

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 29 September 2016

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

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

Bills

CHILDREN'S PROTECTION (INFORMATION SHARING) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:32): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Children's Protection Act 1993. Read a first time.

Second Reading

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:33): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

In introducing this bill—the Children's Protection (Information Sharing) Amendment Bill 2016—I inform members that the genesis of the amendments to the Children's Protection Act 1993 emanates from the Nyland royal commission. In particular, Commissioner Nyland recommended at 242 that the Children's Protection Act 1993 be amended:

- (a) to permit and, in appropriate cases, require the sharing of information between prescribed government and non-government agencies that have responsibilities for the health, safety or wellbeing of children where it would promote those issues; and
- (b) to require prescribed government and non-government agencies to take reasonable steps to coordinate decision making and the delivery of services for children.

Whilst the government has announced, via the Attorney-General, that it proposes to consider major legislative reform and a rewrite of the Children's Protection Act as a result of the Nyland royal commission report being published on 8 August this year, there is no basis whatsoever for us to wait to implement this provision. The government has chosen to fast-track, advance or approve, it says, 38 of the over 200 recommendations in Ms Nyland's report, but this is not one of them.

I am puzzled by that for two reasons; one is that the government introduced, prior to the report being submitted to the Governor via Ms Nyland in early August, a public data sharing bill. The Attorney chose in his second reading to suggest that one of the reasons for advancing that bill was to ensure that there is a sharing of data which, when Ms Nyland's report was subsequently published, was obviously identified as an area of need, and he suggested that it was going to be accommodated in that public data bill.

That is a bill that is still progressing through the parliament. It has been through our house here. It has some merit and we have supported it, but it has nothing to do with child protection. It has nothing to do with ministers in certain departments, in particular relating to the health, safety and wellbeing of children to be obliged—not just permitted, but obliged—to share certain information. It does not in any way address the requirement that prescribed government and non-government agencies must take reasonable steps to coordinate decision-making and delivery of services.

Commissioner Nyland made absolutely clear in her report that this was not just some optional data sharing for the advance of policy development for universities and others who might develop and advise governments on policy. This was to be a mandated provision in the Children's Protection Act. It is not adequate for the government to rely on their public data initiative, following the Baird government's introduction of that in New South Wales, and it is not adequate for the government to say, 'Look, in six months' time, when we have our policy unit review of the rest of the commissioner's

recommendations, we will then come along with a children's protection rewrite bill and deal with it then.' That is not adequate.

The fundamental flaw is repeated throughout the reports of Ms Layton, commissioner Mullighan and numerous other internal reports, even DeBelle as a retired judge doing his report and most recently the Nyland report. The Attorney-General has had somebody sitting in that commission hearing for the last two years. There is absolutely no excuse for why this provision, discrete as it is, should not be incorporated and acted upon now.

The government has also chosen to do other things as we have gone along: amend the Victims of Crime Act and deal with the question of levy for children. On interim recommendations of the commission, the Premier announced in June, in advance of the final report, that he was going to have a stand-alone child protection department. He promised that it would be ready by the tabling of the report. Come 4 August, it did not happen, and it still has not happened. We are still waiting on that to occur.

However, when it suits the government, they are happy to advance recommendations on their timing. Well, the recommendations of the commissioner are real and pressing and necessary for the protection of children on a daily basis. Just read the Chloe Valentine coronial report, just read the last Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee Annual Report, and you will see time and time again the failure of government agencies and non-government agencies who undertake government services to share information and ensure that a child is not left isolated in a Housing Trust home or not going to school or presenting regularly at a hospital or being the subject of a child notification procedure under the Children's Protection Act.

All these are living in isolation, living in silos. We have had multiple reports to tell us this. I am very disappointed the government has not acted on this. We cannot wait for the safety of our children and, therefore, I urge members to consider this bill and to support it. It is entirely consistent with Ms Nyland's recommendation. We cannot allow another child to suffer, and on the current statistics it would be multiple children by the time we get to the end of the year and possibly discuss a new bill into 2017. That is not acceptable to me, it ought not be acceptable to the government, and I urge the government to support this bill and have this little piece of reform to protect our children advanced now.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Picton.

CHILDREN'S PROTECTION (GUARDIANSHIP) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:41): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Children's Protection Act 1993. Read a first time.

Second Reading

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:42): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I introduce the Children's Protection (Guardianship) Amendment Bill 2016. This is a bill to amend the Children's Protection Act 1993. Again, this is a bill that we, on this side of the house, say ought to be uncontroversial and ought to be advanced now, not at the end of the year, not whenever the government thinks it might be opportune to announce and not next year. Now.

I suggest that we have wasted years in the child protection arena by not tidying up the accessibility for carers and/or relatives of children to access the guardianship opportunities that come with securing that outside of the guardianship of the minister. This bill is consistent with the Nyland royal commission which reported in recommendations 153 to 157 that we should promote the use of other person guardianship orders by carers who have had a child in their care for a minimum of two years.

This is also available to and applicable to kinship carers. Largely, in this category we are talking about a foster carer or a relative—an aunt, a grandmother—in the kinship environment which is particularly important to our Indigenous children who are in need of guardianship in a circumstance

where, for whatever reason, their natural parents, the biological parents, are unable or unwilling to provide that care. It is a process which has been available by a party making an application for guardianship. It can be done under the Family Law Act to the Family Court.

However, it is a process which has been stifled by a couple of things. One is the significant cost to the relative or the foster carer family who is keen to secure that opportunity in going along to a federal jurisdiction to seek that support. The impecunious state of the applicant can be such that it qualifies them to be exempt from filing fees in courts, as they are expensive.

The second and probably the most significant deterrent against people making an application is the fact that they are then met with a parent or parents who take them through the process, ring them through the courts and make it an expensive process, because the applicant foster carer or relative has to go through the arduous task of establishing that the parent or parents are unfit to provide for these children.

If one of those parents or both is in gaol or is clearly diagnosed with having a medical condition of mental incompetence, or is addicted to alcohol or illicit drugs—there can be lots of reasons why parents are unable to care for their children—to put the applicant carer through the process of having to prove that to justify their application, in ordinary circumstances would be reasonable. But what Commissioner Nyland says is that, in the circumstances where a child has been with a foster carer or relative—usually with the support and advice of the welfare agencies, and sometimes while the minister has the guardianship of that child—let that person make an application without having to have the burden of proof as to their position being considered favourably on an application for guardianship.

If the parent or natural parents, who still have to be served with the proceedings, except in exceptional circumstances, want to respond and present to the court an argument as to why that should not occur, then let them have the burden of proof, let them have the onus and the responsibility to explain to the court why that foster carer or relative should not have that. It is a reverse of onus, but it is very significant in the process of the application. It will, first, I suggest, significantly shorten the proceedings and costs for the applicant, and secondly, it will be a less cumbersome process.

On the face of it, the two-year residency with the foster parent or relative, in itself, would be a prima facie case to suggest that it is reasonable for the child to continue in those circumstances. It is not as though they can simply just line up and say, 'This child has been living with me for two years.' Supported by a short statement from an officer of the department, for example, or a medical practitioner, ought to make this process a fairly quick one. Documents can still be served or attempted to be served on the parent or parents, but it will ensure that we have an orderly and efficient process.

The reason that I am particularly keen to advance this is that Commissioner Nyland has not only recommended but also suggested that an independent assessment panel needs to be established to get on with the process of assessing and making the final decision. This is not an adoption process: this is a guardianship process that would be done internally. We should avoid those expensive processes and make it an easier application for the party in question, bearing in mind, as I say, that there has usually been a history of applications to the Youth Court to secure a guardianship in the name of the minister.

The reason why I think there is no explanation for the government delaying on this is that it has already been introduced in Western Australia. On the information I have been given, it has been operating for some three years and we have seen applications for the guardianship of hundreds of children by their foster parents largely, some by relatives, under a similar process. These children now know that they are comfortable, secure, protected and in an environment in which their foster parent or relatives are their legal guardians and that they are not going to be shopped from one foster care placement to another.

If there is one thing that is consistent from Ms Layton, and especially identified by commissioner Mullighan and again by Commissioner Nyland, it is that it is not acceptable for us to have a regime of care for children where there is state intervention that allows for the continued change of children's placement in foster or state care or sometimes in a residential care facility.

Quite obviously, we have a category of children who cannot be placed even with foster carers. Sometimes they have such complex needs that the capacity to even place them with a foster care family, without serious disruption or extra support being required, is just inalienable and therefore we need to deal with those separately. But there are lots of children of the thousands who are under the guardianship of the minister who are currently residing with foster families or with their kin in the form of aunties, uncles, relatives, etc.—

Mr Pederick: Kinship carers.

Ms CHAPMAN: —kinship carers, who have taken on a commitment for these children and they are very happy to continue to work with these children and enable the child to be reassured that they will not be moved, at the behest of an officer of the department, to other accommodation. This is absolutely critical.

When one reads through the somewhat chilling but very sad stories of the children who were the subject of sexual abuse while in institutional care, about which commissioner Mullighan undertook a comprehensive report in 2006, 2007 and 2008, he reports that one of the most disturbing aspects of the children who reported on their term living in institutional care was the constant change of family environments that they were placed in. Sometimes, it was clearly necessary. I am not suggesting that some of these decisions for their transfer should not have been made. Sometimes it was for the child's protection particularly.

This was a very damaging and longstanding problem for the children in these circumstances who had been treated in a vile manner to start with, who had been sexually abused, and then placed in varying foster care and residential arrangements which dislocated them from any chance of having a genuine family upbringing. This, after all, is the whole basis upon which we have a structure of foster families—for children to feel connected, needed and part of a family environment which, for whatever reason, they have been tragically denied as a result of their family of origin not being capable of undertaking that.

It has been recommended by Commissioner Nyland, it can be introduced straightaway, as soon as we have a panel that is operating, and it has been demonstrated to operate in another state, where it has been successful. So, I say to members: do not wait for Attorney-General Rau to think about review, etc., and provide us with a draft at the end of this year or possibly next year. We need to reassure the children, the thousands of children, who are currently in foster care. Of those, I expect hundreds would be willing to be part of, and in fact desperate to be part of, an ongoing family to give them that support until they are 18 or older. The connection between child and family and the connection between child and siblings is absolutely critical, and we need to make sure that we promote this for children straightaway.

One final matter is that Commissioner Nyland, at the commencement of her recommendations, identified other statutory arrangements that needed to be considered; that is, she recommended that there be legal aid available for carers to make applications to the Family Court. I suspect this does actually raise some jurisdictional complications and I would ask the government to have a look at it. At present, we have a Legal Services Commission which is funded, as most people would know, by the federal government and the state government. They each contribute about \$30 million a year and they both have separate funding portals to deal with state—mostly criminal matters, but some civil matters—and federal, which are mostly Family Court matters.

If we are to have a position where the state Attorney-General is to get the support of his cabinet to give extra legal aid money for applicants to go to the Family Court, that may cause some complication. We may need to change the Legal Services Commission Act. I have written to the federal Attorney-General indicating my willingness to work cooperatively with the state government to advance some provision to support the recommendation of Commissioner Nyland. However, quite possibly we do need to have some work done around statutory reform to accommodate that, and I am quite happy to work with that. I am awaiting a response from Mr Brandis, the federal Attorney, as to whether we need to move on that.

However, we do not have to advance that part of Commissioner Nyland's report to deal with this aspect. This is discrete, it is critical and it is important to ensure that, between now and six or eight months' time when we might debate the Children's Protection Act, we prevent any children from

being forced to change their accommodation arrangements. We should give them a chance to spend Christmas with a family who is genuinely going to be supportive of them and give them that chance in life, which so many eminent people have recommended is critical to their wellbeing to develop into adulthood with a close and loving family.

I will conclude by referring to one other matter. I understand in the Western Australian model that there have been members of family in the kinship caring arrangement or foster carers who have said, 'We don't even ask to have a continuation of money paid to us for care. If we have a guardianship order, we are happy to take on that responsibility.' The Western Australian state government indicated that they were still prepared to give support to these families who took on the guardianship, and I understand that has occurred. There will be a financial cost, if that is the government's initiative, but there are plenty of foster parents out there who are quite prepared to say, 'It's not the money. We're not here for the money. We just want to make sure these children have a good upbringing and a chance in life.'

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Digance.

LIMITATION OF ACTIONS (INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:58): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Limitation of Actions Act 1936. Read a first time.

Second Reading

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:58): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The background to the presentation of this bill for the parliament to consider is the investigations that occurred in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Redress and Civil Litigation report. Members would be aware that this has been a national inquiry.

It is fair to say, and I think it is a credit to the state, that South Australia advanced an inquiry in relation to institutional sexual abuse some years ago and provided some redress scheme. However, at the national level, whilst that commission has been continuing there has been a specific report in relation to the child sexual abuse redress and civil litigation and how that should be reformed to accommodate the important initiatives that have been identified during their royal commission.

I part ways with the government on its response to the redress for children who have been victims of sexual abuse while in foster or institutional care in South Australia because the Attorney-General, after the federal report came out, refused to consider any further payment of money to victims in South Australia. They had received some smaller payments under a redress scheme post the Mullighan inquiry. Nevertheless, that is very disappointing because, even though those payments were made, they were far less than consistent with the national recommendation. There may have been an advance but, as far as the Attorney is concerned, he has ruled off that entitlement. I think that is harsh and unconscionable towards those who have been in it. Nevertheless, that is their view.

The second area that is an important initiative in the redress and civil litigation report is the removal of the limitation periods in which a victim can apply for compensation. In short, the Limitation of Actions Act 1936 limits periods for personal injury claims to three years after the cause of action occurs in respect of these claims. There are various other time limits under that act but, for the purpose of this, it is a three-year limit. For a child, that is a time that extends for a period from which the plaintiff is a minor.

Here is the situation: if a child is sexually abused, goes through their teenage life and attains the age of 18 years, they have three years from their 18th birthday to make a claim against the alleged perpetrator of that abuse, or someone who would otherwise be responsible and should have acted to protect the child in those circumstances. There are very good reasons that we have limitations on actions. The general principle is that it is unlike criminal matters, for which no lapse of time should stop there being a prosecution if somebody is found. For example, if you commit a murder in 1965

and years later DNA testing exposes that you are the party who was responsible for that, you should not be able to say, 'There's a limitation of time from which I should be prosecuted, so I am scot-free.'

For smaller matters, like a traffic offence, we still do have limitations on the time in which the police and/or prosecuting authorities have to actually issue the summons to proceed with minor misdemeanours in that category. However, in civil actions, if you want to sue to recover, you have three years from the event. You can go to the court, whether it is the District Court or the Supreme Court, whichever you are making the application to, and you can seek an extension of time, sometimes based on medical evidence, but you have a time limit, and that time limit is three years.

What has been identified—and this was acutely considered in the national royal commission—is that very often a person who is the subject of abuse as a child does not disclose or even recognise the significance of that abuse until they are well into adulthood. I think most members have been saturated with very sad stories from our electorate, in media coverage and in the multiple reports that we have. Very sadly, what can happen particularly in circumstances of child sexual abuse is that the memory and recall can be suppressed, or not really dealt with or acknowledged.

Many years later in adulthood, that person may have an unsuccessful personal relationship. Their marriage may fail. They may have some hesitation in wanting to have children. When the problem is diagnosed and there is essential counselling that might come with periods of grief or separation or loss, out comes the exposé of what happens with that child. Sometimes it is deliberate; that is, the child is caught in a web of silence because of the fear that they might lose the protection of the family unit they are in and they put up with the circumstance. Sometimes they do not know what to do.

Sometimes they are concerned to go public for fear that it will offend other members of the family or get other people into trouble. There are all sorts of reasons why children keep this secret to themselves. We know that is not the right thing to happen. We know that the abuse should not occur in the first place. We know that they should feel free and comfortable to be able to tell somebody, and we know that they should have relief and protection. We know that if treated badly and there is continuing pain or injury, there should be necessary treatment (whether that be medical, psychiatric or psychological), and they should be given every opportunity for that to occur.

In that process, as recognised by the national royal commission, it is critical that those people have the opportunity to come forward into adulthood and seek some redress where appropriate. Sometimes the perpetrator is no longer around 20 or 30 years later. They may be dead or have disappeared. They may no longer be in a position where they can be prosecuted. They may not be of any means, so they may not have any money from which to provide compensation. But they may actually be able to access some redress through the Victims of Crime Fund or other schemes that have been established.

We ought to do everything possible to ensure these children have access to that and are not denied when a very latent disclosure comes to the fore for which they ought to have some redress. New South Wales and Victoria have had limitations and they have passed legislation to abolish these limitations. Two major states in the country have listened to what has occurred and they have acted to enable children not to miss out in this circumstance. I would urge the government not to put its head in the sand on this but to act on it and enable it to occur.

I understand Queensland's jurisdiction is on its way through the parliament; it may have already passed. In any event, other states have acted on this. They have obviously read the report, they have accepted the argument and they have acted to ensure these children do not miss out when the issue is disclosed at a later date. One matter that is very concerning to me is that we often hear from the government that they are sympathetic to the circumstances, that they understand, that they are model litigants and that they are prepared to act to protect and provide for children who have been so badly treated in these circumstances.

I was very interested to hear that late last year the Premier had received a request from people representing victims in these circumstances, asking the government to introduce legislation to remove the limitation period and enable it to act retrospectively, and they got a complete no. It was shutdown. It is as if the Premier goes out and tells us what a great bloke he is and how he cares about these children, and then they respond with a piece of correspondence saying, 'Get lost; we're

not interested in doing that.' I just find it completely inconsistent and unconscionable, especially as they tell us how caring they are.

Most recently we had the dreadful situation where there were victims of a bungle in the health system. It was exposed and the consequence was the government, once they were caught out, said, 'We will act. We have set up a fund. We are going to cooperate with the victims and we will act and make provision.' Then we find correspondence that says that they are demanding that people pay their own costs. That is not consistent with the rhetoric that we get in here, or at a press conference, or where people are standing and nodding their heads and saying, 'Isn't he wonderful for caring about our children?' No, that is not acceptable.

In the health circumstance, people were facing death. Sadly, people died while they were waiting to have some compensation for that complete disaster in the health system. Like many others, I cannot trust the Premier when he comes in here and says that he will do the right thing. If he is serious about this, he will do the right thing. He will advise his cabinet and he will counsel his backbench to support this piece of legislation. He will not be so duplicitous and so inconsistent as to his public position and what is happening behind closed doors when people seek help in these circumstances.

We do not want to have a situation where the government delays providing justice to victims of institutional child sexual abuse whose claims would be precluded. We want to ensure that victims do not need to beg to the court to look at the matter in years to come. It is true that there is a power under the legislation for a court to extend the time or to grant permission to be able to apply out of time. There is a process for that but, again, it is a hurdle over which the applicant has to jump before their file will even be considered by the court. We do not want them to go begging to a court to open a case because this information has not been presented.

A model litigant must do the following: he must act honestly, consistently and fairly in the handling of claims and litigation; deal with claims promptly; make an early assessment of the government's prospect of success; pay legitimate claims without litigation; not take advantage of a claimant who lacks resources; not rely on a merely technical defence against a claim; and consider alternative dispute resolution options.

I suggest that in some of these areas where there have been health bumbles and where there have been child protection failings, the government has failed on every count. It is necessary for us to make sure that they are not cut out and that the gatekeeper is released from the obligation to stop them coming forward and let them have their applications and their cases heard fairly. If the government was really serious about this it would support this bill. Frankly, they would have introduced this bill at the end of 2015.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Digance.

ROAD TRAFFIC (BICYCLES ON FOOTPATHS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 26 May 2016.)

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (11:14): I rise to speak on the Road Traffic (Bicycles on Footpaths) Amendment Bill. I distributed a flyer throughout my entire electorate to seek feedback on this very important issue. I just note my disappointment with the process. Coming into parliament, my expectation of how legislation and bills would work was that somebody, whether they are in opposition or in government, would come up with an idea and bring it to the parliament. Then, through the parliamentary process and through debate, we would improve and make amendments to that bill. We would have an open discussion and we would have time to consult our electorate and people who will be affected by the bill.

There are certainly parts of this particular bill that are very good. 'A metre matters' was already in place. It was not a law but everyone was very aware of 'A metre matters.' However, because the government put all the controls in the regulations, we are completely unable to have any input into how we think it could be improved. When a government uses regulations, you can

either accept all the regulations or disallow all the regulations, which is crazy. It was terrible that we were put in that position in relation to such an important safety initiative.

I had over 450 replies to a flyer that I sent out through my electorate. As far as allowing cyclist to ride on footpaths is concerned, 33 per cent were in favour and 60 per cent were against. In relation to allowing motorists to cross the centreline to pass a cyclist, 57 per cent were in favour and 35 per cent were against, and in relation to leaving a one-metre gap or a 1.5-metre gap when passing a cyclist, 63 per cent of people were in favour. You can see the problem. People were in favour of the road initiatives, like crossing the double line when passing in order to ensure safety but, when it comes to riding on the footpaths, 60 per cent were against. However, as an opposition, our choices were to accept the whole lot or none. This is a very bad position to be put in and it left no room for us to actually improve the bill at all.

To put some feedback on the record, Debra from Prospect said, 'Cycling on footpaths should have a speed limit.' Currently, the speed limit on the footpath is the same as the speed limit on the roadway which is incredibly dangerous for children walking on the footpath, or for the elderly or people who cannot get out of the way of a speeding bike very easily. It actually puts pedestrians in danger. Debra also goes on to say, 'As a cyclist with children, and a pedestrian, I think it's time for a pedestrian rights and obligations campaign. I've had too many close calls with both cars and bikes as a pedestrian.' We have a lot of focus on bikes, but far more people are pedestrians and we are failing to consider pedestrians' rights at all.

Catherine of Elm Street said that we need more designated bike lanes connecting North Adelaide with Medindie. If we want more people to ride bikes for their health, to get cars off the road or to improve traffic management, then we also need some designated bike paths so that we are not putting pedestrians in danger. John from Prospect said, 'Allowing cyclists to ride on footpaths will be a disaster for cyclists and for pedestrians.' Victor of Prospect said, 'Let common sense prevail.' Jule of Walkerville says, 'The suggestions are okay in very limited cases but should not be made laws.'

There are places where riding on a footpath is definitely safer. A friend of mine quite often rides his bike from Medindie into the city with his daughter. Main North Road is certainly not a road I would want anybody to ride their bike on, especially in peak-hour traffic going into the city. It is incredibly narrow and it is very dangerous to ride along there. I would say that riding on that footpath is probably a good idea. If the footpath were shared and had a split down it, like Frome Road, with colour indicating quite clearly where the bikes should go and where the pedestrians should go, I think that would actually be a lot safer.

I would not want people riding along Main North Road. One issue that was brought to my attention recently is that when the car yards along Main North Road have their big sales and put up their bunting and temporary fencing, it actually cuts out the ability to walk or ride on the footpath. This same friend said that there was not enough room between the temporary fencing and the bus stop for him to ride his bike so he had to go onto the road, which is particularly dangerous when you are weaving from the road onto a footpath.

There are a lot of things that need to be considered. I think by putting it through regulation in this way, it did not allow us the opportunity to go electorate by electorate, street by street, footpath by footpath and work out the best way to handle this. It is unfair to dump this on councils and have them pick up the pieces and deal with it after the state government makes it a law. Simon from Gilberton said, 'If riders are on footpaths, they should leave a one-metre gap for pedestrians.' Enrico from Prospect said:

Cyclists should be required to carry photo ID and required to stop if they knock or hit a pedestrian, and also introduce something similar to a number plate for those cases where cyclists fail to stop, as happened to a neighbour the other day.

There are some other thoughts from people who have called my office. A lovely 96-year-old lady who lives on Fitzroy Terrace stepped out of her front yard to get her newspaper off the kerb and was nearly cleaned up by a cyclist riding at great speed along the footpath. It was probably at twilight if she was collecting her paper, but it was certainly near dark. She was very shaken up and very angry that people were allowed to ride on footpaths.

I think there should be speed limits. There should be a sensible rollout of something like this, rather than a blanket 'everyone can ride on the footpaths at the speed limit of the road next to you'. People are now riding on the footpath on Gouger Street, which is full of outdoor dining. To me that is not an appropriate place to have cyclists riding on the footpath. I think that needs to be managed.

Other sensible ideas would be riding in the direction of the traffic. When exiting my electorate office, I look to the left and the right. You expect slow-moving things on the footpath, and you expect fast-moving things to come only from the right side because that is where they always come from. In Australia, the traffic comes from the right. When you exit a driveway, you look to the left first and then to the right. I had a bike rider come from the left side at great speed and I nearly took them out because I was not expecting fast-moving traffic from the wrong side.

This law could have been better implemented. It is very dangerous to have fast-moving bike riders on footpaths in outdoor dining areas, where staff are walking from the cafes or restaurants to deliver coffee and food across a footpath. I think there are certainly footpaths where this is a great idea and makes a lot of sense (Main North Road, as I mentioned), and perhaps there should be some delineation of where bike riders and pedestrians go on major roads. We need a lot more infrastructure to separate bike riders from both pedestrians and cars.

My view is that if I would not feel safe riding a bike, then I would not expect other people to do it. There are not many roads in my electorate at the moment on which I would feel safe riding a bike and a lot more needs to be done in this area. I certainly commend the member for Unley for bringing this motion to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Digance.

FARM DEBT MEDIATION BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 7 July 2016.)

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (11:24): I rise to make a few comments on the Farm Debt Mediation Bill and highlight to the house and to the people of South Australia that we have a problem in this state: it is not just power; it is actually how our farmers are treated in regional areas. Of course, what is quite amazing is the number of loans that have been administered by the state government. The complexity, and the way in which it has been done, has added unnecessary burden and certainly unnecessary grief to farmers, who, because of the very nature of needing to apply for these loans, are in a state of distress and high anxiety.

Six loans were administered, and the total value of those loans was \$3.7 million. What I found unbelievable, when some authorities came to speak to me about this, was the cost the South Australian government department puts on administering those loans. I could not believe that the total cost to administer six successful applications was \$2.5 million. The total loan amount is about \$3.7 million, but the cost to administer only six successful applicants was around \$2.5 million.

You do sit there and wonder. I go and talk to farmers, and they know about this, and they just shake their head and say, 'What is going on in the state of South Australia?' How can it be so expensive to do business, so bureaucratic that in a state of need the state government and the government department seem to put up every roadblock known to mankind to make it as difficult as possible to access the assistance? The government is quite easy and quite happy to come out and announce that it is here to support farmers, that it will do everything it can and that farmers can count on this government, yet in reality we see that it is all but that. Words are very cheap but actions speak very loudly.

We have seen the same issue with the dairy concessional loans. Farmers are saying to me, 'The minister gets out there and pretends to be the friend of the farmer, here to support us,' yet in South Australia they cannot use stock or water as an asset to apply for these loans. Mount Gambier is 20 kilometres from the Victorian border, but their Victorian colleagues in the farming industry can use water as an asset. It is a no-brainer that water is a fully tradable asset they can use to apply for dairy concessional loans and be successful.

I spoke with my federal colleague about the farm debt mediation loans scheme, and he told me that the net benefit over 10 years is going to be around \$900,000. That is the net benefit to the six successful applicants on the ground. At a cost of \$2.5 million, it is quite staggering in terms of the cost to administer those loans. I said to him, 'Why don't you cut the South Australian government out and just direct fund? Have the application sent through federally and then assess it so that we have a consistent approach, a fair approach, to administering these federal government loans.' What the South Australian government probably has not realised is that it is federal money. All it is being asked to do is administer it in a fair and equitable way—and they cannot even get that right.

I am certainly encouraging my federal colleague to look at direct funding so that South Australian farmers will get a fair go and will not be disadvantaged by a government that is so out of touch with the people of rural South Australia that it is making it difficult for them to apply for things they desperately need. I did a bit more research, wondering why only six loans were approved, because this is a very serious issue for farmers in my area. I seek leave to conclude my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Motions

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (11:30): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises today is National Police Remembrance Day;
- (b) values the unique work that the South Australia Police perform on behalf of our community; and
- (c) expresses its sadness for and deep gratitude to the families of those officers who have lost their lives while doing their duty.

The shadow police minister, the member for Stuart, along with, I imagine, the police minister and many serving senior officers in the police force, are, as we speak, participating in a remembrance day ceremony at the Police Academy. Were that not the case I am sure the member for Stuart would also be contributing to this debate this morning.

Today is National Police Remembrance Day. It is a tremendously important day, and we remember on this day the 61 officers who have lost their lives while serving the South Australian community as members of the South Australian police force. We have a police force that has an extraordinarily proud history. It is a police force that is held in such high regard that surveys of our community show it is the most highly regarded of any police service in the country, and we are a country fortunate to hold our police in high regard.

Our South Australian police have been in operation since 1838, and we have had women serving in a police force for 101 years since 1915, when Kate Cox became the first head of the Women's Police Force. That proud history is founded on a history of service. Our police officers perform a unique role; when there is a danger in an area such that people are running from a situation, along with other emergency services police officers run to that situation to help out. Perhaps even more unique than that, when police officers go to work every day they do so knowing that any day their life could be at risk due to the malevolent actions of other people in the community.

No-one else does that in their daily business in our South Australian community and I—and this house, I am sure—thank them for that. We also thank their families, because every day when a police officer goes out the door, leaving their family at home or going about their other business, their families all know, all share with each other, the unique perspective of a group of people who are not certain what is going to be facing their loved one that day. So we thank their families for the sacrifice they make by supporting their family members who serve as police officers.

Today is the Feast Day of St Michael and All Angels; it is Michaelmas. St Michael is the patron saint of all police officers and I know, through the work I did as shadow police minister for quite a period of time, that our police officers go to work every day working as our angels. We thank them for that. Every year we support this motion in the house, and I think it is an important custom that we continue to do so, recognising the very important role of our police officers. We thank them.

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (11:34): I rise in support of the member for Morialta's motion. I think it is extremely important that this house does recognise National Police Remembrance Day and that it is celebrated today, 29 September. I am thankful for this opportunity to acknowledge the important role police officers play in our community and the significant sacrifices they regularly make in order to keep us safe.

National Police Remembrance Day is a day for all Australians to pause and honour the bravery of officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. We also remember those who have passed away through illness and other circumstances. This year, 29 September marks the 27th National Police Remembrance Day and will be celebrated all over the state with ceremonies to remember and honour those South Australian officers who have died while on duty.

South Australian police have been serving our community for over 177 years, and over that time tragically we have lost 61 officers while on duty. Also, sadly, the majority of the loss of life has been from motor vehicle accidents. The second most frequent cause of death while on duty for a serving police officer has been murder. In addition to those officers who have lost their life while on duty, there are the countless number of policemen and women who have been injured while on duty. I also pay tribute to them and to their contribution to our community.

National Police Remembrance Day is a significant day of commemoration, where people can reflect on each individual police force and remember those officers killed on duty. It provides an opportunity to honour all police who have given their life serving the Australian community. Every loss of a police officer is a solemn reminder of the dangers they face in the line of duty, and the immense expectations that we as a community place on them to protect us.

On Tuesday, thousands of people from right across Australia took part (this was some time ago, I think) in the Wall to Wall Ride for Remembrance, the annual tribute that honours the service and sacrifices of the many law enforcement officers killed while on duty. The riders were joined by wellwishers and police legatees for a short service at the Police Academy Wall of Remembrance, where the commissioner's baton was passed on to the riders for transfer to the National Police Memorial in Canberra.

The SA Police pipes and drum band added to the spectacle, with the ride concluding with a service in Canberra on Saturday, where some 2,070 riders made the ride to the police memorial at Kings Park. All funds raised during the wall to wall ride for the South Australia Police go towards police legacies across Australia. The 61 SAPOL officers killed in the course of their service are deeply missed and very much appreciated by South Australians right across the community. We remember today that 29 September is National Police Remembrance Day, and we pay tribute to the 61 members of our South Australian police force who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while performing their duty.

I also make mention of the sterling job we have seen with our police in the community over the last 24 hours. I am sure, like most of you, with this unprecedented storm we saw many police officers out directing traffic. While most of us were in our cars, warm and dry, they were standing out in this very unpredictable weather making sure we were all kept safe on the roads. With that current event, I would also like to thank the police for what they do for us to ensure that we as a community stay safe; they ensure our safety. With that, I support this motion.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (11:37): I, too, rise to support the motion moved by the member for Morialta to recognise that today is National Police Remembrance Day and to acknowledge the dedicated roles that both SA Police and the federal police play in our communities. Today we are remembering those officers who have lost their lives or have been seriously injured while on duty, and expressing sadness and deep gratitude for the families of those officers.

I know that in the electorate of Chaffey I am given an invitation to attend the memorial service conducted down at Banrock Station each and every year. It really is quite a unique service, particularly with the procession by boat to the very specific site down on the Banrock flood plain, to re-enact exactly what happened many, many years ago. The National Police Remembrance Day memorial service is conducted each year in memory of those police officers killed in the performance of duty. This memorial service is especially poignant to the Murray Mallee local service area, as it is held where the first two police officers, Mounted Constable Carter and Lance Corporal Wickham,

were killed in the performance of their duty in South Australia. It is a very memorable occasion, and I pay homage to the 61 dedicated police officers who have lost their lives in the performance of duty since 1838, when South Australia Police was formed.

Thankfully, we have not seen the death of a South Australian police officer on duty since 2002. I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for the important work that SAPOL officers do in the community, particularly in the Riverland and Mallee. I do have a very good relationship with SAPOL. We have regular dialogue and regular catch-ups, so that I have a better understanding of tasks that they are undertaking and, potentially, any shortcomings that they are experiencing. I think every MP in this place would know that the police seem to be promised more resources, they seem to be promised more police officers, and yet we do not see those numbers coming to reality.

We do see the increased number of crimes happening in society. We do see the increased number of prisoners going into detention centres and, sadly, here in South Australia, our corrections centres are put under increasing strain on a day-to-day basis, and so, again, I pay tribute to the South Australian police department. We must not underestimate the important role of our police in our communities, particularly the regional communities. It is a very, very hard task to undertake, not only to be everywhere, but also because of the extensive road network, the extensive distance now between active police stations and, in many cases, the role that they have to play in faraway places.

I would like to put on the record that I was contacted by a number of constituents last night that were put under severe strain during the storm events. They could not contact 000, and they could not contact anyone to help them because there was no phone service—in a lot of these areas, their mobile phone service is non-existent. I think last night showed that there are deficiencies, but what it did show is the great performance of SAPOL, not only in metropolitan Adelaide that everyone here would have seen and, as the member for Elder did say, we see the police out there keeping our streets safe and our intersections safe.

For myself, looking out of the office window last night, the city was in gridlock, but when I did manage to get out of the city it was one of the most eerie, insecure feelings I have had in many, many a day. I was driving down main streets of Adelaide with no lights, no indication of anything—no streetlights, no shop lights, there was the occasional car light, cars zipping out of side streets, pulling up to intersections. Really, if you did not know there was an intersection there, you could have been in serious trouble.

I did notice that, at most of the busy intersections here in Adelaide, there were police officers braving the weather, keeping those intersections safe, guiding traffic, so, good on them. I also noticed that there were what appeared to be some looting events that happened on the way home last night, and police were attending those situations. Again, I do recognise the great work that SAPOL, here in South Australia, do. That important role that they played yesterday just highlights the significant role that they do play in today's society.

With Police Remembrance Day, we are reminded, on a day-to-day basis, that the moment we have an issue, we have a safety concern, we have people breaking the law, the first people we turn to, the first people we look for, the first people we want to make contact with, are the police. The police are those go-to people that give us a sense of security, they give us a sense of safety, but they also give us a sense of duty, and that is what SAPOL's dedicated officers do on a day-to-day basis. I do commend this motion put forward by the member for Morialta in recognising that today is National Police Remembrance Day.

Mr PICTON (Kaurana) (11:44): I also rise to support the motion from the member for Morialta noting that today is National Police Remembrance Day, which is a very important day for us to remember the significant sacrifices that have been made by those police officers in our state but also across the country who have given their lives in active service. I note that the member for Stuart, as the shadow police minister, as well as the member for Little Para, who is there on behalf of the Minister for Police who is dealing with flood-related issues at the moment, are both at the memorial wall at Fort Largs Police Academy at the moment for the remembrance day ceremony; otherwise, I am sure both of them, as they are quite passionate about this issue, would have been here speaking in the house as they have done before.

I think this is a particularly important day on which to think about these issues when we are in the midst of a significant natural disaster in South Australia at the moment. Whenever these sorts of things happen, we laypeople go to be with our families at home and take shelter, whereas police go in, and they go in to protect us. They go into the path of a storm or whatever the disaster is. Even if it is a terrorist action or a criminal action, they put themselves in the line of duty and the line of danger to protect us and our way of life.

I think that is an incredible sacrifice to make and an incredible act of duty to keep us all safe. We know that there would have been a lot of police officers who would have had very little sleep last night and are still out there actively working to protect the community in these difficult circumstances that the state is facing at the moment, so thank you to all of you, on behalf of everybody in this parliament, for the work that you do.

You really also have to think about the family members of those police officers as well because it must be an incredible feeling of anxiety if your loved one is a police officer and he or she has to go out and face those difficulties, whether it is a storm event, a bushfire event or a criminal action of some description. To be sitting at home and wondering if they are all okay and going to come back okay must be an incredible burden to have to face as a family member of a police officer. Today is an important day to think about the impact upon all of those family members as well, as probably some of us take for granted the actions of police in these sorts of circumstances.

It is also worth noting that in this state we have a very good relationship between the police and the community. There are certain places in the world, particularly if you look at some places in the United States, where the respect between the police and the community has broken down. We do not have those issues here in South Australia. There is good respect from the police for the community and there is good respect from the community for the role of police.

I think that is a credit to everybody in this state, and we should be very proud of the way our society interacts. When that does not work, when that respect is not there, then that can really impact not just the policing but the whole way our society functions, so full credit to the police for the very important role that they play and the manner in which they do it to both keep us safe and to make our society function as well as it possibly can. I add my thanks to the mover of this motion because it is very important that our parliament marks this important day.

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (11:48): I, too, rise to commend this motion. I am very lucky to be a country member. I think there are some unique advantages in being part of a tight-knit community and one of those is the interaction with a whole range of people who integrate into our community, whether they be from football or basketball clubs or whatever. The members of the Mount Gambier police force are wonderful people who contribute greatly to our community down in the South-East.

I want to talk briefly about Superintendent Trevor Twilley and some of the contributions he has made to our community, as well as many other members of the Mount Gambier police force. Unfortunately, Trevor will be leaving us towards the end of this year and will be relocated back to Adelaide. Trevor's contribution to our community has been widespread and certainly appreciated. He is a White Ribbon Ambassador and has taken an active lead on domestic violence prevention and awareness. He has also instigated drug action strategies, which culminated in an ice forum in Mount Gambier, which saw our Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre overflowing with people eager to learn more about this insidious drug and the impact it is having on our community.

Superintendent Twilley has also provided leadership for the youth of the South-East, engaging with them wherever possible. He has initiated projects such as the Hayes Crescent project, which took an unused and barren park and revitalised it with play equipment, basketball courts and all that type of stuff. He did not just impose that on the community but he did it in consultation with the community around Hayes Crescent. He then got young people from that area to do the hands-on building of that facility with a qualified builder and also a police officer. Paul Sciciuna was the police officer who volunteered for that. The positive consequences that came out of that project included a better understanding of police by the youth of that area, that they are human beings and have a lot to contribute.

One of my big concerns with our police force, which has been mentioned before, is that, while we are running away from situations, the police are running directly towards them. In terms of the impact of that on our police force, I would like to see a lot more attention being given to mental health support and the cumulative effects of seeing horrific situations, whether they be car accidents or informing people of the passing of one of their loved ones in whatever circumstances. I would like to see a lot more support being given to police.

Locally, we have had two young constables from the South-East killed whilst serving with the South Australia Police. Unfortunately, they were killed on 29 March 1982. Their names were Warren John Matheson, aged 24, and Matthew John Payne, aged 22. Both were killed whilst performing mobile patrol duties in Adelaide's south-west. The two constables were in pursuit of a vehicle in a south-western suburb of Adelaide when the offender swerved into them.

Mount Gambier resident Maureen Matheson lays a wreath every year at the Mount Gambier Police Station in memory of her son, Warren. At the time of his death, he had two small children. That is the thing that a lot of people do not think about, that family members are greatly affected. I think we have come a long way in workplace safety—in fact, a very, very long way—yet this is one industry in which it is almost impossible to rule out every situation where a police officer could face potential life-threatening injury or death.

We need to do everything we can to support our police and keep their workplaces as safe as possible. One of the greatest things I think we can do is to raise community understanding and connection with our police. I must say that the police in the South-East are a fantastic lot—fair, reasonable but firm—and that is what you need in all jurisdictions but particularly country areas where people are so closely knitted into the community. That understanding and tolerance certainly goes a long way, and I am pleased to see that continuing.

I encourage the government of the day not to have a sitting day on 29 September or to change the schedule so that we can represent the Parliament of South Australia at our local Police Remembrance Day services to show our community our support for our police officers. Today, my staff member will be laying a wreath on my behalf. In fact, it is a day off for him which he had asked for a long time ago but he thought it so important that he has come in today to do that because I could not be there. It is a very important day. I commend the motion to the house, and with those words I conclude my remarks.

Ms COOK (Fisher) (11:56): I would like to make a small contribution to the member for Morialta's motion, recognising today's National Police Remembrance Day, expressing value for their work and reflecting on the loss of police in the course of duty. Everybody who goes to work deserves to come home safely. A dear friend of mine is Janine Hook. Her grandfather was a Northern Territory officer who died in the course of his duty. Lou Hook joined the Northern Territory Police on 9 June 1937. He resigned on 13 March 1947 and then rejoined on 13 October 1947. He served in Brock's Creek, Darwin and Alice Springs.

Inspector Hook was awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1965 in the month of March, as well as becoming a Member of the Royal Victorian Order following a royal tour in March 1963. On return from station inspections, Inspector Hook was involved in a motor vehicle accident near Pine Creek and died of massive internal injuries received in the accident. In Darwin, there is a road known as Hook Road which is named after him.

This police officer, Lou Hook, along with over 760 other police officers, is remembered both on the National Police Memorial wall in Canberra and also on the Honour Roll. It is a beautiful place to visit. I have taken my children there. This National Police Remembrance Day today has a memorial service being conducted in memory of the police officers who have been killed, and this date also marks the feast of St Michael the Archangel, who is the patron saint of police.

This service today in Adelaide is being held currently, with a number of other services being held across Australia, and my parliamentary colleague the member for Little Para is attending this service, representing the Minister for Police, the Hon. Peter Malinauskas from the other place who, along with the commissioner and SAPOL officers, is working tirelessly at this current time in response to the severe weather event that has affected our state so significantly in the last 24 hours.

The National Police Remembrance Day brings together representatives from the armed forces, law enforcement agencies, emergency services and key support organisations within the policing community, families of fallen members and the wider community of South Australia, and it affords a moment of reflection and remembrance for these officers. It is regrettable that 61 police officers have died while serving our community in South Australia, but it is also a great relief that none have died since 26 May 2002.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the officers for all the work they do on a daily basis, and particularly in the last 24 hours. On my journey home yesterday, between the city and the southern suburbs, there were many police officers standing in the middle of so many intersections. While it is not a violent, aggressive or drug-fuelled situation, they were putting their lives on the line standing in the middle of those intersections in such dangerous weather conditions. I thank every single one of them for doing that.

As members would be aware, I lost my son in violent circumstances in 2008. Right from the very second my family and I entered the hospital to see our son, police officers were there with us, helping us and looking after us, along with the medical team. It is a piece of work that many people probably do not realise that the police do. They have victim support officers, and their job is to mediate between victims and the police to make sure that they are informed of what is going on. Those wonderful officers from Sturt became deeply connected to us—to my family and to my son's friends, who were finding this time of their lives extremely difficult. They got to know us and they even got to know what sort of coffee everybody drank. When they came to my home to visit, they would come laden with trays of coffee.

While the police serve and constantly put their lives on the line, they are also a very compassionate and helpful group of people who embed themselves into communities at times of crises. Policing is definitely a calling and members of SAPOL are very special and committed people. With those remarks, I would like to commend the motion to the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:01): I rise to support the motion by the member for Morialta, that this house:

- (a) recognises today is National Police Remembrance Day;
- (b) values the unique work that the South Australia Police perform on behalf of our community; and
- (c) expresses its sadness for and deep gratitude to the families of those officers who have lost their lives while doing their duty.

As has been expressed today, it is with much sadness that 61 police officers have lost their lives in South Australia since 1838 going out to do their job. Their families and their partners expect them to come home at night, and they are suddenly thrust into a horrible situation where their loved one has paid the ultimate sacrifice in their line of work.

Our local police do magnificent work at all levels. I have certainly had a fantastic working relationship with all of the police superintendents who have come into my area. Superintendent James Blandford is the current superintendent and it is great that, as with the former police superintendents in Murray Bridge, I have his mobile number in my phone and can ring him at any time. I try not to do that at 3 o'clock in the morning because I am rarely up at that time, but if I needed to I know that I could have his ear to talk about an incident or something that was happening on the road.

A couple of years ago, when Paul Yeomans was in the job, I was on the Princess Highway just outside Murray Bridge and I could hear on the citizens' band radio that a small truck was in the wrong lane and driving in the opposite direction. I instantly rang Paul and said, 'Look, you better get someone out here. There is someone near the Swanport Bridge about to head over onto the freeway that will need chasing up.' I do not know what the result was, but it was great to have that instant contact.

As I said, with Superintendent James Blandford, it is fantastic. There can sometimes be very extenuating circumstances when you ring the local police superintendent. It is not just day-to-day policing; it involves issues that need to be brought to his attention and resolved pretty quickly. He is very grateful and I am very grateful that we have that relationship.

Paul Featherstone, an old school friend from Urrbrae, is working at Murray Bridge. He is running the CIB down there and has had a very busy time recently. We had a murder at Mannum; we had Khandalyce, the little girl in the case, at Wynarka; we had some other cases he was heading up the inquiries on, apart from other inquiries; and we had Salt Creek with the issue of the overseas backpackers that I understand is still ongoing in the courts.

Those are some of the bigger events that have happened in the area, but you have to understand, as everyone knows in this place, that there are always underlying issues that need to be dealt with, whether it is traffic management, people management, drink driving, people not obeying road rules, drug busts or people looting or just breaking the law in general. The police do great work and, although I have only named a couple of people, there is quite a team right throughout the electorate.

I know that in recent years the numbers have been boosted down in Goolwa so that there are more police on the job. There are more unmarked cars so that people can be picked up without their thinking that the police are about. It is good to see that that police presence was extended, because it was causing some angst at Goolwa. I went to a public meeting and people were very forthright, and so they should have been, about the fact that we needed to get better police activity down there. I commend them for all their work, and I certainly commend them for their work on issues like the Pinery fire, which was a little while ago now.

That was such a terrible day. As I have said here before, it was very sad to lose two people, but when I look at some of the YouTube video of that day I always wonder why we did not lose more. There were people driving the wrong way towards the smoke and sometimes they did not even realise it. It was a huge fire. Even as a pretty seasoned CFS member, it was terrible. When you look at the aftermath and where that fire jumped the Sturt Highway and headed into Gawler, as bad as it was it could have been a lot worse, so I commend the work that the police have to deal with. I guess it was a natural event to a degree, but events like that really consume their services and consume a lot of time and energy.

With the power outage we experienced yesterday, at least 23 major transmission towers collapsed about 250 kilometres north of Adelaide and cut the power to the 1.7 million people of this state. The police had to be activated right across the state, and I commend them for the work they did. It has already been said, by people driving back from here to their places of abode in Adelaide or to their homes, how interesting it was. I stayed here fairly late because there was not much point going back as there were no lights. I think the kids were having a bad game of Snap or something. The biggest issue for my eldest son was that the wi-fi had gone out, so it was great to have some emergency power at work at Parliament House.

It was interesting to note, and it has already been stated, the police who were on the intersections on the way out of the city, and Glen Osmond Road was shrouded in darkness. I know one wag said, and they might have been genuine, that at one intersection, where the lights had gone out, the police were making a lot more sense than the lights ever did. That is a good sign because it was basically gridlock out on the streets at around 5 or 6 o'clock. From what I understand, it would take about an hour or even longer to get about three-quarters of the way across the city centre of Adelaide, so there was not really much point in going anywhere. The police were out there monitoring traffic and helping people through and, from what I understand, in the main there were only some minor accidents at intersections.

It was pretty spooky, as you did not even have flashing lights. There were no lights. Basically, it was a case of looking at all four corners of the intersection and thinking, 'Trust me, trust the other bloke/lady on the other side who is driving.' It was good to see that the police message had got out, and that there did not seem to be an excess of traffic, because they did not want people out on the roads who should not have been out. The police were certainly out there, and I saw them at the intersection of Glen Osmond Road with Cross Road and the freeway. They were still there at about 20 past 10 making sure that people got through safely. They do exemplary work.

I would just like to salute a police officer, Stan Lowcock, who was at Coonalpyn for a long time—I have not checked how many years, but it was well over a decade. In fact, Stan was so well known, and he has only recently gone to Yorke Peninsula, that when the truckies went through Coonalpyn they would say, 'Stan's out.' They knew it was Stan, as he obviously had had a few

meetings with them and might have had to warn or maybe even book one or two. They knew he was the local police officer, and that is what happens in country communities.

Even the interstate truck drivers who were coming out of Melbourne and Adelaide knew that around Coonalpyn Stan was the police officer. It was not just a case of getting on the radio and saying, 'The police are out.' It was always a case of, 'Yep, Stan's out. Watch out, he's got the camera,' or whatever. He has moved on, but he did great community work. As with many police, if they are not playing football in your community, they are umpiring. Many of them umpire, as Stan did. It is an exemplary job they do. In closing, I would like to praise all the police officers in this state for what they do, and I certainly salute the 61 officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (12:11): I rise to also speak on this important motion, and in doing so I thank very much the member for Morialta for moving it. I also acknowledge the words of the other members who have spoken, and add my support to them.

National Police Remembrance Day is an important event for us to mark. It is a day when we commemorate and respect our women and men in blue who have lost their lives whilst on duty. Today, all across Australia, services will rightly be held to express our collective sadness about these tragedies, and to pay our collective respects. This morning in Adelaide a service was held at the Police Academy, which included an honour guard and the laying of wreaths. Families of police officers who have fallen in the line of duty attend what I understand is a deeply moving ceremony.

The National Police Memorial in Canberra, which was opened 10 years ago, will solemnly inscribe the names of the officers who have died whilst on duty. This year's service will sadly add two names to that roll, in addition to an additional five historic nominations. Today's service will bring the total number of officers listed on the memorial to 764, with the first officer recorded as being killed on duty in Australia being Constable Joseph Luker of Sydney, in 1803.

Each of these brave officers, who have given their lives in the name of duty, is solemnly remembered by a metal touchstone inscribed with the officer's rank, name, jurisdiction, and the place and date of death. Sadly, 61 South Australian officers are memorialised here. It is important that we pause today to reflect on the dedication of our police officers, the danger and risk of their work, and their selfless service to our community. This evening, we can all cast our eyes to our beautiful Adelaide Oval, which will be illuminated in the distinctive chequered band of the South Australia Police, and take a moment to remember. In doing so, I and others will reflect on the service of these women and men who have tragically lost their lives.

I will also take a moment to reflect and be thankful for the numerous police—men and women—who I saw out last night in torrential rain and extraordinary winds guiding South Australians home through darkness, without the aid of traffic lights. I know that I hesitated across intersections that had no lights, trying to carefully work out who was next and who should go at a particular time. It was certainly very comforting to arrive at those intersections where there was an amazing police presence to help us through. I have absolutely no doubt, as I said, that that work last night helped to save lives and to keep many South Australians safe from injury.

My husband is part of a very large family, and his brothers and sisters-in-law serve our community in different ways through their work. His oldest brother has just retired from police service this year, after spending decades of his life in it. I know, from spending time with him and his family, how selfless it is to work as a police officer, continuously working shifts around the clock—selfless in terms of service to our community, but also in terms of the type of family life you are able to live in that environment.

There are many family occasions that he has, sadly, had to miss. With many of his family members also being shift workers in service, even organising things like Christmas lunch (generally on a day other than Christmas) is an extraordinary feat. Again, I say thank you to every officer who works around the clock to keep us safe and in the service of our community. I again pay my deepest respects to those officers who have tragically lost their lives in our service and offer my condolences to their family members. Vale to those 764, and thank you.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:15): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Morialta. Each year, 29 September, Police Remembrance Day, holds a significant place in the hearts

of many. It is an important day of commemoration, when police pause to honour officers who have lost their lives in the service of their communities. It is a day, too, when police officers remember colleagues who have lost their lives through illness or other circumstances, and today there are many services taking place in Adelaide and in cities around Australia.

South Australian police have been serving our community for over 177 years and in that time have, sadly, lost 61 officers while on duty. The selfless commitment of our police in the face of the constant risk of danger is so often taken for granted. I have family members who serve in the police force, and I am fully aware of the concerns that we have when they are on duty in their everyday working life. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the police officers and other emergency services officers who were out in the storm last night, and the police officers in particular who were ensuring safety on our roads.

Today, I would also like to acknowledge and pay tribute to all those police men and women who have been injured during the course of carrying out their duties. I have always had an enormous amount of respect for police officers in our community, and this has been reinforced as I have come to know the dedicated police officers who work at the Holden Hill Police Station in my electorate of Torrens. Today, I pay my respects to the officers' families and to colleagues of police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, as today in this place we acknowledge Police Remembrance Day. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (12:17): I thank the other members of both sides of the house who have risen to support the motion during this debate. Those 61 officers who have fallen while serving the South Australian community as police officers have done so in all sorts of different circumstances, from being caught up in natural disaster situations or car accidents, through to facing the dangerous actions of criminals and terrorists, and indeed while serving as peacekeepers abroad and in South Australia.

Of course, we have lost officers in all of the three centuries—the 1800s, the 1900s and this century—that the service has existed. What they have shared across their 177 years of service is an unwavering commitment to their community, such as that demonstrated by police officers over the course of the recent storms and the current storms. I echo the comments made by many members in thanking our police officers for the tremendous effort they have put in to keeping our community safe during the current extraordinary weather conditions, along with other emergency services workers, who have no doubt been responsible for saving dozens of lives that might otherwise have been lost.

With those words, I commend the motion to the house and once again place on the record my sorrow for the loss of those 61 officers. For those whose families are still with us, my condolences to the families and my thanks for the ongoing work of all of our officers.

Motion carried.

WORLD SIGHT DAY

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:19): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that 13 October 2016 is World Sight Day;
- (b) acknowledges the opportunity World Sight Day provides in raising awareness of blindness and vision impairment for many South Australians; and
- (c) recognises the advocacy and contribution of Vision 2020 and the Royal Society for the Blind in South Australia through assisting people living with blindness or vision impairment, as well as the funding of programs to help eliminate blindness or vision impairment.

It is a privilege today to move this motion with World Sight Day approaching us on 13 October. World Sight Day gives us all the opportunity to reflect on the fact that thousands of South Australians live with blindness and vision impairment. People who experience blindness or vision impairment report a range of barriers to full participation in the community. These include barriers created by a lack of accessibility to the physical environment, information and services which do not take into consideration the specialist needs of people who are blind or vision impaired.

Importantly, the NDIS will provide many South Australians with blindness and vision impairment with greater levels of support. We are proud that South Australia was one of the first states to sign up to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It is excellent news for the more than 32,000 South Australians who will enter the scheme, as well as their families and carers. The NDIS will give people living with blindness and vision impairment greater choice and more control of the services they receive.

Children up to 14 years of age are continuing to move into the scheme this year. Young people aged 15 to 17 will begin entering the scheme from 1 January 2017, and adults aged 18 to 64 will begin to enter, based on where they live, from 1 July 2017. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the advocacy and contribution of Vision 2020 and the Royal Society for the Blind in South Australia (RSB) for the work they do. Vision 2020 was established in the year 2000 and plays a key role in promoting World Sight Day across South Australia.

The organisation is part of Vision 2020: the Right to Sight, an initiative of the World Health Organisation and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. Vision 2020 Australia's key role is to ensure that eye health and vision care remain on the agenda for Australian governments. I had the honour of co-chairing the Parliamentary Friends Group for Eye Health and Vision Care, Vision 2020, in my role as a senator in the federal parliament. I acknowledge the support that they continue with their work.

Members would be aware that the Royal Society for the Blind is a not-for-profit organisation that provides services to South Australians across South Australia, with offices located in Smithfield, Noarlunga, Victor Harbor, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Kadina, and in my electorate of Torrens in the suburb of Gilles Plains. In the 2015-16 financial year, Disability SA provided approximately \$2.9 million to the RSB for specialist disability services. I am advised that they provide services to over 12,000 South Australians.

The RSB's important services include orientation and mobility training to assist people to travel independently in the community, occupational therapy and assistance to independent living, adaptive technology, equipment and training, in-home support, counselling, employment services, recreation, community-based services, mutual peer support such as youth camps and blind cricket, and of course assistance dogs. We are privileged that we have many organisations that are involved in the blind and vision-impaired space in South Australia and I would like to take this opportunity to commend these organisations.

I move that this house recognises that 13 October 2016, World Sight Day, is significant, that we acknowledge the opportunity World Sight Day provides in raising awareness of blindness and vision impairment for many South Australians and recognise the advocacy and contribution of Vision 2020 and the Royal Society for the Blind in South Australia through assisting people living with blindness or vision impairment, as well as the funding of programs to help eliminate blindness or vision impairment. I commend this motion to the house.

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (12:24): I rise to support this important motion, also recognising 13 October as World Sight Day. As a proud member of the Prospect Blair Athol Lions Club, I want to put on the record and congratulate the Lions for their Saving Sight program.

The Lions Club International was founded in 1917. The Lions Eye Health Program is a community-based program that aims to prevent vision loss and blindness by promoting early detection and timely treatment of eye diseases. The program encourages people to visit an eye care professional. The program was launched in Australia in 2000, and since that time more than 60 per cent of all Lions Clubs in Australia have undertaken some type of Lions Eye Health Program promotion. The program is a national multidistrict category B project funded by voluntary donations received from Lions and Lioness Clubs throughout Australia.

Recycle for Sight Australia has collected thousands of pairs of used spectacles and sunglasses and new frames and other equipment. The program distributes reggraded spectacles to many parts of the world, to Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs and other humanitarian organisations, for distribution to poor people in need at no expense or obligation on the recipient. Over the 15 years that the Australian program has existed, it has delivered 2.5 million pairs of glasses to countries in

Africa, Europe, the Middle East, India, East Asia and the Far East, including China, the countries of the Pacific Rim, southern Asia and Oceania.

How can you help? You can donate glasses or sunglasses and change someone's life. Imagine if you could help a child to read or an adult to succeed in his job or a senior maintain their independence and provide a community with more opportunities to thrive and grow. Drop in your glasses to any Lions collection box; generally these are at sponsored areas, such as libraries, schools, community centres, places of worship or coffee centres.

My office is one of those drop-off points, and I would like to thank and acknowledge the people of the Adelaide electorate for dropping off so many pairs of glasses and sunglasses. They have all been passed on and put to good use. I welcome more of them being dropped in. We have regular contact with the Lions, of course, so they are easy for me to pass on. To arrange to become a local drop-off point, I encourage you to contact your local Lions Club and I expect they would be thrilled to have that contact.

On the topic of vision and disabilities, I note that the state government made a pledge to double, originally, the number of people employed in state government offices who had disabilities. I call on the government to honour that pledge. I would like to highlight the matter of a constituent I recently helped who is vision impaired. She had a social work degree and was very keen to get out into the workforce. Obviously, she could read well enough with equipment used to enhance reading and she completed her whole degree. However, her vision is not good enough to hold a driver's licence.

It was extremely disappointing that both a reception position and a call centre position on the Child Abuse Report Line (which is answering phone calls) at Families SA required a driver's licence, and this excluded her from even the possibility of applying for those jobs. It is really disappointing that a government that states that it wants to employ more people with disabilities excludes someone on the basis of their not being able to have a driver's licence. I call on the government to make sure that it looks at its individual policies in every department to ensure that it is easier, particularly regarding this motion, for a person with a vision impairment to be employed and be a productive part of our society, as all people with disabilities would like to be. I commend this motion to the house.

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (12:28): I am pleased that the member for Torrens has brought this matter to the attention of the house on behalf of the member for Little Para. To recognise World Sight Day, which will be 13 October this year, is something that we as parliamentarians and the general community do need to stop, to consider and to take time to think what it would be like to be a person with partial vision or, in fact, blindness.

Here are just a few statistics to consider. Around the world, 285 million people live with low vision or blindness; of these, 39 million are blind and 246 million have moderate or severe blindness, and 90 per cent of blind people and those with impairment live in low-income countries. I think that is a significant statistic. Yet, for 80 per cent of visually-impaired people, their situation could have been avoided, meaning that their eye issue was treatable or preventable.

To this end, it is commendable that many programs have actually recognised this and have begun to treat eye infections that are actually treatable. For instance, we are very delighted to claim as an Australian Fred Hollows, who recognised the significance of eye infection in Australia, particularly in those in lower socioeconomic demographic areas. He took his work to the Aboriginal communities and assisted so many Indigenous children, in particular, and adults who suffered from trachoma, which is an avoidable eye disease. He turned their lives around.

For that work, he received an Australian of the Year award in 1990, and rightly so. He did a lot of this work passionately and for the love of seeing people be able to see. This work continues to be undertaken today by the Fred Hollows Foundation. Not so long ago, when I was in Hong Kong, I was pleased to see that a company is championing the Fred Hollows Foundation in Hong Kong as well. That seems to be gathering momentum, as they realise the value of addressing this preventable and treatable eye infection to prevent impairment and blindness.

The other day I was at Marion shopping centre. A blind couple was trying to get through the crowds. It was a really busy day because the weather was quite poor, so seeking shelter in Marion was something that many people were doing, including me. I saw this blind couple—a mother and a

daughter, I think it would be fair to say—walk one way and then walk back again. Then as I walked, I saw them again. I thought I would take the time to help because they had their sticks with them and were feeling their way. To my disappointment, many people were not making way for them; they were obstructing their passage.

I stopped them and said, 'Do you need some assistance? Are you lost? Is there something you need to be pointed in the right direction for?' They said, 'Well, we're trying to find a particular shop.' They were trying to find Woolworths. I said, 'What about if you just turn around and we'll walk in the direction of the Woolworths?' and we walked in that direction. They were so grateful and it was a simple thing for anyone to do. I steered them onto the pathway to Woolworths, and before we were anywhere near the actual shop entrance, they said, 'We know where we are now.' From the sounds and the design of the shop and from what was under their feet and what they could feel with their canes, they could actually work out where they were, so off they went to Woolworths.

They were going to meet the husband/father of the family and have lunch together. A bit later on, I saw them again. They happened to be at the same food outlet as I was, and the fellow they met was trying to read the menu to them. He was also visually impaired, and he was holding the menu very close to his eyes, trying to read the menu to his wife and daughter. Again, I thought, 'I can give him a hand.' There were so many things listed on the menu that I thought this might take some time. There, but for the grace of God, go all of us. To the credit of the owner of the food outlet, she came over and assisted them in choosing what they wanted for their lunch.

There are all these everyday simple tasks that sighted people take for granted. It is a good exercise to stop and reflect on what people who do not have full vision or who are, in fact, blind, go through. When you are walking around a busy shopping centre, how do you find the shops you are looking for, when you do not have any indicator of when you are actually at the front of the particular shop? Having some sort of indicator that you are outside a particular shop is something that, as parliamentarians, we can turn our minds to. Maybe there is an opportunity for a phone app, for instance, connected to a cane. I am really not sure how that would pan out, but there is an opportunity there. Reading menus is something we all take for granted. To their credit, these are the everyday tasks that people who are of low vision or blind do to get through life every day, and they experience so many obstacles.

In my professional life as a child health nurse visiting families of need, there were occasions when I visited many families with many different needs, and a couple of families stand out for me in this particular situation. Those who had poor sight or were blind, and the way in which they were able to care for their children, were absolutely outstanding. One family had a dog that would indicate to them when they needed to attend to their children. The dog had been trained to assist them in the care of their baby, and that really was astounding and very innovative.

I lend a lot of support to this motion, and I would like to consider that we all lend a lot of support to it. As the member for Adelaide pointed out, it is not just about one particular section of the community with needs, but in this case we are talking about World Sight Day, a very important issue. I defy any of us to perhaps go blindfolded for a day and see what our lives would be like. I think it would be very challenging; our simplest and smallest tasks would be made extremely difficult and we might have to rely on the support of others to aid us.

The Lions Club does a lot of good work in this space, as does the Royal Society for the Blind and the Fred Hollows Foundation, and there are probably many more I have not mentioned. To all those who work in this space to support those who have impaired vision or who are blind, I commend you for your work. I would like you to keep reminding us all of the important work you do and the support you give to those who are in great need of our support in this area. With that, I support and commend this motion to the house.

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (12:36): I rise to speak in support of this motion:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that 13 October 2016 is World Sight Day;
- (b) acknowledges the opportunity World Sight Day provides in raising awareness of blindness and vision impairment for many South Australians; and

- (c) recognises the advocacy and contribution of Vision 2020 and the Royal Society for the Blind in South Australia through assisting people living with blindness or vision impairment, as well as the funding of programs to help eliminate blindness or vision impairment.

I speak today as one who has reached middle age and requires spectacles now.

Mr Duluk: Well and truly

Mr TRELOAR: Well and truly—thank you very much, member for Davenport.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That's a harsh interjection, member for Davenport.

Mr TRELOAR: Particularly from one so young.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shall I call him to order?

Mr TRELOAR: Please do. I speak today as one who has reached middle age and who enjoyed good eyesight throughout my youth and early adulthood. However, I have now reached the point where I can read the scoreboard at the football but cannot read the budget, so it is very important to have spectacles. I see a few nods of agreement, so I think a lot of us are in the same situation, but we have the opportunity to have access to spectacles. Of course, initially, many of us buy a pair from the chemist and ultimately go on to prescription glasses.

This motion is about more than that. It is about those who have significant impairment, either through disease or through inheritance, and a motion such as this gives us an opportunity to ponder and recognise the importance of the work that groups such as the Royal Society for the Blind and Vision 2020 do in their work. The member opposite mentioned Professor Fred Hollows and the Fred Hollows Foundation. He was a very famous Australian, who has been dead for some years now, but I understand that through his foundation his work continues bringing sight to those in impoverished parts of the world who would otherwise not have the opportunity to have their sight repaired and would have a lifetime of vision impairment.

Each year, Vision 2020 Australia uses World Sight Day to talk about the importance of eye health and vision care. Building on last year's inaugural campaign, Vision 2020 Australia's #snapforsight is a fun social media initiative encouraging Australians to focus on capturing their moment and raising awareness about the importance of eye health and regular eye examinations. For those of us in this place who are on social media, and I suggest that is most of us, I urge you to take the opportunity to hashtag that.

The majority of eye conditions have no symptoms or pain in the early stages. Regular eye examinations are essential to ensure early detection and treatment of many eye conditions to prevent avoidable blindness and vision loss. As with most aspects of our health, regular check-ups are important. I probably have not had an eye test for some time, but glaucoma is an issue that can impact Australians, particularly those of us of European ancestry who live in this climate and who are often out working in the hot, hard sun.

I digress for a moment, but I remember going along at the start of each school year and having to have an eye test and read the eye chart. Of course, all of us were petrified that we would not be able to read the bottom line and so wear glasses. None of us wanted to wear spectacles at school, but some kids did, obviously. I got to the stage where I memorised the bottom line of the eye chart so that I was never going to have any trouble passing that one. In fact, the bottom line was D-N-B-L-U-P-H-T-O. I did know it backwards as well, but after all these years I have forgotten it.

The Royal Society for the Blind is a not-for-profit organisation providing services to Australians who have a severe vision impairment. These services are delivered by a professional, committed and highly qualified team supported by volunteers drawn from all age groups and walks of life. The other speakers have indicated what a severe impact blindness or vision impairment can have on a person's lifestyle. The Royal Society for the Blind is there to assist people to overcome their vision impairment and participate independently in the community. Ultimately, that is what we all strive to do. The quality and effectiveness of the Royal Society for the Blind is assessed annually through independent client surveys. The results show that that organisation has continued to provide a high level of client satisfaction over a sustained period.

The member for Adelaide spoke about the good work the Lions do. We have half a dozen or so Lions Clubs in my electorate; in fact, I am an honorary member of the Port Lincoln Lions Club. Even although it is not my home town, I am pleased to take up the honorary membership and get along to the handover meetings at least, when I can. They do a lot of good work. Their program is a community-based program that aims to prevent vision loss and blindness by promoting early detection and timely treatment of eye disease. Once again, it is the same theme of monitoring and prevention.

The Lions program, in particular, encourages people to visit an eye care professional. That program was launched in Australia in 2000, and since that time more than 60 per cent of all Lions Clubs in Australia have undertaken some type of eye health program. Their program is Recycle for Sight Australia and is part of the Lions Club International worldwide eyeglass recycling program, which is, in fact, headquartered in Queensland but operating throughout Australia, overseas and of course here in South Australia.

Recycle for Sight Australia has collected thousands of pairs of used spectacles, sunglasses, sometimes new frames and other sight equipment. The program distributes regraded spectacles to many parts of the world, going through the Lions Club network, the Rotary Club network, and other humanitarian organisations, for distribution to poor people in need at no expense to or obligation on the recipient. So, that is lots of good work by a lot of very worthy organisations, and it is timely that we acknowledge World Sight Day through this motion. I support and commend the motion.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:44): I would like to thank members for their support of the motion recognising World Sight Day and recognise the advocacy and contribution of Vision 2020 Australia and the Royal Society for the Blind here in South Australia.

It is estimated that by 2020 more than a million Australians over the age of 40 will be blind or vision impaired. It is estimated that almost 85 per cent of all vision impairment will be among those aged 50 years and over, and the growing diabetes epidemic is also expected to dramatically impact Australian eye health. Importantly, 75 per cent of blindness or vision impairment is preventable or treatable. We need to continue to work towards eliminating avoidable blindness here in Australia, particularly amongst our Indigenous communities, as well as around the world. I thank members for their contributions.

Motion carried.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I would like to recognise, in the gallery today, the registrar and state delegation, led by the honourable Minister for Agriculture, and I guess the minister for all sorts of things, the member for Waite. We welcome them to our parliament and thank them for their attendance here today.

Motions

AFL NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (12:45): I move:

That this house—

- (a) congratulates the AFL for establishing the National Women's League;
- (b) wishes the players all the best for the inaugural 2017 season; and
- (c) recognises the important role that providing elite sporting pathways for women plays in encouraging girls to participate in sport.

I rise today to speak about something very exciting for Australia, and particularly for South Australia. Of course, I speak of the establishment of the AFL National Women's League, which will—very excitingly—commence in 2017. It is an incredibly important time for women and girls in sport. We have a moment before us to work together to address the gender inequality that exists in sport—in

pay, in sponsorship, in media coverage—and together we are doing so and together we are turning things around.

As I said in this chamber on Tuesday, sport, and football in particular, is many things to many people. It is a game that many of us in this place love, that many of us have played, or, in my case, participated in, as I had the pleasure of doing at the half-time match of Sunday's SANFL grand final—where my stats were, not so impressively, one mark, one kick, 25 tackles on Cornesy. It is a game that brings us much joy and, indeed, sometimes despair.

Mr Griffiths: Twenty-five tackles?

Ms HILDYARD: Yes, on Cornesy, particularly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: None of them successful, but—

Ms HILDYARD: Not that many successful, no.

Mr Griffiths: Isn't that assault?

Ms HILDYARD: No, it's a tackle, a legal tackle of course. It would be entirely inappropriate off the oval, but on the oval it was a legal tackle—not very successful, but an attempt to tackle nonetheless.

Sport, particularly football, is something that brings us much joy and, indeed, sometimes despair. It is a way to bring community members together, it is an industry, a profession, a way to be active, and undoubtedly a passion for all of us. For decades, through our shared passion, football has brought women, men, girls and boys together at our clubs, but girls and women have not always equally participated on the oval. For many this has been frustrating. However, it is our shared frustration and our shared passion that we can harness to address this inequality.

To have women's AFL teams competing at the highest level is a huge step forward for girls and women in sport, a huge step forward for equality in sport, with huge and multiple implications for girls and women in sport at the local level. Having women play at the highest level means that girls can dream big and work towards having their highest football goals realised. It also sends a strong message to all sporting codes that girls and women are welcome to equally and actively participate at every level of sport in their chosen code.

It is a point of immense pride that South Australia has a team in this inaugural competition. The Adelaide Crows, together with the Northern Territory, will be joined in the first year of this league by Carlton, Collingwood, Melbourne, Fremantle, Brisbane, GWS Giants and the Western Bulldogs. Having an AFL team based here in South Australia will provide inspiration to our local girls and women wanting to follow their football hopes and dreams. Congratulations to the Crows and the AFLNT on recognising and embracing the role that women can and will play in football, a previously male-dominated sport, into the future.

This is a great step forward for the Crows, for the AFLNT, for football and for the achievement of gender equality in all aspects of sport. It is a clear demonstration of the fact that times are changing, that clubs at the highest level are recognising that women in sport, and women's sport, must be promoted, supported and treated equally. It is a step that comes on the back of significant and enduring work by the SANFL, the SA Women's Football League and many local clubs, including the extraordinary Christies Beach Football Club in the electorate of the member for Kaurana, just on our border, to include, support and promote girls' and women's football and, most importantly, to change club culture to ensure they are equally included in all aspects of club life.

Having girls and women play at your club is not just about scheduling another match: it is about thinking about your club's culture and about how you support these girls to equally and actively participate. Thank you very much, and well done, to the clubs who are doing just that across our state. On that note, I am very, very proud of our government's \$10 million funding announcement for women's change rooms. This also deeply contributes to the goal of equal participation of women and girls in club sporting life. With adequate facilities for women, clubs send a very clear message to girls and women wanting to participate at their club that they are welcome to do so and welcome to be included in every single aspect of club life.

Providing pathways to elite sport for girls and women helps strengthen their participation in every level of sport. I can see in the clubs in my electorate the growing interest for young women in this sport. The channels that are opening up for young women show how quickly we will take forward women in football. It is very exciting for our state to be on the ground floor of this new league. It is a source of great pride that the Crows have, as their two marquee players, Chelsea Randall and Kellie Gibson. Chelsea is already a three-time all-Australian, and has starred for Melbourne in exhibition games against the Western Bulldogs. She has also twice been WA Women's Football League best and fairest.

Kellie is a former junior level Rugby Sevens player who has been working for the SANFL this year, and plays for local, very successful, football club Morphettville Park in our South Australian Women's Football League. Kellie has been incredibly generous with her time in the development of this sport for girls and women. She has, on request, helped with numerous events for our local Southern Football League, and has been instrumental in assisting to get our inaugural girls' competition going in this league.

We are very excited to have two such incredible and accomplished players in our Adelaide Crows team. They are extraordinary role models for women in sport and absolutely exemplify the behaviour and commitment that we want in our top women athletes. As Chelsea said:

When I was 11 years old, we weren't able to play [senior football]...So, to be given an opportunity now to be playing football at the most elite level in the [competition], and to be wearing the yellow, blue and red colours for the Adelaide Crows, is amazing.

Last month, we also got the great news that Adelaide has signed a woman coach for the team. Because Goddard has played, coached and umpired football and will bring incredible passion to the role. Her focus will include good club culture, which I am sure we can all agree is crucial for the development of women's football. She said, 'Something that little girls in Adelaide aspire to is how I would gauge our success.'

Young Lilly Brown of Morphett Vale in my electorate this year is Auskicker of the Year. I had the pleasure of seeing her at one of our state women's games earlier this year when I had the privilege of tossing the coin to get the game going. I asked her whether she wanted one day to play in a state women's game, and Lilly replied, 'No, Katrine, I want to be out here on Adelaide Oval captaining Port Power'. These are the dreams I speak of. I understand that Lilly had the great fortune of accompanying some of the women's players earlier this week to the Brownlow Medal, and I certainly hope that Lilly Brown goes on one day to claim her own Brownlow Medal. I hope that we, through the development of our women's football in South Australia, will provide every opportunity for her to do so.

I look forward to seeing Bec Goddard's great work as coach and to seeing the final result of the first draft. I know that Bec will be magnificent, both in terms of developing women's players and, very importantly, in terms of developing and profiling our women's game. I really hope that many young girls see AFL as a genuine opportunity to pursue their sporting dreams. As a feminist, a unionist and as a long-term advocate of equal pay, however, it would be remiss of me not to mention the incredible pay gap that the AFL has sanctioned for the women's league.

Each player in the new women's league will receive just \$5,000, not including health insurance or payment for media and club appearances. I hope that members of this chamber would agree that this is unacceptable and is not a fair wage for the hours and work expected of these women, who will be in public life.

We absolutely can do better, and we must do better, and together, through our Women in Sport Taskforce in South Australia, and through many other mechanisms, we can. It was in 1972, as you know very well, Madam Deputy Speaker, that we first fought for, and won, the principle of equal pay, equal remuneration—the principle that if men and women do the same job they should be paid the same amount. In 2012, we enshrined, through the Australian Services Union's equal remuneration case for 200,000 community workers across Australia, the principle that inequality in pay should also be addressed through taking into account the lower rates of pay associated with industries dominated by women—football is not one of these.

On both of these long-established principles we fail our women footballers. Paying an amount so inferior to their male counterparts is unacceptable. Paying an amount so far away from our minimum wage is also unacceptable. As we rightly embrace women's participation in football, we must value and respect our players in many ways, including through the industrial mechanisms available to us. In doing so, in respecting women players in this way, we send a message that we do equally value women's sport as a whole.

Since having the privilege of starting the South Australian Women in Sport Taskforce, alongside many other leaders in our South Australian community, a task force that is focused on improving gender equity in all aspects of women's sport and for women in sport (pay, media, spectatorship, sponsorship, etc.), on changing the face of sports leadership, on improving spectatorship, and on attracting women's events to South Australia, I, along with other members of the task force, have been overwhelmed with support and with the sense that it is time for a change, time to make a difference.

Together, we can make a difference. People often ask me what they can do to support women's sport and to support women in sport, and there are many things that we can do. One of the things that we all can do as often as we can is to actually get out there and watch the women play their chosen sport. As the summer season of sport approaches, there are multiple Strikers games, and all sorts of other games that are coming up. We have a rugby sevens tournament coming to South Australia, a softball tournament. We can all make a difference in a multitude of sports by getting out there and making the decision to not just go to the men's game, but to actually go and watch and cheer for the women's game as well.

There is a growing campaign to increase spectatorship for women in sport. If you do get along to a game, and I am certainly happy to share an extensive calendar of women's sporting events that are coming up, both over the summer season and into next year's winter season, we ask people to #watchthewomen, and to take photos at those events and share them as much as we can. That is, absolutely, a way that we can all choose to get behind women's sport and support it, and, over time, really change the media coverage of sport in Australia.

The media coverage of women's sport in Australia currently sits at 9 per cent of all sporting coverage. Growing our spectatorship is just one way we can really start to make an impact on that very, very sad statistic. I look forward to seeing many members of this house out at a number of the women's games and to cheering on our women footballers very loudly in their inaugural season in 2017, and beyond.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:58): I will rise to start my contribution and then I am sure that you will ask me to start again sometime later today. I would like to speak on this motion in congratulating the AFL on establishing the national Women's Football League and generally recognising the importance of creating pathways for women to encourage more young girls to participate in sport and to give girls and women a pathway to greatness.

I know there are many young, aspirational AFL women players out there who would like to think there is a pathway there for them to be able to play at elite level. The rise in women's football right across Australia, including South Australia, has been phenomenal. The announcement of the national women's football league to be played in 2017 is a first step in continuing to grow participation in football and across a range of other sports.

The Adelaide Crows/Northern Territory team that will take part in the inaugural competition has already created much hype amongst the state level of women's football here in South Australia. Before this, females were playing more for fun. I notice that the member for Reynell continues to go down the road of payment, money and equity. Yes, I think there is an issue with the inequity between women's sport and men's sport, but there is a starting point and that starting point is next year when women will be playing in the peak competition in the AFL. I am hopeful that this will be the platform, and I would like to seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:01 to 14:00.

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

The SPEAKER: I welcome to parliament today pupils from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Enfield, who are guests of the Deputy Premier and member for Enfield.

*Ministerial Statement***EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:00): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I want to thank our remarkable emergency services personnel, who have yet again demonstrated their outstanding commitment by working throughout the night to provide critical assistance and services to the community. I am confident that I speak for all South Australians when I say that we are extremely grateful for their dedicated efforts.

I would also like to acknowledge that there are parts of our state, particularly in the north and Eyre Peninsula, that remain without power. These communities are our main concern, particularly the elderly and vulnerable citizens within those communities. I acknowledge those households, businesses and communities that are still affected by these ongoing events. I and other members of the cabinet will be visiting those areas to inspect the damage, to talk to the affected communities and to see what other assistance may need to be provided.

This is an unprecedented situation caused by extreme weather yesterday afternoon. About 80,000 lightning strikes occurred across South Australia, associated with an intense low pressure system, resulting in severe thunderstorms, tornadoes and destructive wind gusts. This caused catastrophic damage to our electricity infrastructure. More than 20 transmission towers were severely damaged, with some torn from the ground. This resulted in the loss of three separate 275-kilovolt powerlines. These lines form part of the backbone of the South Australian network and support supply and generation north of Adelaide.

This led to a sudden change in frequency in the state's power system and, in response, South Australia was isolated from the rest of the market in accordance with the protocols set by the Australian Energy Market Operator. To put this in simple terms, when there is a sudden change in frequency, as occurred yesterday, the system is designed to shut down to protect itself. This ensures there is no further damage to the system and allows the fault to be identified, isolated and repaired. This is a national electricity network operating as it was intended to operate.

What it does allow for is for us to begin to repower the system once the fault has been identified without causing further damage, and that is precisely what has occurred. Our advice is that power had been restored to more than 90 per cent of households across the state. About 75,000 homes remain without power, and we expect around 35,000 will come back online today. As I stated earlier, our focus remains on those parts of the state that are still without power. It is estimated that about 40,000 households in the north will remain affected for an extended period.

South Australia's emergency services agencies and people across the state are working tirelessly to ensure power is restored to those areas as soon as possible. I can also advise that the Australian Energy Market Operator has announced an inquiry into the technical issues surrounding the event. The AEMO will release an initial report on Monday which will be updated weekly for the following eight weeks. The COAG Energy Minister's Council will also review this incident at a national level.

I confirm that, once we have dealt with the immediate issues arising from this event, we will review the circumstances that occurred, including our response to this major incident. This review will be at arms length from the responding agencies. This is a necessary and normal response that government and agencies undertake under significant events such as this. As a result of the power outage and the extreme weather events, I can inform the house that we will be opening emergency

service centres, including at the Lions Football Club in Port Pirie, the Port Augusta West Football Club and the Whyalla Hockey Association.

We will also establish other relief centres, as required, in other parts of the state, including the Clare Valley, Port Lincoln and West Coast. These arrangements are being finalised with the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion and the SES. The Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion has authorised the payment of emergency relief grants for anyone whose power was still off at noon today. This is \$280 per adult, \$140 per child, up to \$700 per household. Anyone affected by extreme weather should call the Recovery Hotline on 1800 302 787.

I encourage people to check on relatives, friends and neighbours, particularly the sick, the elderly and the vulnerable, because there is nothing more important in these situations than looking after one another. This event has had a great impact for people and communities across the state; however, it has also demonstrated the resilience of South Australian people and their willingness to work together and to help one another in times of need.

Mr GARDNER: Sir, as a matter of course, can I ask that the opposition be provided with a copy of the ministerial statement. Presumably, it is at the printers at the moment.

The SPEAKER: Premier, the situation is that the printed—

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I said at the start that the copies were being brought in.

The SPEAKER: The copies will be brought in.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Criminal Investigation (Covert Operations) Act 2009—Annual Report 2015-16
Independent Commissioner Against Corruption—Pursuant to the Criminal Investigation
(Covert Operations) Act 2009—Annual Report 2015-16
Ministerial Statement—Annual Report, Pursuant to the Criminal Investigation (Covert
Operations) Act 2009

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

Hydroponics Industry Control Act 2009—Annual Report 2015-16
South Australian Rail Access Regime Review—Final Report August 2015

Ministerial Statement

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:06): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: Yesterday's extreme weather event significantly impacted our state's public hospitals. As a result of the power outage, SA Health immediately responded in line with the Statewide Emergency Management Plan, with all our local hospital networks activating their Business Continuity Plans to ensure continuity of care for our patients.

Demand on both our hospitals and ambulance services has been extremely high over the last 24 hours, and I want to thank our staff who have worked extremely hard to meet demand. In fact, our hardworking paramedics and SA Ambulance's Emergency Operations Centre experienced a peak of almost 500 per cent increase in call-outs during last night's weather event. I am advised that all metropolitan public hospitals are currently back on mains power. Some country hospitals are back on mains power, with some continuing to work on backup generator. Contingencies are in place at those sites.

During the power outage yesterday, generators provided emergency power to all South Australian hospitals. At Flinders Medical Centre, there was an issue with the main generator, which meant battery-powered backup was provided to lifesaving equipment in parts of the hospital. As a precaution, 17 intensive care patients were transferred to Flinders Private Hospital and, as is standard practice across the world in patient transfers, battery-operated and handheld ventilators were used. My latest advice is that all but two patients have now been transferred back to Flinders Medical Centre, and their care has been maintained throughout and was in no way compromised.

I am advised that the main generator at Flinders Medical Centre worked as it should for around one hour before stopping. I am advised that this was the result of a faulty fuel pump, which could not have been predicted. As per standard protocol, the main generator at Flinders Medical Centre had been successfully tested monthly to ensure it worked effectively and could handle the required power load. Additionally, in the lead-up to yesterday's significant weather event, testing was undertaken as recently as Monday this week with no issues found. I am advised the faulty fuel pump was fixed very quickly last night and the main generator was restored last night.

I would like to acknowledge the clinicians and staff at Flinders Medical Centre for their commitment to the care of their patients during this extremely challenging period. Any time there is a disruption or significant event, such as this extreme weather event, patients across our system are reviewed by our clinicians to determine whether anyone has been adversely affected. Further, there will be a thorough review into SA Health's response to this extreme weather event to ensure that our emergency response remains best practice.

I wish to stress that all South Australia's emergency departments are open and continuing to operate normally. However, due to the increased demand, South Australians are urged to only attend emergency departments if it is an emergency. Hospitals across the state have, where appropriate, postponed elective surgery procedures scheduled for today, and this situation will continue to be reviewed. Outpatient appointments will occur as normal, where appropriate, but if patients are unable to make it to their appointment they will be rescheduled for as soon as possible.

I would like to thank all our hardworking doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, dispatch operators and allied health professionals, for their commitment to providing South Australians with the care they need during this extreme event.

Parliamentary Committees

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (14:10): I bring up the 551st report of the committee, entitled Datacom Fit-out at Tea Tree Gully TAFE SA Campus.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Ms DIGANCE: I bring up the 552nd report of the committee, entitled Christie Downs Primary School and Disability Unit Redevelopment.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Question Time

POWER OUTAGES

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier inform the house where the power is still out and when he expects it to come back on?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:12): I refer the honourable member to my ministerial statement.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

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

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12): Another question for the Premier: how many hospitals experienced generator failures during the blackout last night?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:12): Only the one—Flinders Medical Centre—as I referred to in my ministerial statement. There was some speculation that the RAH had had problems with its generator. My advice is that that's not correct. People may have had that impression because the generator at the RAH generates electricity to the critical parts of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, so some people may have been under the impression that the generator had failed at the RAH, but that, in fact, was not correct. It worked exactly as normal.

There was an issue with the generator at the Port Augusta Hospital, but the secondary generators at the Port Augusta Hospital kicked in and we were able to provide power there. To the best of my advice, they are the only issues we have had with generators in our hospitals.

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13): Supplementary: can the minister confirm that the power was lost to the Royal Adelaide Hospital Intensive Care Unit last night?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:13): I certainly have not been advised of that.

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13): Is the minister happy to make inquiries?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:13): I am happy to make inquiries, but I haven't even heard anyone make that allegation. I don't think that even in the wildest world of the Twittersphere has anyone suggested that the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Intensive Care Unit, went without power. Certainly, I have not been advised of that. I would expect that I would be advised of that if that was the case, but I'm sure that within the next five minutes—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: I can absolutely be—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: I can triple-check that that is not the case, and that allegation is completely false.

The SPEAKER: The leader, the deputy leader and the member for Fisher are called to order.

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14): A further question to the Minister for Health: how many hospitals ran out of diesel or experienced other technical failures last night?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:14): I'm not aware of any hospitals running out of diesel. With regard to other technical failures, there would have been other smaller issues around the state as a result of the power issue, but none of them of a critical nature.

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14): Was the Flinders Medical Centre backup generator, the subject of your earlier ministerial statement, the same unit that failed in 2009?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:14): I'm checking that. I am certainly not aware of there having been previous issues but, as I said in my ministerial statement, the generator was subject to regular maintenance. It's checked on a monthly basis, and it was—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: Well, I would have to. I would have to check. In any case, the simple fact is that the generator was subject to regular maintenance and in fact had been tested as recently as Monday. My department had taken the precaution. Given the weather forecast on Monday that there was the possibility of power blackouts, and that this might affect the Flinders Medical Centre, we took the added precaution of making sure that that generator was in working order on Monday.

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15): My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister confirm that SA Health has instructed Flinders Medical Centre staff to cancel emergency surgery unless 'life or limb is threatened'?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:15): It's certainly not my understanding. We have postponed elective surgery, but not emergency surgery. Of course, the only elective surgery we will postpone is where it is appropriate to do so. If there is elective surgery that is urgent, we will continue to do that. If patients present for their elective surgery procedures because they haven't received a message, then we won't be sending them home; we will proceed with the elective surgery.

It is just standard practice that when our hospitals anticipate that they are going to be very busy, as we expect in the coming days, we make sure that we have as much capacity in the hospitals as we possibly can. That's why we have taken this precaution.

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): Just for clarity, can the minister just make it very clear that there has been no change to the emergency surgery arrangements at the Flinders Medical Centre?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:16): I just refer to my previous answer, where I made very, very clear that, no, that is not my understanding. My understanding is that elective surgery, non-urgent elective surgery, has been—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is warned.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: Non-urgent elective surgery has been postponed but, no, it is not my understanding that emergency surgery is being cancelled or delayed in any way at the Flinders Medical Centre.

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): My question is again to the Minister for Health. How many patients needed to receive manual respiratory ventilation as a result of the statewide blackout yesterday?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:17): There were 17 patients who were transferred from the ICU at Flinders Medical Centre to Flinders Private. They all would have been a combination of manual and battery ventilation. That is standard practice when intensive care patients are being transferred.

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:17): My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister explain why, contrary to advice he just gave the house a little while ago, I have been advised that the Port Augusta Hospital was without any on-site power for four hours last night?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:17): Well, that's not my advice. My advice is, as I said—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: My advice is there was a failure in one of the generators at the Port Augusta Hospital. The supplementary generators at the Port Augusta Hospital kicked in, and the hospital was not without power. I am more than happy to double-check that, but that is the advice I had as recently as about half an hour ago.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: Will you answer back to the house?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: Yes, of course.

POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18): My question is to the Premier. How many South Australians currently have no access to the 000 service in South Australia?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:18): There is a relatively small number of people who are affected by the outage in the telecommunications infrastructure. The privately provided telecommunications infrastructure, which is Telstra and Optus, those networks are by and large supported by backup generators or battery-operated boosters to the mobile phone towers. In circumstances where there are pockets, cells if you like, of those mobile phone towers which also overlap with areas where there are power outages, then the combination of those two things could render some areas of the state without access to 000 calling facilities. What the message is that we are sending out to those areas, and this is changing—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

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

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I am advised this is a smaller number than the number of people who are affected by the electricity outage, but nevertheless it's difficult—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: It's difficult to know the precise numbers because one does not know what the reach is of a particular mobile phone tower—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is on his final warning.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —or the people who are within that region. The message that we are sending to people who are finding it impossible to make a 000 call is to find their way to an emergency services centre and seek assistance there. We are taking all possible steps to support the telecommunication providers to support their mobile phone towers so that they can provide their service.

POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): Can the Premier confirm that there are, indeed, tens of thousands of South Australians who currently do not have access to the 000 service?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:20): I can't firm that number, but there is a substantial number of South Australians who are affected by that—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

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

POWER OUTAGES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): Can the Premier provide some advice to these tens of thousands of people—the 'relatively small number of people', as he refers to it—about how they can actually call an ambulance in South Australia?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:20): I just provided the advice, the standard advice, that is provided by our emergency services agencies, and that is for them to make their way to an emergency services centre—SES, police, ambulance. That is the only practical solution that there is in the circumstances and, if those opposite would like to suggest an alternative proposition, I would be very interested to hear it.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): My question is to the Premier. Has the government received any advice regarding the increasing instability in the current energy mix in South Australia?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:21): There are a number of reports that have been released by regulatory bodies, whether they be AEMO or ElectraNet, who own particular assets, and, of course, the COAG energy ministers' council. What we are grappling with as a nation is how to integrate renewable energy with an effective grid, but it is important to note, as minister Frydenberg said today—

Mr Gardner: Have you received any advice?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —I've answered it—that the integration of renewable energy and intermittent energy into the national electricity market is separate from the event that occurred today. They are two very separate questions. I think the important aspect of separation from the NEM yesterday is that the designs and the safeguards put in place by the Australian Energy Market Operator, which are in place in every jurisdiction around the country—the same procedures, the same protocols, the same backups and the same restart procedures—are in place.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Mr Speaker, I have a point of order. This is vital information that the house needs to hear and it should be heard in silence. I would ask you to rule against the interjections that are being made by members opposite.

The SPEAKER: Indeed, Premier, I have made a list from interjections during this answer and the previous answer, and accordingly I call to order the members for Kavel, Hammond, Davenport, Mount Gambier, Mitchell, Schubert and the deputy leader, and I warn for the first time the members for Davenport and Mitchell.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: There have been reports talking about the intermittency of energy supply and how to integrate renewable energy because that is a great challenge facing jurisdictions across Australia and, indeed, across the world, as we decarbonise our economy. Now the Prime Minister has signed the Paris agreement, which basically commits this country to decarbonising its electricity generation, we are going to have to grapple with this on a national stage. That's why it is important that we support the Prime Minister—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley will leave the chamber for the remainder of question time for persistently interjecting.

The honourable member for Hartley having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: That's why it is important that we support the Prime Minister and minister Frydenberg in the first, very bold attempt to integrate climate policy and energy policy. We need rule changes on the Australian Energy Market Commission. Indeed, this government has moved a number of rule changes to try to deal with that intermittency and give us the ability to manage instability within the market. But it is important to note that that is a separate question from what occurred yesterday. Yesterday was a failure of infrastructure.

Mr Marshall: We are not asking about that.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: And I am explaining the differences between the reports that have been made public by regulated bodies and what occurred yesterday, and I think the public would like to know, importantly, the difference between the reports that AEMO has published and those that other regulatory bodies and operators within the market have published compared to what occurred yesterday. Anyone attempting to merge the two events together is being dishonest.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: So, you're pre-empting the inquiry.

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

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): Supplementary, sir. The minister outlined to the house that the government has received advice regarding the current energy mix and the issue of instability. I am wondering whether he could outline who that advice was provided by.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:24): We received advice from AEMO (Australian Energy Market Operator). That was an important piece of advice. That advice is ongoing and, of course, they regularly monitor the market about the intermittency of our generation and how to integrate that energy into our market. It is important that we get this right.

Mr Bell: You didn't think about that before all the approvals went out?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Mr Speaker, without wanting to quarrel with any member in the house, the interjection is an important one that I think we should address, and this is: 'Don't you want to make sure that you think about how you integrate this?' That's absolutely what we are doing. It's absolutely what is occurring. What we have seen across the country is coal-fired generation—companies that own these coal-fired generators across Australia making public statements about not re-investing in them, about mothballing them—

Mr Pederick: We're relying on them for base load.

The SPEAKER: The member for Hammond is warned.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Again, another important interjection which I think needs to be debunked. The idea that this state has no base load power is false. It's simply not true. Let's go through the base load gas-fired—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It is an important and I think—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Well, isn't it interesting—

Mr Wingard interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Torrens Island's A and B are the equivalent of 1,200 megawatts. That is base load generation here in South Australia. Pelican Point is 478 megawatts of base load generation—

Mr Bell interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Mount Gambier is warned.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —Dry Creek, Mintaro, Port Lincoln and the Snuggery, 383 megawatts; Hallett, 228; Quarantine, 224 megawatts; Osborne, 180; and Ladbroke Grove, 80; totalling over 2,000 megawatts of base load generation in this state. The first rule of the National Electricity Market is to dispatch first the lowest cost energy into the market. That's what consumers demand. They want the lowest cost energy into the market, so of course what is dispatched first is wind and solar. Why? Because it's cheaper. It's cheaper for our consumers. What we need to do—

Mr Knoll interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: What we need to do, of course, is integrate that cheap power, that cheap energy, in amongst our base load. Of course, that market is new. Renewable energy is new technology. It's in its infancy, and of course we are developing ways to try to integrate that and that is what the COAG is attempting to do. That is why the Prime Minister's first move, I think, was a very good one after the election—integrating climate policy and energy policy.

The interjections opposite show a lack of clarity about their own position on this because I think the Prime Minister is attempting, of course, to integrate this policy and we will support him. We will support him on this because we believe renewable energy is the future of this country. Decarbonising our electricity grid is very important. There need to be alternatives. Gas is the transitional fuel towards a renewable clean energy future. Coal-fired generation, as we saw on the front pages of the Victorian papers, is on its way out.

The people who own these assets will not re-invest in them. The shareholders who own these assets do not want to pour more money into them. The question has to be: when these assets are privatised and we don't own them and the people who own them want to shut them down in favour of low-carbon energy, what is the alternative? The alternative course is a transition to a renewable future. That is what we are working on today.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Chaffey to order, and I warn for the second and final time the member for Mount Gambier.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:29): The minister has outlined to the house that the government has received information from AEMO, but my question is: has the government indeed sought or received any additional advice on this issue? Who sought that advice? Who commissioned that advice and when was it received?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:29): We regularly—

Mr Marshall: No. No, just give us the answer.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I said one word.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is warned for the second and the final time. If he makes another utterance outside standing orders, I will have to remove him from the chamber.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I am happy to give the Leader of the Opposition a full list of the advice we have received. Obviously, some of that advice is from generators and that might be held in commercial-in-confidence, but what we have is an energy markets division within our agency. We are the lead legislator for the National Electricity Market. We have a lot of in-depth, in-situ advice given to us constantly by world experts based here in South Australia—people whose lives have been dedicated to the management of the National Electricity Market and its establishment.

Mr Whetstone: Why is it so dear?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We have designed it, we have built it—

The SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey is warned.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and it's worked and served us well. As inconvenient as it was yesterday, the system worked as it was designed to—it protected itself. I have to say that some of the comments I have seen from industry experts about the way the system reacted yesterday, I think—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I warn the member for Chaffey for the second and the very last time.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I think it's important to note that there have been some leading experts in the electricity market who aren't necessarily converts to a renewable future, but the event yesterday, and the repowering of our grid yesterday, wasn't related to renewable energy. There is an important person here who is Roger Dargaville, the deputy director of the Energy Research Institute, and also Mr Dylan McConnell, an energy market expert. They are quoted today in an online daily called InDaily, and I quote:

He said to re-start almost the entire state's electricity supply 'from black' within hours was unprecedented in the national electricity market.

'The proof [is in the pudding]...this is quite a success story, to be honest'...

No-one wants to celebrate the power going out, but what we have to acknowledge is the way that the system reacted. If we didn't have the safeguards in place to separate the generators, the interconnector and the transmission lines from each other, we would still be black now. We have a world-class system in place to protect it—the same system that is in place in Victoria, the same system that is in place in New South Wales and Queensland. The same protocols are in place across the country developed by technical experts, not politicians.

I think it's important to note that these technical experts have done a remarkable feat of returning the grid to functioning. I've got to say that we had 80,000 lightning strikes yesterday. A lot of those lightning strikes hit directly on our generators. Torrens Island had direct strikes on its TIPS generators. Mintaro had direct strikes.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We have had advice from AEMO. I have to say, AEMO yesterday said to me, in the middle of the night, there was an unprecedented level of electricity strikes on generators, the likes of which they have never seen. Tony Marxsen, the chair of the Australian Energy Market Operator, said to me last night that they had cyclones go through Queensland without doing as much damage to infrastructure as occurred here—23 towers. The backbone and spine of our electricity transmission line was cut in half.

Mr Marshall: The Premier said they were ripped out of the ground.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Exactly. These are dramatic events made by a dramatic weather event—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and there is no level of redundancy that any system in any First World country in the world can put in place to deal with that type of weather event.

Mr MARSHALL: Supplementary, sir.

The SPEAKER: If the deputy leader makes another utterance outside standing orders, I will have no choice but to remove her from the chamber, and the member for Davenport is warned for the second and final time. Leader.

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): Has the Premier read AEMO's publication on the South Australian electricity market published only last month?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:34): Mr Speaker—

Mr Bell: Future premier takes it.

The SPEAKER: The member for Mount Gambier is on two warnings.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The entire cabinet gets a regular briefing from me and our energy division on the latest reports on what is occurring in our system, and we are responding. We are working cooperatively with the COAG Energy Council. We are working cooperatively with AEMO (the Australian Energy Market Commission).

I have to say that Matt Zema, God rest his soul, and I worked tirelessly to help us integrate renewable energy into the National Electricity Market. His successors and Tony Marxsen at the Australian Energy Market Operator have been fine advisers to the state government; indeed, they are great advisers to all state governments. They are the first port of call that we make because these people run our market.

A couple of basic principles about the National Electricity Market. First and foremost, the state does not operate it; we don't run it. That is operated nationally by the Australian Energy Market Operator, and it is governed by a set of rules and legislation from this parliament. We are the mother parliament of all those rules, and they have been decided at COAG, unanimously by Labor and Liberal governments, and voted on in this—

The SPEAKER: Point of order.

Mr GARDNER: Standing order 98. The question was very simply whether the Premier has read a particular report.

The SPEAKER: I think it is cognate for the government to say what it knows about the topic.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: As I said, the entire framework for AEMO's operation, for the operation of the National Electricity Market, is based in this parliament. In bipartisan ways, we have built the National Electricity Market in this chamber and in the other chamber by bringing amendments and bills here to this parliament on behalf of all other Australian parliaments, and we voted on them.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I don't know how the interjections make any sense, but of course we are regularly briefed on what AEMO tell us. We are in regular contact with AEMO, of course we read the reports and of course we act on them, but the reality is this: this is a market that is privately owned. This is a market that is not owned by the government any more—I wish it was.

Mr Duluk: We wish the State Bank never happened.

The SPEAKER: Was that the member for Davenport interjecting or was he talking to himself?

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): My question is to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy. Why did the minister advise the media yesterday that 'Pelican Point is generating and is scheduled to remain on until March', when Pelican Point Power Station was in fact not generating electricity yesterday?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:37): Pelican Point did generate electricity yesterday: when we needed it, it came on.

Mr Gardner: It wasn't when you said it was.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It was available. The whole point is that in the July event, which I think is lost on—

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta will leave the chamber for the next hour.

The honourable member for Morialta having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I think it is important to note that before the July event Pelican was not available to generate in the South Australian market or participate in the National Electricity Market. Since the July event, what Pelican Point through its parent company ENGIE has done, it has become available.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No, they weren't available; they are now available. They have contracted gas contracts. They have gas available and, when we needed them yesterday, they were there; they turned on. So, absolutely they were available and I stand by it, and they are available until March. I hope that, as we speak, they are signing contracts with South Australian companies to offer them a good competitive price against AGL and Origin for gas contracts to provide electricity to supply our manufacturing base with the power that they need.

The SPEAKER: I warn the member for Stuart.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): Can the minister confirm to this house that, when he sent the message to the media that specifically said that Pelican Point was generating, it was in fact generating?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:38): I think there needs to be a lesson in understanding what it means for the National Electricity Market to say that you are available. The way the market works is there is obviously a spot price. These generators are staffed, they are ready to go and they are ready to generate, and they make decisions based on market conditions about when they operate.

Previous to the July event, Pelican Point were out: they weren't monitoring the market, they weren't available to generate, they weren't participating in the NEM. What occurred yesterday was that a journalist on radio said that we would have to beg Pelican Point to come online again. Pelican Point was available yesterday: it had gas contracts, it was ready generate, and it was participating in the National Electricity Market ready to offer when market conditions suited. When we needed it, it was there.

It is not my fault that the Leader of the Opposition does not understand how the National Electricity Market works. It's like saying Torrens Island is available but not generating. That means it's not on. Of course it's on: it is there to provide for its customers, as was ENGIE and Pelican Point. Most importantly, when we needed Pelican Point, they were available. Pre the July event, Pelican would not have been available to come on, I am advised. I stand to be corrected on that, but that is the advice that I received.

Mr Wingard interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Mitchell will leave the chamber for the next hour for persistently interjecting after receiving all his warnings.

The honourable member for Mitchell having withdrawn from the chamber:

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:40): Supplementary: can the minister confirm to the house that the Pelican Point facility was indeed generating at the time that he claimed to the public that it was generating electricity, or did he indeed mislead the public at that point?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:40): First of all, I made no public statement: I sent a text message to a journalist. That is the other part that the Leader of the Opposition is not informing the parliament of. The truth is this: Pelican was available, and I stand by it. When we needed Pelican Point to generate electricity under the Australian Energy Market Operator's control, they were available. Why were they available? Because after the July event, they

had their contracts, they got their gas, they were ready to generate and they have been generating in and out of the market as the market decides, and that is how the National Electricity Market operates.

What the Leader of the Opposition I think is confusing is between what it means to be available to operate in the NEM and participate in the NEM. I don't think he understands the difference. I think it is a sad reflection—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The interjections and the shouting go to the fact that the Leader of the Opposition hasn't done his homework. When you don't do your homework, the only thing you have left is to shout.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:41): When did the Pelican Point station actually start generating?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:41): I would have to check, but I understand it was yesterday.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:41): Can the minister confirm that in fact it was not generating at the time that he claimed—

Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:

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

Mr MARSHALL: —and it didn't start generating until after 11 o'clock last night?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:41): If the Leader of the Opposition offers a time of 11 o'clock at night for the generator, why is he asking me a question about when it started generating?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Again, shouting is a substitute for knowledge, and I have to say that shouting says a lot about who the Leader of the Opposition is. My point is this: ENGIE had Pelican Point available. Previous to July, it was not available.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Same thing.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:42): My question is to the Premier. Why did it take so long for the power system to be reset yesterday?

Mr Duluk: Premier Koutsantonis.

The SPEAKER: The member for Davenport will leave the chamber for the remainder of question time.

The honourable member for Davenport having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:42): First and foremost, there is a restoration plan in place in every state, and restoration plans are put in place because they are designed by technical experts. They are not designed by politicians, and the reason they are not designed by politicians is because you see a level of, I suppose, partisanship come out through these events. The important thing about a system black restoration is that it is done in a sequential, methodical way designed to make sure that we do no harm to the grid.

The theory that there wasn't enough thermal generation in place to bring the system black back on is false. I have directly asked Mr Tony Marxsen, the chair of the Australian Energy Market Operator, that, if there was more thermal generation in South Australia, could system black have been restored sooner? And he said to me, no—unequivocally. I said, 'Do you need to take advice on that?' He said no. That statement is not accurate.

The time it takes is the time it takes, depending on a couple of matters. One is the damage done to the transmission lines. Once you understand the damage done to the transmission lines, you understand exactly how to bring power on. It is also important to note that generators had suffered damage through lightning strike, and some generators weren't available. The time taken to bring on—return back power, again, I will quote the experts:

...to re-start almost the entire state's electricity supply 'from black' within hours was unprecedented...

These events have occurred in other countries, First World countries like the United States and Canada, where there was a system black across the Canadian and US borders, in the north-east of the country. It took longer there to restore 50 million customers to the grid, where they had not only coal-fired generation and gas-fired generation but nuclear generation.

This is not a question of generation. This is a question of frequency and sequencing back on generation. The time it took was quite frankly the fastest they possibly could under the circumstances. I have to say that I congratulate AEMO. I think they did an exceptional job.

POWER OUTAGES, ARRIUM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:45): My question is to the Premier. At what time will the power be restored to Arrium's operation in Whyalla?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:45): We are in constant contact with Arrium and, indeed, other large employers. Arrium has a particular issue because of its involvement with the furnace.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: It's got no electricity.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, that is a very important issue. I have spoken to the administrators. They are managing the issue. We're working with ElectraNet and SA Power Networks to get back as quickly as we possibly can. Of course, we are dealing with a number of issues. There are four lines up to the Mid North. Those lines have been taken out by and large by the weather event. There was one line available; that's been energised, and that is now taking a load up to the Mid North. I understand customers in Port Augusta and Port Pirie are coming back online.

I understand that there was some damage done to some diesel generators in and around Port Augusta near the substations we think maybe through lightning strikes, but we're not quite sure just yet, but we are working with them. The problem we have is that the load on the one line is not enough of course to deal with all the residential customers and our industrial customers. What ElectraNet are doing is bringing in temporary towers.

They are flying them in from across Australia and, of course, the ones we have based here need helicopters in some cases to place those towers in place and put up temporary towers to get those 275 kV lines up and running to get power back to the Mid North. This is a large engineering exercise now, and they are working around the clock. The problem we are facing of course is that the fronts that are coming through now by some estimates are more powerful than the ones yesterday, but of course the load is much smaller.

AEMO still maintain control of the generator system, so we are not expecting another system black, but of course if that one line of our four line spine going up to the Mid North goes down because of this weather event it is going to make it very, very difficult. We are working around the clock with ElectraNet, SAPN and, of course, AEMO to do everything we can to get power back not only to Arrium but to Nyrstar, BHP and our other mines in the Mid North because, in the end, time is money.

POWER OUTAGES, ARRIUM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:47): Can the minister outline to the house what are the consequences of power not being restored at Whyalla and the blast furnace cooling?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:47): It is far too early to say, but the Leader of the Opposition is right: we don't want the furnace to cool. We understand that there are contingencies in place. We are working with the administrators to give them what they need. Gas is still being supplied. We do think there are contingencies that can deal with it, but it is far too early for us to say.

Once I have more information about Arrium, I am more than happy to offer the opposition a briefing about where they are at. Obviously, the administrator would like it to be done on a confidential basis, but we're more than happy to make that information available to the opposition and, of course, importantly, to the local member of parliament and the local council.

It is vitally important that we get power back to these industries not only because it is important for the infrastructure within those companies but because it is important for people to get back to work. It is important that we get industry up and running again. By and large, much of the industry in South Australia is up and running again, but some of our regional industries are doing it tough. We want to make sure that we can get power back to them as quickly as possible.

POWER OUTAGES, ARRIUM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:48): Given that the minister made it clear to the house just then that it's far too early to be concerned, is the minister aware that if power isn't restored in Whyalla to the Arrium steelworks by 5 o'clock today there is a very real risk of the steel solidifying in the blast furnace—as early as two hours ago?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:49): It's far too early to tell.

Mr Hughes: You don't have steel in a blast furnace. It's iron, the molten.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, but it's far too early to tell, and when we—

Mr Marshall: It's a very serious issue.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It is a very serious issue, and I don't think there is anyone on this side of the chamber and, quite frankly, most members opposite—

The Hon. L.A. Vlahos interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Disabilities is called to order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —who aren't concerned about this. I have spoken to a number of local communities and some of their leaders in this parliament and there are serious concerns about businesses. I am very worried about not only the large industrial users but I am also worried about a lot of small businesses. A lot of small businesses are doing it tough. Last night, a lot of small businesses in this state lost a lot of money because they weren't able to operate, but South Australians are resilient.

I've got to say that I was exceptionally proud of the way we conducted ourselves yesterday as a state. We just got on with it. We got on with it, and I think that was a great example of who we are as a community. No doubt, once this emergency is over, once this weather event is over, yes, we can have a political to and fro about the consequences of it. That's fine, but right now we are in the middle of it and we are all sticking together and we are working hard to make sure that those industries that need power can get power and get power quickly.

POWER OUTAGES, ARRIUM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:50): Supplementary: the administrator and owner of the Arrium steelworks in Whyalla has made it clear that power is needed by 5 o'clock this afternoon to avoid a 'critical stage'. What is that critical stage?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:50): I am not going to reveal confidential—

Mr Marshall: Because you don't know. A few minutes ago you were telling the house there was plenty of time—

The SPEAKER: The leader has gone through all his warnings. I have given him scope to be the locomotive of the opposition, but he is now disrupting the proceedings of the house.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I don't want to quarrel with the opposition today. Trust me, it's not like me, but today I don't want to quarrel with them. Today is about us getting on with the job and about returning power to the people who need it. We are in deep discussions with the administrator, and I am not going to come in here and hypothesise about what may or may not occur just to score a political point. I'm just not going to do it. We are working to get them power.

This community, this state government and this parliament has agreed to make \$50 million available to the people of Whyalla and that company because we want to see it continue into the future. You can't question our commitment to Arrium. You can't question our commitment to Nyrstar. What has happened here is a major natural event that has ripped up the spine of our electricity system. To try and cause political gamesmanship out of it, quite frankly, is beneath all of you.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Stuart has used all his warnings.

POWER OUTAGES, ARRIUM

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:52): What will happen at 5 o'clock this afternoon at the Whyalla steelworks if power isn't restored?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:52): Again, I think it is just political gamesmanship and I'm not going to engage in it.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:52): My question is to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy. How many generators are capable of supplying SRAS and was the minister warned that the closure of the Port Augusta power station would put the state's ability to restart after a black start at risk?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:52): I asked the Australian Energy Market Operator if the absence of Northern put at risk a black start, made it more difficult or took longer, and his answer was unequivocal—no.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: Who did you ask?

The SPEAKER: Member for Stuart.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: I have a report that says to the contrary.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is called to order. He won't quarrel with the member for Stuart across the chamber.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:53): My question is again to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy. Why did the minister advise the media yesterday that he was not expecting any electricity supply problems despite the widely broadcast and accurate weather forecasts?

The Hon. P. Caica: You've got to be able to distribute it, you goose.

The SPEAKER: The member for Colton is called to order and he will withdraw and apologise the application of the term 'goose' to the member for Stuart.

The Hon. P. CAICA: I apologise and withdraw for calling the member for Stuart a goose.

An honourable member: Come on, we're not allowed to do that. We're not allowed to respond like that.

The SPEAKER: Well, you are.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:54): I wasn't expecting tornadoes to rip through 23 towers, cutting the spine of our transmission lines between the city and the Mid North. I wasn't expecting 80,000 lightning strikes hitting directly on Torrens Island Power Station.

As much as people want to assign blame for this—and no doubt they want to assign blame for a political point—I point out to the house that these winds took out 23 towers. Equivalent winds rushing through Queensland in cyclones have not done this type of damage. We are talking about towers being buckled over like they are liquorice, and I have to say that type of event wasn't anticipated.

No-one anticipated our entire transmission spine being cut in half and being on the ground. I have to say that there is no politician anywhere in the world who can guarantee any type of infrastructure to deal with that kind of natural event, and anyone who says that they can is lying.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:55): My question is for the Premier. Does the Premier think that it is acceptable that damage to high-voltage transmission lines in the north of the state are responsible for the extended electricity outage in Adelaide when the vast majority of electricity generation is also in Adelaide?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:55): I think there has been an enormous amount of forbearance on this side of the chamber about supplying information to those opposite. I've looked at all the media that's occurred throughout the course of the day, all the insinuations about the fact that if we only had a coalmine and a coal-fired power station, that somehow that would be the solution—

Ms Sanderson interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —and the fact that there are 23 transmission towers lying on the ground, and that there is a big long thing called a transmission cable sitting on the ground, we are treating the people of South Australia with contempt to not actually know the difference between those two concepts.

Mr Pederick: It's over 200 kilometres north of Adelaide.

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

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: That's essentially what this is: this is the very thing that I think grieves people most about politics in the present era: the idea that you could actually—

Ms Sanderson interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —take advantage of a natural disaster to actually play into it what you think was a cheap set of facts and ideas and to actually—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I think there is a daunting and horrible sensation that the debate is just turning back onto all those people who decided to play politics with this issue. We've only done one thing, and one thing alone: we've played facts into the public discourse. I've spent every single moment from the time that I have actually first been told about this, since 3.48pm last night, and sent facts out to the South Australian community and to the national community about what has happened here.

Obviously, the people of South Australia and the people of the nation can actually understand the difference between a massive damage to infrastructure. They can see the images of the damage to this power infrastructure. They actually are wise enough to know that when they see a politician pulling out their long-established agenda about their opposition to renewable energy or wind farms and they play that into a crisis before they have on board—

Mr KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker: the Premier is obviously entering into debate, standing order 98.

The SPEAKER: I think the Premier has now made his point, but it's an opportune interlude in which I can warn the member for Schubert for the second and final time and call to order the member for Adelaide. Does the Premier have any further remarks?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Yes, I do. To go directly to the member for Stuart's question, in some respects what we have done is to provide to the South Australian community that needs to understand, why a piece of electricity infrastructure in the Mid North of the state when that goes down, the effect that it has on the system. It essentially is that the sudden change in the frequency of the system, which is consequent upon the removal of this power—the fact that it was threatening to suck an enormous amount of energy across the interconnector—meant that that would have exceeded the capacity of that particular piece of infrastructure.

The rules of this system protected itself so this didn't become a problem for the whole of the National Electricity Market. So, the connection was then severed at the border, and that had consequential effects in terms of tripping the remaining—

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Point of order, sir: standing order 98, the Premier is not addressing the substance of the question. The question was not about why the power went out; the question was about why it took so long—

The SPEAKER: That is exactly what he is addressing. The member for Stuart has raised a bogus point of order. He will depart the chamber under the sessional orders for the next hour—and he's lucky he wasn't named.

The honourable member for Stuart having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: This is a very important point. It is information that the house should have. I think the minister has attempted to explain this, and I am attempting to explain it. The reason why it is important to understand this system protecting itself and protecting the power generation assets is the very reason that we are standing here now talking about the reconnection of something in excess of 90 per cent of the system being recovered. If this system had spun out of control and had damaged these power generation assets, we wouldn't be talking about hours, we would be talking about the restoration of this power system in weeks.

That would be catastrophic, not only for the South Australian economy but for the South Australian community. I think that the South Australian community does understand the complexity of this issue. They do understand the difference between those who are running around saying a coal-fired power station would actually have solved this and when they see all of that infrastructure lying on the ground because of this catastrophic climatic event.

NATIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (15:00): Supplementary: given that the Premier has just informed the house that he is dealing with facts in relation to this electricity crisis, can he in fact confirm that the Treasurer was indeed wrong when he claimed yesterday that Pelican Point was generating, when it clearly wasn't?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Wright is called to order. The member for Florey is called to order.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (15:01): I don't understand why, at this most serious moment, we are getting debating points from the Leader of the Opposition. The substance of what the Treasurer was advancing publicly—

The Hon. J.M. Rankine interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Wright is warned.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The substance of what the minister was advancing was essentially that Pelican Point was available to assist in the restoration of the network. That is the proposition.

Ms Digance interjecting:

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

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Pelican Point was ready, willing and able to serve in the National Electricity Market. The National—

The Hon. J.R. Rau interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: That's right. The National Electricity Market operates in a way which allocates power to those people who bid into the system. It has stood ready to participate in the system. It was part and parcel of the energy network. It was part of the national energy market because it could bid in, as appropriate, having regard to the market circumstances that pertained. It was available—this is the gravamen of the matter—to restore the network, which was the proposition.

It was available to generate at the request of the Australian Energy Market Operator. It was ready, willing and able to generate to assist in the building back up of the system. That decision was taken in an orderly way, having regard to balancing demand and supply, so as to not destabilise the system. The substance of what the minister was talking about is understood by all those, unless you simply want to play games with words.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (15:03): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier support the Liberal Party's call for an independent expert inquiry into precisely what caused yesterday's blackout, why it took so long to restart the grid, and what steps we can immediately take to ensure that this never happens again?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (15:03): As I said in the ministerial statement—I will repeat it for now the third time, the statement, my reference to it before and now again—there are three inquiries underway.

Mr Marshall: 'Independent expert inquiry' is the question.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: It will be an expert inquiry from AEMO—

Mr Marshall: By the government, looking at its own failed energy policy in South Australia?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: No, not by us: by an independent statutory authority called the Australian Energy Market Operator. We will use their—

Mr Marshall: Aren't they the ones that operate it? You want them to do an inquiry into themselves?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Now we're pointing fingers at the Australian Energy Market Operator.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: It's question time, it's not a debate.

The Hon. P. Caica interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Colton is warned.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: There will be a technical review, which will analyse the evidence associated with the way in which the market operated and the precise causes, the sequence of the various events. There will be evidence that will be able to be recovered and reconstructed, and that will be published as soon as possible. I don't think anybody would suggest that the Australian Energy Market Operator would do anything other than engage technical experts of an independent nature.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: You never know.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: That's an interesting observation.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: It's an independent board appointed by Josh Frydenberg.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: That's right: an independent board appointed by Josh Frydenberg will be supervising this matter. I would have thought—

Mr Marshall: It's in the interests of the Australian market, not the people of South Australia.

The SPEAKER: It is not a debate.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The second element of the review will, of course, be the national energy ministers—Liberal and Labor and the federal Coalition—which will supervise a further review and, of course, South Australia will conduct its own review of our response to the emergency issues that were thrown up by the crisis. That will be—

The Hon. P. Caica interjecting:

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

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:05): My question is to the Minister for Health. Last night, were South Australian hospitals able to take all requests for transfers from nursing homes, and patients with home-based life-support equipment?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:05): As I said in my ministerial statement, at its peak, the calls for emergency ambulance services were at 500 per cent of their normal load. What happened was they had to be triaged because, obviously, with those sorts of levels, you are not going to be able to get to everyone, so they were appropriately and clinically triaged.

So, there would have been people who they certainly weren't able to get to in a timely way because they had to get to people who were far more urgent. I am not aware of there being any adverse outcomes as a result of any of those issues but we are going through a process at the moment to make sure what, if any, adverse outcomes there were as a result of yesterday's weather events.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:06): My question is to the Minister for Energy. Why does the minister continue to refuse to meet with the Upper Spencer Gulf power consortium, comprising General Electric, the CFMEU and another, who offered to build a new clean coal and biomass power station, with underground transmission lines, from Port Augusta?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (15:06): I am happy to meet with anyone. What I won't do is allow money that has been placed for remediation to be used to fund any upgrade. This power station is not owned by the South Australian government: it is owned by a subsidiary now of Alinta. I understand that, if that consortium wishes to buy it, the regulatory approvals that they seek are not from me: they are from the National Electricity Market. Of course, I am happy to meet with them. I am happy to meet with anyone who wants to invest in South Australia.

I have to say that the idea that Northern would have helped with the issue yesterday has been refuted by almost every single independent expert who looks at the National Electricity Market. I think it is important to know that the idea that, if Northern had been on, this would not have occurred, is wrong. It is not only rejected by the government: it is rejected by AEMO and it is rejected by the independent experts who monitor the National Electricity Market. I think there is no-one of any real authority out there saying that if Northern had been on, first, this event would not have occurred and, secondly, power would have been up faster. There is no-one who is prepared to put their name to that. No-one. Why? There is a simple reason: because it is not true.

POWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:08): Has the minister received any request or directive from the Premier not to meet with this consortium because it involves a coal-powered system?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (15:08): No. We are happy to meet with any consortium. I have to say that there are tyre kickers and there are people who are serious. I have met with a number of people about Northern, I have met with a number of people who want to build wind farms, I have met with people who want to build new gas-fired generation, and I am happy to meet with all of them—I have met with people who want to build solar thermal plants. I will meet with anyone.

But I have to say they are not the only consortium that is interested in or looking at Northern. But the people they should be meeting with are not in government, because we do not own it. We don't have any regulatory say about whether they operate or don't.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Approval?

Ms Chapman: Planning approval.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: They need planning approval? Last time I checked, I wasn't the planning minister. I have to say—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: So, it's now 'start the process going'. So it's either I give the regulatory approvals or I don't? Which one is it? Perhaps members opposite should read the legislation that they vote for.

Ms Chapman: Good gracious!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, goodness gracious, indeed.

Ms Chapman: You're hopeless.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No, one part of that sentence was wrong—the 'you' part. But I have to say, I'm happy to meet with proponents who want to advocate for more generation in this state, but it would not have made a difference to what occurred yesterday.

RIVERLAND HOMELESS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:10): My question is to the Minister for Social Communities and Social Inclusion. What measures were put in place in the Riverland prior to the forecast one in 50 year weather event to assist homeless people sleeping rough?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for the Status of Women, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers) (15:10): I will have to take on notice the exact support that was provided but, as you know, Centacare provides that service for homelessness. I will get some details from them about what they were doing. I assume they would go out and contact people who they already know and provide them with accommodation, whether

it would be in the facilities they already have available or in hotel/motel accommodation, but I will take that on notice.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (15:11): My question is to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. What contingencies were in place for commuters travelling from Adelaide to Gawler when there was no notice that the Adelaide Railway Station would be closing last night?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Minister for Housing and Urban Development) (15:11): Like a lot of infrastructure and services last night, public transport was also impacted. The short answer to the member for Stuart's question, about—

An honourable member: Schubert.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Sorry, Schubert—what contingencies were in place for Gawler train commuters, is substitute buses or indeed, if they were perhaps experiencing mobility issues, quite a number taxis were made available for people who had presented at the Adelaide Railway Station hoping to catch train services. Were there commuters who were unable to get home via the train or perhaps even struggled to catch a substitute bus service within a relatively short period of time? Absolutely.

There was a great deal of inconvenience last night across the public transport network as there was across the road network, but can I just thank those hardworking DPTI staff and Adelaide Metro staff for working to get as many people home as safely and as quickly as possible, whether it was via our road network—and I should also make it clear that SAPOL officers did an outstanding job directing traffic around metropolitan intersections—or whether it was via the public transport network.

Grievance Debate

POWER OUTAGES

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop) (15:12): I have had a number of phone calls this morning from constituents of mine. The extreme weather event, as it has been referred to, that hit particularly areas north of Adelaide, and indeed Adelaide around the Hills, yesterday did not occur in the South-East. The weather in the South-East was not abnormal. It was a bit of a breezy day, but I think the winds got up to 30 or 40km/h, not knots, at a maximum. There was a bit of rain about, but it was not an extreme event and nothing unusual, particularly in the South-East.

What concerned my constituents was why they lost power. Why did they lose power yesterday afternoon in the first instance for an incident that occurred a couple of hundred kilometres north of Adelaide and probably more like 600 kilometres away from where they were? I understand the minister's rationale in saying that the system shuts itself down to protect itself, but it seems that there is a shutdown facility somewhere around the border, probably where the Heywood interconnector comes out of Victoria.

It seems sensible to me that maybe an isolator or a series of such isolators could be placed around the state such that we do not have the catastrophic event that we had yesterday in South Australia, where we had an incident quite remote from the major load centre, quite remote from the major generators, yet it blacked out the whole of the state. It seems an absurd way to operate the system. Further to that, I had conversations this morning with constituents who were still not reconnected.

There were parts of the South-East where there had been no infrastructure damage and no cause for blackouts occurred in that region yet, late this morning, they were still waiting to be reconnected. I spoke to one of the biggest employers in my electorate, the Kimberly-Clark paper mill, and they were hoping to restart their mill at about 3 o'clock this afternoon, so hopefully that has occurred. The afternoon shift was sent home yesterday afternoon. The night shift was contacted and told not to bother coming in, and the morning shift did not work this morning.

The economic consequences of what occurred yesterday not just to significant businesses like that but to small one and two-person businesses, mum-and-dad businesses and all sorts of businesses are quite extreme. It seems absurd to me that we have a state where the electricity grid

goes from the other side of Ceduna to the other side of Mount Gambier and, if we get an incident anywhere on that grid, the whole thing falls over.

That is the first point I want to make, but this has also given us an opportunity to have some discussions about other energy policies that have occurred in South Australia. I am quite fascinated that, here in South Australia, we have an energy minister who has had to plead with the operator of Pelican Point Power Station a couple of months ago to restart it, yet nobody has had the discussion as to why that power station was mothballed.

We have had the Northern Power Station shut down by the owners, and nobody has asked the question: why was it shut down? The minister is saying we should be spending some more money to build another interconnector. We have capacity idle here in South Australia, and we are talking about spending hundreds of millions of dollars to build another interconnector to bring electricity that indeed will be generated from coal-fired sources in Victoria and New South Wales into South Australia, when we have our own coal-fired power plant shut down.

We have our own gas-fired power plant, which is quite a modern gas-fired power plant, mothballed. You have to ask yourself the question: why would that be so? I can tell you why it is so. It is because we have given preference in this state to wind generation, and to run a thermal power station you have to be on stand-by every day for that time of the day when the wind stops blowing and, most days, that is what occurs. So, when you are running a coal-fired power station at Port Augusta and the wind stops blowing, you are obliged under your operating licence to start distributing power into the network but, in the meantime, when the wind is blowing, you have to keep your boilers running.

The big lie that has been told to the South Australian people is that we are saving our carbon footprint. The reality is the reason the Northern Power Station was shut down, and the reason that Pelican Point has been mothballed, is because they are obliged to keep burning the fuel when the wind is blowing. It makes no difference to our carbon footprint because we are burning the same amount of coal. It is just they are not selling electricity and, therefore, cannot turn a profit; that is why they have been shut down.

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (15:18): Given yesterday's significant weather event, which is actually continuing today as I speak, I thought I would focus my contribution on our preparedness for this event and the others that are likely to follow. I have been a bit disturbed by what I have heard from the opposition today, not the least by the last contribution during grievances. It is quite obvious that these are the spokespeople for outdated energy generation, and they are the anti-renewables.

When I have nothing better to do, I sit down and read *Hansard* from the other place. I read with interest yesterday the *Hansard* relating to 27 October for that place and, in particular, the questions that were directed at the Minister for Emergency Services relating to this weather event and our preparedness to deal with it. As I said, I actually believe, and I am pleased to report my opinion to the house, that, in my view, we have done everything possible to be properly and appropriately prepared for yesterday's event and to manage this event as well as the longer term effect and consequences of this weather system, whatever they might be. As I said, it has not finished yet.

We have done what we can to ensure that those most likely to be more severely impacted knew what was likely to happen, that they were properly informed and that they knew what assistance was available to them and how they may themselves have properly prepared for that event. That said, I want to pass on my thanks and my gratitude for the efforts of emergency services personnel—the police, the MFS, the CFS and the SES—who did an outstanding job during what were very trying circumstances.

I will get back to the point I want to discuss: are we properly prepared for events like this? The two weather events of the past two days, as well as the two events we had last month, amongst other examples I could give, are a glimpse of the future and what we can expect. The simple fact is that weather events similar to those of yesterday, what is happening today and what has happened this year, under the world's climate change scenario will become more frequent and more intense.

Indeed, right at this point in time, as I understand it, there is doorknocking going on along the Patawalonga and to houses around the Glenelg area to let them know that, given the high tide and the event we are having, there could be a likelihood of some flooding. I hope that does not occur, but it could.

We live in a world of changing climate and I think most people, except a lot of those opposite, would agree with that. As a state, a nation and a world, we know that we have to do something to reduce our carbon footprint, despite those opposite saying, 'Let's fire up these archaic old stations that are contributing to global warming.' I read an interesting article in *The Age* on 27 September, entitled 'Earth could warm by seven degrees: long-term study'. The article was based on a study, entitled 'Evolution of global temperature over the past two million years', which was conducted by Stanford University.

The study indicates that a survey over what was two million years shows that in the next thousand years the earth's temperature could increase by as much as 7°. What I found very interesting about this article was that it reported that the Climate Institute's Climate of the Nation poll found that 65 per cent of Australians want their country to lead the world on climate change solutions, which is a marked increase on a previous poll.

I know that the Prime Minister has made a commitment by signing the Paris agreement, but are we doing enough to properly prepare ourselves for the consequences of climate change that are going to occur? I say, 'No, we are not.' It does not matter what we do in South Australia because we are just a small player in the scheme of things. Unless we do it on a national basis and on a global basis, we know we are going to suffer the consequences of that, not the least of which is what we witnessed yesterday, as well as similar scenarios but more intense in nature than what we have experienced. That is a simple fact.

I also read an article, entitled *Recalculating the Climate Math*, by a man called Bill McKibben. What he is saying—and I think he is right—is that the amount of carbon that is still stored around the world that could be utilised, such as oil and coal, is enough that we do not have to use any of that. If we try to exhaust the world's supplies of carbon, we are not going to reach our 2° increase in temperature target. He says that we cannot keep doing what we are doing, and I agree with him.

RIVERLAND TOURISM

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:23): I rise today to talk about the coming very busy tourist season in the Riverland. The calendar looks exciting, to say the least, and this coming period provides a much-needed economic boost to the region. However, before I get into the wonderful events held and to be held in September and October in the Riverland, I would like to point out a disappointing oversight in a South Australian Tourism Commission's document released in June. The document, entitled 'Delivering quality South Australian experiences and infrastructure for Chinese visitors', manages to exclude the Riverland and Mallee—outrageous!

The report focused on six key identified destinations, that is, Adelaide, Adelaide Hills, Barossa, Limestone Coast, Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu Peninsula. To put this omission into perspective, according to the latest statistics from Tourism Research Australia the Riverland has the second most international visitor nights in country SA. The Riverland had 246,000 nights in June 2016—only outdone in regional South Australia by the Fleurieu Peninsula with 250,000 nights.

The Riverland has seen the addition of even more luxury accommodation which will target that particular market, especially the Chinese market. Rick and Cathy Edmonds's 'The Frames' and Pike River Luxury Villas are only two of the outstanding accommodation options making inroads into this market. Our famous wine brands, such as Banrock Station and Angove Family Winemakers are well known in China.

The report looked at the themes, such as the naturalness of the regions—essentially, the food, the wine and the lifestyle. The Riverland does this better than many other regions. It looked at the food aspect. The Riverland is the premium food bowl of South Australia. It also looked at wine. We are a major player in this area, producing 60 per cent of the state's wine vintage. We have award-winning premium wine labels doing great things in this space, such as 919 Wines, Basham Estate, Whistling Kite and many more; the list could go on.

The report looked at the wildlife. The Riverland has amazing walking trails, and I want to note that the new River Murray Walks were established by two of South Australia's great tourism people, Tony Sharley and his wife Susie. It has been named one of the 10 great walks in Australia. That is another iconic event in the Riverland. We have our birdwatching parks, and you cannot go past the River Murray.

We could see an estimated 57,000 Chinese visitors contributing part of that \$450 million to the South Australian economy by 2020, and I am appalled to see that the Riverland was not included in the report that seems to shape the future of Chinese visitors to South Australia. There was not a single mention of the Riverland in this report. So yes, the report misses the Riverland and the Mallee, but what I can tell you from what I have seen and have attended, the events coming up in the Riverland are truly outstanding.

It has been a busy month. I recently attended the opening of Bickford's 23rd Street Distillery in Renmark. Managing Director Angelo Kotses has done an outstanding job. His vision to revitalise the old Renmano winery at the entrance into Renmark is simply outstanding. The Minister for Tourism has seen it and I am sure he is in awe of what has been achieved. I also opened the Australian Junior Motocross Championship in Renmark on the weekend, which was outstanding. Most of the 585 riders brought with them two bikes and a crew, and was great to see. We even had international riders coming to this outstanding event.

Other things that are coming up include the Lake Bonney Yacht Club's 70th Regatta. I am looking forward to being there. I am also looking forward to the 100th Pinnaroo Show, the Loxton Show and the Barmera Sheep Dog Trials. Further into the next month, we have a much anticipated Wine and Food Festival, the world-famous Renmark Rose Festival, the Waikerie and District Community Flower Show and the Brand SA Awards.

Do not forget we have the upcoming recommissioning of the only operational Humphrey pump in the world; that is absolutely outstanding. It has been a long time coming and I would like to thank the Cobdogla Steam Friends Society. There has been a raft of tireless work, and I congratulate them on getting the Humphrey pump up and running.

Time expired.

GILES ELECTORATE

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:28): As someone with a large country electorate, I am not a big fan of long parliamentary sessions. I guess I formed the view early on in my term that time spent in the electorate was more valuable than time spent in the chamber. This is not to make light of the parliamentary process, but it does strike me—and others, I would imagine—that reform of our processes might lead to greater effectiveness and focus. Too many words are spoken for the sake of speaking too many words. Parliamentary reform is not the subject of my grievance; my electorate is—or at least some parts of my electorate.

I spent the week before our return to parliament visiting Andamooka, Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy. I thank BHP Billiton for organising an opportunity to go on the ground at Olympic Dam, which is something that I have not done for many years. The last occasion was when Western Mining owned Olympic Dam and I would carry out worksite assessments after workplace injuries. It is interesting to reflect on the nature of mining in the electorate of Giles, ranging as it does from the small business hit-and-miss nature of opal mining on one end of the spectrum to the seriously large scale, such as Olympic Dam, at the other end of the spectrum.

I enjoy getting out on the road and visiting people where they live and hearing their concerns and ideas, and there is always plenty of both. During the week, I visited the schools in Andamooka, Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy. While in Andamooka, I also caught up with some members of the Andamooka Progress and Opal Miners Association and visited the Outback Community Authority.

As always, it was a pleasure to catch up with the people responsible for delivering preventive primary health care in Andamooka, which now comes under the banner of the Royal Flying Doctor Service following the departure of Frontier Services. I cannot emphasise strongly enough just how important the on-the-ground delivery of the health service is by people committed to the community and with an extensive knowledge about the people they serve and their circumstances.

The Andamooka school might be small when it comes to enrolments, but it is an essential community hub for the families of Andamooka. It delivers a range of services beyond the early years of primary school. The school principal, Tricia Williams, is both enthusiastic and committed to ensuring a high quality educational experience for her students. Tricia holds multiple degrees and previously worked as a hydrologist, so that is an interesting shift. If we are serious about teaching subjects related to STEM, we need more people like Tricia Williams in our education system so that we make the most of our commitment to invest in the creation of modern physical science infrastructure in our schools.

On that note, the \$2.3 million commitment to provide state-of-the-art STEM facilities at the Roxby Downs Area School in the last state budget has been warmly welcomed by the school community. As a result of the previous federal Labor government, the Roxby Downs Area School has a new trade training centre which will complement the proposed STEM facility. While in Roxby Downs, I took the opportunity to visit the hospital and meet with some of the staff. The staff were generous with their time and gave a comprehensive overview of the range of services delivered and some of the local challenges.

I had a worthwhile meeting with the interim administrator at the Roxby Downs council, Geoff Whitbread. As a members are aware, the local government set up at Roxby Downs is a creature of the indenture and it lacks the usual democratic input. I have put the view in a letter to the households in Roxby Downs that there should be a move towards a hybrid model that would enable a degree of local democratic input and accountability. A number of constituents were keen to discuss various models, including the one that has been formally proposed, that is, a CEO answerable to two administrators but with a far more robust community engagement process and with a far greater emphasis on transparency.

I left impressed with Mr Whitbread's approach and experience and his clear commitment to ensuring greater transparency in decision-making. Not only has Mr Whitbread been the CEO of a number of Adelaide councils but he is also the former CEO of the Geelong council, which employs roughly 2,000 people. It is great to see a man of such experience working on an interim basis in Roxby Downs.

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (15:33): It is the second time I have discussed my age in the house today. As I indicated earlier today, I am of middle age. I am 55 years old, and I am old enough to remember when we had the electricity line installed on the farm, and it was a great day. It was 1966, and up until then we had relied on 32-volt generation. My grandparents had a Dunlight and my father had a diesel generator with which to provide lighting and some household appliances with 32-volt power.

It was a great day when the 240-volt SWER line arrived. As I said, it was 1966. My grandparents were to be on a different SWER line. Theirs arrived some time later. We were very pleased as children that our grandparents gave our family a television for Christmas in 1966. We were able to have a television because we had the power on. What we did not know was that they were going come down every single night and watch it with us, but that was fine. My point is that here we are 50 years on and we have become so reliant upon electricity and a consistent, regular and adequate power supply that the event of the last few days has caused extensive upheaval.

Nobody can doubt that it was a significant storm event. It had significant impacts on the coastal regions around the state, particularly the Mid North of South Australia, in the countryside north of Adelaide, and took out any number of major transmission towers in our electricity transmission system. Of course, that meant that the entire state was out as of late yesterday. I note that Adelaide is back on but that most of the country areas of South Australia are still off. I have spoken today to constituents in Port Lincoln, Ceduna and other places in between. Here we are, 24 hours on, still with no power supply, so I can only imagine what they are going through and the tasks they are going through at the moment.

Amongst other things, we rely on electricity to supply household appliances and to provide refrigeration. These days, virtually all our businesses rely on electricity, and even our electorate offices are so reliant upon electricity to provide internet services, communication and so on. It is

unfortunately the second time that this situation has arisen in this state in almost 12 months, with November last year and now, of course, September this year. In this chamber, I represent most of the people of Eyre Peninsula and just a month ago we were off power again as a result of storm damage. From time to time, we expect disruption, but we do not expect, nor can we manage, extended periods of power outages.

In fact, last time we were out for over 24 hours and some areas were out for 36 hours, and I am talking about the situation a month ago. Of all the concerns raised with me at that time, the most significant was the loss of mobile phone communication and, as a result of that, more particularly and more specifically, 000 emergency calls could not be made. You could say that we dodged a bullet last time because there were no essential emergencies that required that call to be made, to my knowledge, on Eyre Peninsula, but you do not know.

I know that it is a 21st century problem, a First World problem, but our society expects those services to be available all the time and, if they are not, people look for someone to blame. My understanding, and the Premier articulated this earlier today, is that mobile phone towers have a battery backup. Unfortunately, the battery backup only lasts often for a period of about eight hours, so any power outage longer than about eight hours, and we are going through one now and we went through one on Eyre Peninsula a month ago, means that all the mobile phone towers run out of capacity, that we are no longer able to talk to each other and that we are no longer able to make those 000 calls.

It is a source of much frustration. I think we need answers. Certainly, our leader, Steven Marshall, has called today for an inquiry into the state's power system because the fact that power outages occur we recognise, but more significantly, and what we need to resolve, is the time taken to put all our residents, all our businesses and all our homes back on a regular and constant supply of electricity.

NAPIER ELECTORATE

Mr GEE (Napier) (15:38): Today, I would like to speak about an important local election promise regarding a roundabout in the rural part of my electorate and about the Northern Adelaide Senior Secondary Schools Alliance Venture Dorm Program. Firstly, I want to thank all of our emergency service volunteers who have worked very long hours and delivered a very professional service throughout a very busy time, particularly the Dalkeith and One Tree Hill CFS teams and the Edinburgh SES. I also want to thank all personnel and agencies involved that are working behind the scenes with these groups.

The people of One Tree Hill and surrounding areas have been campaigning for many years for an upgrade of the intersection of the One Tree Hill to Gawler Road, One Tree Hill to Kersbrook Road and Humbug Scrub Road. While speaking with local residents prior to the last election, I committed to lobbying to see if this intersection could be made safer. The community was very supportive, and it is pleasing that works are currently underway to make that intersection safer with the installation of a roundabout and associated infrastructure.

The intersection is a crucial link for local residents to access One Tree Hill, Kersbrook and Gawler, and it is used by many visitors to the Para Wirra Conservation Park and the Humbug Scrub Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as by people touring through the Hills. The state government is investing \$3.5 million in this project to try to ensure that no further accidents occur. In addition to the roundabout, there will be new road lighting and safety barriers plus an increase in road signage and a decrease in the speed limit approaching the intersection.

This intersection saw 12 crashes between 2010 and 2014, resulting in one death and 11 injuries—five of them were really serious. I, and many other motorists, have experienced near misses at this intersection over the years. It was really pleasing over the weekend to drive through that intersection and see that the roundabout is now in place and that the works are continuing towards a conclusion in October.

I will now speak about the NASSSA Venture Dorm program, which is a 10-week program run in northern public secondary schools which encourages young people to learn business and innovation skills and to design and present a concept that could be marketed to the community. The

program was run by the New Venture Institute at Flinders University, who partnered with major sponsors Raytheon and the City of Salisbury, to deliver the program at the Twelve25 Youth Enterprise Centre.

The program concluded with the graduation and pitch night, which was held on Tuesday of this week. The graduation was attended by minister Bettison, Tony Zappia MP, principals, teachers and parents, and was held at the Mawson Centre in Mawson Lakes. The eight teams pitched their ideas to the audience while they were judged by the Hon. Karlene Maywald; NVI Advisory Council board member, Laki Kondylas from the Northern Economic Plan; and Professor Westell from Flinders University.

All teams provided an excellent presentation of their innovative ideas, how they had developed their ideas and the market research they had undertaken to assess the viability of the product. The innovative ideas included an app to allow young people to divide their phone data between YouTube, Safari, the App Store and other apps, and an app that advises the cheapest place to shop for all items across major and minor stores.

There was another app that allowed people to locate a range of takeaway food services, and a service that allowed young people to access formal make-up services for formals, weddings and other events. Another idea was wheel attachments for prams, to allow them to travel over varied terrain, and an app allowing people to find perfect presents after entering details of the recipient. There were also ethically sourced motivational T-shirts and interchangeable frames.

I thank the New Venture Institute, Flinders University, the City of Salisbury and NASSSA. I particularly recognise Rob Love, who coordinated the program, Ben Flink from the New Venture Institute, Heather Bitter from NASSSA, Alana Sherman and Matt Nankervis from Craigmore High School, and Amy Newbound from Mark Oliphant College.

The winners on the night were Atil, from Mark Oliphant College, who won the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, the students from Paralowie R-12 School who won the Silver Award, and students from Para Hills High School (my old school) who won the Gold Award. The Para Hills High School students will get to meet with a business coach and senior officials from Raytheon.

Time expired.

Ministerial Statement

EMERGENCY WARNING

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (15:43): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: At the later point of question time, I was contacted by the South Australian police commissioner, and he informed me that he and the head of the State Emergency Service are about to conduct a media conference, which is presently underway. He has asked me to read the following statement to the house:

The South Australia Police...and State Emergency Service...joined forces this afternoon in issuing a warning to the community to be prepared for further destructive weather that may reach Adelaide this afternoon.

Commissioner of Police Grant Stevens and SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie spoke at a press conference this afternoon as forecast strong winds reached Kangaroo Island.

'We are asking the community to be aware that we may see conditions this afternoon and evening potentially as bad, if not worse than yesterday,' Commissioner Stevens said.

'I am recommending to people that if they can leave work early, they do so to avoid potential congestion on the metropolitan road network.'

Mr Beattie reiterated that people should take steps to secure both their family and property ahead of potentially 125kph winds.

'The police and SES are working together to ensure public safety, but we ask the community to be proactive in the circumstances,' he said.

If you need the State Emergency Service to assist with flood or storm damage then call 132 500—only call Triple Zero (000) for life threatening emergencies.

Anyone who is driving is urged to drive to the conditions, never drive or ride through floodwaters and obey the directions of emergency services personnel.

The public are also reminded to stay away from fallen power lines, move vehicles under cover or away from trees and secure loose items.

Updates regarding local road closures can be found here: <http://www.traffic.sa.gov.au>

POWER OUTAGES, HOSPITALS

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:46): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: Following on from question time, I sought information from SA Health and confirmed that at no time was the Royal Adelaide Hospital ICU without power during yesterday's outage. I have also been informed that emergency surgery at Flinders Medical Centre is running as 'business as usual'. Any postponements are focused on non-urgent elective surgery. I have also been provided with the following information about a power outage at Port Augusta Hospital earlier in the day from Country Health SA.

At 11.30am parts of Port Augusta experienced a power failure which affected the Port Augusta Hospital. At this time the backup power generator at the hospital was activated. I understand that at around 12.15pm the generator failed and the hospital was without power for approximately 30 minutes. During the affected times, essential patient equipment operated on battery power or manually and no patient's safety was compromised. Smaller generators were sourced which were able to power essential appliances in the hospital, such as medical fridges.

At 3.15pm, the mains power came back on until the statewide outage. A new generator was sourced, during which time the smaller generators were still operational. At around 6.30pm, a larger generator was sourced, returning the hospital to full backup capacity. Again, during this time essential patient equipment was operated either by battery or manually. I have asked Country Health to investigate the reasons behind the generator failing and provide me with a full report, including recommendations on how this situation can be avoided in the event of future emergencies.

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Minister for Investment and Trade, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (15:47): I table a copy of a ministerial statement by the Minister for Correctional Services and Emergency Services in another place, entitled Extreme Weather Update.

Motions

AFL NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Adjourned debate on motion of Ms Hildyard (resumed on motion).

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:48): Before this, females were playing more for fun, for the social side of the sport, as playing division 1 football in the women's state league was the highest level a player could reach. Other than representing South Australia at the annual carnival event, now women have a much bigger aim, something further to strive for, a prestigious sport in the women's AFL. Early this month, I watched the AFL exhibition match between Melbourne and the Western Bulldogs at the Whitten Oval. It averaged 387,000 television viewers in Melbourne, beating the best Saturday night viewing average match of the AFL in 2016 between St Kilda and Geelong of 347,000 viewers. The interest is certainly there.

Last year, participation in South Australian women's football teams reached the highest on record, surpassing targets set by the AFL. The AFL had set the South Australian National Football League a target of starting 10 new women's teams in 2015, with 16 new teams introduced into the SANFL Girls Competition as well as one new team in the South Australian Women's Football League. Participation numbers continue to swell and, in the 2015 season, the SANFL Girls Competition

gained 180 new registrations, bumping its total to 290 female players here in South Australia. The AFL is aiming to have 500 female teams nationwide by 2019.

In 2015, there were 163 new women's teams across Australia and more than 318,000 total female participants, with the AFL forecasting 250 new women's teams across the nation in one year. When announcing the women's competition, AFL Commission Chairman Mike Fitzpatrick said:

The establishment of a national woman's league will provide a platform to inspire young girls to reach for the stars and provide another avenue for fans of Australian football to enjoy. Our game will never be the same.

I note there have been some pay concerns among the women's AFL players, and that is something that will continue to play out, but it was reported that the AFL Players Association rejected the league's proposal to pay most AFL women players \$5,000, those with priority signings \$10,000 and 16 marquee players a \$15,000 playing contract plus a \$10,000 marketing component. While the union signed off on the marketing payment to its marquee players, it is seeking an increase to all playing fees.

One of the major opportunities with the new women's league is for Adelaide Oval to host the grand final. In fact, I would love to see the Adelaide Oval host a grand final. For too long, we have seen Melbourne hold the AFL's grand finals and it is a tradition that I do not see being broken any time soon. However, we have the opportunity to push for the Adelaide Oval to host the inaugural women's league grand final here, if not in the near future.

I recently wrote to the AFL Chief Executive, Gillon McLachlan, urging him to consider Adelaide hosting the 2017 women's grand final. We have seen the popularity of women's football and I am confident that fans will flock to see the nation's two best women's football teams. We have the backing for hosting a women's league finals series by the Crows CE Andrew Fagan, the SANFL Stadium Management Authority and the Crows marquee player Chelsea Randall, to name a few. I received a response from Mr McLachlan, and it reads:

I write in response to your letter seeking to have the Adelaide Oval considered as a venue for the AFL's national women's league Grand Final.

Planning at this stage for the AFL women's competition is centred around holding matches in conjunction with the NAB Challenge and/or the opening of the 2017 Toyota AFL Premiership season.

As these fixtures are not yet finalised, the AFL has not yet considered a venue for the Grand Final of the national women's league. The best day and time to showcase the women's Grand Final will also be an important factor in determining the appropriate venue.

As you correctly pointed out, the AFL is extremely pleased with the growth and participation in South Australia and the development of the top end talent over the past 12 months.

There is great confidence within the AFL that the Adelaide Crows women's team will be highly competitive in the inaugural season and the football loving fans of South Australia will get right behind their team.

Thank you again for your correspondence...

So we have registered the interest in the AFL and it will be great to see if we can get the AFL women's grand final to Adelaide Oval. Wouldn't that be a joy?

It is not just Aussie rules football that has seen increases in female participation. The annual 2015-16 National Cricket Census has shown that cricket in South Australia had an 18 per cent rise in female participants from the previous year, with 25,484 females playing some form of cricket. As we all know, the Strikers Girls' Cricket League launched this month on the back of record numbers of girls participating in cricket here in South Australia over the past 12 months.

Last year, Roy Morgan Research revealed that, in the 12 months to November 2015, more girls were playing soccer than netball. The elite sports pathway is becoming even more available for women and girls in South Australia. It is extremely encouraging and the future for women's sport with increasing participation numbers in South Australia is looking brighter than ever. I do congratulate the government on putting \$10 million into female facilities. It is a great initiative, but I would like the member for Reynell to give a little bit of credit where it is due.

For a number of months, I had been pursuing the issue of inequity of the women's change room facilities in South Australia. We know that there is inequity at Hindmarsh Stadium. The Lady Reds are having to collect their bags from the corridor after a game and catch a bus to the

Entertainment Centre to change and to shower. It is just unfathomable that that would happen. With the West End 36ers and the Adelaide Lightning, we see that the changing facilities are absolutely inadequate, and it is so right across the board.

They are the sorts of issues I have been addressing, as has the member for Reynell, but obviously being in opposition does not give us the platform to go out and grab the media spotlight on that issue. I would like to mention that the women's task force in South Australia is a good initiative. The only thing missing with the women's task force is the opportunity for a bipartisan approach. There has been no approach to the opposition to be a part of it, to support it, to push it along. Sadly, that is the way the government seems to run. The Minister for Investment and Trade has not offered one element of bipartisanship in the trade portfolio. It is very sad to see.

But, overall, women's AFL is coming and I urge every South Australian to be a part of it. Go and have a look at it. Do not knock it until you have seen it. Congratulations to the Adelaide Crows Women's Football Club and may you have a successful 2017 season.

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:56): I will not speak for too long, but I want to second the words of the member for Reynell by supporting this motion, support women's football in South Australia and across Australia and particularly the AFL for establishing the national women's football league, which is being established at the moment and will come into being next year. I personally am very delighted, as a very proud Adelaide Football Club member and supporter, that the Adelaide Football Club was successful in gaining one of the eight licences for the women's league. They put in a very strong bid between South Australia and the Northern Territory.

It will be fantastic for football in South Australia and for the Adelaide Football Club to have this women's team in the national competition. It is worth noting some of the fantastic players the Adelaide Crows have already signed up to be part of the team. They include Chelsea Randall, Kellie Gibson, Ange Foley, Courtney Cramey, Jasmine Anderson and Erin Phillips. Erin Phillips, of course, is a basketballer at the moment and has been an Olympic basketball player as well. This will be a fantastic team. We are yet to see the draft, so we are yet to see the full team that Adelaide will put on the field, but the coach is Bec Goddard, who I think will do a fantastic job.

In terms of women's sport, I second those who are pushing for better equity in terms of payment for those women athletes. There have been a lot of comments in terms of the payment of not only AFL players but also netball players and others. Netballers have recently negotiated with their union, the Australian Workers' Union, for a better deal for netball which is very fair and we will continue to see stronger demands for better pay and conditions for people who play AFL football as well. It is also worth noting that we need to improve our grassroots support for women's football. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2016

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

Adjournment Debate

THE PORCH SESSIONS

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (16:00): Today I wish to speak about a thriving South Australian arts business, The Porch Sessions, which brings acoustic music and local food and wine into people's backyards for good friends and young families to enjoy in a safe and accessible environment. Over the space of just three years The Porch Sessions' series of small shows held in backyards across the state has become a much-loved local institution, achieving national recognition and providing countless opportunities to the South Australian creative sector.

The business is run by young entrepreneur Sharni Honor, who is a fierce advocate for South Australia and has managed to develop her concept to a stage where she has thrown herself into the business full time. Unfortunately, this year, Sharni has found that, on the brink of launching

their fourth season, The Porch Sessions has reached a significant and potentially detrimental roadblock in liquor licensing, that threatens the continuation of the business altogether. Sharni explains the problem as this:

For the first three seasons of The Porch Sessions, we operated on limited licenses, but due to the volume of shows taking place, upon strict recommendation from Consumer and Business Services, The Porch Sessions had exceeded the right to continue on these licences and moving forward, we now must come under a permanent liquor licence. Of which, the only option we had, as suggested by CBS, was to apply for a Special Circumstances Licence. In addition to this, the process of limited licences created a great deal of inconsistency and stress. Even if an application was lodged months prior to a given show, in some cases, the approval of these licences would only be granted 3 days prior to a sold-out event as Consumer and Business Services tend to consider the applications in chronological order rather than in the order the requests were lodged. This places incredible pressure on our business, and frankly is an entirely unsustainable way to operate moving forward, especially as The Porch Sessions books national and international acts.

Following the recommendation of Consumer and Business Services The Porch Sessions have applied for a Special Circumstances licence. So far this process has been going for 3 months and has cost \$4,000 in both legal advice and application fees.

There have been three hearings regarding the license and the final verdict is soon to be delivered. However, at the third and final hearing the Commissioner began to consider whether The Porch Sessions would qualify for a 'Special Circumstances' licence at all, contrary to the advice of Consumer and Business Services. If this is the case, my business will be left in the same position that we started, but with a great deal of stress, having lost 3 months of time and wasted \$4000. In addition to this, I am likely to still be without an option. It was Consumer and Business Services that have forbidden my business to operate on more than eight limited licences per year, leaving me little option other than ceasing The Porch Session's business operation entirely.

I am calling upon the government today to support this small business with appropriate licences. Small arts businesses of this kind are something our state should be celebrating, not putting regulatory roadblocks in front of, especially—and I know the minister is very proud of this, as he should be, and as we all are—with Adelaide recently becoming a UNESCO City of Music.

The Porch Sessions has created gigs for over 100 musicians, and countless creative suppliers, producers and technicians have been provided with regular employment opportunities. Over 6,000 South Australians have experienced a show across this time. The Porch Sessions also has the support of Arts SA. I believe there are advisers in the government who are aware of this. One of them has just sent me an SMS, and hopefully that will assist in cutting through some of this unnecessary red tape. I will certainly be the first one to applaud them if they are able to achieve that.

Arts SA has deemed The Porch Sessions worthy of over \$19,000 in grants to assist them as they grow and flourish to a position where they are collaborating with Australia's biggest touring companies and travelling festivals to create sustainable arts experiences for our state. As an example of the impact The Porch Sessions have made, Adelaide is widely known as a territory in which it is notoriously difficult to sell tickets in advance, but every single one of The Porch Sessions shows has sold out, with their most recent selection of shows selling out in less than 15 minutes.

Further, The Porch Sessions has become a nationally recognised touring route for musicians as it provides a guaranteed sell out show with guaranteed artist fees—a rarity when it comes to up and coming touring musicians across the country. In the short term, I hope the government, and I particularly call on the Deputy Premier as the minister responsible for consumer and business services, will support The Porch Sessions by allowing the business to apply for more than eight limited licences per year, each with a reasonable notification period.

In the long term, we need to look at possible better ways to help the business model but, if no action is taken, it will not only be diabolical to The Porch Sessions but to our reputation with all of those artists, businesses and touring companies that have been working with The Porch Sessions as we try to show them that we are a supportive environment that nurtures small businesses and the arts. Eight limited licences per year is an arbitrary number that Consumer and Business Services has applied to The Porch Sessions.

I would also ask the Deputy Premier to consider taking whatever administrative action he can to ensure that, when The Porch Sessions and businesses like it apply for these limited licences, they are able to get a reasonable amount of notice. They have not been knocked back for one yet but, when they are provided with their licence three days before a sold-out event, that is an enormous

risk and burden for that business to carry. It puts enormous stress on everyone involved and is completely unnecessary.

More than eight licences and more notice given for their provision is an easy way that the Deputy Premier can do something genuine to encourage city vibrancy by supporting the small businesses that are actually delivering it.

BALLARD, MS ABBIE

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:06): I rise to speak about a young gun footballer whose name is Abbie Ballard. She happens to live on a property next to us at Coomandook, and she is only 14 years old. With so many exciting opportunities arising in female football, it is great to see so many people taking part. Recently, the under-15 schoolgirls' state team returned home to South Australia after a week in Maroochydore competing at the School Sport Australia National Football Championships. The team had a great week both on and off the field, also seeing great individual success with two all-Australian selections.

One player in particular had an outstanding week gaining further accolades. Abbie Ballard was not only one of the two South Australian players selected as an all-Australian representative; she was also named runner-up player of the championships. Please keep in mind that Abbie's first appearance on the national stage was at Maroochydore. Abbie first came to the attention of the SANFL female talent and pathways manager when she attended the under-12 summer academy in 2011-12. She has continued her football at the Peake Football Club. That is where my boys play, and she is as good or better than anyone in the under-16 teams right throughout the Mallee League.

Last year, she rejoined the female talent pathway, representing West Adelaide in the SANFL Macca's Talent Shield. We all certainly look forward to following Abbie on her football journey for many years to come. With the talent player pathway taking shape with more opportunities than ever before, we hope to see more players follow in Abbie's footsteps by taking part in the various programs presented to female footballers.

I would certainly like to acknowledge the way Abbie approaches her football. When she is out on the field, she can give as much as she gets and, don't worry, the boys do not hold back because they know how skilled a footballer she is. She is a left-footer who can sneak around the packs. She is a good little rover who can drive forward and kick goals. Her brother Campbell kicked over 80 goals to be the leading goalkicker in the Mallee League this year, so the family are certainly formidable footballers, including her father, who recently turned 40 and only recently came back to playing football to bolster the reserves side at Peake.

I have watched Abbie flourish as a footballer out in the Mallee. The girls are allowed to play in the mixed football side in the under-16s as long as they qualify for that age group. Abbie is an absolute gun footballer. As I said, she can outplay and outfox pretty well everyone in the Mallee Football League. It is certainly good to see how well she did on the national stage at Maroochydore recently. I know she still plays in Adelaide at an elite level. We were talking about AFL women's teams earlier and I certainly think that in the not too distant future we will see Abbie on the national stage doing a great job representing not only the Peake football club but also our little town of Coomandook.

It is great to see girls who can do this and put all their ability into the sport they want to play. Not everyone wants to be a basketballer, a netballer or play some other sport. I think it is great that football has been able to embrace women in the mixed leagues and has allowed them to play at this young age so they can get their skills up and going. Into the future, I can see that Abbie Ballard's name will be up in lights. I would not be at all surprised—in fact, I think it is a certainty more than anything—if she is playing at the senior AFL level not too many years down the track.

MENTALLY FIT EP

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (16:11): I want to pay tribute to a group of people on Eyre Peninsula who are doing some fantastic work. The West Coast Youth and Community Support group is the umbrella group for Mentally Fit EP. Last Saturday night on 24 September in my hometown of Cummins they held a gala ball as a fundraiser. It is a long time since there has been a gala ball in the Cummins Institute, which was built in 1936.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has a capacity of 60 people?

Mr TRELOAR: No, 110 and we were sold out. It was an excellent event and I pay tribute to the organising committee for their efforts. I will not mention names because there are too many to go through and I will miss somebody. We had some excellent sponsorship, particularly from local Rotary groups, as well as the Bendigo Bank.

I have to highlight that during the night there was a guest speaking spot, which was filled by a young AFL/VFL footballer by the name of Jake Edwards who talked us through his story. At age 19, having recently been signed by Carlton I think it was, he found himself battling severe depression. He talked about those first few weeks and months when he found himself diagnosed and the journey through his depression and mental health challenges over the following months and years.

It was an insightful story. You could have heard a pin drop in the hall, which was packed to the hilt with 110 tickets sold. As I said, it was filled to capacity. What interested me and pleased me in particular was the age demographic of those who came along to not only hear this young man speak but also support Mentally Fit EP. It was a great night out. Funds were raised to support mental health on Eyre Peninsula. I understand that Jake Edwards went on from there to Streaky Bay and some other area schools, where he told his story again.

There is no doubt that mental health is a significant issue in modern society. Our own community has been touched on a couple of occasions by the ultimate outcome from mental health challenges, that is, suicide, and it was certainly front of mind for many of those who were there that night. Congratulations to West Coast Youth and Community Support and Mentally Fit EP on a great evening. It was a fantastic night and keep up the good work.

At 16:14 the house adjourned until Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 11:00.