piece of information is sent out. I'm looking at my ministerial colleagues who were there, and I assume they had a similar experience in the course of the evening.

I think the only real exception to that, possibly, in terms of the political purposes attached to GOVchat, might be a less fortunate experience that the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure had when some 200 people wound up calling in for a political purpose because they were agitated by the member for Bright, using his high-tech skills and very modern methods of communication to agitate a large number of people about noisy trains. To the best of my knowledge, that is the only political element that anyone has found in GOVchat. As I said, I was feeling a little bit—

Ms Vlahos: Unloved?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Yes, that's right, when we only got just under 300 calls and I heard that the Minister for Infrastructure had over 500, but when I discovered that half of them came from the member for Bright and his friends, that made me feel a bit better.

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is testing my patience. The member for Morphett.

DOMICILIARY CARE

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (15:00): My question is to the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion. Why is the government no longer providing loan equipment under Domiciliary Care programs, and will equipment be available for sale to current users of that equipment?

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) (15:00): I thank the member for Morphett for his question. In the aged-care space, we are undergoing a transitional period where the commonwealth is taking over this area. What we will see is Domiciliary Care continuing in its space of the Commonwealth Home Support program, and they will continue to do that. They have about 3,000 people who they support here, and sometimes they support more people through the course of a year.

In regard to the equipment, they will continue to be able to use the equipment that is required for that home support service. As we go further on, what we will see is that people who require greater levels of support will now be assessed through the ACAT system through the My Aged Care gateway. We will be grandfathering this through, so those current clients will continue to have that support until they need a higher level, and there are four higher levels. In regard to the equipment, if they require equipment for home support but not home care, they will continue to have that equipment.

YOUTH BOOT CAMP

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (15:02): My question is to the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion with responsibility for youth justice. When will the government's youth boot camps, as promised in the election, to divert young offenders from custody commence their operations?

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) (15:02): We are working on that.

Mr Marshall: How is it going?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: It's progressing, because we need to get certain tender arrangements organised. The last time I saw some paper come across my desk in relation to this I think was probably in the last month or so. We want to make sure that, first of all, we have the right provider and, secondly, I consider it very important that these programs have an evaluation element built into them. Because one of the big risks I have discovered in very well-meaning programs initiated by governments of all persuasions everywhere is that somebody has a good idea and those ideas are initiated and, at the end of a period of time, it is impossible to evaluate what actual value has come out of that project.

As far as I am concerned anyway, and I think as far as my ministerial colleagues are concerned, if this is going to deliver value, we want to be able to come back to the parliament and to the public and say, 'Here is value here and here is why there is value here because we have had somebody measuring this thing.' That is the bit that I am actually concentrating on now. When I am

satisfied that there is an appropriate evaluation process embedded in the whole proposal and that we have a suitable partner, it will be going ahead. I think it does have some promise, and I think—

The SPEAKER: A quick answer is a good answer, Attorney.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I am happy to help the parliament as much as—

The SPEAKER: Would you?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: By sitting down? Very well.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary?

YOUTH BOOT CAMP

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (15:04): Given that the Attorney-General was in fact the minister who made the election promise, and given that he made comments publicly late last year that in fact this program would be underway by the middle of this year as per the election promise, when is it going to commence?

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) (15:04): Again, I thank the honourable member for his question and, like him, I am eager to get on with this. My point is simply this: we do have money in the budget; this is an election promise; it will be delivered. My colleague the Treasurer I know will have no problem at all funding this. In fact, I am positive it is in that pile of documents that he produced for us the other day, so I don't think there is any issue about that. The only question is this: I just want to make sure we dot the i's and cross the t's and have a good project.

The SPEAKER: Splendid. The member for Mitchell.

MOTOR ACCIDENT COMMISSION

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (15:05): My question is to the Treasurer. When the MAC is wound up, will all sponsorships and partnerships with community groups, such as the Adelaide Lightning, the SANFL, CountryFooty, schoolies, the rescue helicopter and Ambulance SA, as well as road safety initiatives, all be guaranteed? If so, how will they be funded?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (15:05): The same way they are funded now, by the MAC budget. The Motor Accident Commission, I am advised, levy premiums and they use those levies to fund their operations and fund initiatives, and I expect it to remain the same. The Motor Accident Commission board will remain; they will have a similar function to what they have now, without having to worry about the investment processes that they have in the past, once the process is complete. They will be still embarking on their process of sponsoring community groups—the good work that they do sponsoring—

Mr Marshall: How will they raise the money?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The same way they do it now: they levy premiums. I know that the Leader of the Opposition isn't that keen on us allowing the private sector into—

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is now digressing. The member for Elder.

RESERVES AND PLAYGROUNDS

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (15:06): My question is to the Minister for Planning. How is the government delivering on its election promise—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer has joined the member for Unley and the member for Adelaide on the precipice. The member for Elder.

Ms DIGANCE: How is the government delivering on its election promise to invest in playgrounds and reserves in our community?

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) (15:07): Can I say thank you very much to the member for Elder for this important question.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: If the Treasurer utters a word outside standing orders in the last six minutes, he shall depart by the same path as the member for Newland and the deputy leader.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: It's the Jedi mind tricks from the member for Kavel that worry me more, but anyway.

Ms Vlahos: Silent menace!

The SPEAKER: The member for Taylor is warned.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Prior to the 2014 election, the government committed to the continued development of reserves and playgrounds across Adelaide through a \$16 million commitment over four years. I am pleased to announce the government has delivered on the first stage of this promise by approving \$4 million in grants this year.

Ms Vlahos: Hear, hear! Great project.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: It is a great project, and it will be delivered through the Planning and Development Fund, which is a great fund, and it is one that needs to be applied to these very important projects. More than 20 playgrounds—more than 20, Mr Speaker—parks and reserves across Adelaide will be either constructed or significantly upgraded, providing increased access to open spaces for the community throughout our suburbs. Some of these playgrounds include:

- an inclusive play space in Oaklands Park that provides opportunities for people with hearing and vision impairments, mobility impairments and spectrum disorders to play side by side with others;
- the implementation of a linear park along the Smith Creek corridor in the City of Playford, which will provide a cycling and walking trail connecting several suburbs—

Mr KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker. It seems that all of these projects that the minister is now going through are provided in his release dated 13 February 2014.

The SPEAKER: Can the Deputy Premier assure the house, bearing in mind parliamentary privilege—

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Indeed.

The SPEAKER: —that none of this is contained in a readily accessible statement?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Mr Speaker, I am confident—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Mr Speaker, can I say—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I am trying to answer the Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Please. Mr Speaker, I am confident that, at some point in time, in the not too distant past, I may have foreshadowed that these marvellous projects might be going ahead. But, now, I have different news.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I have different news now, Mr Speaker. I have the news that they have gone ahead, and I am trying to tell members the information about which ones have gone ahead.

The SPEAKER: Well, that makes all the difference.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I think it does, Mr Speaker. That was 'I anticipate doing—' What was the date, member for Schubert?

Mr Knoll: 13 Feb 2014.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Well, that is a long time ago.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: If I might just finish, I think I might have some surprises here for the member for Schubert. The implementation of a linear park along Smith Creek—did we talk about that?

Ms Vlahos: Yes.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Okay. What about a significant upgrade to the Roy Marten Regional Park in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Ah; no, you've missed that one—including the construction of the small and large dog breed parks, a fitness path, and junior and senior play spaces. Importantly, applications for the 2015-16 grants open early next year, and I look forward to working with councils by approving other projects. These projects will become vital community assets—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: They will. I have visited some of these assets, and they are vital, and they are in the community.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier's time has expired. The member for Giles.

RESIDENTS WIN ROAD SAFETY GRANTS

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:11): My question is to the Minister for Road Safety. Will the minister outline how funding from the Residents Win grants program is progressing?

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:11): I thank the honourable member for his question, and I also acknowledge the number of questions he asks of me in terms of road safety matters, as does the member for Mitchell, who I met with this morning on road safety.

The Residents Win grants program was implemented in June last year following an election commitment that provides \$2 million to community road safety grants over the next four years. Residents Win provides community members with the opportunity to identify and highlight their own road safety issues and assist them find cost-effective project solutions. In this way, projects are developed according to community need, because local community members are often best placed to identify road safety concerns. If I remember correctly, I met with the member for Goyder and some groups of residents in his area to discuss the Residents Win project.

This program seeks to improve community understanding of road safety solutions through a two-stage consultation process with Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. Through this process, a community is assisted with developing innovative solutions to their concerns. The Residents Win grant program has been promoted widely within the community through advertising and the distribution of postcards and other materials to councils and community organisations. Specific promotions have been tailored for Aboriginal communities, which have resulted in three projects currently being developed to address their road safety concerns.

Since the grants were announced, 81 expressions of interest have been received and assessed. Thirty-three expressions of interest have moved to the next stage of the process, where the applicant works with a member of the advisory panel to develop a solution and funding application. I am pleased to advise that the first project applications to receive Residents Win grant program funds can now be announced.

Residents of Corn Street, Old Reynella have received \$150,000 for a project which responds to residents' concerns about dangerous and irresponsible driving behaviours and unsafe pedestrian access. The residents' project aims to address these concerns through implementing traffic-calming measures, widening of footpaths, and changes to on-street parking.

Residents in Andamooka have received \$11,053 for a project which responds to residents' concerns over the visibility of cyclists and pedestrians at night. This funding will be used for the installation of six solar streetlights to be installed on the sealed roads in the Andamooka town centre. The project supports the Andamooka Town Management Committee's Community Hub Masterplan which, amongst other things, seeks to make the Andamooka town centre a safer and more vibrant place for residents and visitors alike.

A further four projects with innovative solutions are expected to be funded shortly which are also targeted at protecting vulnerable road users, such as cyclists and pedestrians. The number of applications submitted to the Residents Win program to date has demonstrated the popularity of empowering community members to engage in the process of not only identifying road safety problems but also playing their role in developing cost-effective solutions.

Finally, if anyone has identified a road safety concern and would like to play their part in developing a solution, I would encourage them to visit the Residents Win website at www.residentwin.sa.gov.au and submit an expression of interest.

Ministerial Statement

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:15): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: Earlier today the member for Morphett rose on a matter of privilege about information I had provided to the house. More specifically, the honourable member is of the opinion that I may have misled the house about whether I issued a statutory direction to the board of SAFECOM to do a trial that is currently taking place with the Mount Barker Country Fire Service Brigade. The Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 in section 7(2) states:

A direction given to the Commission under this section must be in writing.

I reassure the house that I issued no such direction. I repeat: I have issued no such direction. By way of background, on 11 February 2015 I attended the SAFECOM board meeting where I discussed the opportunities to improve the urban fire and rescue capability in the Mount Barker area. This has been a continuing issue since the Mount Barker brigade provided a submission to the then minister for emergency services, the Hon. Michael O'Brien, in 2013.

At no time during the meeting did I direct the board orally or, more importantly, in writing. A written direction would be required for the purposes of section 7(2). This is reflected in the minutes of that meeting, a copy which I now table. My office has recently provided the member for Morphett with documents under freedom of information about the trial in Mount Barker that has since been initiated by the board.

In a letter dated 6 October 2014 to Mr Chapman, captain of the Mount Barker brigade, I used the word 'directed' in its generic rather than in its legislative sense. It is unfortunate if the use of this word has been construed as a direction under section 7(2). This is not meant to be the case. I was simply asking my agencies to provide me with advice on what might be possible in Mount Barker under the circumstances. Mr Speaker, I table a copy of that letter.

I offer my apology for creating a semantic confusion by using the word 'direct' in my letter to Mr Chapman in its generic sense but certainly not in its statutory meaning.

Dr McFETRIDGE: Mr Speaker, just a point of clarification, have you—

The SPEAKER: I am not really fond of points of clarification.

Dr McFETRIDGE: Well, on this matter of privilege, have you ruled on the matter of privilege, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Sorry?

Dr McFETRIDGE: Are you making a ruling on the matter of privilege?

The SPEAKER: Yes, I am.

Dr McFETRIDGE: I am new to this place—I have only been here nearly 14 years—but I would have thought that you would provide your adjudication before the minister was able to provide his excuse.

The SPEAKER: That seems me to be a reflection on the Chair. I have been working assiduously, together with the Clerk, morning and afternoon on the member's point of privilege, and I will come to the house within the normal timetable for a ruling on that. The suggestion that somehow I am derelict in my duty by not ruling on it before the minister came in to make a ministerial statement or personal explanation is not justified.

Grievance Debate

VIOLET DAY

Mr PISONI (Unley) (15:19): Before the poppy became a symbol of remembrance, South Australia used the violet as a symbol of perpetual remembrance. The first Violet Day was held in Adelaide on 2 July 1915, with a crowd gathering at what we know now as the Boer War memorial—which I note is suitably decorated today—to honour and remember Australian troops and to listen to speeches and the police band, and I thank those participating in that decoration.

As part of the Cheer-Up Fund, women dressed in white and sold posies of violets and purple ribbons. In the years of war that followed, Violet Day was repeated and, by 1917, newspaper reports were stressing the significance of the violet as 'the symbol of perpetual remembrance for those gallant dead who have given their lives for their country'. Again, a ceremony was held at the War Memorial, with the naval and military bands in attendance.

In an interesting reflection on the different attitudes of the time, the gathering was advised that to grieve long and hopelessly was futile and wrong. Tears should not mar the day but thoughts of a brightness of glory should prevail. However, the Governor, Sir Henry Galway, who was obviously a man sensitive to issues broader than the huge sacrifices being made by men at the front, addressed the gathering promising:

...their memory will never fade...Today we not only honour the dead, but our hearts go out with the deepest respect and sympathy to those who are mourning the loss of their nearest and dearest. The British Empire will never be able to repay the debt owed to the women for their calm self sacrifice in this great struggle. They have given everything uncomplainingly. We are as proud of our women as of our men...The memory of our honoured dead will remain with us for all time.

Today, of course, marks the 100-year anniversary or centenary of Violet Day. When remembering Violet Day and those who have served, we should, like Governor Galway, also recognise that Violet Day, Cheer-Up societies and many of the activities at that time provided comfort, fundraising, preparing comfort packages, tending to the returned wounded and giving moral support to those serving overseas by pro active, talented and dedicated women doing everything within their power to assist in the war effort, their menfolk and the nation.

I was very privileged, of course, today to be earlier involved in a bipartisan supported motion that also recognised for the first time nurses serving on Lemnos island in the Gallipoli confrontation during World War I.

CLOVELLY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (15:22): I rise today to highlight a recent visit to Parliament House by students from a school within my electorate of Elder, namely, Clovelly Park Primary School. I was indeed very fortunate to host a large group of 40 years 6 and 7 students from two classes on a tour last week. I would like to commend those students, in particular, along with their teachers, support staff and parents, because I was simply overwhelmed by their level of dynamic engagement and by

the quality of their questions. They really kept me on my toes, as it seemed almost every student had multiple questions about our parliament—both the physical building and the underpinning democratic system of legislation and government.

Prior to the tour, I was pleased to provide copies of my Parliament House tour book which contains, among other things, an account of how laws are made, the history of this place, its members and the role of the members. Clovelly Park year 6/7 teacher Vicki Faulkner said the Parliament House tour was a wonderful opportunity for students to see and experience what they had learned in class, to flesh out what had previously been an abstract concept for them.

What makes the efforts of these students even more noteworthy is that they are not from one of our most privileged schools or communities. In fact, Clovelly Park Primary School has a reasonably high level of disadvantage, both financial and physically. On average, there are also 70 per cent of students who are from an English as a second language background across the two classes who attended the tour.

There are also four students from that group with a diagnosed disability; yet I do not think I have ever met a group of young people so curious about the machinations of government or so well versed in certain aspects of the legislative process. It was heartwarming to see such enthusiasm at such a young age. I would not be surprised to learn in years to come that students on this visit ended up representing their local communities or state here in this place as MPs or as legislative councillors; or perhaps they will be grilling our successors as members of the media pack covering state politics or, as one boy in the group suggested, directing the day-to-day goings on from the Clerk's chair. But wherever the coming years take them, I am sure these inquisitive, bright, passionate youth will mature into young adults, well prepared and keen to offer unique and important contributions to our society, and the teachers, ancillary staff and school community of Clovelly Park Primary School will have played no small part in that journey.

Teaching, like nursing, can be a strange, multifaceted, all-consuming occupation, demanding a vocational heart, a professional mind, the skills of a tradesperson, the diplomacy of an ambassador, the mediating abilities of a counsellor and the patience of a saint. Along with supportive families, friends and community influences, teachers help to guide impressionable individuals, mentor developing characters and liberate young minds. As I have said previously in this place, high quality, accessible education should be a right not a privilege for all Australians, no matter what their culture, colour, creed or credit rating.

The year 6/7 student group which visited from Clovelly Park Primary School are just one example of the importance of a good primary school education in opening up the world and the future to our young people. Clearly, this includes new arrivals to Clovelly Park, who are paired with a mentor to assist them in the transition to this wonderful school. I recently heard the school principal, Ms Julie Bishop, say that, if students are safe and happy 'they're the best learners'. How true.

I would like to congratulate these students, their parents, the school staff and community and thank them for joining me at Parliament House. I look forward to meeting with them again and welcoming future students of Clovelly Park to this place, along with those from the many other great schools in my electorate.

BRIGHT ELECTORATE

Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (15:26): I rise today to apprise the house of a number of activities and events which have been happening in the electorate of Bright lately and to put on the public record my great appreciation of the community service provided by many members of the community that I am privileged to represent.

On 19 June, I had the pleasure of attending the annual handover dinner of the Rotary Club of Hallett Cove. At the dinner, the 2014-15 club president, Grant Sibly, was praised for his role in growing club membership and ensuring the club's continued important role in many local community events. Grant's friendly persona and steady leadership have ensured the club's success for another year and I sincerely thank him and his wife Shiralee for their service to our community.

At the handover dinner, Grant stepped down and was replaced by Satish Gupta, who is entering the role for a fourth time, although his previous presidencies were with other clubs. Satish

has only been a member of the Hallett Cove club for a few months, following the closure of the Marion Rotary Club, and he is to be congratulated for stepping into this role after such a short period of time in the club. It is doubtless that he brings substantial experience and networks within the Rotary movement to the club and I am sure the year of his leadership will see further growth for the club.

I would also like to pay tribute to John Myers, who has stepped down as a member of the Rotary Club of Hallett Cove following 30 years of service within the Rotary movement. John's commitment to the club and to our community has been consistent for many years and while he has made the decision to step down from active service within Rotary, I am sure he will continue to serve our community in other ways. I wish John all the best and thank him for his enduring service to our coastal communities.

The following day, 20 June, my wife, Hannah, and I had the privilege of attending another handover dinner. This time the dinner was hosted by the Lions Club of Hallett Cove and Districts. This club is one which has experienced rapid growth in recent years and now has a membership approaching 50. In these times of declining memberships within service clubs, the Lions Club of Hallett Cove provides a model based around service and fun, which can and should be followed by many other clubs to ensure their success. This club is a true success story.

At the handover dinner, the club detailed its contribution to our local community in the past year and revealed that it has contributed over \$50,000 to the community. Last month, I was able to attend a cheque presentation where the club provided cheques of up to \$1,000 to Hallett Cove based sporting clubs to invest in their youth development programs. In total, \$6,500 was distributed to sporting clubs and \$1,000 to the Hallett Cove Scout Group—an amazing effort and an example of community helping community.

At the recent handover dinner, the wonderful Jill Kimber stood down as president after serving for the past year. Jill and her husband Tom are fantastic members of the club and the Hallett Cove community. Jill's enthusiasm and commitment to the Lions movement and our local club has been amazing, and the club has enjoyed another successful year under her leadership. Its greatest achievement of 2015 is no doubt one which I have spoken about in parliament before; that is, the Anzac memorial and community Anzac Dawn Service at Hallett Cove's foreshore—a gigantic success and one the club will forever go down in history for creating.

Another event I wish to draw to the house's attention is the Biggest Morning Tea hosted by Hallett Cove stalwart Jan Cocks in aid of the Cancer Council. Each year, Jan throws open her home's doors for friends and contacts to come and enjoy a cuppa for this great cause. Thank you to Jan and her husband Graham for all they do for our community.

I would like to close on a slightly sadder note, that being the recent winding-up of the Rotary Club of Brighton. As a result of a low and ageing membership, the club decided several months ago to close its doors at the end of June and, on 27 June, held a celebration dinner to mark 43 years since its inception. I was very sorry that I was unable to attend the dinner, but I wanted to take this opportunity to place on the public record my immense gratitude to the club.

It was with some sadness that I read the club's final newsletter Rotabright last week, put together by club legend Alan Lawrie. Particular congratulations to Meredith Beaston for her work as the club's president over the 2014-15 session. The club's efforts in supporting the Brighton community will be greatly missed; however, I hope to see many of its members continuing their involvement in other Rotary clubs within the district.

BURNS, COMMISSIONER GARY

Ms COOK (Fisher) (15:32): I rise today using this great opportunity to pay thanks to police Commissioner Gary Burns for the fantastic work he has done as head of South Australia's police force during his tenure before he retires on 20 July. Gary Burns has been involved in policing for 45 years and really worked his way through the ranks. He has served as a cop on the beat, served on South Australia's elite STAR Group, and then served the state in a number of key, strategic and executive roles.

In 2003, Commissioner Burns was transferred to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in the Security and Emergency Management Office. He was responsible for implementing a number

of policies which have kept South Australia safe from terrorism and led a number of emergency management reviews.

Commissioner Burns has always gone above and beyond what is expected of a police officer. Among his many personal achievements is the 1978 awarding of a Bravery Medal after he entered a burning house to save the life of a resident, as well as his receipt of the Australian Police Medal, National Medal and SAPOL Service Medal.

I had the great honour of working with Commissioner Gary Burns when I was the co-CEO of the Sammy D Foundation. He demonstrated a real commitment to working with a range of community organisations throughout South Australia, ensuring that our police force always had their ear to the ground responding to community needs. The premature use of alcohol by our teenagers and, of course, the use of any illicit substances can lead to developmental delays, reduced engagement in education, poor education, antisocial behaviours, violence and criminal and recidivist behaviours.

The Sammy D Foundation used a consultative and evidence-based approach in the development of its programs from inception. The three programs were developed based on the use of powerful narrative, engaging information sharing workshops and public campaigns targeting risk groups. These programs target bullying, violent and antisocial behaviours and offer strategies for prevention, particularly in relation to the exacerbation of those serious community problems in the presence of the use of alcohol and/or other drugs.

The Party Wise program in particular targets groups of young people to empower them to make safe choices while celebrating, while promoting mateship and leadership. The foundation was able to demonstrate its methodology was best practice, and with outcomes and evaluations well-documented, the commissioner and his team now provide support and endorsement of this delivery to thousands of young people every year. Thanks to this agreement offered under the watch of Commissioner Gary Burns, SAPOL local officers have supported workshops in partnership with the foundation in dozens of regional and metropolitan locations.

A significant partnership was also in the work of the Great Night Out campaign. SAPOL cobranded public awareness material and participated actively in the steering committee, along with approximately 10 other NGOs and peak bodies. This program continues now post the funding period using charitable donor dollars—a great investment. SA Ambulance and SAPOL both support the delivery of Party Wise programs. The Sammy D Foundation does not operate alone in this space, with other NGOs, such as Encounter Youth and Drug ARM, working tirelessly to educate and support young people in the space of alcohol-related harm.

It is pleasing to note that alcohol-related harm is now down. The presentation rate to hospitals related to excessive alcohol intake is at its lowest in four years for adults and is, in fact, down by approximately 30 per cent for teenagers. This is so very positive. These results can be attributed to a combination of the fantastic work undertaken by the above and many other NGOs, but also by the wonderful leadership shown by the commissioner in relation to the work of SAPOL supporting this journey and to the cooperative work undertaken by his team and this government in relation to the late night code. This work will form part of Commissioner Gary Burns' legacy.

Thank you, commissioner, for your vision, your progressive leadership and most of all for your investment. I wish Commissioner Burns the best of luck with whatever he pursues in his retirement. He has always put the community first and demonstrated his complete devotion to our state. I would like to welcome Grant Stevens to the role.

DAVENPORT ELECTORATE SERVICE CLUBS

Mr DULUK (Davenport) (15:36): I rise today to speak in support of the tremendous work that volunteers do in our community. I am fortunate to have some wonderful service clubs in my electorate. In particular, I have two Lions Clubs and three Rotary Clubs within Davenport. The Lions Club of Aberfoyle and Districts (which is my club), the Lions Club of Blackwood, the Rotary Club of Blackwood, the Rotary Club of Coromandel Valley and the Rotary Club of Flagstaff Hill.

I am fortunate that I will be able to attend or have already attended all of the annual handover dinners for my service clubs, except for the Lions Club of Blackwood as their dinner clashed with my Aberfoyle club dinner. I would like to put on the record my thanks to the new club presidents and the

outgoing presidents of those clubs for all the work that they have undertaken or will undertake going forward: Adrian Chenoweth from the Aberfoyle and Districts Club, who happens to be both last year's president and this year's president; Kevin Bird, the 2015-16 president of Blackwood Lions and immediate past president, Margaret Lucas; Garry Dolman of the Blackwood Rotary Club and immediate past presidents John Lewis and John Pentha; Rob Farrugia of Flagstaff Hill Rotary and immediate past president John Howard; and president-elect Graham Rodda of Coromandel Valley Rotary and immediate past president Peter Tiffin.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate all the individual award winners, the Melvin Jones and Paul Harris Award recipients, for their hard work in their respective clubs. I know that club members undertake community service activities not for any personal reward but for the betterment of their community. Collectively, the five service clubs in my electorate raise and donate to various projects around about a quarter of a million dollars per year and this is a tremendous effort.

These funds are raised from the members of the Davenport community for community groups and global causes. Indeed, many of the Lions and Rotarians can be seen fundraising for the community every week at the Lions Bargain Centre on Shepherds Hill Road, the Rotary giant plant sale at the Waite Street Reserve, firewood projects, annual fairs, the Blackwood Christmas pageant, the Lions Book Shed, giant book sales, community barbecues, quiz nights, various appeals, raffles, art exhibitions and shows, Lions Christmas cake sales, mint sales and many more grassroots fundraising activities.

The groups and organisations—local, national and international—that receive donations from both Lions and Rotary are endless and extensive. Over the past 12 months, to name a few, the Lions and Rotary clubs within my electorate have donated to groups including the Sturt CFS Group Tanker Appeal, the Beacon-Mitcham Hills Inter-Church Council, many of the local scouting groups, Bellevue Heights Primary School community garden project, the Craniofacial Foundation, Lions Hearing Dogs and Lions Medical Research Foundation.

In addition, they have supported ShelterBox for Nepalese earthquake victims, many school library projects including the school library project in the town of Tizi in Morocco, the Australian Rotary Health Association, Australian Rotarians Against Malaria, the Kompiam Hospital project in PNG, Days for Girls International and countless other worthy recipients.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Mr Joe and Mrs Rita Meuris from the Rotary Club of Flagstaff Hill who were awarded an OAM in the Australia Day honours. The OAM was in recognition of their service to the international community through humanitarian aid projects in Fiji. Since 2005, they have spent 120 weeks working on the Rotahomes project in Koroipita Village, Fiji, supporting that local community.

As Winston Churchill once said, 'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.' Without the generous hearts of volunteers there would be, for example, no sports coaching for the young, no care for the sick and the injured, and no meals for the elderly, just to name a few of the noble works that volunteers do.

From operating community op shops that benefit the less well-off to fundraising for the homeless, who receive a hot meal at night, volunteers are at the very heart of making this state great. It has been estimated that over one in three South Australians volunteer on a regular basis, and nationally volunteers contribute about \$290 billion to the economy through their volunteer work.

The unsung heroes of our community organisations are the lifters of our society and not the leaners. As a parliament, we must not only thank our volunteers but always ensure that the laws we pass do everything to help volunteers and make it easier for people to become new volunteers, rather than wrapping them up in red tape. The Rotary motto, 'Service Above Self', and the Lions' motto, 'We Serve' embody what is best in our community.

COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICES

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:41): I rise today to talk about health services in country South Australia. Much of the focus to date on the health portfolio has been on the metropolitan area and the Transforming Health agenda. Transforming Health is important for those of us who live in regional South Australia. On any day, roughly 15 per cent of patients using health services in Adelaide are

from country South Australia. Transforming Health will help deliver timely, quality care, and that will help all South Australians, irrespective of where they live.

It is worth mentioning that funding for healthcare services in country South Australia is over \$789 million per year. It is also worth mentioning the \$2.5 million annual funding boost to the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme, which has been a very successful scheme indeed and has helped many eligible country patients to access services in the metropolitan area.

Many of our larger country hospitals have, in recent years, undergone major improvements. We have seen the redevelopment of the Riverland General Hospital at Berri. The Port Lincoln general hospital has benefited from a nearly \$40 million investment. There are now 20 single ensuite bedrooms and two state-of-the-art operating theatres, in addition to a range of other improvements.

Mount Gambier has also seen a major \$26.7 million investment. Whyalla underwent a very impressive redevelopment, which saw the previous federal government, in partnership with the state, invest \$70 million for a much-needed upgrade. It is worth bearing in mind that the then federal Liberal opposition opposed regional hospital redevelopments in our state.

There has been a big investment in dedicated chemotherapy units throughout regional South Australia. Units have opened in Wallaroo, Clare, Whyalla, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Naracoorte, Berri, Ceduna, the South Coast, Port Lincoln, Mount Gambier and Port Pirie. There has been an improvement in the delivery of psychiatric services with a number of hospitals providing services that were previously only available in Adelaide. Communities like Whyalla now have a resident psychiatrist for the first time. I could go on to list a whole range of services that have been either introduced or improved, the latest of which is the opening of country South Australia's first MRI machine at Whyalla.

The overall improvements of Country Health services reduce the need for those of us who live in regional South Australia to visit Adelaide for medical assistance. Much of the redevelopment focus has been on our larger regional hospitals. Our smaller hospitals in country towns also provide essential medical services and are often the first point of contact for residents in distress. When the Transforming Health agenda was announced, I asked minister Snelling whether there were any implications for smaller country hospitals. The reason for asking is that people in smaller communities get understandably nervous at the prospect of closure or the downgrading of services. I was given an assurance that our smaller country hospitals would not be touched.

With improvements in communication technology, there has been an expansion in treatment options for individuals in country South Australia. The recently launched pilot Virtual Clinical Care service will assist country residents to better manage chronic conditions such as diabetes, respiratory complaints and heart problems through the use of telemonitoring technology. The monitoring equipment is used by the participants to measure a range of variables which are then fed into a personal telehealth device on a daily basis which, in turn, is digitally sent to a team of health experts.

The approach leads to improved management of chronic conditions and earlier intervention when needed. Fifty people from 13 country communities are participating in the trial, with the results to be reviewed in six months. If the results are positive, the service is likely to be expanded, which will lead to better health for country residents and a likely reduction in health costs by reducing time spent in hospital.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2015

Estimates Committees

The Legislative Council gave leave to the Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills (Hon. G.E. Gago), the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (Hon. I.K. Hunter) and the Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation (Hon. K.J. Maher) to attend and give evidence before the estimates committees of the House of Assembly on the Appropriation Bill, if they think fit.

Appropriation Grievances

Adjourned debate on motion to note grievances.

(Continued from 1 July 2015.)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey is continuing and he has five minutes to go.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:48): Five minutes—well, how about that. I think when I was last on my feet I was talking about some of the issues or some of the downfalls with the government's trade policies. It is great to see the minister here, and I am sure that he is working diligently, writing policy and making sure that South Australia has better trade numbers than it currently does.

South Australia is coming to rely more and more on food and fibre, beverages and wine, and less and less on resources. I think that for far too long we have watched this current government pin their hopes on what is the flavour of the moment. We have missed the mining boom, but we have not missed a renewable resource, and that is particularly our ability to be able to grow premium, blue-sky, safe food.

What I want to just touch on in the short amount of time remaining is that, obviously, on this side, we are in opposition and we do criticise the government on some of their budget priorities and their priorities in general about how the state runs. I want to touch on ways that an economic stimulus could be developed and how we could potentially grow our employment and economic base.

I want to touch on a couple of projects, which, travelling around the state, I have seen as a glaring and obvious advancement of food production, and just exactly where I think we are missing the mark. The north has obviously been highlighted with the demise of manufacturing. To be quite honest, I know that ministers and people within the government continue to blame the commonwealth government, but I think we need to look past that because the blame game needs to stop and we need to get on with growing our economy. We need to look at opportunities. As I have already said in this place a number of times, I have been in that seat: I worked for the car manufacturing sector, I was retrenched and I moved on, and that is what I think South Australia needs to do.

In the north, obviously if we are looking at economic opportunities, infrastructure is probably one of the biggest issues that is lacking there, particularly power. I am sure many people in this chamber have seen the D'Vine operation out at the Gawler Plains, and some members might have been up to Port Augusta and had a look at the Sundrop operation. They are world-class operations, they are the way of the future and they are an opportunity begging for support.

Private investors recently came to D'Vine. They are always seeking a little bit of government assistance to help them along the way, and the only thing that is stopping them from expanding and doubling their production is power. Just imagine an extra 500 jobs there. If we look at the purple pipe water from Bolivar, that is sending re-used water out north to grow food and to provide third-party access to the Clare and Gilbert valleys in order to make them viable and more profitable. There are a couple of issues.

Let's look at the south. We have a water minister who is in denial. He is in absolute denial about how precious the resource is. The minister is playing political games with basin plans and numbers and really does not give a hoot about the impacts of the basin plans, who is giving up water and what it means to our economic base. Let's look at Lake Albert as an example. Lake Albert is a large watercourse with high salinity, and we are very much unable to use a lot of that water. For the minister to use federal money to put a connector into the Coorong, it is a double win: not only does it help the environment and send a message to our Eastern States counterparts within the river system to say that we are being proactive and we are addressing our water issues down here but also it could potentially turn what is currently a \$3 million economy into a \$40 million economy and put some confidence back into that region.

If we look at river communities, at the moment they are giving up all their water so that South Australia can honour the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. How about we turn on the desal? At the moment, we see that the desal has been through its warranty stage of 18 months. We saw the price go up, but we have not seen the price come back down now that the desal is not operating. Let's turn on the desal, lease out some of the water and grow crops. If we grew some annual crops, that would be about negatively gearing what is a mothballed \$2.3 billion or \$1.8 billion piece of infrastructure doing nothing. Let's turn it into productive infrastructure. Water security in South Australia needs to be a priority.

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (15:53): I continue my response to the Appropriation Bill, having last stood up on this issue at 10pm on Tuesday evening, so I am pleased to finally get back to it, and I thank the whip for giving me this opportunity. I had got to the point where I was discussing the emergency services levy. Of course, this issue is causing much grief within regional South Australia. I have never seen a government alienate regional communities over any particular issue as much as this one has.

With the removal of the remission last financial year, there was a significant increase in what landowners, businesses and home owners were paying around the state. For a lot of farmers, whose properties are admittedly worth a considerable amount of money in some instances, their ESL bill has gone up by some thousands of per cent.

What we have seen, of course, is a backlash. This is a developing story, because those very landowners and those very farmers are also the volunteers who man the CFS trucks. The Treasurer has built into this coming year's budget another 9 per cent increase in the cost of the emergency services levy. It is nothing more than a land tax. It is a triple hit on volunteers; not only do they pay the levy but they also volunteer their time, service and skills to what are essential services. They also lose time from their own businesses and jobs. They are really feeling like they are being double-dipped or triple-dipped on this issue.

It involves the CFS, the SES, ambulance volunteers and even the MFS, because while they are not all paid employees, there are some volunteers involved in that service as well. I would suggest that the government really have not yet felt the full force of the response to this action from people right around South Australia, and particularly around regional South Australia.

I make the point that the state government is responsible for some 20 per cent of the land area of South Australia. It is a significant portion of this state. There are now a number of CFS brigades on Eyre Peninsula who have indicated that they are not prepared to volunteer and fight fires should they occur on government land. Given that 20 per cent of this state is under government control—particularly in the seat of Flinders, on Eyre Peninsula, there are large areas of national parks, and there is also a large portion of land held in the south of the peninsula and controlled by SA Water—I wonder how the government is prepared to manage this issue and respond to fires, should they occur in those areas on land that they control. It is a question we will no doubt be exploring during estimates.

Another thing I think we need to explore during estimates is that the reason that was given for the increase in the emergency services levy was the cost of the recent Sampson Flat bushfire. That was put at around \$9.8 million—let's round it to 10; it cost around \$10 million, and that brought about this year's increase in the emergency services levy.

I guess my question, and the question that a lot of people have on their lips, is: what is going to happen next year? If there is another fire of a similar size, will it go up by a similar amount? If there is a bigger fire, will it go up by more than what it has gone up by this year? Conversely, should there not be a significant fire anywhere in South Australia (which is quite possible) will the emergency services levy go down? I wonder; let's wait and see. I would suggest it is not over yet; in fact, there are meetings occurring in the coming weeks as a response to this latest increase.

The other issue that came to the fore particularly, which snuck under the radar for a little while but obviously has been getting some airplay in recent times, is the fact that the government now intend to charge mining royalties on rubble that has been raised by local government around the state for the use of sheeting roads. This is quite extraordinary. I know industry have a slightly different view of this, but what I am going to suggest is that this is yet another revenue stream that the Treasurer has identified and that he is about to tap into to bolster the government's coffers. The estimation is that it will increase revenue by around \$1 million, but there are also some suggestions that it may be significantly more than this.

I will give some background. Regional councils throughout the state have historically sought rubble (often limestone, but sometimes quartz, and sometimes ironstone rubble) with which to resheet and upgrade the extensive dirt road network that exists throughout this state. Councils have been able to do this using their own equipment, and ultimately they provide resheeting at a very reasonable cost to ratepayers. Now, if they are required to pay a mining royalty on the rubble that

they use, of course, estimations are that, for an average council, this will mean around about \$30,000—anywhere between \$20,000 and \$40,000, but around about \$30,000 for a lot of councils—will be paid direct to the state government for something they are already doing.

There are two things that could happen as a result of this, either the road resurfacing will not occur, and that would be a shame because ultimately roads are our most important infrastructure, particularly in the country. The other thing that could happen, of course, is that—and this is more likely, I would suggest—ratepayers will pay. The cost of the rubble, the cost of that mining royalty will be passed on to the ratepayer. I think it is just yet another example of a tax grab by this government for people who ultimately have very little ability to respond other than pass it on to the long-suffering taxpayer or ratepayer.

To say that councils are gobsmacked, to say that ratepayers are gobsmacked at the audacity of this move would be an understatement. It demonstrates once again how arrogant and out of touch this government is. Of course, councils at this time of the year have already done their budgets. The budgets are already in place for next year, so it is going to be very difficult to incorporate a mining tax, which is about 55¢ a tonne on rubble and approximately two-thirds of that will go to the state government—a revenue grab, as I said. It is delusional, it is nonsensical.

The other few things that I will mention briefly, and hopefully I get another opportunity to expand on these in the future, of course, is the reduction once again of the investment into agriculture. We have said for a long time, and everyone in this house on both sides understands that agriculture, primary production and seafood is the cornerstone of this state's economy now more than ever, can I suggest. More than ever before it is the cornerstone of this state's economy; and, sadly, funding into research has been dropped once again.

It is a sad tale because for 150 years this state was a leader in dryland agriculture and developed technology and equipment and systems that we exported to the world. I just fear that, without that ongoing investment, that we are going to lose our advantage, particularly with regard to agriculture. Water security to my mind has not been addressed. Water prices have not been addressed. We are suggesting that third party access be given. That will give the opportunity to bring some competition into the water market. Our water prices are higher in this state than they are anywhere else in the country, almost anywhere else in the world. And, of course, who pays? The largest users, those who actually use water in a productive way to provide exports for this state.

It is interesting to note that it is not actually the cost of the water that is the big part of the bill but it is the built-in costs that government charges—the service charges in the water bill make up a big part of the bill. I can also see that there is nothing to add to the water security of Eyre Peninsula. We have discussed many times in this place the issue on the sustainability of the resource on Eyre Peninsula. We have had a parliamentary inquiry. There is no long-term plan yet to address the long-term sustainability of that supply or the provision for any growth in the future.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Croydon) (16:03): Madam Deputy Speaker, I continue my remarks from the adjournment debate of 4 June this year where I was surveying the Charles Sturt Council election results and, in particular, I was drawing something of a comparison between on the one side—

Mr Whetstone: Not that old chestnut.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: —David Winderlich and Kirsten Alexander and on the other Titus Oates—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The deputy leader will come to order.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The deputy leader is reminded that she is on her second warning.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: —a comparison with the Ukrainian denunciatrix of Stalin's great purges Polia Nikolaenko, and to make a comparison with parliamentarians, I was comparing David

Winderlich and Kirsten Alexander with Franca Arena and Bill Heffernan, although Senator Heffernan did have the decency to apologise to Justice Michael Kirby. Of course, I was making a comparison then with a more recent purveyor of false information, Godwin Grech.

In Woodville Ward, my own ward, 19-year old William Lehman polled 15.8 per cent of the vote on a platform of keeping rate increases below inflation, deterring hoon driving with CCTV micro-cameras in hoon driving hotspots, and punishing Coles and Woolworths for allowing their shopping trolleys to litter our neighbourhood. He vividly contrasted the cost of living in Woodville Ward with the neighbouring City of Port Adelaide Enfield. He, nevertheless, was narrowly defeated by Councillor Bob Grant, who has been on council for 27 years and saw his vote reduced from 1,097 votes in 2010 to 591 at this election.

As the St Clair housing development continues to grow, Councillor Robert Grant is unlikely to find much support from residents whose presence in the neighbourhood he opposed. If Bob Grant had prevailed, there would be no suburb of St Clair (indeed, they would not have been allowed to call a suburb St Clair), there would be no St Clair Railway Station and no St Clair shops.

Save St Clair candidates leafleted and canvassed in Woodville, Woodville Park (where I live) and Cheltenham, but anything north of Torrens Road, where the bulk of the voters live, was foreign territory for them. Pennington, the ward's biggest suburb, with many residents from a non-English speaking background, may as well have been Xanadu as far as the Save St Clair camp was concerned.

In the ward in which I used to live, Hindmarsh, Paul Alexandrides was re-elected with 38.1 per cent of the vote in a seven-candidate field, topping the poll for the second election in a row. His candidacy was strongly opposed by Aldinga resident Kevin Hamilton, a former state MP, who issued flyers across the entire City of Charles Sturt in support of Team Kirsten. Kevin Hamilton had been promoted into office at the Australian Railways Union in the 1970s by Paul's late father Nick, and obtained preselection owing to Nick Alexandrides senior for what was a safe Labor seat when Kevin Hamilton first won it.

Paul Alexandrides stood on his record and illustrated it with photos of works that had occurred in the Renown Park area, the Ovingham-Bowden-Brompton area, the Ridleyton area, the Croydon-West Croydon area and the Kilkenny area. He strongly supported the Kilkenny Transit Village proposal, which Mayor Alexander and her caucus opposed on council.

Neither of Mayor Alexander's candidates lived in the ward, or anywhere near it. In fact, one of them appeared to be under a mistake of fact as to where the ward was located, and they polled 9.4 per cent and 4.5 per cent. Kirsten Alexander dumped the Ridleyton woman (whom I referred to earlier in my adjournment speech) and her mother from her ticket because some types of craziness are too much even for Mayor Kirsten. The Ridleyton woman's online support for the Russian invasion of Ukraine, along with other Save St Clair activists, such as Richard Tonkin and Chris Mueller, was not good for business in an election year.

It was a very disappointing result for Team Kirsten's prominent Serbian-Australian candidate to poll only 110 votes in such a strongly Serbian ward. Kevin Hamilton's endorsement of one of Team Kirsten's candidates did not assist him, which is not surprising, since Kevin Hamilton never represented any suburb in the Hindmarsh Ward and was defeated in the 1993 state election 21 years ago when he lost to Joe Rossi in the seat Nick Alexandrides senior vouchsafed him.

I recall the hurt and indignation Kevin Hamilton suffered when, during the 1992 debate on poker machines, the late Clyde Cameron accused him, at a Port Adelaide federal electorate council meeting, of voting for the introduction of poker machines to obtain a personal benefit. It is a paradox that Kevin Hamilton, having been the target of this baseless and malicious imputation, should so freely accuse any elected representative who disagrees with him about St Clair as deserving of investigation by ICAC. He does this without the slightest substratum of fact.

The member for Adelaide's success in convincing Mayor Kirsten Alexander to back the continued closure of Barton Road, North Adelaide, showed up in massive defeats for the incumbent mayor in both Hindmarsh and Beverley wards. Although Mayor Alexander lost all eight wards to her challenger, including her home ward, Woodville, the mayor's losses were heaviest in the two wards

closest to the closure. Anne Wheaton's Charles Sturt election photography for Mayor Kirsten's campaign, in particular her production of the corflute photo which she celebrates on her Facebook site, did Mayor Alexander no favours, as radio FIVEaa broadcaster Andrew Reimer has pointed out.

In Semaphore Park ward, Barbara Wasylenko, although she did not live in the ward, emphasised her opposition to high-rise construction on the Football Park site and to the past four years of rate rises ahead of the consumer price index. She finished 300 votes ahead of sitting Councillor Juliann Andriani. Veteran Councillor Stuart Ghent was re-elected with a reduced vote.

In West Woodville ward, veteran Councillor Tolley Wasylenko, struggling with cancer, also struggled to get to quota. Save St Clair's Kelly Thomas, though she did not live in the ward, patiently doorknocked over many weeks and managed to avoid the pitfalls of fellow Save St Clair candidate, Carlo Meschino, turning his yard in a residential area of Albert Park into a junkyard.

Young Serbian-Australian Zorica Kresovic campaigned on open space in Albert Park and Hendon, sharp rate increases and a back-to-basics platform. She issued letters in the Serbian language, both Cyrillic and Latinica. She polled 575 votes, but Save St Clair was clever enough to run another Serbian candidate against her and though his campaign was weak and he attracted only 150 votes, the strategy of directing his preferences away from his fellow Serbian-Australian to Kelly Thomas ensured that Serbian-Australians would not have one of their number on the Charles Sturt council.

As one who has run many election campaigns for the past 30 years, I reluctantly salute Mayor Kirsten Alexander on her cunning in the West Woodville campaign and Serbs are left to rue the outcome of this old, old tactic that has been used to such devastating effect against them over the centuries. Madam Deputy Speaker, there are more instalments and I will be pleased to share them with the house on another occasion.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (16:12): As people in this place know, I am a proud life member of the Country Fire Service. My father, Malcolm, was in the Metropolitan Fire Service, both as a firefighter and then as a senior officer (acting chief), for going on 30 years. I am very proud of being a part of the CFS and I am very proud that former chief Lupton described me as being a part of the MFS family because the MFS is a family, it is a very strong family, in fact one of my nephews is a Metropolitan Fire Service firefighter, and I am very proud of the service that the men and women of both our Country Fire Service and the Metropolitan Fire Service provide for the citizens of South Australia. My father was also, as a firefighter and then later as an officer, heavily involved in forming what is now the United Firefighters Union. There was the officers association, I think it was called the Fire Brigades Union then, now the UFU, a very strong, very powerful union, affiliated with the ALP.

Because I am concerned about the future of the MFS and the direction the UFU has been taking, particularly with the proposed restructures and the proposals for a one fire service, I have made comments about that and I have encouraged members of the MFS to get out there and become involved in the union, the United Firefighters Union. I make no apologies for that whatsoever, but I was surprised yesterday when the former minister for emergency services, the member for Colton, used the grievance debate to launch a personal attack on me, my integrity, my honesty and my motives.

I have put on a little bit of weight, but that is really just getting a thicker skin, and you need to have a thick skin in this place. I can live with this. I am disappointed that the level of debate got down to insinuating that I was not telling the truth, that I was making things up. It is all in the grievance debate, and I will be going through that line by line in a moment to just illustrate what was wrong with what the former minister, the member for Colton, said. In his grievance speech yesterday, the member for Colton said:

...the member for Morphett's blatant attempts to interfere in a union election...nothing less than to influence the outcome of the democratic process...

What the member for Colton has not told the house is that, in his time in the Metropolitan Fire Service, he was a senior officer in the United Firefighters Union. He is a life member of the UFU. I would have thought that, if you are going to stand up in here and talk about the UFU, you would be proud to say that you are a life member of the UFU. If I can just go back to the UFU's publication called Word

Back on 20 February 2014, it talks about Paul Caica's re-election. Greg Northcott, the union secretary, says:

I would like to thank the 16 members who volunteered their time to hang over 400 corfluts for Paul Caica in his Colton electorate. Paul was most grateful that this important and time consuming task was managed by the Union and our members.

As most of you are aware Paul Caica was a Senior Firefighter before he entered Parliament and for the past 12 years has remained a loyal friend of the United Firefighters Union and a proud Life Member.

Paul has asked the Union for assistance on Election Day (Saturday 15th March) to hand out his 'How to Vote' card...I have attached the Booth Rosters for the 8 Booths...

Our assistance is vital to ensure Paul's re-election.

Signed, Greg Northcott, Secretary. If the member for Colton is going to come in here and have a go at me about what I am saying about the UFU, he should talk about his affiliations and associations with the UFU. It is okay for the union to back the member for Colton in his re-election and influence the outcome of the democratic process but not for me to speak about the issues that are being debated in the rough-and-tumble of industrial relations in the Metropolitan Fire Service.

The member for Colton continued on to say that he had been reliably informed that what I had said about the UFU not responding to my letters to them for over nine months is simply not true. Let me tell the house that I wrote to the United Firefighters Union on two occasions: one was on 3 December 2013, and then on 7 July 2014.

The first letter, which I will read a bit later on, was about my outrage over comments made in Word Back 14/2013 dated 29 November 2013 about presumptive cancer cover. On 7 July 2014, I wrote to Mr Greg Northcott, Secretary of the United Firefighters Union. I said:

Dear Greg

Not aggressive, no; quite friendly.

Dear Greg

With the Government examining the Holloway Review of Emergency Service Delivery in South Australia, I am interested in seeking all stakeholders' input to assist me in working with the Government on a long-term future for emergency services in South Australia.

I understand that you are proposing a one fire service model for South Australia and while I am yet to be convinced that this is a viable future for fire services in South Australia, I am always open to advice from interested parties.

I would be very interested to see the details of your proposal and any projected budgetary implications for the delivery of this particular model.

I have never had a response to either of those two letters—never. I did get one letter back from the UFU. Remember, these two letters were written in December 2013 and July 2014. I got one letter from the UFU on 6 February 2015 in regard to some FOIs I had requested about the information that I had written to the UFU about in July 2014 because nothing had been coming.

The letter said that they were happy for me to come along to their office and basically trawl through their information there. I was not going to do that. I wanted them to give me the information under their statutory obligations and to reveal what their comments, their brief, whatever it was, to the minister were, and I did not ever get that.

For the minister to say that that was blatantly untrue is completely untrue. It is not true. I did not ever get a response, in fact. It was not nine months. In fact, to the actual substance of my letters, I never received a response. The member should be asking the people who are telling him these lies to make sure they know what they are talking about. You do know though that, when you are getting vitriol from former union leaders and now members of parliament, you are actually hitting a raw nerve.

The member for Colton said about my contribution on the subject of the former chief officer that Greg Northcott had no idea about this. There was another edition of Word Back that was put out by the UFU that attacks former chief Lupton and it insinuated that he was not doing his job and incapable of doing his job. However, chief Lupton was selected from over 90 fire chiefs from around the world to run the civil defence services in the UAE. With seven million people, the tallest buildings

in the world and the largest oil repositories in the world, this guy knows what he is doing. He ran volunteer and paid fire services in Canada for many years, and he did an exceptional job in South Australia as the longest serving MFS chief.

The member for Colton said I should immediately apologise to MFS firefighters. Let me tell the member for Colton, the MFS firefighters know my motives, they know where I am from and they know I am one of the family. I support them very strongly in what they are doing, what they are trying to achieve and also in achieving fair outcomes for their working conditions and their pay. I have no problem with that. I used to go and help my father on his days off with his second job. We have always supported the fact that Metropolitan Fire Service firefighters have their second job.

I am very concerned that the member for Colton is insinuating that I should apologise to MFS firefighters. They know me better than that and it is the member for Colton who should remember, as a senior firefighter, as a union representative and now as a member of this place, not to come in here and cast aspersions on a member's motives and their integrity.

The member for Colton then went on and talked about a conversation I had with him in 2004 about an incident at Camden Park. We all know that sometimes we get information that we need to check on and sometimes unfortunately we have to come back and correct things, but be very careful what you say about private conversations in this place because it will come back to bite you.

I am not going to say anything more about the member for Colton. I thought he had matured more in this place than that. I am happy to take this on the chin. It is just one of those things in this place, but just be sure of your facts. Do not impugn my integrity and my motives in this place, particularly when it comes to the Metropolitan Fire Service because, I can tell you, I am one of the family there and they will always regard me as one of their strong supporters.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Gardner.

Matter of Privilege

MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

The SPEAKER (16:23): I now adjudicate whether to give precedence to the matter of privilege raised by the member for Morphett in the house earlier today. Privilege is not a device by which members or any other person can seek to pursue matters that can be suitably addressed by ordinary scheduled debate or settled by a vote of the house on a substantive motion. McGee's *Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand* makes the test for whether or not a matter is a matter of privilege: can the matter 'genuinely be regarded as tending to impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties'?

The essentials of this aspect of privilege is that each member can speak without fear or favour and be able to rely on the accuracy of the statements made in the house by any member. Privilege is not principally aimed at poor judgement or ambiguous expression. The member for Morphett cites answers provided by the Minister for Emergency Services to questions asked in the house on 25 February and 17 June this year. The member for Morphett alleges that the member has misled the house, as his answers to questions in the house contradicted the information contained in correspondence that has come to the member's attention by way of a freedom of information request.

More specifically, the member for Morphett asked this question to the Minister for Emergency Services on 25 February 2014:

Did the minister issue a ministerial direction to the SAFECOM board to supply Mount Barker CFS brigade with two type 1 pumpers, 25 sets of structural PPE and extra structural firefighting equipment and, if so, when will he table that ministerial direction?

In response to this question the minister replied, and I refer to *Hansard*, page 343, of the same day:

...I have asked the SAFECOM board to consider their request. My understanding is that SAFECOM considered that request at its recent meeting. If you are asking, 'Did I give a direction?', that is incorrect.

Further, on 17 June this year, the member for Morphett asked the Minister for Emergency Services:

Did the minister issue a ministerial directive to the SAFECOM board to investigate the provision of additional equipment to Mount Barker CFS and will he table that ministerial directive?

I refer to *Hansard*, page 1690, of the same day, where the minister provided this response:

Well, the answer is no different. The answer is no I did not give a direction.

The member for Morphett has provided me with a copy of a letter he obtained under freedom of information from the Minister for Emergency Services to the brigade captain of the Mount Barker CFS, dated 6 October 2014. As the member for Morphett advised the house earlier today, the minister stated in that letter:

I have directed SAFECOM and the Country Fire Service to investigate the provision of additional equipment for your Brigade.

It is upon this basis that the member for Morphett alleges that the Minister for Emergency Services has misled the house, as his denial in answers to questions in the house that he has issued a ministerial direction to SAFECOM is not consistent with what the minister's letter to the brigade captain says.

There are three elements in establishing the contempt of misleading of parliament. They are that the statement or statements complained of must have been misleading, it must be established that the member knew at the time it was misleading and that it was the member's deliberate intention to mislead the house.

I have considered the matters raised by the member for Morphett. I also remind all members of the ruling given by Speaker Oswald in which he made it clear that it is not the Speaker's role to determine whether a minister has a prima facie case to answer but, rather, whether the Speaker finds that, prima facie, the matter raised by the member touches on privilege and whether a motion on the matter should be granted precedence over all other business of the house.

I have considered the information put to me today and I listened to the minister's ministerial statement after question time today. I can make a ruling only on the information I find before me. I think that semantics may be the basis for any alleged misleading of the house. Although the member's questions specifically sought a response about a formal ministerial directive to the SAFECOM board, the minister's letter appears to be about a less formal direction.

This view is supported by the minister's answer to the member for Morphett's question on 25 February 2015—and I am sorry, I think I may have referred to 2014 before, but I was wrong: it is 25 February 2015—where the minister indicated, and I quote from *Hansard*, page 343:

As a good minister, I have listened to what they said and I have asked the SAFECOM board to consider their request. My understanding is that SAFECOM considered that request at its recent meeting.

Although the letter to the brigade captain appears to contradict the minister's answers in question time, the minister offers a plausible explanation for the apparent inconsistency. It is my opinion that if the minister's apparent contradiction touches on privilege, it does so so lightly that it does not impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties and that the matter is not so grave and not so lacking in an explanation consistent with the minister's innocence that it should take precedence over all other business of the house.

If the member for Morphett is not convinced by the minister's explanation, he can give notice of a motion referring the matter to a privileges committee and it can be debated in the normal way. Indeed, it is I think a test of the seriousness with which the matter has been agitated whether such a motion follows my adjudication. I am sure the house will give the member for Morphett leave to do so forthwith.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (16:30): I have heard the minister's explanation and his ministerial statement. While we can argue the semantics of the issue, I will not be proceeding with a formal motion. I am satisfied by your ruling.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2015

Appropriation Grievances

Adjourned debate on motion to note grievances (resumed on motion).

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:31): May I make a contribution in respect of the budget for 2015, and in particular my concern about the massive increase in probate fees which is proposed this year. It has been announced in the budget that within the courts budget there will be a new regime of probate fees which will result in there being some extra \$9 million over the next four years raised toward the general revenue of the state government.

Can I say that, to follow on from particularly the scandalous review of the emergency services levy application to the extent of a restriction on concessions, which has already had a significant impact on the cost of living for so many South Australians, nowhere does it have more impact than in regional South Australia where two things happen: first, there is a very substantial volunteer contribution towards the emergency services, whether that is in the State Emergency Service or Country Fire Service and, secondly, where so much income is generated for South Australia on properties. Hence, the direct cost of an increase in the emergency services levy as a result of the change in condition arrangements has such a high impact.

Following that cruel blow is the state government's revelation that another \$9 million is going to be raised from probate fees. The probate fees are charged on applications for a will of a deceased person. Essentially, they will be increased for estates worth more than \$200,000. This is nothing more than a backdoor death duty and, as I say, particularly for regional South Australians, where the estate of a deceased person cannot be distributed to the beneficiaries (usually the families) until the will has been approved by an order of the Supreme Court, this is particularly acute when real estate is involved.

Small estates, where there is no real estate, no shares in public companies and the like, can be distributed without probate, but more and more there is an obligation for that to occur, particularly to satisfy operators of retirement facilities by way of nursing homes who may have a substantial bond which is refunded to the family.

Grieving families have already been treated callously with the delays in autopsy and Coroner's reports. There has been a massive delay in not only the right to be able to have victims of crime compensation payments made but also the long-term promise of the government to increase burial payments and counselling for children of murder victims. Now, of course, they face a massive fee increase.

The new fee structures provide that, between \$200,001 and \$500,000, there will be a fee of \$1,500, and this is just the fee to pay to the Supreme Court to open the file, to conduct the probate assessment to determine that there is a valid will, without legal fees that may be involved and/or any other costs of dismantling the estate. Then, from \$500,001 to \$1 million, it will be \$2,000, which is an increase of \$921; and over \$1 million the fee will be \$3,000, which is an increase of \$1,912. These new rules will be effective as of 1 January 2016.

South Australians who have responsibly accumulated assets, provided for themselves and reduced dependency on public pensions and allowances will be paying taxes from their graves. Because the government has so poorly managed the finances of the state, it is disturbing to see that the people who are working so hard in our state are the ones who are likely to be punished the most.

A quick comparison around the country tells us that other states are not attempting to harvest from the dead. New South Wales does have a graduated scheme and it is fair to say that, whilst comparable, the equivalent of a \$3,000 fee which is going to be charged in South Australia will only apply to estates over \$2 million and less than \$5 million. Obviously real estate values are different but, again, the government here intends to harvest \$1,500 even for estates less than half a million dollars; even in New South Wales, that fee is \$949, so just over half the fee that applies in New South Wales.

It is a great situation in Victoria. For a very minor estate of \$1,000 it is \$116.50, but for any estate over \$1,000 it is \$297.90. In round figures, it is about \$300, whereas for estates in South Australia they are going to be paying \$3,000. The other aspect that is concerning in South Australia is that, in recent years, it has taken up to three months to be able to get probate processed through the Supreme Court, whereas the comparable time in Victoria would be three weeks. It is a far better situation in Victoria.

In Tasmania, they pay \$750 for an estate of \$250,000 or more. In the ACT, it is \$1,997 for a million dollars or more. In jurisdictions where there is just a fixed fee, Queensland is \$615.80, Western Australia is \$271 and Northern Territory is \$1,210. Why is it that this government should punish the people who are going to be the most vulnerable? A deceased relative is then hit in their estate with such a substantial payment.

This government operated in this state over a long regime of death duties. On our side of the house we consider that that has been unconscionable. This is far more than a recovery for cost. Regional people are used to paying a cost recovery fee for services provided by the Department of Primary Industries. In fact, there are significant costs of compliance for fishing, agriculture, biosecurity and the like.

The current probate office in South Australia, which sits down at the Supreme Court, as I understand it, already receives something like \$6 million a year from its revenue from probate fees. The cost of doing their job for the processing of these wills is about \$2 million a year. So, the government already makes a profit out of this. It is not the usual cost recovery: it is already a profit-making enterprise, so it makes it all the more unconscionable that the government should try to harvest more money from those who have estates which require an order of probate of the Supreme Court.

I think it is unconscionable, it is unwarranted, and, if one were to examine the cuts to courts and other justice services that the government has already inflicted on South Australians, it is all the more reason why there should be some outrage. I particularly raise it today because of those who are living in regional South Australia and the likelihood that they are going to be hit as soon as one of their family members passes away. It is unconscionable and unacceptable.

I suppose the final thing I would say is my disappointment when I read the comments of the chair of Primary Industries SA. He reflected on the budget being quite a good budget; he obviously had not read it.

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (16:41): I rise to speak again regarding the 2015-16 budget. If this is, as the Treasurer says, 'a jobs budget', then why is only 1 per cent employment growth predicted—the lowest growth predicted of all the mainland states? Labor claims that jobs will be created as they have budgeted to spend between \$1.3 billion and \$1.45 billion per year on capital works in the general government sector. However, the last five years show that they had budgeted an average capital works spending of \$1.9 billion per year in the general government sector. So, we are somehow spending less but expecting jobs growth.

Jobs added since February 2010 for South Australia are only 6,651, despite Labor promising 100,000 extra jobs. South Australia's unemployment rate is the highest in the nation, at 7.6 per cent. South Australia desperately needs this to be a jobs budget; however, this budget fails to deliver jobs, with the lowest jobs growth of all the mainland states.

It fails to deliver reductions in payroll tax and fails to deliver new infrastructure projects which would support job creation. It fails to reduce the cost of living for households, with further increases in the emergency services levy and water prices after record increases over the past few years. It fails to deliver a plan for reversing the state's economic stagnation and creating opportunities for the next generation of South Australians. How could this be called a jobs budget? Compared to what, Greece?

The deficit for the financial year of 2014-15 is \$279 million, which is an increase of almost \$100 million on the December 2014 Mid-Year Budget Review, which estimated a \$185 million deficit. The blowout from \$185 million to \$279 million deficit occurred despite the government raiding \$459 million from the Motor Accident Commission. Therefore, without selling the Motor Accident Commission, the deficit would actually be \$738 million. South Australians are expected to be shouldered with a record of \$13.7 billion in public debt by 2017, paying \$1.9 million interest every day on this debt. That is \$700 million wasted on interest payments in a single year. Bearing in mind, this is after having already sold the forests, the lotteries and numerous properties.

GST revenue over the forward estimates is \$892 million more than last year's budget estimates. This \$892 million was unbudgeted, and therefore is a bonus. GST revenue in the 2018-19

year will be \$1.66 billion more than the GST revenue in the 2014-15 year, so I look forward to the 'Thank You Tony Abbott' campaign after the government's spending millions of dollars of taxpayers' money with negative campaigns against the federal government. Clearly, it actually ended up with more money.

Stamp duty reform listed in the budget is welcomed, however this follows on from commitments South Australia made back in 2001 as part of the inter-governmental agreement on GST and various commitments made by the Labor government since then having not been implemented—14 years after the agreement Labor finally does something about this. Apparently this will create jobs, yet it will not be fully implemented until 2018-19.

If the government truly believes this will create jobs it must bring this forward as we have a jobs crisis now and something must be done—not in one year, not in two years or three years, but now, before more businesses close and more people lose their jobs. The budget has no relief for households. The Save the River Murray levy has been abolished, which will save approximately \$40 per household per annum, however householders are being slugged an extra \$205 a year due to the emergency services increases in the last two budgets.

The Liberal Party remains committed to reinstating the remission to the emergency services levy which will save householders approximately \$90 million per year. In 2014-15 the government overspent its own budget by \$201 million. The total unbudgeted spending since Labor was elected is now \$4.1 billion. What is even the point of having budgets when this government blows them every year and in nearly every government department.

I bet it would be more careful if it had to pay for the blowout itself, or if it came out of its next year's budget, until they learned to live within their means as householders and business owners around South Australia have to. We have all heard the saying 'never spend more than you earn', yet this government overspends year on year, leaving South Australians to pay for its incompetence. I remind the house that \$4 billion of taxpayers hard-earned dollars have been wasted on unbudgeted expenditure over the last 13 years.

Despite spending \$377.6 million on targeted voluntary separation packages over the last five years, Labor grew the public sector by adding an extra 504 full-time equivalents in the 2014-15 year. Who does this? What a waste of money! Labor has increased the amount of state taxation revenue taken from South Australians this time by \$149 million. It has increased the emergency services levy for a second time in as many budgets, bringing the total increase to \$205 per year on a \$500,000 home.

It has increased the average household water bill to \$804; it has increased premiums on compulsory third party vehicle insurance to \$378, even as it privatised the Motor Accident Commission. It has failed on its 100,000 people jobs promise, it has scrapped the courts precinct, it has closed police stations (including the one in North Adelaide which affects my electorate), yet it still thinks that \$160 million on the O-Bahn to save users 2½ minutes is a good use of public money. Our beautiful state is in a very bad way after 13 years of Labor, and I am afraid that this budget will do very little to rectify the situation.

Sitting extended beyond 17:00 on motion of Hon. S.C. Mullighan.

Ms COOK (Fisher) (16:48): I rise today to speak about some really great work being done in our state and to apply some health and wellbeing context to budget investments we are making in tourism and also in our parks. The 2015 budget shows a total increase for tourism of 30 per cent to \$75.5 million in 2015-16. This boost to the tourism budget will see \$6 million towards the Tour Down Under, \$15 million go towards new major events and conventions, \$14 million to grow tourism from international markets, \$16 million in maintaining arts activity and \$2 million towards the Adelaide Fashion Festival.

In the recent state budget, an additional \$6 million was also allocated for marketing campaigns to grow tourism within South Australia, this on top of the \$14 million for international marketing. This funding will be used to create more awareness of what iconic products and experiences South Australia has to give. With South Australia attracting 5.6 million domestic overnight visitors in the 12 months before March this year, it puts South Australia ahead of the

national growth rate, with SA at 6.5 per cent and increasing. The increasing number of interstate travellers boosts the economy significantly, with \$2.21 billion spent in the regions by tourists alone.

This SA tourism industry directly employs 32,000 South Australians and supports 18,000 businesses. With every \$160,000 in tourism expenditure a new job is created in South Australia. The \$8 billion in tourism expenditure will generate 10,000 jobs for South Australians, taking the total direct jobs to 41,000. These new jobs will be created in areas where young people are able to pursue their passion and career ambitions in the field of tourism in their home state.

Tourism expenditure has brought impacts throughout South Australia with accommodation and food services, transport, retail, cultural and sporting services all benefiting from interstate and international tourists who visit our state. This government will also be continuing to seek opportunities that showcase our magnificent pieces of infrastructure, such as the Adelaide Oval, to the nation and to the world. Adelaide Oval was host to more than 1.69 million sporting and music fans in its first year alone, who generated around \$77.4 million in revenue for the CBD. This shows that Adelaide Oval and many of the other great pieces of infrastructure that have been built in this state are a true boost to the economy.

It would be remiss of me not to also mention the multimillion dollar investment that this government is making into our agribusiness. Food industry growth has been recorded for the past 17 years and our international reputation for clean, blue-sky product is second to none. This reputation attracts, and will continue to attract, many visitors now and into the future. This tourism money brought into SA in the handbags, pockets, purses, cases and wallets of visitors is much welcomed and is the best type of money, as it is new money to this state. Investment in tourism destinations around SA will also benefit us, the citizens of SA.

The investment in our parks and playgrounds provides us with excellent locations to spend quality family time or, indeed, quiet time to relax and refresh. Healthy parks mean healthy people, with well-documented evidence showing us that communities with well-developed use of green space have definitely improved levels of health and wellbeing. This translates directly to improved mental health and, by proxy, then serves as a great investment in the prevention of depression and suicide, and is also a great crime prevention initiative.

Families, in particular, thrive in communities where they have well-planned and useable green space to connect to nature in. These spaces provide opportunities to increase their level of communication and cooperation and, indeed, their bonds. Parks and other natural environments will benefit from investment by this state government, which understands that these spaces are more than fitness or leisure spaces: they are fundamental to our wellbeing.

While I vow to always remain positive and will always promote the excellent work of my fabulous community, it actually has struck me that over the past—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I just ask all members to keep the noise levels down. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Fisher, which means Hansard must be, as well. Could I ask you to observe rule 142? Member for Fisher.

Ms COOK: Thank you, that is apt, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms COOK: I will start my sentence again. While I vow always to remain positive and I will always promote the excellent work of my fabulous community, it has struck me that, over the past two days, if a spacecraft from a distant planet had landed in this house and listened to many of those opposite criticising our amazing state and labelling some of the most vulnerable people in our state with awful names, they would have thought that those opposite—some of them, not all—were, indeed, not from this place.

Of course, there are some exceptions to that blanket statement but, over the past five months, I have really been disappointed on a daily basis in this place by the lack of respect shown

for hardworking public servants, for example, by those opposite. It is relentless and unfounded criticism by people who themselves show some of the worst and most disrespectful behaviour towards others that I think I have ever seen. My frustration culminated in yesterday's reference by the member for Finnis to people living on one of those jewels in our tourism crown, Kangaroo Island, as deadbeats, and I quote:

What is happening as well is that there are all sorts of deadbeats getting around Kingscote, which we have never had before. There are people who have never worked and who never will work who are lounging around, doing nothing, who have found accommodation on the island.

I think the member may possibly have missed the memo about what language is appropriate in reference to others and that it actually defines a politician as a leader. Many people have missed this memo and I feel it is a bit rich that we have sat here for the past few days being accused of being out of touch when it is clear that it is many of those opposite who are the people out of touch.

And yes, this comment about so-called deadbeats made by the member for Finnis was brought up to me spontaneously by a parent at a function last night who is in despair about the poor example being set to her children by some here on North Terrace. This kind of behaviour and criticism does nothing to support investment in this state. This attitude does nothing for our reputation nationally or globally and serves to undo all of the amazing work being done to attract visitors.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (16:55): I would like to use the short amount of time available to me in this griever to touch on the aspect of the budget relating to charging royalties to local government to access quarry rubble. There are quite a few more technical terms and there are a range of different materials, but for the sake of this contribution let us just consider it as rubble which is almost always used for road base. That is going to be a very serious impost on local government councils.

The government has allocated a \$1 million income to itself from this new move and I believe that is a pretty serious underestimate of the amount of money the government will get. It will not be the sort of income that is going to fix the budget or fix the state's economy, but by being an underestimate of the income to the state the key issue is, I think, that it is an underestimate of the cost to local governments.

When we have approximately 67 councils, I think it is, in South Australia, plus the Outback Communities Authority, which does everything it can to fulfil a similar role in the out-of-council boundaries and parts of the outback of South Australia—I think we have 19 councils in metropolitan areas—that means that the overwhelming number of local government councils across our state would be affected by this decision.

There are a wide range of examples, but let me just start with the smallest council in the state, the District Council of Orroroo Carrieton, which is in my electorate. When I say smallest I mean by ratepayer base. They have just under 1,000 head of population and they have a bit over, or I think approaching 1,500 actual ratepayers, considering the fact that some people own more than one property, etc. Their ratepayer income is currently sitting at \$780,000 per year. For the state government that is not a big amount of money, but \$780,000 is the entire rate income for the Orroroo Carrieton council. They do everything they possibly can to serve their ratepayers and the people who travel through that beautiful part of the world with that ratepayer base and whatever else they can get through grant and other income opportunities.

The District Council of Orroroo Carrieton estimates that in 2015-16 they will have to pay \$44,000 because of this new royalty. Again, that is probably not the sort of money that scares the state government or really worries them at all in any way, but \$44,000 to the District Council of Orroroo Carrieton, based on their \$780,000 rate income in total, is a 5.6 per cent cost to them. So, they have a few choices, a few very difficult choices. Do they just cancel the road work that they were going to do? Do they just not pay the \$44,000 to the state government by not doing the road work that they were going to do? Clearly, that is not an option for them.

Do they just add 5.6 per cent onto all of their rate notices on top of the regular annual rate increases that they would be working with anyway? Probably not. That is a very difficult situation too. That would probably double the rate increase that was coming anyway. The reason I use this

example is so that the government really does understand the serious impact of this decision upon the people and the councils that it affects.

One thing I say in this place very regularly is that relativity is critically important: \$44,000 to the state government budget would not be a significant hit, but \$44,000 to the Orroroo Carrieton council is incredibly important. I normally use that example with regard to household budgets and household incomes or small businesses or large businesses. It is the relativity that is actually really important when you are trying to ascertain the benefit or the cost or the penalty of certain decisions.

That is only one of the councils in the electorate of Stuart; there are seven of them, and of course there are nearly 60 across the entire state that will be hit in this way. One of the great frustrations is that there is no time for councils to react. They have already done their budgets. They have done their budgets for the 2015-16 year. They are committed to do the work, they have promised their ratepayers they will do it and they are locked into achieving their budget the very best they can.

The state government is imposing this extra royalty payment immediately, with effect straightaway. What is worse is that they just did not consult. They did not talk to the affected councils and they did not talk to the LGA. They did not consider or they certainly did not undertake any discussion—if they did consider it and decided not to, that is even worse—discussion with councils with regard to what the impact might be so that, for example, they could understand that the royalty they wanted Orroroo Carrieton council to pay was equivalent to 5.6 per cent of their total rate income. That is the sort of information the state government needed to understand.

They probably just looked at it and thought, 'Gee, I don't know. We estimate this might make us about \$1 million.' I have no idea, by the way, how the government would have come to that estimate because I am sure they did not do any detailed calculations. They just would not have the knowledge of how many tonnes of rubble each council is taking for this purpose throughout South Australia. They just did not consider that sort of thing at all, so councils all over the state are faced with not doing the work or trying to find the money to pay the bill. Really, the only way to do that, unless by chance they happen to be a particularly wealthy council, and I do not know many of them in regional South Australia, is to charge their ratepayers significantly more.

My purpose here is to implore the state government to support these councils that need the support. I implore the state government to try to understand the impact of this decision. Yes, it is one of the smaller components of their budget, but it will have a very large and detrimental impact upon the councils and the ratepayers that it affects.

This is a year after the state government, without any notice whatsoever, increased the royalties, from 35¢ a tonne to 55¢ a tonne, to those organisations already paying the royalties last year. This is clearly an area where the government thinks it can just scrape up a little bit of money without hurting people, but that is not the case. While it might seem small to the state government, this is a decision that definitely will hurt people.

While I am on my feet on this topic, I would like to highlight the fact that there are occasionally areas of awkwardness, let us say, for earthworks contractors who can get caught up between extracting rubble from quarries where the royalty has previously been paid versus areas where the royalty was previously not paid. That is a different topic for a different day. I recognise that that is an issue, but just to blanket charge all the councils without any consultation, without any notice, is certainly not the way to address that part of the puzzle. I very earnestly ask the government, and the Treasurer and the Minister for Local Government in particular, to find a solution to help those councils which cannot absorb the cost the state government is putting upon them.

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (17:04): It appears to me, at the very least, that the troops are marshalling and those on the other side are not necessarily marshalling behind their current leader. It appears clear to me—and I am not much of a rumour-monger—with some of the stories I have heard that the view is that the leader is not cutting through—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I remind the members on my left that the member for Stuart is on one warning and the member for Finnis is on two. I will not hesitate to ask you to leave

the chamber under sessional orders if you do not observe standing order 142. I will not engage in any discussion on it. The member for Colton will be heard.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: I won't hesitate to be kicked out if the member for Colton is about to say what I think he is.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Stuart is warned for the second time and will leave us if he continues.

Mr Pengilly interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Finniss, if you move your lips once more you are leaving.

The Hon. P. CAICA: —and his future is doubtful. I would say that I do not believe this at all. I do support him because I look around and think that there are no alternatives—there are no alternatives.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Stuart will leave the room for 15 minutes.

The honourable member for Stuart having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Maybe the member for Stuart is a legitimate alternative, but I still think—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Colton will stay on task.

The Hon. P. CAICA: What is task? It is a grievance. I am not being disrespectful. There are no alternatives. The rumour I have heard—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is reminded he is also on two warnings.

The Hon. P. CAICA: —is about the member for Bragg, but you cannot be serious really. The member for Bragg—

Mr PENGILLY: Point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not be frivolous, I am sure.

Mr PENGILLY: It will not be frivolous at all. What the member for Colton is doing is imputing improper motives to members of the opposition. It is a complete nonsense.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that is almost bordering on frivolous, and if you do move again I will have to ask you to leave the chamber. Member for Colton.

The Hon. P. CAICA: It cannot possibly be the member for Bragg. It is clearly seen that she has been the most divisive of members on that side of the house, and why on earth would she get the support of those members over that side should there be, as I mentioned, a marshalling against the leader?

That draws me to the fact that what we do need here in South Australia is a good opposition. This is my 13th or maybe 14th year and this is the worst opposition I have seen since I have been here, and I would like to back that up with a few facts. Let's have a look at the class of 2002. That happened to be my class when I was elected. Amongst those were Jane Lomax-Smith—regrettably, she is no longer here—and the Deputy Premier and Premier are still here.

Mr Gardner: She got smashed with a 15 per cent swing.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is reminded he is on two warnings.

The Hon. P. CAICA: Yes, but even, as the member for Morialta said, with her being smashed we are still over here. If you have a look at the class of 2002, there is the member for Kavel—a very good reason why the father and son rule does not work. He is a lovely bloke—I like

him very, very much—but he is actually taking up a place that should be available to someone who is going to do something in this place.

The member for Morphett—I know he is a bit sensitive, given what he said earlier today. I am not hurt by what he said; obviously he was by what I said, but of course the truth often hurts. I will not go any further. I know he is under a bit of pressure, given the fact that the shadow of the parachute of Matt Williams is hovering above him for pre-selection but, again, he is someone who has really proven to be through this period of time somewhat, if not totally, ineffectual. The member for Heysen, I do not think she will be here next time. I think she has made a decision to go and why wouldn't she? Because 16 years in opposition by the time she leaves is long enough and I do not think that she would face up again.

The same applies to the member for MacKillop, who happens to be of the class of 1997. He is a good bloke, Mitch, he really is, but I am sure he is fed up too. Four years an Independent and 16 years in opposition, that is enough. Replace him with someone who is going to make a difference here to ensure that the opposition becomes a good opposition because that is what a good government requires. The member for Bragg, I think I have said enough about her. She was of the class of 2002 as well and maybe she should consider going the way of the member for MacKillop and the member for Heysen.

What I think is that the people on the seats over there have found themselves being very comfortable in opposition. They do not mind their bottoms being placed on the green vinyl and the same applies to those in opposition in the other place who find their bottoms on the red leather. They are comfortable in opposition. They are comfortable just being here, and that is not good enough from an opposition. As much as I would like them to stay here because I think it is to our side's advantage, the simple fact is that, if they want to become a good opposition they should—have a look! I see the member for Schubert just coming in and, of course, he is very talented.

Mr GARDNER: Point of order!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: He should not reflect.

Mr GARDNER: It is entirely unparliamentary—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sit down.

Mr GARDNER: —for this classless person—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, I understand.

Mr GARDNER: —to reflect on a member's place.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand. I have already said he should not reflect. I do not need the full chapter and verse.

The Hon. P. CAICA: Reflect on his birthplace?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You don't have to—

The Hon. P. CAICA: Is that what you said?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am on my feet. You do not reflect on what members are doing in the chamber. Just keep a grip of it: it is Thursday afternoon. Member for Colton, you do not have to reflect on him walking in.

The Hon. P. CAICA: I'm not reflecting on him, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No—don't!

The Hon. P. CAICA: The simple fact is this: every member of the parliament is always in this place—

Dr McFetridge: You're just bitter and twisted.

The Hon. P. CAICA: The member—

Dr McFetridge: You hate the Premier—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I'm standing up.

Dr McFetridge: You hate the Premier. We know you do, because he cost you \$130,000 a year. That's why you hate him.

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

The Hon. P. CAICA: The truth hurts, Duncan.

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my feet.

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are warned, member for Morphett. You are warned.

Dr McFetridge: You're better than this, Paul.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are warned for the second time, while I am on my feet.

Dr McFetridge: Well, there you go.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Morphett!

Dr McFETRIDGE: I apologise, ma'am.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would hope so—to the house, not to me. It has nothing to do with me. If the member for Colton would like to continue his remarks.

The Hon. P. CAICA: Yes, I will. I would say that I understand that every member of parliament is always here. My point was that I have just taken a view of the member for Schubert. I just saw him as he passed by in a fleeting moment.

I think the class of 2014 is a very good class. I have a lot of time for the talent that has been brought in—the member for Bright, the member for Schubert, the member for Hartley and the member for Mount Gambier. My friend the member for Kaurna might question some of that, but it is refreshing. It is refreshing their party, and that can only be a good thing.

Those people who have been comfortable in opposition should go. That is up to them to decide and I make no comment about that other than that it is for them to decide. If they really want to be legitimate, if they really want to be regarded as legitimate, it is time for some people to go and be replaced by people like those I have just mentioned.

If you have a look at the class of 2006, we have the member for Finniss. I was disgusted this morning, listening on the wireless, to hear him say, 'Why drop these people on our island?' Most country areas, like we do in the city, have some social problems.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, the member for Chaffey!

The Hon. P. CAICA: This is the—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: I'll get to you—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Sit down. The member for Chaffey is reminded that he is on two warnings. I want the debate to continue, observing standing order 142. Member for Colton.

The Hon. P. CAICA: Probably the best performer of the opposition in my time here was Iain Evans. He chose to go. Could that have been because he saw no future, being resigned to a life in opposition? You have lost probably the best operator you have ever had here and you can judge yourself why that occurred.

Going back to the member for Finniss, if I can, just for a minute, that interview this morning was absolutely disgusting. He should be ashamed. This is the person who called the prime minister a dog. This is the person who attacked, in a misogynistic way, the former member for Bright. This is

the person who has said something, which his mayor this morning refuted, about the people of Kangaroo Island and the fears of those who are too scared to walk down the street in Kingscote. It is just outrageous.

He said today in his contribution that the fish shop is now closed. Why wouldn't it close if he says, spreading the story, that no-one will go down the main street at night? As I remember, the fish shop was in the main street of Kingscote. They are too scared to go there because you have made them too scared and it is just ridiculous.

There are others from the class of 2006 who I think have some talent and should probably stay here anyway—the member for Hammond and the member for Goyder—but, as I said, those who came on in 2014 are hungry. Their hunger can only be fed if those people who are occupying seats, feeling comfortable where they are without wanting to get to this side (because oppositions are meant to live for nothing more than to get to this side of the chamber) are replaced. I think they are all comfortable being where they are, and we, as a government, require and want a good opposition.

I think I have held the house probably a little bit longer than I had intended. As I mentioned the other day when I said to the Speaker, 'I'm frustrated,' what frustrates me is not the people on my side; it is sitting here in question time, week in and week out, listening to the most inane comments, the lack of thrust and the lack of strategy. A prime example was an article in *The Advertiser* today where the leader said, 'I have sent this to the police,' only to be refuted by the police. It is embarrassing; you cannot get away with that. I say that the party ought to collectively get together, get rid of the dead weight, get rid of the people who are dragging them down, and replace them with people who are going to be hungry about getting to this side of the house.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Finniss—and I am sure that members will accord you the same courtesy and listen to you in silence.

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (17:15): I will resist the urge to make any comment on the last two speakers on the government side, particularly a political fossilised dinosaur. There are two issues I would like to talk about, and one is the Repat Hospital. I do not think the government have any idea of the impact of what they are doing with closing the Repat Hospital. It is biting and biting, and that is only evidenced by what is going on out the front of this building. I think yesterday it was 90,000 signatures; they are getting 500 a day. They are still getting signatures.

The people of South Australia hate the South Australian Labor government over what they are doing with the Repat Hospital. It is biting deep. I cannot understand why a couple of members, like the member for Fisher, the member for Elder and those who are down around that way, are letting this absolutely destroy their communities. I am well aware that the communities down there are totally disgusted. It is just a sad thing that what happened to the late Bob Such happened and that he is not still here being a decent and honourable member for Fisher. He was a good man and he is sadly missed.

The government has failed to understand the difference between the various users and the various veterans groups. They have failed to understand the difference between the RSL and the Vietnam veterans. They are two quite disparate groups. Yes, there are numbers of Vietnam veterans tied up in the RSL and, yes, they are in leadership roles in the RSL. They jolly well have to be, because many of the World War II veterans are disappearing rapidly, sadly, through the process of time. Some 45 to 50 are disappearing across the nation every day, and that is just their advancing age that is catching up with them. The Vietnam veterans have made the Repat Hospital their home. They have made Ward 17 their home. They feel comfortable there and it is no good the government prattling on and trying to convince everybody that it is such a terrific idea to close the Repat.

I can tell you that these people out the front are not going away, and it is impacting heavily. I have some 700 vets on the Fleurieu Peninsula and a whole lot less, of course, over on the island side just by virtue of the population, but I have not have any one vet from that area, whether it be World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan, tell me that it is a good idea to close the Repat. If the government choose to go down this line, woe betide them. It is a sad indictment on this government that they were given a hospital like the Repat and they intend to close it. You can rest

assured that the people of Elder, Fisher, Ashford and those surrounding seats with Labor members will be reminded well and truly of it in 2018.

The other matter I wish to raise briefly is the issue of water on Kangaroo Island and Middle River dam. Middle River dam supplies the towns of Parndana, Kingscote and the area of Shoal Bay and it is trucked to Emu Bay and American River. It is also used on a number of properties for stock water in dry years.

I want to know what minister Hunter's fallback position is and what he will put in place to cater for what is looming as a disaster for water on Kangaroo Island. Normally Middle River dam fills up six weeks after the first rain. It only started running last week and now it has not rained again. The dam is 35 per cent full. The predictions are for little or no or very light rainfall leading into the end of winter and into the spring. If that happens, we face an absolute disaster regarding water on the island.

Last time the dam ran low they were able to bring water through from a property owned by Mr MacGill. There was a pipeline put through there and that dam actually had more water than Middle River and they were able to use that and it was an absolute lifeline. However, this time around, that dam is now used for irrigating potatoes. It is absolutely bone dry. There is no surplus water in that—no water—and Middle River has 35 per cent. I also understand that, by reason of necessity, they drain water out of Middle River dam through the base of the dam to flush out the salts and other nasties that are in there. My understanding is that it was still draining out in November; indeed, it may still have been running in.

However, given that its current level is at 35 per cent, given that the runoff is negligible, given that the forecast is atrocious, what are the minister and SA Water doing to put in place a plan regarding the water needs of those areas that I mentioned? Fortunately, Penneshaw has a desalination plant which was put in by the Liberal government, and that will get around that, but there is no way known that the plant will supply enough water to supply all those areas I am concerned about.

I am worried about it. Not only am I worried about it because of the town people but I am also worried about it because, on present indications, there will be numbers of farmers who are going to have to cart water for their stock. I will be contacting the minister as a matter of urgency about this to see what indeed, if anything, they plan to do, and for heaven's sake, if anyone mentions to me that the commissioner will fix it, I am going to laugh in their face; it will be a complete joke.

This is nature at work, and it is a lack of planning in my view. I understand that they intend to put in turkey nest dams on top of the plateau to provide additional water supplies, which could also water the proposed golf course. We rejected the additional supply that was proposed for the town of Kingscote some years ago because simply it was in the wrong place but they have gone on to do nothing. They said we have adequate water, which in most years we do. I raise those concerns on that water.

Fortunately on the Fleurieu, the Myponga dam is still in a very healthy state and I hope it stays that way, and there are other ways to shift water around on the mainland through the pipes and various systems and the desalination plant, but the supply of water to those island consumers is at risk and I would like to know what they intend to do about it.

Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (17:24): I rise to give this grievance following my budget reply speech and follow up on one item that I canvassed yesterday when delivering that speech. At the time I tried to focus on a range of things that the state government could look at that might not necessarily have an impact on the state budget's bottom line but would be legislative reformist measures which would enable South Australia's economy to be developed and to have the boost that it needs at this time.

One of the matters I mentioned was my desire and anticipation for the planning reform that the government, through the Deputy Premier, is going to bring in to this house later in the year. I mentioned yesterday what I thought was the significant need for our planning legislation in South Australia to be given the ability to fast-track projects of economic merit and, in a more general sense, for it to be much easier to get non-controversial development projects, both large and small, through our planning system. In particular, I feel that rezoning is so convoluted and so unnecessarily bureaucratic within local government at the moment that I believe it is something the state government really needs to have as a major focus of its updated planning legislation.

Related to the local government space, I also want to talk in more detail about my desire to see local government reforms brought into the house. I am very pleased that the Minister for Local Government is here at the moment and yesterday was able to present the government's proposed updates to the Local Government Act through his second reading explanation of that bill. Yesterday in my speech I raised some concern that I felt that the broad outline that we received from the minister might be a bit more pedestrian than what I was hoping for and a bit more process focused rather than real reform to local government in South Australia. However, I am pleased that the government has got something on the table and I hope that the opposition can work alongside the state government as we look at the third tier of government and what we can do to make it more productive and to give it some economic imperatives.

I have often said that local government has the potential to be the most functional tier of government. It is the tier of government closest to the people, so it can do a lot for them and it can have a very immediate impact on local communities. However, far too often local government is the most dysfunctional tier of government and really is not what it could be here in this state. I think it is a stale sector and it is suffering from many years where reform, driven by the state government into the local government sector, has been lacking. I really hope this term of government is one where the state government takes up local government reform with some zeal. Although I am not part of this government and it is the Labor Party that has formed government here, I would still like them to take the lead on this now. I do not think we can wait for a potential change of government in 2018 before we take local government on, because it is crying out for reform.

I am very pleased that the state parliament's Economic and Finance Committee has taken the opportunity to investigate how any future move by state government to impose a rate cap on South Australia's councils might impact them. I think it is worth having a really open-minded discussion about rate capping. This is something that has been in place in New South Wales for many years and has been in place in Victoria on and off. It was in place during the Kennett years and, after a period of not being in place during the Labor and Liberal administrations of the 2000s, it is now in the process of being reintroduced by the Labor government, led by Daniel Andrews, in Victoria.

It will be quite interesting to look at the process through the Economic and Finance Committee that the Victorian government is going through as they reintroduce a rate cap on local government based around CPI. Not all of these local government rate capping procedures in other jurisdictions are based around CPI. In Victoria, they are going to link local government rate raises to CPI rises. In New South Wales, a body similar to our Essential Services Commission sets a local government rate rise which then has to be used by local governments there, and they can only not use it and have an extra increase by making a submission to an independent panel.

My interest in exploring rate capping comes from personal experience. I spent three years at the Marion council, two years as deputy mayor, and learnt a huge amount during that time. It was a time which I guess could be seen as an apprenticeship for my current role. I enjoyed my time on council, particularly the leadership of Felicity-ann Lewis and some of my other now retired council colleagues. However, what did frustrate me about being on council was the way in which that council and many councils spend other people's money without any respect for what they are doing with that money. That is my personal view.

The council budgeting process was just one of the most incredibly backward processes that I have ever seen at work. What councillors did was come up with a wish list of the things that they would like to do in a particular financial year—maybe a local park, an upgrade of some local environment initiative, or maybe new council decor. I remember some of the things on the list at Marion council were multicultural programs, arts programs, often things out of what you would traditionally think was the jurisdiction of local government.

They came up with this wish list and it would be on the whiteboard during one of our workshops and, once that wish list was put up, we would tally how much it would cost. Let's say it would be \$1.1 million to do those additional items above the budget of \$70 million or so that the City of Marion had in a given year. We would then turn to the finance people and ask, 'Well, what rate rise do we need to put in place across our city? What do we need to take from ratepayers in order to deliver that wish list?'

Inevitably, the figure would be brought up and the finance officers in council would say, 'You'll need to go with a 5.5 per cent rate rise in order to fulfil that wish list.' That is how rate rises would be delivered. They would be delivered by looking at your wish list, working that out and then raising the money accordingly, as opposed to asking, 'How much money do we have to work with?' and working out what we could deliver for the amount of money that was already in the bank. That backward process does council no favours because it results in a situation where rate rises occur year on year, in and out.

Just this morning, I was speaking to a Hallett Cove resident (who happened to be my mum) and she had kept a copy—being of Scottish heritage, she keeps copies of all her bills—of her 2005 council rates bill from the City of Marion: it was \$1,500. There is a fairly average house in Hallett Cove and probably worth about \$500,000, and they were paying \$1,500 in 2005. Their last rate bill was almost \$2,500. That is a rise of almost two-thirds, about 60 per cent in a decade.

This has occurred during a decade of record economic instability, very low wages growth and contraction of many private sector industries in South Australia as a consequence of the global financial crisis. Many of the small businesses, the tradies, the sole proprietors, have seen their business growth plateau or decline in recent years; yet council rates continue to soar. The City of Marion's long-term financial plan was predicated on an annual rate rise year in year out of 5 per cent.

This year the City of Marion is trumpeting a rate rise of 2.8 per cent and they are trumpeting that as a record low, but it is still more than double the rate of inflation. It is still higher than CPI and it is still higher than the special LGPI-created local government CPI, so it is still eating into people's discretionary income. You just cannot do that forever. You cannot continue to eat into people's discretionary income. That is why I believe in local government rate capping and that is why I am pleased that the Economic and Finance Committee is taking a serious look at this policy.

Time expired.

Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. G.G. Brock.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel) (17:34): I am pleased to continue my remarks from my Appropriation Bill speech. I was getting on to issues in relation to the Modbury Hospital. I think I was saying that the northern part of my electorate, the southern part of the member for Schubert's electorate and those north-eastern suburban seats obviously all use the Modbury Hospital, so it is important to a significant part of my constituency that the Modbury Hospital operates at a very high level and offers a comprehensive range of services.

A couple of weeks ago, I asked the Minister for Health a question relating to what services would be kept in place after the Transforming Health reforms were put through, and we did not really get any straight answers. The minister hedged around the question, looked to lay some blame on some of our federal colleagues and the like, but really did not get to the tin tacks of the question at all. We want some accurate, truthful answers to those questions. I know it is against the rules of the house to actually display material, but I have some—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then you won't do it, will you?

Mr GOLDSWORTHY: No, I won't.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put it down, then.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY: I will just merely use it as a reference, Deputy Speaker. I have a DL flyer, I think put around your electorate, Deputy Speaker, because it has your name and your nice photograph on it—it is quite a youthful photograph, if I may say—listing 32 services that are currently delivered—

The Hon. S.W. Key: You're very brave!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I feel Speaker Bishop welling up inside me. I am having trouble.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY: I understand the member for Newland put out a similar DL flyer into the Newland electorate, with his photograph across it, listing 32 services that the Modbury Hospital currently provides to communities. We want to know, on this side of the house, how many of those

32 services will be retained at the Modbury Hospital after the Transforming Health reforms are carried out.

That is a very important issue for a significant section of my electorate, obviously a significant section of the member for Schubert's electorate, and no doubt for the electorates of the member for Florey, the member for Newland, Wright, Mordialta, and probably even some of the member for Hartley's electorate. These are very important questions that need to be answered.

Going on in relation to the health services that are provided to South Australians, we have had a series of questions, particularly in question time today, about the EPAS debacle—the hundreds of millions of dollars that are being shelled out to actually smash the EPAS into some sort of shape that will fit our current health service.

Initially, it was meant to be rolled out in the current RAH, but that has all been canned, and we are talking about it going into the new RAH. We were quite legitimately asking questions of the Treasurer (who I understand has the control of the budget for EPAS) and he was all at sea. The Treasurer could not give any clear answers on pretty much any and every question that was asked in relation to EPAS. So, if there is ever an example of how to mismanage a project, I think EPAS is right up there with the best of them.

Another issue I want to touch on is that of the Treasurer also spouting off this week, talking about the fact that the government aspires to have this state known as 'the mining state'. I am going to contact the senior departmental people in relation to this, but I have some constituents, two brothers, who have mining leases up in the Far North, and they are having all sorts of trouble working through the bureaucratic maze that has come about by a heritage listing that has been placed on the some of the land covered by their mining leases. There is a whole bureaucratic maze that these constituents of mine have to try to find their way through to get their approvals for a particular site.

So while the Treasurer, the Minister for Mineral Resources, says that they are doing everything they possibly can to foster a productive mining sector, the reality I am finding, through the concerns passed on to me by my constituents, is something quite different. They still have this massive process that is bound up in red tape. As I said, I will be contacting the senior departmental officers with those concerns in an effort to have them resolved.

However, I do not want to be totally negative, even though the member for Colton, in his contribution, was totally negative. Obviously we are touching a raw nerve, particularly with the member for Morphett raising issues with the UFU and so on. We know that the member for Colton was the national secretary of the UFU, so I think we are touching a bit of a raw nerve there, and we got a response from the member for Colton in his contribution this afternoon.

I want to turn my remarks to something positive, some positive news that has come from the electorate of Kavel, and that is the recent announcement and the event we attended on the weekend. The federal Minister for Infrastructure the Hon. Jamie Briggs, the state Minister for Transport and Infrastructure the Hon. Stephen Mullighan, myself, and the Mount Barker mayor Ann Ferguson attended the first official sod-turning ceremony for the construction of the second freeway interchange at Mount Barker, an historic event for the district. We will see that project progress and, if things stay on track, if the engineering work stays on track, that project—the full interchange with the four sets of ramps—will be completed in approximately 12 months' time.

That was a very pleasing announcement that was made on the weekend, and it is something I have worked very, very hard for for over 10 years in this place. I have received very strong support from my colleagues on this side of the house for it to be in our election policy in 2006 and again in the 2010 election transport policy and again in the 2014 election transport policy. So I thank the leader for his strong support as well as previous leaders for their strong support, and all my colleagues on this side of the house for their support for this project. Without that I do not think it would have been achieved; without my support and the support of my colleagues I do not necessarily think it would have been delivered.

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (17:44): I have always wanted to attend a sod turning. The question I have—

Members interjecting:

Mr KNOLL: I think I could be a good sod turner; I just want to know where the shovels come from. Maybe I will ask that in the estimates stage.

I want to talk about my electorate but before I turn to that, I want to have a chance to, on the record, correct some of the comments the member for Kaurana has been making on Twitter with regard to the greatest ever South Australian Sir Thomas Playford. I made comments in the house during my appropriation speech about the fact that Sir Thomas was an extremely frugal character and he kept government spending very much in check over his time in office.

It has been suggested that because they ran a high debt to GSP ratio during the fifties and sixties that that is somehow the definitive measure of government spending. I did propose an argument that there was a little thing called the Second World War which may or may not have had some deleterious effect on the debt levels of all the state and territory governments and federal governments across, basically, the entire world, but leave that little event aside.

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon: An unfortunate circumstance.

Mr KNOLL: That is right; a blip on the radar. The member for Kaurana tried to suggest that somehow the GFC was of an equivalence with the Second World War. I am not much of an apple eater, but that was not comparing apples with apples.

What I would like to do is use a much more accurate measure of government spending discipline; that is, government spending to GSP. The wonderful people in the parliamentary library quickly knocked together some information for me. It says that in 1954-55, in that budget, the government expended \$102 million on a gross state product of \$802 million for an expenditure percentage of 13 per cent.

A decade later, in the 1964-65 budget, the government spent \$217 million on a GSP of \$1.973 billion, or 11 per cent. So, that was 13 per cent progressively over that decade, down to 11 per cent by the end of that decade. The thing that strikes me most about that is that the GSP over doubled, in fact, it is almost two and a half times the size that the state's economy grew over that decade. Can I tell you that growth is a fantastic way to keep a government in check.

What I enjoyed very much is the fact that not only were levels of government spending maintained, they were actually lowered as a percentage of GSP. I think that is the definitive measure and on this score I would like to put this issue to bed with the member for Kaurana because I feel, again, Sir Thomas watching me and I feel very much that I am the one in this chamber to be able to hold up his legacy.

We move on to the beautiful electorate of the Barossa Valley. Sorry, hold on, I did not finish my point. Let us have a look at what government spending levels as a percentage of GSP are today. It alters somewhere between 16 to 18 per cent. At the moment I think it is sitting at about 16.8 per cent over the course of this year. Here we are, we have the member for Kaurana who is saying that somehow this current Labor government is the virtue of fiscal discipline, and I have spoken previously about blowouts and the like, when his government, the government he belongs to, or the party he belongs to, is presiding over 17 per cent as opposed to the 11 per cent that Playford was able to get down to. I think that is the definitive stat that we should look to. I would like to claim victory in this debate. No other correspondence will be entered into. I am vacating the field with Sir Thomas's trophy in hand.

If we move on to the beautiful electorate of the Barossa Valley. It is frustrating that there is no mention of the Barossa or Schubert in this budget. It is extremely upsetting. My electorate does include some of the Murraylands and there may be some expenditure in Schubert through the riverine recovery program at \$4.6 million. There are a couple of projects which are technically not in my electorate but are very close to it and that is the provision of two new steel hull ferries along the River Murray. For that, I am extremely grateful and on behalf of the Mid Murray Council I am extremely grateful. Also, I did find out today that there was some money with the school maintenance program that the Minister for Education spoke about yesterday in the chamber. It seems that the Mannum Community College has received a bit of money, and for that I am also extremely grateful.

The Barossa region, as defined by the RDA, only received \$6.2 million in spending in this budget and the two projects they talked about are the Gawler regional dialysis service and the

Evanston Gardens Primary School. While I am extremely grateful for those projects, they are not in my electorate. What disgusted me more is that \$6.2 million in the Barossa is the lowest spending in any of the RDA regions—the lowest spending in any of the RDA regions.

I do not want to stand here and pit region against region but I would like to go through the strong economic benefits that my electorate brings. The member for Goyder the other day went through a list of towns in country South Australia and their unemployment levels. I would like to go through the towns in my electorate that were mentioned. Bar one—being Mannum, having an unemployment rate of 7.7 per cent—all of my towns are under the average of South Australia. Angaston has an unemployment rate of 3.9 per cent, Lyndoch 3.2 per cent, Nuriootpa 4.2 per cent and Tanunda 2.5 per cent. This is the sign of a strong and growing region, and I would implore this government to reinvest in a region that is doing well, because that is what is going to help bring greater prosperity and growth to South Australia.

Over the course of this year, I am going to be pursuing the cause of the Barossa hospital with vigour. The business plan should be put out this year by the country local health network and, as part of that, I am going to present some options of how we can get this project off the ground. The Barossa Council is the 10th fastest growing council in this state, and I would love to see some road infrastructure spending, but also school infrastructure spending. I have high schools and primary schools that are bursting at the seams, literally bursting at the seams, with no more room—

Mr Gardner: Literally?

Mr KNOLL: Well, literally bursting at the asbestos-riddled seams then—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

Mr KNOLL: Figuratively at the seams. It is just disappointing that one of the premier regions of South Australia that continues to deliver, and has continued to deliver over such a long period of time, continues to get ignored. It is something that I take quite personally. It is just upsetting that the Barossa region keeps on keeping on and delivering for South Australia but keeps getting knocked back. I find that an extremely upsetting situation.

With my last three minutes I would like to turn to a couple of projects that are happening, or should happen, around my electorate. The first of those is what I think we are now calling the Gawler East Collector Link Road. This project has had more name changes than the artist formerly known as Prince, or whatever his name is now. Anyway, in the budget we announced that we had a new name for it, and it is the Gawler East Collector Link Road. I am grateful that the government put \$55 million on the table, but what I am not grateful for is the way the government has gone about trying to bully the council and the local community into accepting what is the inferior road option here.

After the announcement in the budget, I assumed that a deal had been done for the Gawler East Collector Link Road. The truth is there has not. There still is no deal for the Gawler East Collector Link Road. The fact that they have put money in the budget for it does not mean that we are any closer to getting this road built. I implore the government to get on and negotiate in good faith with the local council so that we can actually get this road built, because the southern areas of the Barossa are screaming out for a bit of a rebalancing after Gomersal Road was bitumenised 12 years ago, I think.

I find the way the government has gone about this process deplorable, standing there and suggesting, 'This is the deal, take it or leave it', 'Yes, we are going to impose a reasonably significant burden on the local community, but tough luck. This is what you want, we have to get on and do it and this is our final offer.'

The other project that I would like the government to get on with and deliver is the Northern Connector. Port Wakefield Road and the Northern Expressway would be the premier way for the roughly billion to billion and a half dollars worth of wine to leave my region to ports to get out of this country but also to move to interstate markets. The Northern Connector is a great piece of that puzzle. Can I say to the government: let's get on and do this thing. I understand that it has huge benefits in terms of cost benefit analysis. I understand that it is a very worthwhile project.

In a budget that pretended to have an increased infrastructure spend but in reality had an average budget spend over the next five years of \$1.3 billion compared to the last five years of \$1.9 billion, I would contend that this is exactly the type of project that we should bring forward. This is a project that will bring in jobs and greater productivity gains. It would help regions like mine to expand further so that we can create more jobs and more economic growth so that we can actually deliver more taxes to this government that it can fritter away in what is sometimes wasteful and unnecessary spending.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hammond.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:54): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Earlier on tonight, I was almost having images of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hang on, I am going to sit higher in the chair.

Mr PEDERICK: I was just getting a bit of feedback of you ruling up there with an iron fist, which you do, but be that as it may.

Mr Knoll: We don't want to suggest 'iron lady'.

Mr PEDERICK: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought you liked Thatcher.

Mr Knoll: I do, Deputy Speaker, but I was in deference to you.

Mr PEDERICK: Thank you. I will keep going, Madam Deputy Speaker, because we need to make our valuable contributions to the Appropriation Bill grievance motion. Certainly, at the start of the speech, I want to talk about a positive thing that has happened in my community. Sadly, it is one of those issues where you often wonder why, as a local member, you need to get involved before something happens.

An issue I brought up in this place in the last month or so concerned the internet service at my home school of Coomandook Area School. It was causing children to go home and be truant, essentially, and do their education from home where they had better internet service. I just had a phone call from Mark Bolton at Telstra, the Southern District Regional Manager, and they have fast-tracked the upgrade of the tower which is about six kilometres down the road at Yumali to 4GX.

It was going to happen but, with this discussion going on, Telstra fast-tracked that service to full wireless broadband, so it has 40 megabyte download and 10 megabyte upload. For the techno wizards in the place, that is pretty good, I am told, so I am really appreciative that Telstra and, I must say, the Department for Education got together and sorted this vital issue out.

It is pleasing to see that things can happen. It always worries me why it has to get to this level before it happens, but at least it happens, so that is a good thing. I appreciate the work that everyone had to do with this. Whether it was Telstra or the department, it is really appreciated by the children and the teachers at that school. I think they launched it today, so that is a great thing.

Moving on from that, I want to talk about some of the issues in regional South Australia with the black spot mobile funding for this state. As much as I have a lot of time for the Minister for Education who is responsible for this matter wearing her public sector hat, I just wonder why we are seeing only 11 of the 499 new mobile phone base stations.

Essentially, the minister has been saying in this place that that is the federal government's issue. This state government may as well all get on a boat and head out, because everything is the federal government's fault. It looks like we are heading away from federalism towards nationalism, and going to where we may as well just not have this state government. If they want to walk out anytime, we will move over on the right-hand side any day of the week.

Members interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: Come on, Bronwyn! Anyway, I think it is disgraceful when we have these black spots for phone towers on our regional highways. I know some of it is not in my electorate now

but, when you go out through to Karoonda and Mindarie, where the Mindarie mine was operating, there were certainly very good spots for two towers: one at Wynarka and one at Mindarie.

It is not just for the people and the farmers working in those areas but for people travelling those roads. I know people talk about whether it is viable for the amount of transmission and that sort of thing, but I am talking about equity for country people. Why can't country people have this equity? It is just so wrong.

I know Telstra runs these things, as well as Optus and other companies, and it comes at a great cost. I know they spend millions and millions of dollars putting these mobile towers in for phone networks, but these base stations are coming out of the federal government's \$100 million Mobile Black Spot program. South Australia is getting 11 of these phone base stations.

This compares to 144 in New South Wales, 130 in Western Australia, 110 in Victoria, 68 in Queensland, 31 in Tasmania and five in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory is getting nearly half of what we are getting but, when you look at the gross misrepresentation across the rest of the country, we are just so underdone. Quite frankly, I think it is just because the Labor government has no reflection to do with anything in regional areas. I wonder what would happen if they were in a broken down car one day at Wynarka—and it would be good for the transport minister to go out and assess the roads out there because they are going to need a lot of work with the closing down of the rail service for the Viterra grain operations—or if someone were to break down at Mindarie in that region. It is about equity and it is about safety.

You look at the commitments that other state governments put in alongside this federal funding—\$32 million from Western Australia, \$24 million from New South Wales, \$21 million from Victoria, \$10 million from Queensland and \$350,000 from Tasmania, along with \$1.7 million from local government, businesses and community groups. As I said, minister Close said the prime responsibility for the telecommunications sat with the federal government and with commercial operators in the sector. I guess there are plenty of phone towers in Port Adelaide, but that is the way it is.

I want to speak about the screening check inquiries in the final few minutes of this grievance debate. These are five longstanding ones, and my office has dealt with a lot more than these in the Hammond electorate. As I have often said to the minister when we have had a quiet meeting face-to-face or when interjecting across the chamber, screening checks are self-funding. You could employ 1,000 extra staff and it would not matter because it is not a cost to the government. The charge that is made for the screening check all comes back and more. It is just holding back so much business in this state. I know we have to get it right but it has just got so out of control.

People are losing their jobs, people are not able to do their job and feed their family. I look at this one, for instance, which is someone trying to be a taxi driver and his has been outstanding since December 2014. We have others, including a lady who is a Families SA carer whose check has been outstanding since December 2014; a family day care provider, outstanding since February 2015; a bus driver, outstanding since February 2015; child related employment, outstanding since September 2014.

So, what do these people do in the meantime? I will tell you what happens, Madam Deputy Speaker, when these people cannot get their preferred choice of work, whether it is in child related operations or with being a taxi driver where obviously they need a high rate of clearance, they go and get another job. It impacts directly on all of society because if you cannot get drivers and you cannot get people to look after our children when we need them in child care—and we used to use child care a lot—it impacts all the way down the line. Late last year I had discussions with the minister and one of her senior staff who was supposed to tidy this up, but why are we having so many problems with these checks? It is just crazy stuff, especially when it is self-funding and there is probably a bit of profit involved in it as well.

Sadly, I am running out of time at this late part of the day. I would like to say there are no major infrastructure projects in this budget for Hammond, and what really annoyed me with the budget was that the government turned their back on \$25 million for our river communities right the way through the state in the diversification fund. For a government that is receiving close to \$1 billion of unbudgeted GST, I think that is absolutely disgraceful, and it would not have happened if it was

\$25 million being funded into a city seat. That is politics played at its worst, but if the Treasurer and Premier want to play that way, then good luck. Let's see when we are on the other side.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop) (18:04): Hopefully I will not use my full 10 minutes, but usually when I say that I use the whole damn lot. I am only going to talk about one issue tonight, although there are plenty that I could talk about. It is about this government's handling of the emergency services levy over the last couple of budgets. We all are aware that in the last budget the government removed the rebate paid out of the Consolidated Account. I went back and read the debates from the late 1990s when we first introduced the legislation to create the emergency services levy to replace the old fire insurance levy and some other areas that used to fund our emergency services.

I remember at the time the Labor Party complaining bitterly and stridently suggesting that the Consolidated Account should fund a substantial proportion of our emergency services and that we should look after all South Australians such that the burden of the emergency services levy was not too great. That is why, when that legislation went through the parliament, we had the rebate. I am not sure whether that is the right term.

The Hon. G.G. Brock: Concession.

Mr WILLIAMS: We had the concession paid from the Consolidated Account. Last year the government removed that and put an extra \$90 million cost on emergency services levy payers ostensibly because there was a reduction in the allocations from Canberra to South Australia.

The Leader of the Opposition, in his address on the budget, put the lie to that whole argument and I will repeat the numbers that he put on the record then. In the financial year that has just completed (2014-15), South Australia received \$273 million more from the federal government than was indicated for that year in the last of the Wayne Swan budgets. That is \$273 million more in the last financial year than what Wayne Swan would have delivered to South Australia if he had still been in power. Yet we had this argument that there were huge cuts and we had to increase taxes here, including the \$90 million slug on the ESL.

In the financial year that we are just entering, South Australia will receive some \$671 million more from the commonwealth than Wayne Swan would have delivered, according to his figures in his last budget. Yet we still have this lie that there are massive cuts from Canberra that are causing all these problems. In the next financial year it will be \$1.256 billion more than what the last Wayne Swan budget predicted. The Treasurer said, 'We have these massive cuts. We have to increase taxes. We have to remove the concession on the emergency services levy and that is going to cost South Australians \$90 million.' The whole lot is based on a pack of lies.

It gets worse because South Australians were told that the impact on individual households would be in the tens of dollars. I, and a lot of my colleagues on this side of the house, represent the farming community where they hold large tracts of land with high values. They do not make much money out of it, but they have high-value properties which are rated under the emergency services levy because it is a capital tax and instead of paying a few tens of dollars extra, by and large, they were paying hundreds of dollars extra. We have had the lie perpetuated again this year with a further increase in the emergency services levy and again it will impact most unfairly on rural and regional South Australia.

The other thing I want to point out to the house is that I did some analysis of the amount of money that was collected under the emergency services levy in various parts of the state. The state is divided into four zones. Basically, region 4 is greater metropolitan Adelaide and zones 1, 2 and 3 represent the major towns in rural South Australia, the farming area of rural South Australia and region 3 is the outback areas. The figures that are provided from Treasury to the Economic and Finance Committee each year on which they then report to the house are very illuminating.

Those figures give a breakdown of the expenditure on emergency services, attributable to the fixed property component of the levy. Last year, for the regions outside metropolitan Adelaide—regions 1, 2 and 3—expenditure on emergency services attributable to the fixed property component of the levy was \$26.4 million. The revenue raised from those same areas was \$39.1 million—\$39.1 million raised, \$24.6 million expended.

There is a huge cross subsidy occurring from regional South Australia to metropolitan Adelaide through the emergency services levy, yet we have a government that refuses to even look after its own assets in places like my electorate (and I have talked about the drainage system and I will continue to talk about it). This government goes out, and we have ministers saying, 'Look, they're your electors down there, we're not paying for it, you go and get the money, allow us to impose another levy.' Regional South Australia is already paying.

When I looked at the information that Treasury provided to the Economic and Finance Committee this year, I found an amazing anomaly. Lo and behold, these papers, if you can believe them, would suggest that \$42.7 million is being spent in regional South Australia on the emergency services attributable to the fixed property component of the levy, and the revenue raised, lo and behold, is \$42 million.

These figures would have us believe that, in region 1 last year the expenditure attributable to the fixed property component of the levy was \$16.2 million, but this year it will be \$24 million—\$16.2 million to \$24 million. That is a 50 per cent increase. In region 2 last year it was \$9.4 million, this year \$16.1 million. That is about an 80 per cent increase. In region 3, the outback areas, \$800,000 was spent last year and budgeted to be spent this year is \$2.6 million.

I bring this to the attention of the house because I just do not believe those figures. I do not believe that on the emergency services there will be an expenditure increase of 50 per cent, 80 per cent and several hundred per cent in those three regional areas of South Australia. This is a sleight of hand to try to disguise the fact that there is a huge cross subsidy being perpetrated via the emergency services levy from regional South Australia to metropolitan South Australia. This, again, is the hallmark of this government and highlights why South Australians at the last two elections have voted for a change of government. That is another story I will leave for another day.

Motion carried.

Estimates Committees

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (From—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (18:13): I move:

That the proposed expenditures for the departments and services contained in the Appropriation Bill be referred to Estimates Committee A and B for examination and report by Wednesday 29 July, in accordance with the following timetables:

APPROPRIATION BILL 2015

TIMETABLE FOR ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY AT 10.00 AM

Attorney-General

Minister for Justice Reform

Minister for Industrial Relations

Minister for Planning

Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning

Minister for Housing and Urban Development

Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing and Urban Development

Courts Administration Authority

Attorney-General's Department (part)

Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)

Electoral Commission SA

Administered Items for the Electoral Commission SA

Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

THURSDAY 23 JULY AT 9.30 AM

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Minister for Forests

Minister for Tourism

Minister for Recreation and Sport

Minister for Racing

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure

Department of Primary Industries and Regions (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (part)

South Australian Tourism Commission

Minister for Tourism

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (part)

Administered Items for the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (part)

FRIDAY 24 JULY AT 10.30 AM

Minister for Health

Minister for Health Industries

Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse

Minister for Arts

Department for Health and Ageing (part)

Department of State Development (part)

Administered Items for the Department of State Development (part)

MONDAY 27 JULY AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Investment and Trade

Minister for Defence Industries

Minister for Veteran's Affairs

Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation

Minister for Automotive Transformation

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

Department of State Development (part)

Administered Items for the Department of State Development (part)

Defence SA

Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

TUESDAY 28 JULY AT 9.00 AM

Premier

Treasurer

Minister for Finance

Minister for State Development
Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy
Minister for Small Business
Legislative Council
House of Assembly
Joint Parliamentary Services
State Governor's Establishment
Auditor-General's Department
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Department of Treasury and Finance (part)
Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)
Department of State Development (part)
Administered Items for the Department of State Development (part)

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Climate Change
Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources
Administered Items for the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources

THURSDAY 23 JULY AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills
Minister for Science and Information Economy
Minister for Status of Women
Minister for Business Services and Consumers
Department of State Development (part)
Administered Items for the Department of State Development (part)
Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (part)
Administered Items for the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (part)
Attorney-General's Department (part)
Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)
Independent Gambling Authority

FRIDAY 24 JULY AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Education and Childhood Development
Minister for Child Protection Reform
Minister for Public Sector
Department of Education and Child Development
Administered Items for the Department of Education and Child Development
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

MONDAY 27 JULY AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Disabilities
 Minister for Police
 Minister for Correctional Services
 Minister for Emergency Services
 Minister for Road Safety
 Minister for Regional Development
 Minister for Local Government
 Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (part)
 Administered Items for the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (part)
 South Australia Police
 Administered Items for South Australia Police
 Department for Correctional Services
 Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (part)
 Administered Items for the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (part)
 Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)
 Department of Primary Industries and Regions
 Administered Items for the Department of Primary Industries and Regions

TUESDAY 28 JULY AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion
 Minister for Social Housing
 Minister for Multicultural Affairs
 Minister for Ageing
 Minister for Youth
 Minister for Volunteers
 Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (part)
 Administered Items for the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (part)
 Department for Health and Ageing (part)

Motion carried.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (18:14): I move:

That Estimates Committee A be appointed, consisting of Ms Bedford, the Hon. P. Caica, Ms Chapman, Mr Gardner, Hon. J.M. Rankine, Mr Tarzia and Ms Wortley.

Motion carried.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (18:14): I move:

That Estimates Committee B be appointed, consisting of Mr Odenwalder, Ms Cook, Ms Digance, Mr Duluk, Mr Picton, Mr Speirs and Mr Whetstone.

Motion carried.

CRIMINAL LAW (HIGH RISK OFFENDERS) BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the consequential amendment made by the House of Assembly without any amendment.

INTERVENTION ORDERS (PREVENTION OF ABUSE) (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

NATURAL GAS AUTHORITY (NOTICE OF WORKS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 18:16 the house adjourned until Wednesday 29 July 2015 at 11:00.