

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

**Tuesday, 8 May 2018**

**The SPEAKER (Hon. V.A. Tarzia)** took the chair at 11:00 and read prayers.

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

*Members*

### MEMBERS, SWEARING IN

Mr Weatherill, to whom the oath of allegiance was administered by the Speaker, took his seat in the house as member for the district of Cheltenham.

*Address in Reply*

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Elder, I remind members that this is her first speech and accordingly I ask members to extend the traditional courtesies to the member.

**Ms HABIB (Elder) (11:03):** I move:

That the following Address in Reply to His Excellency's opening speech be adopted.

To His Excellency, the Hon. Hieu Van Le, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of South Australia and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, may it please Your Excellency—

1. We, the members of the House of Assembly, express our thanks for the speech with which Your Excellency was pleased to open parliament.
2. We assure Your Excellency that we will give our best attention to the matters placed before us.
3. We earnestly join in Your Excellency's desire for our deliberations to serve the advancement of the welfare of South Australia and all its people.

It is a great honour to rise this morning in this house to deliver my first speech. If you were to look around right now, you would see a change of faces, a change of ministers, a change to where the Liberal Party sits in this house, reflecting the change of government. It is a fitting scene for the people of South Australia, who have, as a majority, for the past three elections, voted for change. Mr Speaker, heartfelt congratulations to you on presiding over this change. I am certain you will bring the same qualities that you display as a local member—integrity, diligence and hard work—to this important role.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency the Governor on his opening of parliament last week and thank both him and Mrs Le for their service more broadly. His Excellency has highlighted the agenda of this government and the change we will deliver, beginning with transparency, accountability and a commitment to reform, with approximately 300 policies. Indeed, a strong plan for real change was far from a hollow slogan but rather an accurate description of the depth and breadth of the state Liberals' plan to create a better South Australia.

Being elected to serve our community and state as a member of parliament is a great honour and a great responsibility for all of us in this chamber and the Legislative Council. I warmly congratulate all members, both new and re-elected, regardless of which party they may represent or if they serve independently. For each of us, our journey here required hard work, commitment and above all else faith from those we are elected to represent, so I come to this role with humility and an unwavering commitment to serve the people living within the electorate of Elder.

The Elder electorate is a complex microcosm of suburban South Australia, with spotted industrial and retail pockets spanning across Hawthorn, Cumberland Park, Westbourne Park, Melrose Park, Daw Park, Colonel Light Gardens, Lower Mitcham, Clapham, Panorama, Pasadena,

Tonsley, Clovelly Park and Mitchell Park. Urban infill, renewal and varying electoral boundaries have seen the composition of Elder change over the decades; however, a remaining constant is that the seat of Elder is home to an incredible, diverse group of residents.

During the campaign, I have had the people living in Elder open their homes and their hearts to me. Across the board, people raised their concerns, outlined their ideas and shared their hopes for our state. Interestingly, people raised similar issues. It did not matter if they were a parent, a senior citizen, a young person, an employer or an employee. People living in Elder were generally concerned about the rising cost of living, the Repat closing, public transport and job opportunities.

Overall, residents were looking for a member of parliament whom they could trust, someone they could rely on and, most importantly, a representative who would deliver for them and the state. The residents of Elder have every right to place high expectations on me as their newly elected member of parliament. I sincerely thank them all for this opportunity to serve.

In this my first speech, I wish to reaffirm the commitment I made to many locals during the election campaign, that is, that I will dedicate my time in this role to engaging and representing our local community with integrity, diligence and compassion, to delivering tangible outcomes that improve the lives of everyday South Australians of all ages and all backgrounds, and to raising the bar so that with renewed optimism we can begin to change the way we think about politics, politicians and what is possible.

Today, you will hear my story, a story about my journey here, my values and what drives me and what is possible for our great state of South Australia, so let's start with: why politics? 'Why politics?' is the question that almost everyone asks and I suspect that it will come as no surprise when I say that it is often followed with, 'You must be crazy.'

In my case, I did not grow up thinking I wanted to be a politician some day. Of course, let's be frank, who in their right mind would, given the stereotype cast upon politicians? But I did grow up believing that each and every one of us could by our own innate ability make a difference to the world around us, even if that world just comprised our street or local neighbourhood. For this, I have my parents to thank, both of whom are in the gallery today.

My mum, Deanna, is originally from a small fishing town in Newfoundland, Canada, and my dad, Samih, is from a small village in Lebanon. They met and fell in love in Alice Springs, where I was born, a town with a big sense of community. My mum, a registered nurse, and my dad, a small business owner and one of the longest serving members of the Alice Springs Town Council, instilled in me the importance of family, hard work and community. My older sister, younger brother and I grew up watching our parents build a life starting with nothing, as is often the case with new migrants. They worked hard and gave generously of their time to shape the town in which we lived.

We were also very blessed to have as our godparents, known as Nanny Anna and Poppy Pete, proud locals epitomising the Australian spirit. Still to this day, the 10-metre sign carved out of stone that proudly welcomes visitors to Alice Springs as you enter the town and the Girl Guides hall are projects on which my dad volunteered and worked hard to deliver. Still to this day, community, family and hard work, combined with determination, justice, equality and freedom, constitute my core values, my guiding principles and my driving force.

It is easy to say that which you value when the winds are fair and your sail through life is calm. However, we all know it is when the tides turn and the waves of life seem to be crashing down—Thor, the god of thunder, pounding his hammer, willing your boat to turn over and sink to the bottom of the ocean, drowning you with it—that your true self and that which really matters to you are revealed. For me, this describes how I felt when I was 19 and my older sister, Nicole, who had survived her first battle with cancer by having her right leg amputated above her knee, was at the time fighting cancer once again, this time in her lungs.

She had such an incredible sense of humour, kindness for others and a love for life. I remember people would stare at her and her missing leg, confused by her missing leg—she was so beautiful with her long brown hair and her contagious smile—and she would joke, 'A crocodile ate it, and I had to crawl to the pub with only one leg!' or she would make up some other ridiculous story that left people both baffled and at ease. She fought so hard to live, with courage and selflessness,

but I did not know that at the time. It was only after the unthinkable happened and I was reading her journal that it hit me.

Growing up, she always kept a journal and, like all little sisters who know exactly how to annoy their big sisters, I tried my best to break the little lock and sneak a peek. When that did not work, I pleaded with her if I could read it. Finally, one day she conceded somewhat, saying in jest that I could read her journal one day—after she died. At that time, neither of us knew that that would only be a matter of years rather than the decades we both expected. So, when the unthinkable happened and I found myself reading her journal, travelling to a very dark place that I may not have come out of, it hit me how hard she had fought to live.

Still to this day, her words, sketched in her little journal, echo in my mind: 'I'm going to beat this cancer for it knows nothing of love, family, friends and the possibilities of this world.' She may not have succeeded in beating cancer after all, but she certainly jolted me into a new reality where I knew this life, no matter how short or how long, could not be taken for granted. That is when I realised what truly mattered to me, what I was prepared to take a stand for and what I was prepared to fight for: family, equality, justice, freedom and community.

I got involved in my local council as the first chair of the City of Marion Youth Advisory Committee, determined to give young people a voice in shaping their local area. I was then asked to be part of the steering committee that saw youth advisory committees rolled out across the state. From there, I went on to work for a number of not-for-profit organisations that provided people with the skills and knowledge to engage in education or employment and, most importantly, create a happy and successful life for themselves, regardless of their background. In all my working and volunteer roles, the driving force has been to alleviate suffering, break down barriers and create circumstances where South Australians can be the best that they can be and live safe, well, happy lives.

For some, a career in the not-for-profit sector may at first seem at odds with the Liberal Party ethos. However, it is my values that give me cause to stand tall and proud as a member of the Liberal Party committed to liberalism. For me, the essence of liberalism is in fact reflected in many not-for-profit organisations that are genuine about creating sustainable, positive change for individuals. In my mind, that means a hand up not a handout. Liberalism is about creating a society that allows individuals to reach their full potential if they so choose. It is about rewarding effort and protecting one's freedom.

Outside my working life, my subconscious commitment to liberalism found other ways to express itself. In 2010, I recall driving home one fine spring day and sighting a large vinyl banner. It was poorly fixed to a wire fence so that its bottom right corner flapped in the wind, banging against the wire, demanding my attention. The banner encouraged community members to stand for local government. It was a sign, both literally and metaphorically. I ran in the 2010 local government elections and was honoured to be elected to serve on the City of Marion council. In many ways, it was a natural extension of my commitment to the community.

During that time, a fellow councillor, David Speirs, the now member for Black and Minister for Environment and Water, who shared my passion for grassroots community change, asked me if I had ever considered running for state parliament. At that time, the answer was no, but the seed was planted and I began to contemplate the honour it would be to be able to serve as a member of state parliament and the changes and contributions that could be made from such a position.

For anyone who has not been involved in an election campaign, let me share with you the giant chasm that lay between the initial decision to run for state parliament and the arrival into parliament. It involves letterboxing so many kilometres that I estimate one could walk the Grand Canyon, return, 306 times (I did actually calculate that out); doorknocking thousands of homes that for an average woman such as myself you can expect to wear through the soles of a pair of Skechers in just two to three months; fundraising thousands of dollars to cover the costs of printing, postage and corflutes; and an army of dedicated supporters to tend to the many other activities that form the basis of a genuine grassroots campaign.

I highlight this in honour of the many people who joined with me to campaign in the seat of Elder in the lead-up to both the 2014 and 2018 state elections. A special thank you to Ben Turner

and Gabrielle Appleby, who shared the responsibility of campaign manager in the lead-up to the 2014 election, and volunteers, such as Kelvin Binns and Alex Scott, who worked tirelessly. While I did not win that election, our failures shape who we are and should be acknowledged along with our successes, not to mention that, regardless of the outcome, it was a hard-fought campaign.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the team whose hard work and unwavering commitment saw me sworn in as the member for Elder last Thursday, namely, the volunteer campaign committee, which included Lauren Kilsby, Jacinta Weiss, Margeaux Cameron-Smith, Zane Basic, Hugh Sutton, Peter Clark, Cecilia Schutz and Russell Hanna. I pay tribute to Ralph Walker who, like Margeaux, dedicated time every single week to doorknock with me in the months leading up to the election and letterboxed whole suburbs.

I would also like to acknowledge Alex May for her support that blossomed into a friendship over the course of two campaigns; Rowan Thomas, who volunteered his time after a hard day's work—I thank Rowan from the bottom of my heart, and I am forever grateful for his dedication, his patience and his wise counsel; Margaret Jenkins, for believing in me, keeping the faith and reminding me what is possible; and my brother, Samir, his wife and their delightful children—my gorgeous niece and nephews. Samir is my lighthouse, and always has been. We have certainly sailed through rough seas together, as mentioned, yet he is always there to listen to me and to support me.

To the young Liberals, the old Liberals and everyone in between, I thank them for all their support. I would also like to thank my friends and those from the community who got involved, not because they were necessarily committed to the Liberal Party but because they believed in me, they believed in change and they believed South Australia deserved better from its state government.

Within the Liberal Party I would like to thank the Premier for his strong leadership, many visits to the electorate and ongoing thoughtful encouragement; the Deputy Premier, Vickie Chapman, for doorknocking with me and role modelling how one can be graceful, stylish and a force to be reckoned with all at the same time; and the Hon. Stephen Wade. This state has never had a more committed, compassionate, competent health minister—a gentle man and a gentle soul, who I have no doubt will deliver a much-needed improved healthcare system for this state.

I am also truly grateful for all the support from my federal colleague, Nicole Flint, member for Boothby. She is an exceptionally hard worker, who puts the people of Boothby first and has already made a significant difference in such a short time. I would also like to thank Senator Simon Birmingham, federal Minister for Education, for his wisdom, ongoing support and encouragement over the years; and Sascha Meldrum, our state director, for her direction and her genuine care, not just for results, but for people and process.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to thank the Hon. David Ridgway, the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. I was so fortunate to be assigned David Ridgway as my mentor back in 2013. He has been on this campaign journey with me from the very start, and all the way he has been in the trenches with me. Unwavering loyalty, putting the greater good above one's own personal interest and courage and honour are not phrases that are often used to describe politicians, yet this describes exactly the kind of politician and person that David Ridgway is. Thank you to Ridgy.

Outside all those who supported the ground game (that is, the street-to-street warfare such as doorknocking) and the air game of the campaign (that is, the pamphlets you find in your letterboxes and the ads you see on TV), I would like to acknowledge someone very, very special who supported me through the third battlefield. This is the battlefield that people do not usually talk about but exists for all people who embark on a journey and venture to go beyond where they have gone before. This battlefield takes place in your own mind: it is the mind game, where each of us has to face our own vulnerabilities, our own self-doubt and our own exhaustion that tempts us to call it a day and not to worry about doorknocking on those few extra doors.

Supporting me through the mind game (and life in general) is my best friend and husband, Bradley Power. In fact, Brad comes from the same small town in Newfoundland, Canada, as my mother. We met in his home town when we were 16 years of age. He shares my values and my commitment to the community. He reminded me to keep doorknocking, despite tiredness, and to remain steadfast, regardless of what the opposition may throw my way. Above all, he inspires me to be better and to do better each and every day.

Doing better, and being better, is what is required of all of us in government and, more broadly, in this parliament. Obviously, we have much to be proud of and grateful for in South Australia but, as the recent election result shows, many share my view that South Australia could be a lot better. Where we once led the nation we now lag behind. We may have the largest battery in the world—which, by no means, I do not begrudge—but we also have a healthcare system that is failing us, an education system that is not worthy of the promise of our children and young people, and our most vulnerable people—children, guardians of the state and the elderly in state care—being tragically let down by its former government.

Gandhi said, 'The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.' That being the case, it would be fair to say that as a state we have well and truly failed. A different approach, a change, is required. I am proud to be a part of that change, a part of the new Liberal government that has set an ambitious reform agenda to create hope and prosperity for South Australians, as outlined by His Excellency last Thursday.

I join resolutely with my Liberal parliamentary colleagues in our commitments to:

1. Explore, critically assess and invest in infrastructure that will contribute to a livability, affordability, productivity, creativity and, as a consequence, economic growth, with more jobs and more opportunities.

2. Embark on a journey of economic reform, including tax reform, that will promote productivity, innovation and business confidence in investment. I want to see South Australia become a strong, thriving economy that can maintain a fair social welfare net. I am keen to support economic reform and tax reforms, such as the reduction in payroll tax, that will provide greater opportunities for South Australians to show their enterprise, realise their dreams and be rewarded for their effort. I am wholeheartedly committed to economic reform and tax reform that ultimately means providing an improved standard of living for all South Australians.

3. Repair and undo the damage of Labor's Transforming Health, creating a healthcare system that we can rely on, be proud of and meets the challenges that we face as a state.

4. Improve educational outcomes. I am passionate about policies that focus on raising the quality of education and training in our state. Education creates a pathway to jobs and prosperity and the foundation for a modern society. We need to see education as a life-long process, with opportunities for people to participate at various points in their life, something that is even more important as we face significant changes in the employment markets, and people are likely to have multiple careers in their life time.

Ensuring that South Australians have access to quality education and training to develop the knowledge and skills for the jobs of today and the jobs of tomorrow is essential for better living, not only for the individual but for our state as a whole. These commitments were well received and endorsed by the people living in the electorate of Elder.

I would also like to touch on an area that not only requires policy reform but an area where complete generational and cultural change is required. To begin, through the Speaker, I ask everyone in this chamber, and anyone who may be listening to me speak over the internet or who may be reading my words, to quieten their mind and name four women you care about. They may be your family, they may be your friends, they may be your work colleagues. Say their names and hold their faces in your imagination.

Now imagine that one of those four women constantly lives in fear and that she goes home to be abused, whether that be verbally, emotionally or physically. Unfortunately, for many it will not require much imagination, for it is a reality. One in four women experiences violence from a partner, and one in three has children present. Many men are also suffering the impact of domestic and family violence.

When the Premier asked me to be the Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention, he spoke about my resilience and my commitment to being a strong voice and advocate for those who are vulnerable. He also spoke about his commitment to creating change by reducing the prevalence and the impact of domestic and family violence.

As is often the case with our Premier, he challenges the status quo. He begins by gently suggesting we can do better and then by leading the way. Domestic and family violence and abuse thrive only in silence. The Premier's appointment represents a first for South Australia and helps to shine a light on this issue, ensuring that it remains front and centre. Freedom from violence is everyone's right and everyone's responsibility. There is an unprecedented community momentum behind the call for Australia to be a place free from domestic and family violence. We now have the opportunity to build on the work that has been done.

I call upon every single member of this chamber, regardless of their political allegiance, and every single member of the South Australian community to work together to end domestic and family violence. No one government and no one group can address the problem alone, but by working together, united in our common cause for genuine change, I believe we can create a state where people feel safe in their own homes and where children can grow and develop in safe and secure environments. Together, we can continue to challenge the ideas and behaviours that allow domestic and family violence to occur and together we can create the cultural change in our state and our country that is needed to end domestic and family violence. Together, we can make our homes, our dinner tables and our families the safe and peaceful havens they should be.

It is about change, change in the way we do politics, change for a more prosperous South Australia and for a better way of life for all of us—change beginning in this 54<sup>th</sup> parliament with a change of government, a fitting scene for the people of South Australia, indeed. The future lies before us filled with hope and possibility. The time is now. Let us begin the work.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (11:34):** Mr Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you again on your election to an important office. I wish you all the very best in your future deliberations to allow us the opportunity, as Her Majesty's Opposition, to hold this government to account. Although this is not my maiden speech, it is certainly the first opportunity I have had to address this chamber as the member for Croydon. I would like to take the opportunity to reflect upon the extraordinary show of faith in me by the residents and constituents of Croydon.

I am very grateful to have been elected as their representative, and I would like to commit myself to doing my utmost to ensure that their interests are best represented in this place. The electorate of Croydon is a unique one. It is incredibly diverse. It has a number of suburbs within it, an inner suburban electorate within the inner north-western suburbs of Adelaide. The suburbs of Angle Park, Athol Park, Bowden, Brompton, Croydon, Croydon Park, Devon Park, Dudley Park, Ferryden Park, Kilkenny, Mansfield Park, Regency Park, Renown Park, Ridleyton, West Croydon and Woodville Gardens are entirely within the seat, as are parts of Allenby Gardens, Welland and West Hindmarsh.

I profoundly love the community I live in. My wife and I frequently reflect upon the fact of how lucky we are to be able to live in our community. The thing that we particularly like about the electorate is its incredible diversity. I understand that the seat of Croydon has more South Australians within it who speak English as a second language, than any other. It has representatives from all parts of our globe. However, more than just the diversity, I value the sense of warmth and inclusivity that all electors in Croydon share. It speaks volumes about the best we see in our state and our nation. Croydon very much represents a state and a nation with an open heart to people from other parts of the world.

It rings true with me, particularly in the context of my personal experience—which I will not rehash today, as I had the opportunity to do that within my maiden speech—to be able to live in a nation that welcomes others who seek nothing more than an opportunity to a decent standard of living. This is something I hold dear, as does my great party.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the former member for Croydon, the Hon. Michael Atkinson MP—indeed, your predecessor, Mr Speaker. For those of us who have known Mick over the years, and that accounts for a large number in this place, he is a unique individual whose idiosyncrasies are, I think, outweighed by his enormous intellect. He is a person of incredible smarts

and political wisdom, but he also has a sense of compassion. I very much enjoyed the opportunity to watch Mick at work in the electorate of Croydon.

I often reflect upon the fact that he remembered literally every single constituent's name. He was very proud in showing that off to me on a regular basis when he started naming his constituents' names, their wife's name, their children's names and their dog's name. When he started speaking to them in their native tongue, translating the dog's name into a native tongue, it was quite an extraordinary performance. He will be sorely missed around this place for his great wisdom.

I want to acknowledge the campaign team. No-one gets elected to this place without an incredible contribution from others. I had a great suite of volunteers assisting me in a whole range of standard electoral functions, and I want to acknowledge their contribution. I particularly want to acknowledge that of Lawrence Ben, who was my campaign manager—a fine young man who, I think, will have a lot to offer this state and nation in the future. I also want to put on the record my thanks to a loyal friend of mine, Nick Lombardi. Mr Nick Lombardi served in a number of capacities, helping me out over the years, but, above all else, he has been a great mate and a true friend, and I want to thank him for his work.

I also want to put on the record my thanks to another individual who is present with us today—the member for Cheltenham. The member for Cheltenham has given our state and community incredible service over the years. He courageously led Labor to two elections and served as Premier for almost seven years, and ensured that Labor's values continue to serve the best interests of all South Australians, always fighting, always standing up for South Australia. The member for Cheltenham also enjoys an incredible respect on the national stage, and he always made sure that his advocacy on the national stage was about representing the best interests of our state. When he speaks, people listen.

I do not think there is anything more that the member for Cheltenham could have done for our state or for our party in his time leading it. The member for Cheltenham is a true statesman of South Australia, and our state has flourished under his leadership. It is a proud Labor legacy that he leaves behind, one that I feel very grateful to be able to inherit and hopefully build upon. I am very lucky to be able to call upon his experience and wisdom within our party room as he continues to serve the people of Cheltenham with vigour.

I would like to welcome all new members to the House of Assembly who join me in this chamber for the first time, regardless of their political persuasion. We have just heard one new member share their story and how it has informed their politics. I wish you all the very best in your time in this chamber and have no doubt that you will represent the interests of your constituents well.

To the Independents in this chamber, I particularly want to congratulate you on your election. Mr Speaker, as you know all too well, we witnessed during the last election campaign that entering the fold of state politics as an alternative to the major parties presents substantial challenges, but a number of people were able to succeed despite that. I want to acknowledge them and their advocacy for their local communities and showing the value in standing up for what they believe in as proud local representatives. I would particularly like to acknowledge the member for Frome and thank him for his contribution, particularly in the last state cabinet. His contribution around the cabinet table was always wise and his advocacy, for not only his area but the South Australian regions in general, was profound and had an absolute impact on public policy, only in a positive way.

To be opposition leader is unique in itself. It is not a position that one necessarily aspires to: I would have been perfectly content and somewhat humbled to be able to continue to serve the state in a capacity as a minister in an ongoing Weatherill Labor government. Having said that, that is not to be. Now, with the opportunity of opposition, for my party to have shown confidence in me by electing me as opposition leader is an extraordinary privilege and one that is not lost on me. The responsibility is profound and I want to thank my caucus colleagues and the South Australian Labor Party in general for their confidence in me and I hope I serve them well.

I am only able to take up this extraordinary responsibility though with the comfort of knowing I have an incredible team behind me. I would like to acknowledge the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Port Adelaide, a woman of great intellect and incredible talent. Her support thus far has already been called upon and incredibly useful. The shadow cabinet that I am

fortunate to lead is a great blend of both new talent, but also experience, including having within it the father of the house. I am sure the shadow cabinet will serve me and the state well.

Likewise, the caucus is a mix of experience and new talent. The great thing I admire the most about the Labor caucus in this state is its culture. We have a culture of discipline and unity and absolute commitment to our ongoing Labor cause. I thank them for their support. It is critical that we see our time in opposition as an opportunity—an opportunity to refresh, an opportunity to renew. But that has to start with listening. I have committed myself to visit every one of the 47 electorates in this state to hear from South Australian constituents about what exactly it is that they want and expect from their state government.

I do not want to tell them what is good for them, what can or cannot be done. I simply want to listen and learn. We will do that and we will improve for it. We acknowledge that mistakes have been made, but we want to learn from them, and the best source of that advice will come from South Australians themselves. However, it is also important to acknowledge that a lot has been achieved by Labor in this state over a sustained period of time. There is a lot of good of which we can be proud, which probably explains why, although we lost at the last election, we did enjoy a swing to us.

Labor governments are at their best when we deliver a prosperous society that benefits everybody, a society where no-one is left behind. This must always be our core business as we safeguard and enhance people's standard of living. Doing that means investment in critical services, particularly in our schools and hospitals. People's access to education and quality health care should never be a function of their income or their wealth. On this score, Labor delivered. We delivered brand-new hospital infrastructure across the state despite, in some instances, it being opposed—more doctors, more nurses, major upgrades.

It is also true that the former Labor administration oversaw an entire revitalisation of our CBD, with a redeveloped Adelaide Oval—which was opposed—Riverbank Precinct, Adelaide Convention Centre, Festival Plaza, and laneways and small bars that have truly put South Australia and Adelaide on the world map. It has culminated, in 2017, in *Lonely Planet* naming South Australia as one of the top five places in the world to visit, and that followed *Lonely Planet* naming Adelaide as one of the top 10 cities in the world to visit.

It is also true that *The Economist* has consistently over the last six years rated Adelaide as the fifth most livable city in the world, and that is from an incredibly long list. So much for those saying that South Australians have not enjoyed an improved standard of living over the last 16 years. It was Labor that delivered and developed a long-term plan for Adelaide, that saw a vibrant city accessible, livable and connected with neighbourhoods, resilience in the face of a changing climate and prosperity and jobs for future generations.

It was Labor that since 2002-03 invested more than \$33 billion to keep South Australia improving—money in hospitals, roads, schools and public transport; completed the Southern Expressway duplication; constructed the South Road superway; and commenced the Torrens to Torrens and Northern Connector projects. On community safety, under Labor crimes against person and property have essentially halved and we have more police officers on the beat than ever before because of our record investment in one of the best resourced police forces in the nation. South Australia, of course, now has more police officers on a per capita basis than any other state in the nation.

Then there is the economy. A few short years ago, when I was lucky enough to enter the state parliament, everybody—every conservative commentator, every one of those members opposite—was predicting the end of the South Australian economy. We faced an enormous economic shock. We faced one of the most substantial challenges that the South Australian economy has ever seen. Not too many were not predicting double-digit unemployment—the subs were not coming and the cars were going.

At that point, the Labor government had two options, and these two options, I think, largely represent a substantial point of difference between the philosophy of the two major parties in this place. You could choose to take your hands off the wheel, so to speak, and let the market do its thing, or you could be a government that decided to act. We chose the latter.



Record investments in infrastructure, significant reforms, particularly around taxation, including the abolition of some business taxes, industry policy coupled with investment in growth sectors, and a direct investment in private sector employment have delivered real results and all were achieved while seeing the budget return to surplus. Today, we have the third lowest unemployment rate in the nation, a growing economy, business confidence higher than the national average, and this is all despite the best efforts of those opposite constantly talking down this state. Indeed, the new Marshall government has inherited an economy with momentum.

For the sake of our state, I hope they seize it but, worryingly, there appears to be a decided lack of ambition on the part of the new Premier. One would have thought that after 16 years there would be a whole lot of ambition coming from those opposite. That was best represented last week during question time where, when the new Premier was constantly asked what his targets are for employment growth, what his targets are for our ranking in national rankings on unemployment and what his targets are around economic growth and population growth, concerningly, he offered nothing, only platitudes.

Equally worrying is the posture that this new government seem to have in regard to their position in the federation. It is true that cooperation makes sense, but one must understand the difference between cooperation and kowtowing, the difference between reaching agreement and total acquiescence. Let's take the Premier's own portfolio in defence industries, for instance. Within days of the election of a new conservative government in this state, information surfaced that the federal conservatives were contemplating the movement of approximately 700 submarine maintenance jobs to Perth for what could only be federal political reasons.

What was the response from the new Premier? Total silence. Then, only a number of weeks later, when the federal government's ASC announced that over 200 workers were going to be sacked, again, what was the Premier's response? Total silence. One fears that the new Premier is taking his orders from the federal defence industry minister, Mr Christopher Pyne (member for Sturt). One is concerned that our Premier is very much 'Pyne's patsy'.

What was it that South Australia got out of this silence and acquiescence from those opposite as the federal government made decisions contrary to our state's interest? What was it that South Australia got for the Premier's compliance with Mr Pyne? It appears a photo op, nothing more than a photo op of the new Premier on a submarine somewhere in the Eastern States in a line-up of diplomats shaking hands with the French president. This is hardly a return on investment of those opposite.

Then there is the monitoring of the Premier's own 100-day plan. Already, they lag behind on a number of fronts. There are a number of their own metrics—not metrics set by the opposition, not metrics set by journalists or commentators, metrics set by Mr Marshall, the Premier himself—which seem to be failing to be met.

However, there are some parts of the plan that we do not mind. I have indicated early on a sincere desire for this opposition to be constructive. I intend to be a constructive opposition leader. For example, I have already indicated the opposition's willingness to work with the government on payroll tax, subject to the details, but there are other instances where we will be fulfilling our obligation to hold this government to account. For this opposition, the test is simple: if the government have policies that genuinely help small businesses or help people, we will work with them constructively, but where they have policies that hurt small business or hurt people, then we intend to do the exact opposite.

If I were to point out an example of where we intended to do that, it would be in the area of shop trading hours. Allow me just to reflect on the government's policy around the total deregulation of shop trading hours. Who is arguing for this change? The people who are arguing for this change are Woolworths, Coles and Westfield—the big guys. Why are they arguing for that? They are arguing for it because they want greater profits. If you do not believe me, ask them.

The total deregulation of trading hours in this state will be bad for jobs, bad for consumers, bad for people. It will be bad for jobs because anyone who understands the way the retail sector operates will tell you that wages are always determined as a percentage of sales. We know that in South Australia 28 per cent of the supermarket market, in comparison to around about 8 per cent in

the Eastern States, delivers in the order of 10 to 12 per cent of their sales on wages. That stands in stark contrast to Coles and Woolworths, where it sits around 6 to 7 per cent, and Aldi at 4 per cent.

We know that deregulation of trading hours will achieve a significant movement of market share away from the independent sector that we proudly support in South Australia, right into the hands of the duopoly—the government's mates. That of course will move market share, which will see a duopolisation of the market. That is bad for consumers. It is one of the reasons why South Australians enjoy cheaper prices in our supermarkets in comparison to the Eastern States.

But it is also true that the government's policy is bad for people. In South Australia, shops are open in metropolitan Adelaide 355 days of the year. The only 10 days when the major stores are closed are on public holidays—only public holidays. One needs to understand what public holidays are about when they contemplate the government's agenda around total deregulation. I have this radical idea: my party believes in a radical notion that public holidays should be a holiday—hardly an extraordinary proposition.

Public holidays are not about money. Public holidays are about the most precious commodity of all: time. That is what public holidays are about; they are about time. I know all too well from my years in the retail sector that as we have seen more and more trading hours, they have come at the expense of time for low income workers and their families—the time for them to be able to go home and see their kids and their spouse and not go home to an empty house on a Monday or a Tuesday.

It is not an unreasonable proposition in an increasingly prosperous society. We are not going to be an opposition party that sacrifices ordinary working people's time, particularly low income workers' time, with their families. We will not be sacrificing that on the altar of giving more profits to Coles and Woolworths. Time matters, and we will stand up for working people being able to enjoy time with their families, and particularly for the small business owners in this state who already struggle as it is.

What I want for my family is no different from what most parents want for theirs, which leads me to my family. I am very lucky to be able to have my mother and father present in the gallery today. My mum and dad have been a steadfast support for me throughout all my life. That was best shown during the course of the election campaign, and I want to thank them for their ongoing support. I particularly want to take this opportunity to again put on the public record my enormous gratitude to my wife.

Annabel Malinauskas is a beautiful woman who has supported me in more ways than I can know. She is a woman of great intellect and has extraordinary grace and poise. She herself started a new job yesterday in a different role. I know she will approach that job with the same intellect and work ethic that has served her well in jobs prior. She handles all this while also having a largely absent husband, due to the rigour these jobs require, and while also raising two young children, including my youngest, son Jack, who is seven months old, and my daughter, Sophie. I would not be here without her and I want to thank her for everything, but particularly for her love.

As I said, what I want for my family and my children is no different from what every other family wants for theirs, a decent standard of living in a safe environment, and that is why I believe we in Labor remain well positioned. In an era of booming profits but flat wages, there is still a yearning for a fair society where everyone, rather than just a few, enjoys increasing prosperity. In an era of an ageing population, people still increasingly desire investment in public health care and, in an era when the muscle between our ears is becoming more important than ever, people still need a good education. These are all pursuits consistent with our values, which is why our values will serve us well in opposition.

We will fulfil our mandate of being an effective and probing opposition, but we will do it with a keen eye to the future. Progress is in this state's DNA, but leaving no-one behind is in ours. We will focus on the basics, and that will allow us to present a strong alternative at the next election.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (12:01):** I rise to speak in response to the address of His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia. All of us were present at the time of his delivering that address, and this year I was

particularly pleased that I was able to arrange for my granddaughter, Adelaide Chapman, to attend her first opening of parliament. I think it is important, in respect of civil responsibility and service in public office, that our younger generation learn and appreciate early on the significance of having the opportunity to be a member of this house or the other place in the governance of our state. Apart from feeling tired about the length of the proceedings, she was able to recount to her schoolmates the next day the honour she felt about being present and listening to His Excellency.

I wish to thank His Excellency and Mrs Le for their dedicated service in his position of Governor of South Australia. They are loved everywhere they go. They are certainly appreciated, and they are highly respected. The story of their own travel to South Australia and then the journey towards, ultimately, their residence here on North Terrace is an inspiring one, and we know it well. It is something that continues to inspire other South Australians.

Governors, of course, have historical significance to the state. In many ways, they are really the 'protector', and that is why a number of our Indigenous communities highly value the significance of this office. It ensured, from a historical perspective, a level of protection that they felt confidence in in respect of the excesses and powers of governments. Indeed, none other than the late Dame Roma Mitchell outlined that in her contribution as governor, and the importance of the role still remains today for those in our Indigenous communities.

On other occasions, I have outlined the significance of the role of Governor and the special powers the Governor has. In an era when we continue to raise the question of how we should be governed nationally, and consequently here in South Australia, and with a burst of enthusiasm more recently from those in the Republican Movement—I acknowledge that I am a member of the Australian Republican Movement—the question is often raised of how governors and the Governor-General in Australia would represent us in the future.

As we have heard, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the only reigning monarch ever to visit our state and enter the parliament, and therefore someone whom I think we all revere and highly regard, has identified some diminution of her public duties and the possibility, in due course, of having a new monarch. I cannot say any more because I think under the Treason Act I could still be lynched if I were to talk about the death of a monarch, so I will stop at that point.

Mr Deputy Speaker, may I also congratulate you on your appointment. Our new Speaker has also been elected, someone who gave a sterling contribution during the last state campaign particularly in fending off a significant third political force, someone who purported to elevate himself to the status of being a third political force—an underperforming individual but, nevertheless, he was sent packing with no small thanks to the member for Hartley, who is now in the position of Speaker. I wish him well. Of course, he is engaged to one of the smartest young women I know in the state, and I wish him well for his impending marriage.

To the leader and to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, it is not an easy position to be in, but I congratulate you both on being recognised by your peers and your appointments. To the Leader of the Opposition, there is a matter which is dear to my heart and which was a vexed issue with the former member for Croydon, and that is the name of his seat.

The Australian Electoral Commission recently announced, in the circumstances of our population diminution and the consequence of losing a federal seat, a draft boundaries redistribution. As they usually do in these things, they have commented on a number of applications that were put to the naming of seats. They schedule, in their current draft considerations, a number of applications by multiple parties—individuals and political parties—to rename seats in honour of famous blokes. I do not want to diminish the contribution of very significant male contributors to our state politically, economically and on a humanitarian basis, but all of them were for blokes.

However, the Australian Electoral Commission in its consideration decided that Catherine Helen Spence should be recognised. In their draft for the renaming of a proposed area, the seat of Wakefield, which was largely the old seat of Bonython, it is to be renamed Spence, and I want to remind members why. They state in their own report that they want to recognise and honour Catherine Helen Spence (1825-1910) 'for her work as an advocate for female suffrage and electoral reform'. To remind members, I am going to very quickly read the commendation they acknowledge:

Throughout her life Spence was an advocate for justice for the disadvantaged and dispossessed, using her books and newspaper articles to argue for equality and opportunity. Spence was a member of several prominent reform boards in South Australia and helped found the first fostering-out scheme to help orphaned, destitute and delinquent children. This belief in equality of opportunity influenced Spence to become a strong advocate for the introduction of proportional representation. In 1891, Spence joined the South Australian Women's Suffrage League, and as vice president of that organization from 1891 helped to bring about women's right to vote in state elections and an women's right to stand for the state parliament. These measures were introduced in 1894 making South Australia one of the first communities in the world to enfranchise women.

And, I add, the first in the world to allow them to stand for parliament. It continues:

Spence continued to fight for women's suffrage throughout Australia. In part through the efforts of Spence, the women of Western Australia earned the franchise in 1899 as did the women of New South Wales in 1902.

Spence also became the first female political candidate in Australia when she stood (unsuccessfully) for a seat at the Federal Convention elections of 1897.

Thank you very much to the Australian Electoral Commission. However, the former member for Croydon had the opportunity in his own seat, when the state Electoral Commission recognised that his seat should be called Spence, to recognise her work and contribution.

The former member for Croydon, the former Speaker of this house, who may have done some good things—I am not going to go through his list of pros and cons today because it would be a very long list on the other side—served in this parliament and actively and successfully pursued the removal of Spence as the name of his electorate and had it returned to being the seat of Croydon. Shame should be on him forever, and he knows it because I have made it very clear to him on a number of occasions.

Nevertheless, I want to thank Australian Electoral Commission and if they do not take it up—if in the end the Australian Electoral Commission's final determination is not to pursue that for the current seat of Wakefield in its redistribution—then I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to do just that: as he resumes the seat of Croydon, his electorate, of which he should be richly proud and which as he has outlined today covers an enormous number of different suburbs, that it be given a dignified return to being the seat of Spence.

In relation to the campaign itself, the reason we are in government is that we were successful in winning a number of seats, and we have heard the magnificent contribution of the member for Elder. I am sure that we will listen with interest to all the other members who were elected as first-time members. Fortunately, the class of 2018 had more on our side of politics than on the other side, but to those who are members of the Labor Party, both in this chamber and in the other place, congratulations. There will be some of you who are already actively working on making sure that you have another career at the end of four years, but what I will say to you is this: you have received the support of your electorate, and you are entitled to be treated with respect.

In this parliament, if we as ministers are in your electorates or asking to be briefed in relation to matters which are in your electorates and which you wish to seek to have followed up, whether you are Liberal, Labor, or any other colour, we in this government will respect you as a member of that office. Unfortunately, the precedent of ministers recognising local members and attending at their offices has sadly been more in the breach than in the observance in my 16 years' experience here as a member the opposition, but our government is committed in that regard.

With respect to the election, there are many people to thank now that we have the opportunity to be in government. There are a number of members, but I particularly want to acknowledge those in the Premier's office now—that is, James Stevens, Alex May, Richard Yeeles, and Paul Armanas, the last of which used to work for me and the penultimate of which has worked for multiple premiers over many decades. Each of these led teams that were outstanding in relation to assisting our leader become Premier and also to win the election, along with Sascha Meldrum, who was the director of the party and continues to have a strong leadership style, keeping our party on track.

In terms of the constituents of the state seat of Bragg, I am going to miss those whom I have represented in the past eight years in the Adelaide Hills. Redistributions at the state level have meant that I have donated a nice slice of my electorate to the member for Dunstan, our Premier—I think it is a good career move, actually! By the same token, I have inherited some of his—not so good! No, I say that mischievously. Obviously my electorate has moved to the north, and as a consequence of

all that I have lost, as the local member, a significant area in the Adelaide Hills. I think I now have only a tiny little piece up near the end of Cleland Conservation Park which actually overlaps into the federal seat of Mayo.

I have loved representing those people in the valley at Piccadilly, Uraidla, Crafers and that region. It has been an honour to represent them. I know that our new members of parliament, three of whom pick up a slice of that area, will enjoy representing those people. I wish that to be acknowledged.

I am proud to say that I won the seat of Bragg with an increased majority. I am also proud to say that when we had our declaration of the poll, we had members from the ALP there: Mr Rick Sarre, who was the candidate, and another. We in Bragg are very generous. We invited them back to our celebratory party on the declaration and they honoured us with their acceptance. It is terrific that we have been able to be successful this time and form government.

I, too, wish to make some comment in relation to the federation. The Leader of the Opposition has embarked on a rather scathing attack on what I see as a constructive relationship that is now being built between the state government and the federal government. Whatever colour either is politically at any one time, it is important that we have a constructive relationship.

I know it has been the previous history by premiers Rann and Weatherill, who have been in those positions, to embark on this idea that they needed to stand up for South Australia, meaning that they needed to have a fight with whomever was in Canberra. I think that is a rather juvenile approach. It has not helped Western Australia over the years, which has been a regular proponent of it, and in my view it does not augur well in respect of obtaining benefits for this state.

If we were to consider, for example, the demise of South Australia on economic indicators, of which on nearly every level we are the worst in the nation, 16 years of a Labor administration has hardly helped. I will not go into all the sins in the history there, but I make this point: it is not effective and it is not constructive. You might make some cheap political point, but it is important on issues relevant to South Australia, such as the River Murray and access to water from it, that we do work constructively with the other states and the commonwealth. At times when the previous government and indeed the premier said, for example, 'We do need to have a royal commission into these matters,' we agreed. What we do not see as productive or constructive is to have a fight, which simply leaves the matter unresolved, with us missing out.

I was in New South Wales on Saturday, and fortunately they reminded me that 10 years ago they were at the bottom of every economic indicator within the federation of Australia. They worked hard with a significant reform agenda, from a daily television exposé of what was happening in their ICAC administrations across to responsible government and very significant infrastructure and social rebuilding of that state, so that now they are in a high-performance position.

Some would say, 'Well, they are a much bigger state. They are having a massive increase in population.' Yes, they do enjoy the benefits of that, but for a long period of time they had a net exodus of their people out of New South Wales while Victoria was taking that positive intrastate population benefit. They were prepared to do the work and turn it around. Yes, they had extra money, but they turned around their population issue.

If one were to look at the state of Tasmania—even more comparative population wise—under a Liberal administration they too are turning around the economic indicators for their state and have demonstrably grown new areas of economic income. They have also made a significant impact as a member of the federation because even they now are up above in a number of the performance indicators that we sadly fail under.

Having a fight with the people you have to deal with about the share of our money, for example, or the delineation of the entitlements that we should have in respect of shares of infrastructure funds or the like does not resolve anything. It never has and it never will. The Premier has made it quite clear that the blame game is over here. We are going to work constructively with these people, and we are not going to have a period of economic isolation because of tempestuous, unnecessary and fractious behaviour on behalf of the state government, either at the Premier's level or the ministers'.

The other aspects that need to be touched on include the significance of the way the new government will operate. His Excellency outlined a number of the areas of transparency that the new government will initiate. Firstly, the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption, at the commissioner's discretion, will have the power under the introduction of new legislation to hold public hearings when investigating matters relating to maladministration and misconduct.

This is something that is necessary—and it was exposed again as necessary in the Oakden report that we have received and read regarding that shameful chapter of history—and we intend to do that. The public's right to information legislation will be proposed to ensure that sufficient protection is given to journalists and their sources, and that will be progressed as a priority, as will other initiatives such as the whistleblower reform in the public integrity matters, and they will all have priority in the legislative advances that we will be initiating this week.

Another aspect I want to touch on is in respect of government advertising, which has been an area of exploitation of the former government, which has been scandalous in my view, which we had previously attempted to deal with by legislation. Obviously the government of the day used its numbers to quash it, but I am very proud to say that the new Marshall government has already developed communication guidelines essentially to set out amendments to provide that the mentioning of a name or displaying of an image or using of a voice of a member of parliament is to be prohibited in relation to advertising. Obviously we will look at other government advertising legislation and we are looking at some alternative models as to how that will have a statutory stamp. We will continue to work in relation to that area.

This week, in the other place, the government will be progressing reform in relation to the disability sector. Members know full well that there is very much a recasting of the work and responsibility for the funding and operation of the disability sector, commonly described under the NDIS, but the legislation which had previously been flagged by the government lapsed under the Disability Inclusion Bill. That bill was to mandate a state disability inclusion plan. We see that as a priority, and it will be advanced this week.

We are proudly progressing the legislative amendments to appoint a commissioner to help improve the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people. Members will know that I am not a big fan of the title of commissioner and the expansion of it, but whatever we call a person who will have very clear authority and capacity to report back to this parliament directly without interference of a minister has an important role in a number of areas, and there are a number of them. This is an area in relation to youth justice, from my perspective, which is scandalously now at a level which is totally unacceptable.

How many times have we had reports to this parliament of the number of Indigenous children who are incarcerated—and adults for that matter? But from my perspective, I am speaking about the priority in relation to Indigenous children. At any one time, we have 60 (or thereabouts) children in prison in this state, and that is not going to change. We will always have some children who need to be held in protective custody. Some of them have done some terrible things. Sadly, some of them have killed a parent or another member of their family. The public demands that there be some action taken in relation to that.

What is scandalous, in my view, is that the profile of young Indigenous people in prison is now—in the material that we got late last year—above the 50 per cent mark. For such a small group in the population, numerically, to have this level of profile in our youth prisons is totally unacceptable, and so I am very pleased that the Premier, as the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, has made sure that this is a priority in relation to the legislative reform to enable the appointment so that we start to address this issue that cannot be left unaddressed.

There are other meritorious matters that are being progressed, but transparency and protection of our children and those vulnerable in the disabled and aged area are certainly areas of priority that, from my perspective, need to be and are being advanced. We will ensure that people who work in these areas, who also have a mission and purpose to ensure that we make it better for those in those areas of vulnerability, are appropriately supported by the new government.

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:26):** I would like to start by referring to my dear electorate of Port Adelaide. I know that we all think we have the best

electorate, but I can at least say unchallenged that mine is as good as any and perhaps better than most. It is a community of people who care about each other, a community of diversity, a community of giving people a fair go and looking after them if they fall behind, and I am immensely grateful to have been re-elected to represent them.

I was reflecting that I have lived on Lefevre Peninsula for 17 years but that, due to the vagaries of electoral boundaries, this was the first election in the six years I have been a member of parliament when I have been able to vote for myself. It was a particular pleasure and privilege to see my own name when I entered the ballot box and that I was able to vote for myself, although I very much enjoyed voting for Stephen Mullighan last time.

Not only is my community deserving of my immense gratitude for having supported me but also, of course, in particular, various community leaders and volunteers who helped on my campaign. I am very grateful for the effort they put in and for the attention and care they showed to make sure it remained a Labor seat.

I would like to thank my family. My parents have instilled in me a strong belief in the importance of politics and the importance of taking politics seriously and treating people well and with compassion, regardless of the issue they present to you and the challenges that they have. My immediate family, though, is most deserving of my gratitude, in part because of the effort that they make in supporting me—my son, for the first time, was old enough to go up a ladder to put up corflutes—but in particular for the way in which they unstintingly care for me and support every action I take, regardless of the amount of time it takes me away from them.

My children were nine and seven when I first came here and they are now 15 and 13. They have experienced a good portion of their lives—and certainly their lives as they start to understand how the world works—seeing their mother in politics. I hope that I have set a good example for them to understand, as I say, the importance of politics and the way in which we can make a difference to people immediately near us and in the wider community.

I would like to congratulate the member for Croydon on becoming the leader of our party. Members here will know how dearly I will miss having the member for Cheltenham as our leader. He has been a dear friend for a very long time, but now to have the member for Croydon leading us is an extraordinary opportunity for us. He is decent and intelligent and his values are the strong values of the Labor Party, which believes in everybody sharing in the prosperity we see in our community. He will have a very, very long time as leader of our party and I hope as a leader of our state in due course.

I am grateful that the caucus has shown support for me in allowing me to be the deputy leader. The Deputy Premier and I were invited by *The Advertiser* to have a photograph taken together and while we were both very happy to do that, and I think that there is a reasonable amount of respect and mutual support, I certainly agree with the member for Elder's comments about the Deputy Premier in her earlier speech: a forceful and inspiring woman. We nonetheless agreed that it will be a wonderful day in politics when the local paper does not see it as something unusual and special to have two senior women in political positions and they do not feel the need to commemorate that with a photograph.

I would like to spend the time I have talking a little about the portfolio that I have maintained as shadow minister but was privileged to have in government, as minister for education, and also about the portfolio that I have accepted in addition in this shadow cabinet, the spokesperson on the environment. I want to thank our schools most sincerely. On a very personal level, I thank them for teaching my children and for doing an outstanding job. Last week, I spent two hours going around various teachers for both of my children at Seaton High School at the parent teacher afternoon. I never fail to be impressed by the knowledge that the teachers bring and the degree of care and concern they demonstrate for each student.

More importantly than that immediate personal experience, the effort that our schools, our teachers and our principals make for our community's children is not only extremely important but is extremely successful. As minister, I enjoyed very much being able to work with the two non-government sectors, the Catholic and independent sectors. In South Australia, more than any other

state, we can claim that we cooperate extremely closely together across the three, but I particularly want to thank public schools for the work they do.

Public schools are there for every child, regardless of the income of the parents who send their children there and regardless of the religious or non-religious background of those children. Regardless of what postcode a child is born into, the public school system stands firm there to support every child to achieve their ambitions. While I was minister, I had the privilege of being advised by a number of people on a group I set up for public education, the advisory committee chaired by Professor Alan Reid, who came up with a statement about the importance of public education in South Australia.

The values they identified as being crucial for a strong public sector are diversity and cohesion, both allowing diversity and expressing cohesion; quality while maintaining equity; collaboration and trust; the importance of connection to community; and the importance to democracy of a healthy public education system. In every school I have visited, I have seen those values being lived and being expanded upon, but what we are asking our schools to do is difficult. They are operating within a rapidly changing economy and rapidly changing society. An education that was suitable and appropriate when I was at school a very long time ago is no longer suitable and appropriate for the children in school today.

We are living through a dramatic transformation in our economy, which means a dramatic transformation in our society. Our schools are right on the cutting edge of having to be able to translate those changing requirements for young people so that they are able to create their futures as they inherit this world of ours. The growing internationalisation of our economy is proceeding apace. No longer can almost any worker in South Australia say that they are competing only within this state. They are competing with every other business and every other provider across the country and internationally, and we need to prepare our children to be capable of leading in that environment.

We are also seeing the dramatic impact of improvements in technology and computerisation. Automation, digitisation and increasingly artificial intelligence are shaping the way in which we do business, and we need our children to be prepared for a world with multiple changes in profession and with dramatic changes within each profession as a result of those dramatic changes. We are also asking our schools to operate within a society where, tragically, we have seen only an increase in inequality. We have seen an increase across Australia in the difference between what the very wealthy own and earn and what a good proportion at the bottom end of our society own and earn and the resources they are capable of having at their command.

Education is one of the only ways in which we can give every child a fair chance at a strong future. We must make sure that we position our schools in a way that they are able to rise to that challenge, and that means acknowledging inequality and acknowledging the impact that has on children. I know that every person in this chamber, regardless of what side they sit on, wants to see us having a strong education system.

It comes up often in speeches, and I do not for one moment doubt the sincerity of people who say it, but we are dealing with very big challenges within our education system across the country. I want to see South Australia continue to lead in that debate, continuing to be activist and continuing to be progressive because simply allowing ourselves to be distracted by what does not matter or hoping that one side will do better than another side simply because they are a different brand of politics will not make a difference.

We need to make sure that we are concentrating on increasing equal outcomes for students not decreasing them. The OECD report time and time again points out that Australia as a whole does not do well enough to counter, through education, the impact of disadvantage in the family home. We must make sure that literacy and numeracy remain the foundation blocks and acknowledge that there are students who have disorders and challenges that mean that they struggle to achieve, and that requires intervention and time and money and effort to make a difference.

We need to continue in South Australia to lead the way on early childhood education to make sure that we are offering services to young children in a way that is helpful for their family, that strengthens the family and that also gives the children an opportunity to start the very foundations of their lifelong learning. We need to pay attention seriously to what is in the curriculum. The general



capabilities and the cross-curriculum priorities are extraordinarily important and are in many ways world leading.

We have identified capabilities that every student should be able to graduate school with. It does not matter whether you are better at science, or better at languages, or better at dance or history; when you leave our education system, you ought to be good at problem solving, at critical and creative thinking and at communication. You ought to be able to manage the digital world, and you ought to be good at intercultural communication.

Cross-curriculum priorities mean that it does not matter what subject you study: you learn about Australia's place in Asia, you learn about the importance of our Aboriginal histories and you understand truly and deeply the importance of sustainability of this planet and of our individual environments. Every subject is capable of teaching those. We must make sure that we get the full value of what is in that curriculum.

School completion is one of the sources of greatest pride for the previous government. We saw school completion rates soar over the past 16 years. We saw, particularly with the introduction of the new SACE, that suddenly students who had previously become disengaged and were leaving school, continued, engaged and graduated with a certificate. There is no more important achievement for a young person than graduating high school with their certificate, and the breadth as well as the quality of the new SACE have been remarkably successful in achieving that. According to the report on government services, the comparison of all jurisdictions, South Australia leads the country in completion rates, and we must not take a single action that in any way endangers that.

What we need to do is get the kids who are still missing out. One example is that completion by Aboriginal students has more than doubled since 2011. That is an extraordinary achievement, yet still too many Aboriginal students are not completing school, and we need to chase every last one. Not entirely the answer, but not unrelated, is the importance of ensuring that apprenticeships and traineeships are fully available within the school system and that, at the same time, that is complemented by the capacity to complete their SACE, to graduate from high school.

We need to make sure that STEM skills—the science, technology, engineering and maths skills—are available for all and particularly available to those who are talented and wish to pursue these as a career. We need to improve languages. If people look at the languages' policies that were enacted when I was minister and at the policies that the incoming government has brought with them, they are very similar. I do not think it is a coincidence and the new minister will find himself with their biggest supporter on this side in every action he wishes to take on improving languages learning.

Capacity to speak to others in their language, and to speak to others in a way that is respectful of their cultural sensitivities, is going to be absolutely crucial to our success as a state. We need to improve the numbers of students who are undertaking languages in the senior years. We have seen a slight increase. I will support the member for Mordialta in every way as he drives home our shared policy to increase those numbers.

There is a big debate going on in Australia about assessment for the student versus assessment for the system, and I pay tribute to the New South Wales Minister for Education and the ACT Minister for Education who between them have started a debate about the role of NAPLAN in our education system. There are many questions to be asked about the impact of NAPLAN on individual students, on schools and on the system, and we need to have the courage to ask those questions. A question about assessment cannot start and finish with a standardised test that happens for students every second year until year 9. We need to make sure that we are engaging properly in an understanding of how assessment contributes to student performance. In the end, the only assessment that matters is one that leads to improvement in how a student performs.

Our record in education on this side is a proud one. While I do not want to spend the next four years dwelling on the previous four years, I want to acknowledge the very great privilege I had in being education minister and being able to be part of the decisions that were made across our public education system on how to spend the money that we secured through what was originally called the Gonski deal.

Although we were abandoned—and we are still \$210 million short this year and next year on the original deal—nonetheless, a significant additional amount of money from both state and federal sources has gone into our education system, particularly in these last years, and the plans for how to spend that are crucial. I hope that the incoming minister and the incoming government pay respect to the amount of work that was done by educators to identify the priorities for how to spend those funds.

While many people say that inputs do not matter, only outputs, and that we have become distracted by spending too much time on money in education rather than on what occurs in education, the truth is that money makes all the difference to a school. Ask yourselves why the private schools charge the amount they do if they do not feel it is in any way related to the quality of the education they are able to offer. Money makes all the difference in making sure that there is proper literacy and numeracy intervention, that there is professional development for teachers so that someone who graduates is not left with that education to fall back on but is able to continue to improve and hone their skills, and that there are resources sitting inside schools so that the principals and teachers can make discretionary decisions to make sure that their school is responding to the needs of their students.

There is the infrastructure that we were able to support. The science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) facilities are still rolling out, and I look forward to seeing more and more schools take advantage of those as they open. There is also the money for the 91 schools in the Building Better Schools program aimed entirely at allowing schools to grow and to modernise. I will be watching very carefully to see how the schools spend the money they were allocated, having been given the opportunity to express how they wanted to spend it. I will be watching very carefully to see whether that money is diverted into other uses: building classrooms for 12 year olds rather than to modernising facilities that desperately need to be modernised, where there is growth needed in order to cater for a larger population wanting to send their children to public schools.

We have also been able to support principals. Giving principals not only more resources for their schools but more leadership resources is absolutely essential. One of the challenges with moving year 7s out of primary schools is that there will be a number of primary schools that will lose deputy principals, that will lose the seniority of their principal and that will lose wellbeing leaders (who used to be known as student counsellors), all of which are predicated on the size of the school. In seeing a reduction in the size of their population, they will see a diminution in the resources they are able to give to the early years, which are the most important years to set as a foundation.

As I say, it was an enormous privilege to be the education minister in South Australia. I am wanting to be as collaborative and supportive as possible of the new minister to make sure that we maintain a strong system and see only improvements, but I will be watching very carefully for distractions and solutions to problems that do not exist, rather than really getting underneath the very deep challenges that our education system is designed to respond to: the challenges of the changing economy and the challenges of our unequal society.

I would, however, also like to talk briefly about the environment. As deputy leader I was given the opportunity to make a choice over what I would have as my portfolios, and to be able to have education, which I love so dearly, and environment, which is where I spent much of my working life and my time when I was a student, my volunteering life, is a rare privilege. I am extremely excited to be back involved with the environment movement, with those who care about the environment.

Members who were here when I came into the parliament six years ago, after the by-election in 2012, may recall that much of my speech then was about the importance of working with landowners, with land carers, on the management of our very precious natural resources in South Australia. We are, as I have said in education, facing dramatic changes in the world economy that affect the future of each of our young people.

Every person in this chamber will understand that we are also facing dramatic challenges within the environment. We are living internationally with an extinction event caused essentially by the way in which humans interact with the planet. While we are pushing hard in the other direction in South Australia, and we have seen success in maintaining very vulnerable species, we are nonetheless in an era of extinction. We need to work not only to preserve our biodiversity but to make

sure that everyone in South Australia appreciates the importance of biodiversity and its significance for the quality of our lives.

We are, of course, also living with climate change. I am not sure that every person in this chamber accepts that climate change is not only happening but has been caused by human activity and is a very serious problem for our collective future, but I like to think that the leadership on the government side at least appreciates the seriousness of this challenge.

We must not only work towards an economy that is not full of stranded assets because we are still looking backwards into the high-emission version of an economy. We not only need to be part of this new and emerging economy with low emissions but we also need to prepare a natural environment for the warming that is occurring. This affects farmers with droughts; it affects every person who lives anywhere near a bit of bush that can be set on fire. We have seen the changes in our experiences of these challenges, and they can only get worse if we do not do something to arrest the progress of climate change and to better prepare ourselves.

The importance of landscape and seascape conservation cannot be underestimated. I understand that the Minister for Environment and Water appreciates this well. I am deeply concerned about the proposed loss of the NRM Act. I am deeply concerned that, while it is purported to make it better and more about landscape protection, we will in fact see our environment go backwards. We must operate land management and our seascape management with an understanding that this is a system we are working with and a system that has been put under severe stress by human activity, by extinction, by increases in pests, by overabundant native species and, of course, by climate change.

The pressure of human activity is also seen in our cities and everywhere humans live. It is seen in the quality of our air, the quality of our water, and this ever-growing pile of plastic with which we as a planet are dealing. The loss of the contracts with China to deal with our plastics recycling is of extreme concern but represents an opportunity if we are prepared to invest in an industry that is capable of recycling here at home. We must tidy up our own backyard.

Of course, of all the environmental issues, our water supply, the Murray, is of most pressing concern to every South Australian. We understand better than anyone else in Australia the importance of a river filling from the bottom. We need to make sure that we have a healthy river mouth and a healthy river that is capable of supporting the irrigation activities that we have long undertaken in the most efficient way possible, and that we have a supply that keeps the river being a healthy ecosystem as well as an important water source for South Australia. I hope that we see a combined effort across the chamber to be firm and unrelenting with the up-river states as to what our entitlements must be for a healthy river.

What is important is that the issues we deal with in relation to the environment are international in scale but local in experience. All we can do is activate our communities to make sure that people—particularly young people, but all people—understand our dependence on our environment, on our ecosystems, on a healthy ocean and on healthy fisheries, and that we give them the pathway (together I hope) to be able to participate in making our environment healthier.

When I think of what draws together the two portfolios I have chosen—education and environment—it is clearly about the future. Young people understand this. Young people are concerned, but energetic, about taking hold of this future and fixing the problems they have seen earlier generations perpetrate on the planet. We must take this seriously now. We are perilously close to that 'one minute to midnight' when it becomes too late. This is as important in South Australia as it is in the United Nations' headquarters in New York. We all must take responsibility and we all must give every resource possible to the community to fully engage in protecting and preserving the environment for our children.

I look forward to the next four years of respectful but honest debate about how we can make this a better state.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Pederick.

*Sitting suspended from 12:52 to 14:00.*

*Ministerial Statement***STATE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION AND INFRASTRUCTURE SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:09):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I wish to advise the house that significant progress is being made in the establishment of a South Australian productivity commission and Infrastructure South Australia. Both of these independent agencies have a vital role to play in the government's plans to generate jobs, investment and economic growth in South Australia. To do that, our state needs a more productive public sector, a more productive private sector and more productive infrastructure for our state.

Both agencies will be led by statutory boards that bring together the expertise of our private and public sectors to provide the effective collaboration needed to ensure that South Australia's economic development is being driven by the best available advice and expertise. In relation to the membership of both agencies—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —immediately the government was sworn into office I commenced discussions with prospective members. There has been considerable interest in these positions such that the government will be able to announce appointments immediately the legislation to establish the agencies is passed by the parliament. Cabinet—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier has the call.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —will consider the draft legislation this month, and it will be introduced in June in accordance with the schedule of our commitments that we took to the election. The key roles of the productivity commission—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —will include undertaking public inquiries and providing advice to lower costs for businesses and families, and to make it easier to undertake business in South Australia through regulatory reform.

Infrastructure South Australia will be responsible for developing South Australia's first 20-year infrastructure strategy to provide the long-term planning needed to ensure that our major transport and other projects are established in the right places at the right time and at the right price. Regular reports will be made to parliament on the work of both agencies in keeping with my government's commitment to full public transparency in the administration.

I first advocated that South Australia needed its own productivity and infrastructure agencies well before the 2014 election, and I note that in recent months the New South Wales government has moved to establish its own productivity commission, while in Western Australia a state-based infrastructure agency is to be established.

There is bipartisan recognition that such agencies are the best means for state administrations to develop and implement economic policy and reform. Accordingly, the government looks forward to receiving the strong support of this entire parliament for the establishment and ongoing work of the South Australian productivity commission and Infrastructure South Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the Deputy Premier—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! I call the member for Schubert to order. I also call the members for Kurna, Lee and West Torrens to order, and for audible laughter I call the member for West Torrens to order and I warn him once.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. S.S. Marshall)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Southern State Superannuation—Insurance No. 2

By the Minister for Education (Hon. J.A. Gardner)—

Education and Child Development, Department for—Annual Report 2017  
National Education and Care Services Freedom of Information and Privacy Commissioner  
and Ombudsman—Annual Report 2016-17  
SACE Board of South Australia—Annual Report 2017

By the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (Hon. T.J. Whetstone)—

Grain Growers Rail Fund—Eyre Peninsula Annual Report 2016-17  
Grain Industry Research and Development Fund—Annual Report 2016-17  
Industry Fund—

Apiary Annual Report 2016-17  
Cattle Annual Report 2016-17  
Citrus Growers Annual Report 2016-17  
Grain Annual Report 2016-17  
Pig Annual Report 2016-17  
Sheep Annual Report 2016-17  
South Australian Grape Growers Annual Report 2016-17

Wine Industry Fund—

Adelaide Hills Annual Report 2016-17  
Barossa Annual Report 2016-17  
Clare Valley Annual Report 2016-17  
Langhorne Creek Annual Report 2016-17  
McLaren Vale Annual Report 2016-17  
Riverland Annual Report 2016-17

*Mr Bignell interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson is also called to order.

**Mr Pederick:** Chuck him out.

**The SPEAKER:** I might do that. The Deputy Premier.

*Ministerial Statement*

**MURRAY-DARLING BASIN ROYAL COMMISSION**

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:13):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** The Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission was established by His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia, on 23 January 2018 to investigate the operations and effectiveness of the Murray-Darling Basin system.

The Marshall Liberal government is working closely with Mr Bret Walker SC on progressing the royal commission, including issuing an explanatory memorandum to accompany the terms of reference.

The government, following discussions with Mr Walker, has determined that an amendment to the Royal Commission Act 1917 to clarify the extraterritorial reach of the royal commission will not be progressed. The commissioner is currently finalising commissions, undertaking community consultation and continuing his important work under the terms of reference.

The commissioner has confirmed with the government that he does not intend to repeat the work of other agencies that are currently investigating and prosecuting in respect of matters of illegal take, compliance and enforcement. Ensuring this royal commission is carried out in line with the terms of reference is of the utmost importance to this government.

This government is committed to seeing strong environmental, economic and social outcomes for the River Murray and its communities and looks forward to considering the commission's findings and recommendations in due course.

Should the commissioner raise with me concerns that he cannot properly fulfil the terms of reference without legislative change, I will expeditiously return to parliament with an appropriate action to ensure any deficiencies can be rectified.

For members interested, the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission Issues Paper No. 2, issued by Mr Walker, is located at [https://mdbcrcsa.govcms.gov.au/sites/g/files/net3846/f/issues-paper-round\\_2-mdbcrc.pdf?v=1525066265](https://mdbcrcsa.govcms.gov.au/sites/g/files/net3846/f/issues-paper-round_2-mdbcrc.pdf?v=1525066265). Perhaps a copy could go to the member for Cheltenham, who, of course, has an interest in this matter.

#### *Question Time*

### **POLICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Who was the minister's senior staff member he sent to the southern suburbs community forum into violent crime on 16 April?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:17):** I thank the leader for his question. It was my most senior staff member in the office at the time, who did a marvellous job, along with all the SAPOL—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —operators that were there. This was one of the PACE forums that police have been running since 2013. They have these PACE forums, which are absolutely outstanding and a great way for the community to engage with police. These PACE forums, as they state, are—

**An honourable member:** Don't you know their names?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —police and community engagement forums. They have been running since 2013.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point or order, sir, one of relevance. The question was very simple: who was the senior staff member the minister sent?

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, if you could please better direct your answer to the question.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Thank you.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** As I outlined, it was my most senior staff member at the time.

**Mr Koutsantonis:** Who was it?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** It was my most senior staff member at the time, who was listed on the running sheet that was presented at the end of the day. She did a marvellous job—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —along with the SAPOL people who were there. They ran a very good forum. I stress again that the PACE forums that are run by the police are absolutely outstanding. This was another one of their very good forums to engage with the community and hear about what is going on. As I said, the superintendent of the local LSA down there, Yvette Clark, did a brilliant job and listened to what the community had to say.

A few of these forums were lined up. SAPOL really actually got on the front foot here, and I want to commend them for it because they took control of this forum. Speaking with the commissioner and the assistant commissioner, they have every faith in their operators to run these forums and engage with the community. Those on the other side may not have that faith in SAPOL. Here we do. They can run their forums, and they run them incredibly well.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** In fact, I was speaking to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! It's your question time.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —the SAPOL operators and inquired about how many of these other forums there are. They do it in a number of different ways, as hopefully those on the other side were aware when they were acting as police ministers—

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, Mr Speaker: again, to relevance. The opposition asked a very simple question: who was the senior member he sent?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister will be seated. I have given the minister an opportunity to directly answer the question. He has had reasonable scope, and I uphold the point of order. Next question.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** He upheld the point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I find it necessary—I have upheld your point of order.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, sir, so are you directing him to—

**The SPEAKER:** I have asked the minister to be seated and I am just addressing some—

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** I'm not quarrelling with you, sir. I asked, if you have upheld the point of order, will you now direct the member to answer the question?

**The SPEAKER:** No.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I have given the minister reasonable scope. The point of order has been raised, and I have called that out and I have upheld your point of order. Before I move to the next question, for repeated interjections I call to order the member for Kaurana; I warn the member for Lee; I also call to order the leader, and we move on to the member for Newland.

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** No. We move on to the member for Newland, who has the call.

### **PAYROLL TAX**

**Dr HARVEY (Newland) (14:20):** My question is to the Premier.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Dr HARVEY:** Will the Premier update the house on how scrapping payroll tax for small businesses will create jobs and support businesses in my electorate and across South Australia?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:21):** I will answer that question with a great degree of joy and I thank the member for Newland (the new member for Newland) for his question. I must say I always like going to small businesses in the member's electorate, in particular Nev's Supa Deli. What a fantastic deli this is! It's not just a normal deli, it's not an extraordinary deli, it is a super deli, and I particularly like the refurbishment that they have done there.

What Nev knows at Nev's Supa Deli, like a lot of people in South Australian business, is that taxes are too high. Taxes are too high in South Australia. Unlike those opposite, we have an agenda to lower payroll tax in South Australia. When I'm out talking to small businesses, they say that they would like to employ more people in their business, but of course they need to ensure that their businesses remain viable. By lowering payroll tax, we give business owners the opportunity to employ more people.

This is a very different attitude to the previous government. Previously, the government in South Australia, the Labor Party in South Australia, always said whenever we talked about lowering taxes, always responded, by saying, 'Well, the greedy owners of the business will just pocket all of that money for themselves.' This is the attitude that they had to the people who were out there on a daily basis, trying to put their livelihoods, their assets, their houses on the line to employ people in South Australia.

I tell you one thing, Mr Speaker. For the entire time that we're in government here in South Australia we will be doing everything we can to improve the attractiveness of the business environment here in South Australia. We know on this side of the chamber that not everybody can work for the government. We need a strong private sector in South Australia, and that's why payroll tax will come down. Currently, the threshold for payroll tax in South Australia is \$600,000. I think it's the lowest threshold in Australia or the second lowest in Australia. We are going to increase that threshold to \$1.5 million so that a business in South Australia that has a payroll of up to \$1.5 million will not be paying a cent of payroll tax in South Australia.

We do this because we know that this will create more jobs in South Australia. In the lead-up to the election we on this side of the house said that we wanted to create more jobs, to keep young people in South Australia, and that's precisely what we will be doing.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the leader, the member for West Torrens is warned for a second and final time, and I also warn the leader. The leader has the call.

### **POLICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:23):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Why is it that the minister will not name the person that he sent to the community safety forum on 16 April? With your leave, Mr Speaker, I will explain the question.

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** You don't need to.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, go on.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In *The Advertiser* some weeks ago, the minister is quoted as saying, 'I had a senior staff member there and 10 senior members of SAPOL were there and they did a fantastic job.' Why won't the minister name the senior staff member that he sent to the forum?



*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the minister—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, Deputy Premier! Before I call—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Order! The member for Unley is called to order. The Deputy Premier is called to order. Before I call the minister, the question was very broad and I would anticipate perhaps a broad answer as well. Minister.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:24):** As I outlined, I sent my most senior staff member to the forum. They made themselves known to SAPOL. They made themselves known to SAPOL and they recorded the names of other people who were there as well. They didn't record the name of everyone who was there, but they made themselves perfectly clear, and known to SAPOL, that they were there representing me, and SAPOL were there as well.

The commissioner had 10 people there from SAPOL covering the forum, and it was a brilliantly done forum. In fact, people raised questions. I did ask the commissioner about the questions that may have come from some of the local members there, and I was informed that, to their knowledge, no local member there asked a question during the forum, which was most interesting. This PACE forum as well, which was very well done, I must say—

**Mr Duluk:** Is the commissioner a liar?

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Waite is warned.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —and stressed by SAPOL, even though, as I pointed out before, some of the members on the other side may not have liked the forum or may not like the work that SAPOL do—the LSA did an outstanding job. I did talk to them about some of their PACE forums as well.

As I said, they have been going since 2013, and they are done over a number of different formats and—to make sure that the former police ministers, both of them on the other side of the house, are aware in case they aren't quite knowledgeable—they are done over a forum, sometimes online. Sometimes they are done in person, as this was, or sometimes they are done in smaller more intimate groups. It is a great way for the police to then engage with the local communities, talk about issues and work them through. In fact, I was fortunate enough when I was first—

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: again, sir, relevance. The opposition asked a question to name the senior staffer he sent.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen carefully, member for West Torrens. The question was very broad with regard to why. I would anticipate a very broad answer, but, minister, please direct your answer directly to the question, thank you.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** I know the leader did ask a question about the forum that was on hand, and I am explaining that the forum was one of those PACE forums—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —and he did ask who I sent, and I said that I sent my most senior staff member at the time and they did a marvellous job, along with up to 10 SAPOL people that were there as well that were sent on behalf of SAPOL, obviously.

I did note that the commissioner and the deputy commissioner weren't there. They entrusted their staff to go and do this role, and they did an outstanding job listening to the people. But I was pointing out how these forums work and how they engage with local communities and the fact that this was an exceptionally good forum and that they are often done sometimes online.

I recommend these forums to anyone on the other side of the house; if they want to have one, just let me know and we can get that organised. I actually had one when I first was elected and, again, the LSA from the south coast came along and engaged with an issue we had in Reynella. They did an outstanding job in actually listening to what the community had to say and sorting the problem out very quickly. It was an outstanding forum and the results that come of these are exceptionally good, and it's a way for SAPOL to be the lead agency to deal with other agencies as well. I know that a number of issues were raised and the appropriate agencies have been engaged—

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** Not by the minister or the shadow ministers.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** No, they didn't have anything to say. The opposition members that were there didn't actually make any comments throughout the forum. In fact, I think the Hon. Kyam Maher, member in the upper house, did say that he was going to follow up with me on that forum. I still haven't seen any correspondence come from him, or from any other members on the other side about the forum. So clearly SAPOL did a great job and they have covered it off very well and engaged with, as I said, the agencies that were involved and also the local community. It is really great to see that sort of response and I thank them again for their work.

The other point that I made about these forums, too, when you ask who was there, is that I did reach out to SAPOL and say, 'You have a number of these forums. How many a year, etc.?' Again, because they are done in varying manners and varying forms—some online, some bigger forums and some smaller or medium-style forums—I asked whether previous police ministers had been. I asked, 'In the last six months, how many forums have there been?' They said there have been 12. I said, 'Has the police minister of the time been to any of those?' To the best of their recollection, the police minister hadn't been to those 12 forums. Now, maybe there was a smaller forum, maybe—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** On my right, order! The Premier is called to order. Supplementary from the leader.

#### **POLICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:29):** Who was the police minister's most senior staff member on 16 April?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order, sir: that's not a supplementary question. That's just re-asking a question that has previously been asked.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes. In fairness—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The same question has been asked with a similar version in a very similar manner. So is there a further supplementary?

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: with all due respect to your ruling, the minister is being deliberately evasive. We asked a very simple question. He refuses to answer, and now we are simply asking: who was his most senior staff member on that day?

**The SPEAKER:** I have ruled, and I keep that ruling. Member for Heysen.

#### **DEFENCE SHIPBUILDING**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:30):** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the house on his discussions with His Excellency Mr Emmanuel Macron, President of France, and his delegation on how our state's strong relationship with France and the federal Coalition government is creating defence jobs for South Australians?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:30):** I would like to thank the member for Heysen for this question. I must say, it was a great honour for me to be invited by the Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, to join his party that welcomed the President of France to Australia. This was only the second time the President of France had visited our country, and what

an honour and privilege it was. In fact, on the Wednesday, I was in the party that welcomed the President when he inspected HMAS *Waller* and HMAS *Canberra*.

During that visit, I had the opportunity to speak to the President about the contract, which has been awarded to the Naval Group for the build of the SEA 1000 future submarines for South Australia. I must say that I was very impressed that the President knew a lot about this enormous contract. I think we often forget this, or maybe don't appreciate this, in Australia. Whilst it is a very big deal to us in South Australia and it is a big deal to us in Australia, it is in fact a very big deal for the French as well. This is the largest single contract they have had in terms of overseas naval construction. It is a very important contract for them, and it is one of national pride.

Part of that visit, of course, was the opportunity to meet with other cabinet ministers who accompanied the President on his visit, senior government officials and very senior members of some of the largest firms in France, who travelled in a fairly large entourage with the French president. It was a great honour to be able to sit down with each of those groups and, if you like, offer our partnership to maximise the opportunities to have a great project for the submarine build in South Australia.

One of the critical things that we talked a lot about was the South Australian government's commitment to ensuring that we had the right skills in place to make sure that we could maximise the South Australian content in this enormous contract. As you would know, sir, there is something like \$90 billion worth of naval shipbuilding on the books for South Australia in the decades to come. The reality is we have got to do our work in government to make sure that we have the requisite technical skills in place.

That's why I very proudly, in the lead-up to the election, talked about our commitment to spend \$100 million over the forward estimates on creating an additional almost 21,000 new apprenticeships or traineeships, not in total but in addition to what the underlying numbers are in this state, so almost 21,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships. Many of these will be dedicated to naval shipbuilding in South Australia. By having these skills in place, we will maximise the benefit of these contracts to the people of South Australia. If we didn't do this work, then unfortunately much of this work would be done interstate and overseas. This is why it is so crucially important.

It is also important because there are going to be huge numbers of technical skills required in this state moving forward for these contracts. If we don't get the balance right, the supply of these skills right, the shipbuilding contracts could suck up all of those available skills and we could have the perverse effect of skill shortages in other critical areas like manufacturing and agriculture and mining. I know that would concern those opposite just as it concerns us in South Australia. Therefore, we are doing the hard work. We are rolling up our sleeves, making sure the money is available to ensure that we have the right skills in place. This was one of the key commitments in the discussions I had with the French president, his senior cabinet ministers, his government officials and the companies that he led out to Australia on his most recent glorious visit to Australia.

### SCHOOLS, RANDOM DRUG SEARCHES

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:34):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Will the minister instruct the police commissioner to dispatch police officers and sniffer dogs into public schools to undertake random drugs searches, as promised by the Liberal Party?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:34):** I thank the leader for the question. We outlined our policies at the election, and the sniffer dogs policy is definitely one. We will sit down and I will talk to the commissioner about our policies. I will not instruct the commissioner what to do. We will discuss what our policies are, and we will have those conversations. The police commissioner—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Elizabeth is called to order. The member for Kaurua is warned for the second and final time.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —makes all operational decisions. We have already sat down with the police commissioner and also the head of education, and we will continue to have those conversations. That is rolling out as we speak. We are working through that with the parties who are involved as well. We have had a chat, also, with the people who operate the dogs as well. So we are progressing that, like we are with all of our policies. We have taken them to an election. We have won an election. The public clearly voted for a change of government, for a strong plan for real change, as we have outlined over and over again.

Our policies are in train. We are speaking with the appropriate people, and we will be delivering on all of our commitments. We have made our 100-day commitments and we have made our full-policy commitments, so we are speaking with all the parties that are involved in those policy areas, and we will be delivering them in full.

### **SCHOOLS, RANDOM DRUG SEARCHES**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:36):** Supplementary: given that the minister is not going to instruct the police commissioner, how will he implement this policy?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:36):** I thank the leader for the question. The policy is as a broad scale. The Stop the Scourge in Schools policy falls under the education portfolio, so I am very pleased to be able to answer the question. The fact is that that meeting that the Minister for Police identified took place on 16 April. It was a very productive meeting. We sat down with the police commissioner, the head of the education department (as the Minister for Police identified), and a number of officers of both departments, and had a very important discussion, a very useful discussion, about the nature of how that policy will work rolling forward. A number of issues were clarified.

It seems that the former ministers, when they had been discussing with police how they would imagine such a policy would be rolled out, had a very different point of view to the current government about how such a policy would roll out. In fact, the government has also commenced discussions with the Independent Schools sector and the Catholic schools sector, which are key partners in the policy, and the three education sectors in fact met on 24 April to commence development of related protocols. Those discussions are continuing to work between the police commissioner and the education department officials, but I think the fact that the opposition has chosen to pursue this line gives us some hint into the policy differences between this government and the opposition.

This government believes that drugs in schools are an absolute scourge and stain on our community, and we must be taking measures to ensure that those people who think that it is appropriate to allow their children, to encourage their children to take drugs to school to sell to their mates absolutely are doing the wrong thing. We don't want them to continue doing that. We think that it is better that our students be protected from drugs and that we must therefore take those measures that are necessary to stop the use of drugs in schools.

When I was the shadow minister, we undertook a little bit of work in the FOI area to find out about the information that was available of how many schools had been able to access the use of police dogs to do a visit. Again, as I have said before in the house, we are talking about those beautiful chocolate labradors; sometimes you see them and beagles at the airport finding the drugs. These are not things that are traumatic in the events where they have taken place. Indeed, we asked some of the principals of those schools how successful the visits had been—at Eastern Fleurieu School, and I think CBC might have been one of the schools where we spoke to the principals and leaders.

They identified that those visits by the police with the dogs had in fact been incredibly useful at those schools. At one of them, and I can't remember if it was one of the schools I have just noted or one of the others, they did in fact find some drugs. They found it an educative process for the whole school community. They found it a useful community relations exercise for the police involved who were taking the dogs along. It was generally seen as a positive exercise, and it was generally seen to reduce drug use in schools. The school that identified to me that they had found drugs reported that there was a marked drop-off thereafter in the amount of drugs that were used.

Any parent identified before—and there have been identified some examples where parents are giving drugs to their kids to sell at school—anyone who is contemplating the idea of selling drugs to teenagers or young people, to children in schools, will know that under the Marshall Liberal government that won't be tolerated. Under the Marshall Liberal government, there is the possibility that their drugs will be detected and that they will be prevented from being introduced to the young people in that school. The Labor Party has made it very clear that they don't care about this. I think it goes to an underlying policy principle difference between the opposition and the government—

**The SPEAKER:** Debate. Please wrap it up.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** They don't care about drugs—

**The SPEAKER:** This is debate.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —they are soft on drugs—

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Education will be seated.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —and they don't care that our kids—

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Education will be seated.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: sir, that was an appalling outburst while you were attempting to speak. I just point out—

**The SPEAKER:** What was the point of order?

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** —how appalling it was by the manager of government business.

**The SPEAKER:** I have called it out for debate. Thank you, member for West Torrens. The member for MacKillop. All be silent. I have called the member for MacKillop.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my right, be quiet.

#### REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:40):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier advise the house on what action the government is taking to invest in regional South Australia and, in particular, update the house on the Premier's recent trips to the South-East?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:40):** I would like to thank the member for MacKillop for his question and also for hosting me in his electorate on Sunday. It was a great trip to a great electorate. I was in Mount Gambier on Saturday, where I know that the member for Mount Gambier was very busy being a volunteer at the wonderful Generations in Jazz Festival that was held there.

It has just been pointed out by the manager of government business that I have overlooked probably the longest serving advocate in this parliament for Generations in Jazz, the very hardworking member for Florey, who has long advocated on behalf of that jazz festival here in this parliament and made many speeches on it. It is truly an awe-inspiring occasion. If people in this house have not been down there yet, get down there as soon as possible.

Over 5,000 students were down there on the weekend, ably led by, of course, South Australia's very own James Morrison, who has set up in Mount Gambier the James Morrison Academy, along with the University of South Australia. He is inspiring the students not just in Mount Gambier but right across the nation. There were students there from every state of Australia and the ACT as well. It gets bigger and bigger each year. This year, as a special guest, they had Grammy Award-winning Patti Austin. What a thrill it was to see her.

I was most impressed, though, that the winner this year, who is often right up there at the very pinnacle, was Marryatville High School, which is, of course, in the electorate of Bragg. Maybe the Deputy Premier and myself will be down there together next year, as she defends that title.

The regions are crucially important to the government. They were neglected under the previous government for an extended period of time. People in regional South Australia constantly

tell me that they felt completely and utterly overlooked by the previous government. They will not be overlooked by this government. It is always a great pleasure for me to travel into one of our great regions and talk to them about the positive policies we've got for growing regional populations across our state.

As to other states of Australia, in Queensland, for example, they grew their regional population last year by 30,000 people. New South Wales and Victoria grew their regional population by more than 20,000 in each of those states. In recent times, regional population in South Australia has actually diminished. Well, enough is enough. When we speak to the people in regional South Australia, they deserve to be listened to. They want improved services, they want improved roads and infrastructure and they want improved job opportunities—and that's exactly what we will deliver to them.

As just a taste of some of the positive policies that we put on the table in the lead-up to the election, first of all we said that we will quarantine 30 per cent of all mining royalties in South Australia and earmark those royalties for our regions program, where we will put that money into regional roads and infrastructure. We will use that money to leverage money from other jurisdictions—the local government sector and, importantly, the federal government sector—to improve the roads and infrastructure and support those regional communities.

We've also made it very clear that we have a regional growth fund, which is a \$150 million fund over the next decade to improve those opportunities to grow jobs in regional South Australia. At previous times, I have spoken about the importance of improved health services. Hopefully, I will get another opportunity to update the house on that very soon; but devolving governance down to the regions is a positive way to improve outcomes for people living across regional South Australia.

#### **POLICE STATION OPENING HOURS**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:45):** My question is to the Minister for Police. What advice has the minister or his office received from SAPOL or the police commissioner regarding the impact on front-line policing as a result of extended operating hours at the Henley Beach, Norwood and Glenelg police stations?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:45):** I thank the leader for the question. I have had a number of meetings with SAPOL since coming into this role and also PASA and other members of the SAPOL organisation. I have spoken to the police commissioner and the deputy commissioner about all of our election commitments. We are working through them one at a time. We've discussed police station opening hours, and that's something that we will continue to work through.

We made a commitment in our election policy around three police stations. Fundamentally, what the police commissioner and I are very, very focused on is keeping the people of South Australia safe. That is the number one process we have, the number one thing we are engaged with, and we are talking through all these issues with the police commissioner. As I said before, we have made all these commitments, we will deliver on these commitments, and we will continue the conversation to make sure that South Australian people are kept safe, as I outlined.

#### **POLICE STATION OPENING HOURS**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:46):** Supplementary question: will the minister instruct the police commissioner to implement Liberal Party policy and instruct him to open up those police station additional hours?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:46):** As I have said many times before—and I will say it again—the police commissioner does handle all operational matters, and that is for the police commissioner to do. We have put our policies forward. We are talking through them with the police commissioner, and we will deliver those, as we have committed to doing. We will have those conversations—they will be ongoing conversations—and we will get the best outcomes for our community. That's what we are focused on.

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Please take a seat; you don't need to get up just yet. That is what we are focused on. That is what we will deliver. We have put our policies out very, very clearly. On 17 March—in case you are not aware—the people of South Australia voted, and they voted for this government to deliver on their policies. That is what they wanted, that is what they put forward and that is what they want.

You may want to know the name of every person that voted or every person that worked on my staff. What you need to be focused on is that we are a team on this side that will deliver for the people of South Australia. That's what we are here to do. Our policies are very clear. They are up on the website, they have been outlined, they are there. We will deliver them, and you can keep following the bouncing ball and watch them be delivered.

#### **POLICE STATION OPENING HOURS**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:47):** Supplementary question: when will the new opening hours be implemented?

**The Hon. S.S. Marshall:** We'll come back to the house and let you know.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:47):** Absolutely! They will be implemented in time, outlined in the policy. We have outlined our policies. First up, the 100-day plan—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** That will be delivered. Again, I know it's hard for you guys—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —to follow—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! The minister will be heard in silence.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —but please stick with it. Follow the bouncing ball. It's really easy. Policies have been outlined, the first 100 days. You can work along with those, tick them off as you go.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** The rest of South Australia will be ticking them off. You can tick them off as well. Please do.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members will not interject.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Tick them off as they go along.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Unfortunately, those on the other side for 16 years failed to deliver for South Australia, and that's why on 17 March they were voted out. South Australia wanted a strong plan for real change—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** They voted in a Marshall Liberal government to deliver for this state. Again, we have made it very clear what we are going to do. There is a 100-day plan. We have put our broader plan out there. Those will be delivered in time so that we deliver for South Australians.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! The member for Hammond.

#### **MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN**

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:48):** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**Mr PEDERICK:** My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water. Will the minister explain to the house how South Australia will benefit from yesterday's basin plan announcement from the commonwealth minister for agriculture and water?

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:48):** Thank you to the member for Hammond for a question which no doubt is near to his heart and to many of his constituents, as well as the constituents represented by the members for MacKillop, Finnis and Chaffey in a very direct way. But no doubt all members of this house would represent people who have a very significant interest in the health and sustainability of the River Murray, an incredibly important environmental but also economic asset for our state and our nation.

The great part of yesterday's announcement, which is, for those members who are not aware of it, that the federal Labor Party will provide bipartisan support for the sustainable diversion limit adjustment, meaning that the disallowance motion will not progress when voted on in debate tonight. The great part of that is really the bipartisanship that is being presented by the federal Coalition and the federal Labor Party.

When I became the Minister for Environment and Water for South Australia, it became very clear to me within hours of taking the job that relationships needed to be repaired, relationships in South Australia but also relationships with interstate colleagues on the Labor, Liberal and National sides of the political divide as well as with our federal colleagues. If our state is not at the table advocating for the health of the River Murray, we are not going to be able to get good outcomes for the river in this state.

For far too long our state was screaming from the sidelines when it came to the River Murray. Under the guise of standing up for South Australia, we had actually trashed relationships across our nation and were unable to deliver. If you are not at the table you can't deliver for the state you are saying you are standing up for.

It was within my first week of becoming this state's Minister for Environment and Water that I travelled to Canberra to meet not only with ministers Littleproud and Ruston but also with the federal shadow minister, Tony Burke, some would say the architect of driving the plan forward in the early years of the Rudd government. Being able to sit down with ministers Littleproud and Ruston and also shadow minister Burke was incredibly important to symbolically, as well as in a practical sense, say that South Australia is back at the table, that we are interested and fighting for our state. We will always fight for the state when it comes to the River Murray but, importantly, we will fight with other states as well as partner with them to deliver for the river in a nationwide sense.

South Australia has a history of being a leader when it comes to the River Murray and the Murray-Darling Basin, and we can now be back at the table and be a leader again. The plan is not perfect; we know that. It has many shortcomings, but it does give us a structure and a framework and a series of very clear targets to work towards. Most importantly, from South Australia's view, is the delivery of the 450 gigalitres. That is a figure continually bandied around, but clearly it is one now being moved towards, and I am pleased that the commonwealth has announced a commitment to commence an expression of interest process for efficiency measures towards delivering that 450 gigalitres.



The plan is on the table. We are at the table. The new government is working towards the fulfilment of that plan, and I believe that in a bipartisan sense, with the opposition, we can deliver for this state.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:52):** My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Where was the minister when the state emergency centre was placed on a one-hour recall on 10 and 11 April due to extreme fire danger conditions?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:53):** I will have to check my diary and see where I was at that moment, but I have been in constant contact with all the emergency services at any point in time when there has been a need or a want. I have been in contact with the chief of SAFECOM, the SES, the MFS and the CFS, so I am always in constant contact at any point in time.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:53):** A supplementary: does the minister think it was appropriate to remain on the Gold Coast—which is where he was—when the state emergency centre was on a one-hour recall when parts of the state, including the Mount Lofty Ranges, had fire danger ratings of—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! Questions and answers will be heard in silence.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:53):** As I said in my last answer, I was in constant contact with all the authorities and the powers that be at the time the member is talking about and had complete dialogue with them over every matter.

*The Hon. A. Piccolo interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Light is called to order.

#### NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR

**Ms HABIB (Elder) (14:54):** My question is to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Will the minister update the house on what the government is doing to ensure the north-south corridor is completed as a priority?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:55):** I would like to thank the member for Elder for her question. I did have the opportunity a couple of weeks ago to visit the three sections of the north-south corridor that are currently underway and the projects that are currently going through completion.

I did take the opportunity to take the member for Elder, the member for Davenport and the federal member for Boothby (whose electorate that part of the north-south corridor sits in) to show them some of the great work that is happening down there. Of particular interest, I think, to members was the construction of the bridge that was essentially done off site and then slotted into place over a single weekend—a fantastic infrastructure feat from those building the Darlington section of the north-south corridor upgrade.

But there is more work there to be done. There is \$2.3 billion and 20-odd kilometres worth of work that is currently underway, but there is a pesky little 1.8-kilometre section and another 11-kilometre section that still need to be done, and many would argue that we still have the biggest and the toughest parts of the 78-kilometre corridor to do.

Very early on, in fact it was within hours of having been sworn in, the new Premier sent me on a mission to Canberra. He said, 'Stephan, you need to go and repair this relationship with the federal government because the meetings that I've had with them suggest that the former Labor government had trashed South Australia's reputation on a national stage, had trashed

South Australia's reputation with the federal government, and I need for you to do what you can to repair it so that we can get on and deliver for South Australia.'

Well, I did. On the Tuesday straight afterwards, I went straight across to Canberra and had productive meetings with minister McCormack's office and also with minister Fletcher in his office, and I had discussions about the ways that we could work together to deliver for South Australia. And minister Fletcher said, 'Well, new minister, what have you got that's on the table?' And actually I was embarrassed to admit that there was very little that was on the table. Very little work had been done by the former government to actually have ideas and projects that we could put on the table for quick delivery by a new federal government.

Luckily, there was some work that was done in relation to the Pym Street to Regency Road section, and last week, on Tuesday, I was extremely glad to have minister Fletcher over here to announce a \$354 million project and a \$177 million contribution from the federal government towards that section.

There was some bleating on the day, some voices in the back of the room who were trying to suggest that somehow South Australia had been duded by this deal, that somehow a 50:50 funding arrangement, which is always what happens in metropolitan Adelaide, is somehow inappropriate, that somehow we should have gone the 80:20 funding model. Well, if 50:50 on Pym Street to Regency Road is a dud deal, then what do you call Torrens to Torrens immediately south at 50:50? What do you call immediately north of the superway, which is basically 50:50? Is that a dud deal also?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will be heard in silence.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** So somehow the two sections, north and south, are allowed to be funded 50:50 but the section in the middle had to have a different funding ratio—absolutely ridiculous, and what we came to expect from the former Labor government when it came to infrastructure delivery in South Australia. They would have much preferred to have grandstanded than to deliver. Well, there was \$177 million on the table, so we took it, and the reason we took it was because motorists don't care. Motorists want this project delivered. They are the ones who are sitting in peak-hour traffic, and the new South Australian government under the Premier, the member for Dunstan, is going to get on and deliver so that we can actually cut the travel time for people.

And for somebody who would love to be travelling the Northern Connector right through to this Pym Street to Regency Road section every day, along with tens of thousands of other motorists, we need to get on and deliver this infrastructure project. We have also had other good news in the budget, and South Australians will come to realise that working with the federal government is much better for South Australia than working against it.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired. Before I call the next member, I add the member for Lee and the member for Waite to the two-warning club. The member for Elizabeth.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:58):** Thank you, sir. My question is again to the Minister for Emergency Services. Could the minister return from the Gold Coast in one hour under the recall and, if not, why did he stay up there when he became aware of the recall?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:58):** I thank the member for his question. As I outlined in my previous answer, I was in constant contact with all the emergency services people I needed to be in contact with. I was on the phone. I was talking with them. I had every piece of communication that I needed at my disposal, and I was kept up to date with all the goings on.

*Mr Brown interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Playford is also warned. The member for Colton.

**GOLD COAST COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:59):** My question is for the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. What celebrations did the government organise for our Commonwealth Games athletes?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:59):** I thank the member—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The leader will not interject.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —for his question and note his great contribution to South Australia in sport and in his local community, of course. He is our greatest ever Paralympian and now a wonderful member of this house and doing great things in his local community. Again, I know the others on the other side may not respect what happened at the Commonwealth Games and the great result of our South Australian athletes, but they were absolutely outstanding.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: the minister is imputing an improper motive on all members of this house.

**The SPEAKER:** What was the improper motive? Let's hear it. The minister will just be seated for one second, please. What was the improper motive?

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** He claimed that we didn't care about the outcome of the Commonwealth Games, sir. It's appalling.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** On improper motive, it must be on an individual member, not a class of members—and, frankly, I think the minister was right.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen carefully. Minister.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As I said, it was a great performance by South Australians. As with the other portfolios I look after, we have some wonderful South Australians in the volunteer sector and also in the emergency services sector that do outstanding work and again in the sports sector, from the local clubs to our elite athletes in the Commonwealth Games, which were a great opportunity for our elite athletes to shine. They did an outstanding job.

South Australian Sports Institute athletes, current and graduates, contributed directly to 18 gold, three silver and six bronze medals in Australia's overall medal tally. Several South Australian athletes achieved multiple medals and broke games and world records at the 2018 Gold Coast games. Port Lincoln native Kyle Chalmers achieved an outstanding four gold medals, in the 200 metre freestyle, the 4 x 100 metre freestyle relay, the 4 x 200 metre freestyle relay and the 4 x 100 metre medley relay. Kyle's 4 x 200 metre freestyle relay and the 4 x 100 metre medley relay teams both set impressive new Commonwealth Games record times on their way to gold. Chalmers remains a South Australian local, training at the South Australian Aquatic and Leisure Centre at Marion, which is great for the local community, and studying at university here as well.

Also in the pool, South Australian Paralympic swimmer Jessie Aungles won gold in the men's SM8 class 200 metres individual medley, and I know that Jessie looks up to Matt Cowdrey, the member for Colton and, as I mentioned before, a superstar of the pool.

South Australian cyclists shone at the velodrome, with Stephanie Morton taking home three gold medals, in the team sprint, keirin and individual sprint. Stephanie set a new games record in the team sprint and the qualifying rounds of the individual sprint event, as well as taking home a silver medal in the 500 metre time trial. Matthew Glaetzer secured two gold medals, in the men's keirin and in the men's 1,000 metre time trial, in which he delivered a games record-setting time. Despite not finishing on the podium in the men's sprint final, Glaetzer still managed to produce a new games record in the qualifying rounds. He also secured a bronze in the team sprint event.

The women's team pursuit achieved a gold medal and a new games record thanks to the contribution of South Australian locals Annette Edmondson and commonwealth games debutante

Alexandra Manly. Annette also added a bronze medal to her medal collection in the individual pursuit event.

I must also make mention of the exceptional performance of the Adelaide based and prepared gold medal-winning and world record-breaking men's pursuit team, coached by Tim Decker. This was outstanding. It was an exciting moment to see the team cross the line in a time of three minutes and 49.804 seconds, the first time recorded below the three-minute 50 mark in the history of the sport. Much like the four-minute mile was many years ago, people thought this mark, the three-minute 50 mark, couldn't be topped, and it was, so that was outstanding.

At the athletics stadium, Kurtis Marschall, at just 20 years of age, showed the power and the talent and his dedication to get gold in the men's pole vault. Jess Trengove fought like a champion to achieve her second Commonwealth Games marathon podium finish in a field that suffered through the hot and humid conditions on the Gold Coast. It truly was a performance full of grit and determination.

In the gymnastics, Chris Remkes ended a 24-year drought of Australian success in the men's vault when he secured gold. Chris was adopted by his South Australian parents from the Philippines at age two. He was an absolute character.

South Australian exports also contributed significantly to team successes at the Commonwealth Games—Brad Newley in men's basketball, Cayla George, Nicole Seekamp and Stephanie Talbot with the Opals—and also, from the SA Sports Institute alumni, South Australian native Chris McHugh took gold with his partner, Damien Schumann, in a very tight final in the men's beach volleyball.

The presentations happened in Rundle Mall and also at the Town Hall. It was a very great performance and wonderful to celebrate these great performances from our South Australian athletes.

### SOUTHERN EXPRESSWAY

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:04):** My question is to the Minister for Police. What action has the minister taken to deliver on the government's promise to immediately issue a tender for companies to build grate-style fences along the Southern Expressway?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (15:04):** As the promise that the member for Elizabeth refers to falls under my jurisdiction, I will seek to answer it.

Yes, the member is correct that on radio it was said that, immediately upon coming to government, we would issue a new tender. I can inform the house that, immediately on coming to government, the department has started work to deliver on that promise. We are in the early stages of putting together that tender, but there have been a number of meetings, including in conjunction with members of SAPOL, to deliver on this promise, but there is actually a broader piece of work that needs to be done.

It's not simply about sticking up a fence. There is more work there that needs to be done so, when it comes to dealing with rock throwing incidents on the Southern Expressway, yes, we do need to deliver a fencing solution, and work is underway to get that done. But there's a broader piece of work that needs to be done on whether or not CCTV cameras are appropriate. The department has also been down there to inspect the site and have a look at whether or not getting rid of rock material around the bridges in question is also an important thing that needs to be delivered and whether or not these anti-throw screens are a solution that can be delivered further down the track.

Work is underway. We did start that work immediately, and I have had a number of meetings with my department about it. I know that the Minister for Police and I have been working extremely closely to deliver on that. But I did want to make a broader point when it comes to the delivery of these promises. I am aware that we, as the new government, are here to be held to account, but what I have found extremely churlish was seeing footage on television of members of parliament who used to be part of a government that could have done something about this. The minute that it was all care and no responsibility, that's when they decided to rock up to a forum.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will be seated.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** The minister is now debating.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, the minister is now debating this. The member for King.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** A supplementary, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** No, I have called the member for King.

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** Sorry, sir, the minister hadn't finished.

**The SPEAKER:** I have called the member for King.

### VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**Ms LUETHEN (King) (15:06):** My question is to the Minister for Industry and Skills. Will the minister provide an update on training participation in South Australia, including future forecasts supported by initiatives of the state government?

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Industry and Skills) (15:06):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and may I use this first opportunity on my feet to congratulate you on becoming the Speaker of this house. I thank the member for King, who is affectionately known in her electorate as 'The Queen of King' for the amazing outcome that she delivered in delivering the seat of King to the Liberal Party at the last election.

I know that she is very interested in young people, being the mother of two, a young woman and a younger boy, and their future here in South Australia. But it is disappointing if we look at where the starting base is for growing the opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships here in South Australia. The latest data available through the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research shows that the number of VET students funded by the government in South Australia was 70,900 in 2016. That's the lowest number on record, a fall of almost 18 per cent on 2015, yet it has fallen by 30 per cent over the last five years.

Our VET participation rate is the lowest of all states at 6.3 per cent—these are the latest figures available from the date of 2016—below the national average rate of 7.8 per cent and almost 3 per cent lower than five years ago. Significant falls were recorded in the last five years (that's 2011 to 2016) in the following areas. Students at TAFE fell by 16,500 (26.7 per cent) to just 45,300 students. Students at non-TAFE providers fell by 14,200 (35.6 per cent) to 25,600 students. Youth participation in VET (ages between 15 and 24 years) fell by 14,700 (34.9 per cent) to 27,400 students.

Apprentice and trainee activities fell in the last five years in many areas. As at September 2017, 15,200 apprentices and trainees were in training, a fall of 60 per cent compared to five years ago. There were 9,000 commencements in 2017 for the four quarters to September, a 66.3 per cent fall on the 2012 figures, and 6,200 completions in 2017—again, at the end of the September quarter—a 52.6 per cent fall.

But all is not lost, sir, because the Liberal Party, in the last election, made a commitment to return apprenticeships and traineeships to the status where they belong. I know that the apprenticeship system has worked tremendously for me and for my colleague the Minister for Agriculture, and we are determined to bring back those opportunities that apprenticeships give South Australians as part of this government.

As part of our election platform, the government will invest over \$100 million to create more than 20,000 places in the Vocational Education Training system as apprentices and trainees. Our plan is crucial to providing young South Australians with more opportunities to secure an apprenticeship or traineeship.

My discussions with the commonwealth to match this funding through the Skilling Australians Fund have been positive. Together, we will be spending \$200 million over the next four years, which will significantly boost South Australia's training rate via new apprenticeships and traineeships. This will include apprenticeships and traineeships for occupations in demand, including in the defence

sector and, of course, the building sector, industries and sectors of future growth, industry areas struggling with current skills shortages, and trade apprenticeships. This is a major investment in skills and development that will lead to job outcomes under this government.

### ELECTION COMMITMENTS

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (15:10):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain why his government has only implemented 11 of the 40 policy commitments he promised would be delivered within the government's first 30 days?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:11):** The government is working very hard on all of the policy commitments we made in the lead-up to the election. I think there were approximately 300 commitments that we are tracking. We are making progress on each and every one of them. I want to thank those members of the team who worked very hard on that policy agenda. I know it kills those opposite who didn't really have a major focus on policy development. There were lots of press releases and not much policy and not much delivery. It was very different on this side of the chamber. I am very proud of every commitment that we have made and we will be delivering on each and every one of them.

### INFRASTRUCTURE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (15:11):** My question is to the Premier. Given the Premier has been personally monitoring the implementation of his 100-day plan, can the Premier explain why he has failed to determine the membership of Infrastructure South Australia, as he promised to do within the first 30 days of his government?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:11):** I know that the member for West Torrens was probably dozing off and not as excited about question time as he perhaps was in a previous era and a previous incarnation when he liked to stand up and talk and talk and talk. Sometimes he even made sense, but not very often. I have already given a ministerial statement on that. It was right at the very beginning, which is when you give ministerial statements, and what we—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —announced in that ministerial statement is that we have been making extraordinary progress—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** Let me tell you, sir, a lot of people are very interested because they know that finally—finally—in South Australia we have a reformist government that is going to get on and do the work that other jurisdictions, Labor and Liberal, around the country have been working on. Plenty of people have put up their hands. We are going to make sure—

**Mr Koutsantonis:** Who?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I'm not going to pre-announce it just because you have asked the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** You ask the questions and we give the answers—that's the way this works. The reality is—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, leader!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —that these reforms are long overdue—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** The cabinet will sign off on the final legislation for Infrastructure SA and the productivity commission. It will be brought to this parliament and, on the passage of that legislation, we will be announcing excellent people who will be heading up these important roles in South Australia.

I make the point that these reforms are even being adopted by the Labor government in Western Australia which has said that they are going to have an infrastructure body—a body to develop a long-range productive infrastructure plan for their state—unlike those opposite who, whilst in government for 16 long and laborious years, said, 'We don't need to have an infrastructure planning body.' Then we have the temerity of the shadow minister's officer asking questions regarding plans for projects in South Australia and asking us about what percentage we got. I would like to ask those opposite: what percentage did you get for the O-Bahn extension? I know what percentage it was: zero. You got zero for the state—absolutely zero.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** There wasn't a plan that you had even done a comprehensive analysis on.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: debate, sir. The question was about the membership of Infrastructure South Australia—

**The SPEAKER:** I think the Premier is wrapping it up. I think the Premier was wrapping up. Is the Premier finished?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** The names will be coming back after the legislation passes.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier. The member for Waite.

#### **PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARDS**

**Mr DULUK (Waite) (15:14):** My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister advise the house about the details of the 2018 Public Education Awards?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:14):** I am very pleased to advise that I can. I am sure members on both sides will be very interested in the 2018 Public Education Awards as significant, important awards as part of our education system. Last Tuesday, 1 May, I was very pleased to be in the member for Wright's electorate at the Surrey Downs R-7 School. Principal Russell Barwell was able to welcome me and the new 2018 Public Education Awards ambassador.

It is at this point I am very pleased to advise that this is just another example of how this government is taking steps forward because I would go as far as to say, without reflecting negatively on any of the previous ambassadors, this year this government has chosen the best ever ambassador for the Public Education Awards: Mr Eddie Betts, Adelaide Crows hero.

The former minister for education grimaces at me wishing that we had found a Port Adelaide player to do it this year, but Eddie Betts was our choice. We believe that, as a South Australian hero with a particular message about education, he is the right person to be the Public Education Awards ambassador. We are very grateful to Eddie Betts for taking on this important role.

This is not a partisan set of awards. This is a set of awards that has been underway for eight years. Out of the very small number of things I will commend the former government for, their establishment is indeed one of them, although, of course, there have been awards ceremonies in public schools for many years. In their eight years, we celebrate the outstanding contributions of everyone involved in the education department and in public education in South Australia. That can involve teachers, that can involve corporate staff, that can involve school staff, that can involve early childhood staff, and there are indeed categories of awards for all those people.

In the coming months, it is going to be a very important task for us to choose these awards, and we are asking members of the public to assist in that process. I encourage members of parliament to assist in that process. Nominations close on 31 May. Students, parents and members

of the public can nominate. Members of parliament can, and there are details on the website of how members of parliament can. I particularly identify—and members may like to publicise these through their own social media or other channels—that there are going to be opportunities in shopping malls and public spaces in the weekends ahead. Winners for these categories receive \$10,000, which they can put towards approved professional development, and runners-up receive \$2,000.

This is just another part of how the Marshall Liberal government is supporting public education in South Australia because it is so critical that we get education right, that we recognise the significant achievements of all those who work so hard in our education system. This government does appreciate all those who work in public education and, indeed, in education across South Australia. What could be more important for our future than ensuring that our students get the best possible start in life? That's why the government will be rolling out its policies to improve education in South Australia. As part of that, we must express appreciation for the work that is being done, and the Public Education Awards are just one further way we can do that.

*Personal Explanation*

**SCHOOLS, RANDOM DRUG SEARCHES**

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:17):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** During question time, I identified that the Minister for Police and I met with the police commissioner and the education department CE on 16 April. I have been advised that meeting actually took place four days earlier, on 12 April.

*Grievance Debate*

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY COMMUNITY AWARDS**

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (15:18):** I rise as shadow minister for the status of women to speak about some outstanding girls and women in our community and to express my commitment to work as hard and as passionately as I can to empower South Australian girls and women in every aspect of community life and to positively resolve issues they encounter. Today, as we are just hours away from a federal budget, I focus on the issue of the tampon tax. Last week, our Leader of the Opposition rightly wrote to the Premier urging him to support the removal of this tax and to raise the issue with the federal government. If you have not yet done this, Mr Premier, I am your reminder.

Women have been charged GST on sanitary products because they have been deemed non-essential items. Every woman, and indeed every man who has had to do an emergency run to the shop for their partner, daughter or sister, knows that this is ridiculous. Items women need to buy month after month, year after year, because of their gender are, of course, essential items.

This unfair and unjust tax is particularly hard on women on low incomes and girls in low income families because it is an unavoidable and relentless cost to be budgeted for month after month. It might not seem like a lot of money to some, but there can be up to 40 years between a woman's first period and her last, and the cost of dealing with this all adds up. I am proud to stand with my Labor colleagues across the country to ask for this discriminatory tax to end, and I ask those opposite to stand with us.

The Marshall government must help make a change and recognise pads and tampons for what they are—essential health products. I urge the Premier and every member on that side of the house to please call your mates in Canberra this afternoon and demand that tonight's budget includes the removal of GST from sanitary products.

I now take the opportunity to recognise some of the big-hearted women of the south. Last Thursday, I held my annual International Women's Day dinner and community awards for women in the south—a little later than usual this year, given our extra Mad March—to recognise the remarkable generosity of women who give to our community in ways that largely go unrecognised.

Our youngest award recipient was nine-year-old Jenna Turner, a kind girl who always thinks of how she can help others and does so no matter what is happening in her own life. Jenna is a



member of the beautiful Turner family who, together, make sure that Jenna's brother, Josh, who regularly travels to Melbourne for medical treatment for an ongoing serious condition, is enabled to lead a happy and active life. Jenna is selfless in her support of Josh and is his biggest cheerleader, fiercest advocate and most supportive confidante. As well as the support she gives to her own family, Jenna takes the time to regularly visit an elderly woman in her street to offer her assistance with housework and other tasks.

Twenty-two-year-old Eden Treloar is the chairperson of the Port Noarlunga Sea Scout Group and has been since 2014. She is also the events coordinator and has raised over \$3,000 for the group. Eden is a member of the Scouts South Australia Inclusion and Diversity working group, and she assists at events, including the ANZAC youth vigil and Butterfly Walk.

Julia Mustac has set up a reading room at Morphett Vale Primary School to ensure that children who do not get to read to someone at home can read to an adult every day. She has organised more than 40 volunteers, decorated a room, planned rosters and built a mechanism to track the progress of young readers.

Rosemary Roe has been a dedicated Christies Beach Football Club administrator for over 20 years and has assisted thousands of parents to register their kids in time for the first game of each season. Rosemary is instrumental in the running of home match days, with Saturdays starting as early as 7:30am and not finishing until after 8pm presentations.

Belinda Howden of the Southern Football League and Heidi Condon, Monique Dean and Wendy Atkinson of the O'Sullivan Beach Lonsdale Football Club were rightly recognised also for their contribution to football, and particularly for the extraordinary growth of girls' and women's football in our southern community.

Margaret Wilsher has been a supportive, encouraging and positive friend to many. She moved to our southern community over 30 years ago and has supported women in the south over decades to get the support they need when dealing with domestic violence. In more recent times, Margaret has been a volunteer with the Royal Society for the Blind, enabling community members with vision impairment to attend events.

Sandra Buttery, from the Zonta Club, has given more than 10 years' service to domestic violence services in the south. She is the main organiser of toiletry bags, Christmas presents and children's gifts for mothers who have fled domestic violence. Congratulations and thank you to all the remarkable women in our beautiful southern suburbs who give of their time, energy and heart to make our community the very special place that it is.

Time expired.

#### CHAFFEY ELECTORATE

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (15:23):** It gives me great pleasure to get up on this side of the house to speak about one of life's luxuries; that is, to get back to the home electorate of Chaffey to experience some of the great attributes the electorate presents and also, obviously, some of the homecoming.

Taking up this responsibility now as the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, I have to be much better at managing my time, and I have to be much better at attending functions and making sure that the people of Chaffey understand my roles and responsibility. It was great. After 17 March, the whirlwind has continued. After my swearing in on 22 March, it was great to get back home and experience some Chaffey hospitality.

Sadly, on arrival back home, I heard that Brian Western—a great statesman of the Riverland and one of the pioneers in table grapes—had passed away only a few days after being one of my supporters at a polling booth on election day. He left Mary, his wife, and his family in great spirit. He left a legacy of humility and also one of pioneering, the days of bringing table grapes to South Australia on trellis, making sure that they were one of the great export commodities out of the Riverland in the early days.

I attended RSL ANZAC Day events and dinners. My ANZAC Day calendar was heavily booked, attending a dawn service at Loxton and then moving along to Waikerie for the morning

service. It was great to see the march at Waikerie from the town roundabout up to the memorial gardens. From there, I moved to Renmark to attend the mid-morning ceremony, which is being attended by an increasing number of young people.

It is really important that we as a generation in this place continue to promote ANZAC Day and the ANZACs for what we now take as life's luxuries—democracy, independence and freedom, which every Australian should cherish. I commend all those younger Australians who attended ANZAC Day ceremonies, whether it be a dawn service or throughout the day, or whether it be some form of celebration at an RSL, watching the older generation, those who served, playing two-up or having a beer and a sausage in bread. It was a great experience.

Nothing compares to getting down to Caudo Vineyards, in the south of my electorate, to experience True Grit, the military style course, and to see fit South Australians—the body beautiful—getting themselves up to their neck in mud and making sure that they compete at a high level on that military course. Thank you to the Caudo family, who present this great event annually in the Riverland. The organisers of the True Grit event tried having a night event; however, it was not successful, but the daytime event has been an extreme success.

For those who have not been to the Caudo Vineyard, get along there because not only is it a great place to visit on the river, with the cellar door and the great hospitality of the Caudo family—and they are leaders in winemaking and exporting—but it is a great product and a great experience. It is a destination where I think every South Australian and every Australian should understand the beauty the River Murray presents.

Market days at Angove's are always a great event to go along to. I am sure that everyone knows of the great Angove family winemakers in the Riverland and the pioneers of St Agnes Brandy. They are now located in McLaren Vale, making world-class wine. We need to remember, too, that the Riverland was once upon a time a bulk wine region. That is now not the case. They are making magnificent alternative wine varieties. I commend the Angove family for their pioneering work.

I also attended the Cordola, a day on the farm, at Morgan. It was great to see the Morgan community supporting the Morgan community. It was a great day at that farm, which is a mixed wine grape and citrus property, with all the locals there supporting a great need. It was also great to see the Morgan Meals on Wheels meeting in Adelaide to raise money for the camel lifter.

Time expired.

#### STATE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (15:28):** Mr Speaker, congratulations to you and congratulations to the government on winning their election. We are now almost two months into their time in government, and I think it is fair to say that they are cock-a-hoop, basically, and that they are pretty giddy with excitement at being in government after so long.

I think it would actually be good if we saw a little bit of humility from those opposite, a little bit of acknowledgement that at the previous state election only 38 per cent of people in the state voted for this government.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr PICTON:** Of course you did, but only 38 per cent of people voted for the government. In fact, 398,000 people voted for them and 650,000 people voted for somebody else in South Australia. If you looked at that, I would have thought that you would come into government and have a bit of humility about you. You would try to listen to the community, much as we are doing in opposition, and try to reconnect with them. But, no, they have taken the opposite approach. This Premier and this government are taking a very different approach in that they are very giddy with excitement about being in government.

I am very excited that The Killers are playing in Adelaide tonight. I have been a Killers' fan for a long time. I am lucky enough to have bought some tickets to go and see them tonight with my wife. However, there are probably a couple of things that have slightly dampened my enthusiasm for The Killers in the last six months, one of which was the horrible sight—and I am sure, Mr Speaker,

you will agree with me on this—on grand final day of Jack Riewoldt up on stage with The Killers. It was a bit depressing.

The second thing that has been slightly depressing has been the badging of a Killers' song as the theme song for the Premier in his campaign rallies. In particular, he used as his theme song throughout the campaign *The Man*, which is a relatively new track by The Killers. He seemed to use this without any touch of irony in that the whole song is ironic and focused on a sense of arrogance and of being out of touch. It is basically a song about narcissism. The Premier did not seem to realise this and would play it on every occasion. He played it when he won. He played it at his campaign launch. You just have to look at what The Killers themselves have said about the song. Lead singer Brandon Flowers said:

Around about the time that The Killers started I guess,—that's where 'The Man' harkens back to...It came from a place of insecurity and I would just puff my chest out and say things and put a lot of negativity out there. I basically came to regret that and I'm sure a lot of people can identify with that.

He also said:

I think when we first started I definitely felt like I was God's gift—that slowly got chipped away over the years.

The drummer from the band, Ronnie Vannucci Jr, said about the song that the lyrics were:

...largely about how when we were younger we felt invincible. What it meant to be a 'man' in your 20's. Sort of your chest out, the breadwinner, nothing could stop you, invincible sort of thing. It's sort of tongue-and-cheeking that, how that is not really the point of being a man at all. It's actually more about compassion and empathy.

You just have to look at the lyrics to see this is a song devoted to arrogance. The lyrics state:

I know the score like the back of my hand  
Them other boys, I don't give a damn  
They kiss on the ring, I carry the crown...  
Don't need no advice, I got a plan  
I know the direction, the lay of the land...  
I got skin in the game  
I got a household name  
I got news for you baby, you're looking at the man...

While this song choice may be a stuff up—there might be a lack of research into the lyrics or the meaning behind the song that the Premier used—it demonstrates what we are seeing in the early days of the Marshall government, and that is a complete arrogance and a turning on the head of their claim when they were in opposition to be open and accountable. We just have to look at what happened in question time today to see the protection racket being run for the Minister for Police in answering even the most simple questions. He refused to do so.

Also, there is the fact that they are using Dorothy Dixier after Dorothy Dixier in an unprecedented way compared with what happened in the previous parliament to try to protect themselves and to avoid answering questions.

It shows a very early sign of arrogance in this government. It is very different from what we saw in the last parliament, when we were open and accountable and answered sometimes up to 50 questions per question time. The police minister would not answer the most simple questions in this parliament. We also see it in the way they are using their control of the government to punish opposition MPs. Both the member for Hurtle Vale and the member for Wright have been punished for being for being in opposition. The Treasurer has sent them 10 to 20 kilometres out of their electorate and punishing their electors in ways that are unprecedented in this parliament. I hope this will change. I hope that we will stop seeing the sort of arrogance we are seeing from the government.

Time expired.

### WAITE ELECTORATE

**Mr DULUK (Waite) (15:33):** I would just like to ask you, sir, hypothetically: if the member for Kaurna grieves and no-one listens, is it still a grieve? But I digress, Mr Speaker. I rise today to welcome the decision of the people of South Australia, which was endorsed on 17 March. That decision will see a change in my electorate. It will see my electorate cared for and loved by the government as opposed to being neglected for the past 16 years and, importantly, for the past four years as well. That is because the Marshall Liberal government has made a series of commitments to my electorate that I am so glad I will be able to implement for my community.

The Mitcham Hills road corridor and road infrastructure investment through Belair, Blackwood and Coromandel Valley have been neglected for years. In particular, for many years there has been a focus in my community on the Blackwood roundabout, and I am proud to say that finally—and I think the Minister for Infrastructure will be pleased to deliver this because it means I will stop talking about the Blackwood roundabout—we are going to be able to deliver this project for my community. I am also happy to say that we will deliver on our \$20 million road commitment to fix the Mitcham Hills road corridor. I will work with all my colleagues, the government and the community to deliver improved road safety and traffic flow through the Mitcham Hills.

Another election promise that I will be working for with my community is the Globe Link feasibility study. The Globe Link feasibility study will look into the generational upgrade of our freight infrastructure and the transformative way it can improve freight efficiency throughout South Australia, resulting in economic growth, which is so important, as well as job growth, which is so vital for this state at this point in time. One aspect of Globe Link that will be of enormous benefit to my electorate, not only up in the Hills but down on the plains as well, will be the removal of rail freight through the corridor as well as taking the long-run, heavy trucks off Portrush Road and Cross Road.

My electorate is no different from so many electorates in that it is very much a community-focused electorate and support is a key link that binds the people of my community together. On the weekend, and on weeknights, you will see many families, and young and old alike, attend Saturday and Sunday sport. It brings together a spirit of volunteering and a sense of community.

This Liberal government is committed to ensuring that our children actively participate in a variety of sports. That is why in my electorate of Waite we have committed to investing at least \$85,000 in the Blackwood Bowling Club to provide a new synthetic green, \$80,000 to the Coromandel Valley Ramblers Cricket Club to assist in the establishment of new facilities and clubrooms at Hawthorndene Oval, and a \$100,000 upgrade to the training area and change rooms at Kingswood Oval for the benefit of the Unley Gunners Cricket Club and the Unley Jets Football Club.

Of course, one project I am very excited to talk about—a project that, together with the member for Elder and the member for Davenport as well as the minister, we will be able to develop—is the multimillion dollar rejuvenation of the Women's Memorial Playing Fields at St Marys. I am really looking forward to working with the Sturt Lacrosse Club, the Cumberland United Women's Football Club and other interested stakeholders in developing this fantastic community asset, which has been neglected and rundown for many years.

We have also committed to new change rooms at Hewett Sports Ground, and that will assist with the funding of outdated change rooms that were built in 1959. I am so proud and must congratulate the Blackwood Tennis Club, Coromandel Cricket Club and Woods Panthers Netball Club for their strong advocacy and involvement in seeing this project delivered. I understand that soil will be turned later this year.

There is a difference between the old Labor government and this new Liberal government. We are committed to investing in sports infrastructure and facilities at a grassroots level in South Australia for the next generations of South Australians. In my electorate, I am committed to assisting these local clubs, members and volunteers to achieve their full potential.

Another commitment we took to the election is the upgrade of the 9.2-kilometre Wirraparinga Loop Trail in the Brownhill Creek Recreation Park. We have committed \$100,000 in funding over five years to upgrade and maintain the walking track that is used by thousands of locals and tourists each year. That upgrade will likely be used by many more. We have made this commitment as we want to encourage people to exercise and enjoy the conservation parks in South Australia, and I look forward

to working with my colleague the Minister for Environment and Water and the Brownhill Creek Association to ensure this commitment is achieved for my community.

I will be working very hard over the coming months and years to ensure that these commitments are met for my constituents of Waite and to provide a safe and more efficient railway and road network, encourage and foster grassroots sport and utilise our fantastic environment and recreation parks.

### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GAMES**

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (15:38):** Today, I would like to celebrate a community that shows incredible mateship, diversity and inclusion, one that makes a huge difference in the lives of the participants. Around 600,000 Australians have an intellectual disability, the nation's largest disability population. It is a sobering statistic but, despite the size of the population group, those with an intellectual disability too often go unrecognised or are invisible in the public sphere, the media and our everyday conversations alike.

The Special Olympics is an organisation committed to improving this visibility by 'heroing' the contributions of Australians with an intellectual disability. After connecting with the organisation, I became a member of the 2018 Special Olympics National Games Organising Board when approached by its chair, the fabulous Jihad Rasheed. The Special Olympics National Games were held in Adelaide from 16 to 20 April 2018 and attracted 950 athletes with an intellectual disability to compete in 12 Olympic-style competitions and demonstration sports across a number of wonderful venues here in South Australia.

Weeks, months and years of training and dedication culminated in a week of sports competition full of joy and achievement on the nation's stage where athletes were recognised for their ability and not their disability and for achieving their personal best through sport. From the spirit and determination of the open water swim, which kicked off the competition on Tuesday morning, through to the dramatic football and basketball finals, which closed out the sporting week on Friday morning, almost 900 medals and hundreds of ribbons were awarded.

I proudly presented some of these, along with other members of this place and the other place. The way in which sponsors got on board was also tremendous. The SA Tourism Commission, the federal government and some of the most prominent corporates in Australia, such as NAB, News Corp, Coles and Australia Post all come to mind. Big and small, each and every sponsor said that this experience has changed their lives and caused them to re-evaluate how they live their lives and engage with the community. Sponsors did not get involved because this is something that will just tick their social responsibilities box with partners: they actively want to change the conversation, to change attitudes of employees and to create a more inclusive community.

The volunteering pool was diverse and committed, with corporates such as NAB providing nearly a third of all volunteers for the games—250 of them. Excellent support was also seen from high schools, including Mercedes College (which I spent some great time with on the athletics day) and universities, as well as the Defence Force, particularly the Army, who provided 50 volunteers every day to assist in the delivery of games across all the sports and event elements.

SAPOL also play a key role. They take charge of the Special Olympics torch leading into the games. They visited many metropolitan and regional areas of South Australia in the lead-up to the games. They take this very seriously. Whyalla was one such place that was visited, and I know that the member for Giles spent some great time with the bearers of the torch at an event in Whyalla. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is a huge highlight.

Both the opening and closing ceremonies were filled with joy and true celebrations. Jihad Rasheed used his closing speech to highlight special moments that captured the true essence of the games and also to thank all who brought the games together. He actually congratulated all individual groups and left them all standing in the arena while everyone was looking around and seeing just how many people participated in those games—it was in the thousands.

On day one, Jihad ran into Western Australia swimmer Koron Gowland, and he spoke about this in his closing speech. Koron proudly told him how he had come last in the 200 metre butterfly, but, to quote Koron, he said, 'But I beat my personal best by 13 seconds. I'm very proud.' Who

wouldn't be? Also, New South Wales athlete Stephen Davies was a highlight. After competing his 200 metre sprint, he noticed a competitor on the ground in distress and, as in the acts of some other great athletes we remember from many years ago, Stephen's instant reaction was to help his team mate. He picked him up off the track and congratulated him on his performance.

On the day I presented medals, there were athletes who could not attend for the medal presentations—some of them because they were exhausted or injured but others because they just wanted to be with their mate who was exhausted or injured in the back room, so they came out and did medal presentations later. It is such a great sight.

To my fellow board members, Jehad Rasheed; Corene Strauss; Jenny Daly; Deputy Commissioner from SAPOL, Linda Williams; Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce; Deb Parsons; Mandy Milligan; Scott Pettman; Jack Hombsch; Lachy Woolett (the athlete representative); the games directors, Bredette Koen and Gareth Hogan; athlete ambassadors Kim Flannigan, Laura Hester, Mary Folland, and also Sally Hunter and Brett Maher, you are all amazing. In the words of the Special Olympics, the motto is 'Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt.'

### MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:44):** I rise to talk today about what I think is an historic agreement between the federal government and the federal opposition in regard to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

In recent months, in the federal parliament we have seen disallowance motions moved, and all I could see in these motions was a downside for the plan. We have seen the Greens get far too overexcited about the fact that 390 gigalitres was designated initially as water allowed down through the Darling system under the plan, and that was to be reduced to 320 gigalitres after much science and much work was done over time, since 2012, when the plan was first brought into being.

I must say that a lot of work has been done on all sides of politics with respect to this, but certainly at the federal level I will acknowledge the Hon. Tony Burke from the Labor Party. I would suggest he would have done a lot of work to get his Labor colleagues over the line not to support these disallowance motions that would have put so much risk into this basin plan and caused so much carnage at this end of the river, the bottom end of the river, which is the absolute lifeblood of this state.

What we saw was people saying, 'Oh, if this 70 gigalitres come out, that just destroys all the environmental outcomes'. Well, I have got news for them. What would have happened if New South Wales and Victoria had pulled out of this plan? We would have lost 1,090 gigalitres of water. To put that into context, think of Sydney Harbour and double it. That is that amount of water. They were quite happy to push that along, that pretence. Thankfully, common sense has prevailed in Canberra, and we will see the basin plan delivered in full and on time because of the work of minister David Littleproud, the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, and Senator Anne Ruston, from South Australia, the Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources.

The points that I have been making include the simple fact that the government has reached an agreement with the Labor Party to deliver the basin plan on time and in full, and this includes the sustainable diversion limit adjustment and the northern basin review. This will finally deliver certainty to the two million Australians who live in the Murray-Darling Basin, their communities, the farmers and the environment. These people are fatigued after six years of not knowing how much water and wealth would be in their communities and of being unable to invest in their communities and businesses as a result.

This deal will see the sustainable diversion limit adjustment recommended by the independent Murray-Darling Basin Authority delivered—605 gigalitres fully delivered. It will also see work begin on the 450 gigalitres, which of course requires zero social or economic harm. The federal Liberal coalition with the Nationals was pleased to deliver greater compliance and transparency as part of the plan. They have already delivered almost all the water required to be recovered under the plan by June 2019.

The federal government is now getting on with the job of delivering the commitments made, including working with basin states to deliver the outcomes of the sustainable diversion limit adjustment and northern basin review. More importantly, communities in the basin can now move forward with certainty.

Certainly, over the time that the plan has been in place we have seen a lot of water brought out throughout the basin, but we note that in South Australia that was not possible because of the efficiencies that have been in place throughout South Australia since the 1960s and moving forward. And there have still been efficiencies put in place: I have seen great work done with lining the very narrow channels in the flats around Murray Bridge and the great work in the savings of water that can be done there.

On all my visits—and I have talked about it many times in this place—whether to the northern basin, the Darling waters or to the southern basin, involving the Murrumbidgee—there is so much opportunity for infrastructure works to put more water back into the system. And guess what? That will assist the environment.

Some people do not think that will happen, but there will be compliance. There will be transparency measures, as there already have been. Yes, we have seen some disgusting scenes involving allegations in New South Wales, but there is going to be a northern basin commissioner, and there is going to be so much work done throughout the states, through the commonwealth government and through everyone connected with the Murray-Darling Basin plan to get this plan in full. Thankfully, at the federal level we have seen both major parties—should I say all major parties—involved in this process getting on board, and it will happen. That can only be a good thing for South Australia.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

#### **JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of the committee.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Legislative Council notified its appointment of standing committees.

#### *Address in Reply*

#### **ADDRESS IN REPLY**

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

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (15:53):** It is a privilege to rise in support of this motion and to congratulate and thank His Excellency the Governor for opening the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament of South Australia. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to such an important office. I am humbled and privileged to represent the people of Finniss. Finniss has a unique and special place in the history of South Australia. For uncounted centuries, it has been the territory of the Ramindjeri people. For millennia, the land provided an abundance of food and resources to support their society. Their culture was rich and enduring.

As we all know, British settlement brought a very different culture to the land, with tragic results for the Ramindjeri way of life. The impact is strongly felt to this day. This is something we must all acknowledge, and our actions in this place must reflect its importance. An important date in our history is 8 April 1802. It is the day British explorer Matthew Flinders had his encounter with French explorer, Nicolas Baudin. Finniss is where this encounter took place. As we know, Flinders named the location Encounter Bay. Finniss is also where another British explorer Charles Sturt reached the end of the River Murray.

The explorations of Flinders and Sturt led to the settlement of South Australia, but it was in Finniss where the people of European origin first started living and working. These first visitors were whalers and seal hunters. Whaling is offensive today and was abhorrent to many even then, but it was a thriving global industry in those much less enlightened times, and it was vigorously pursued around Encounter Bay and Kangaroo Island for a generation before the arrival of the *Buffalo* and the proclamation of South Australia.

The contrast with today could not be starker. The value of whales to Encounter Bay lies not in slaughter but in tourism. Many thousands of people visit the south coast every year to watch these majestic animals in their ancestral waters as they gradually recover from the brink of extinction to which our own ancestors brought them.

Speaking of proclamation and the years that followed, it is only by a turn of fate that I am delivering this speech in Adelaide and not in the electorate of Finniss. The electorate is named after Travers Finniss, South Australia's first premier. He began his career in the colony as one of Colonel Light's surveyors. Light was set on Adelaide as the colony's capital. Governor Hindmarsh did not agree and argued for Encounter Bay, with its proximity to the Murray Mouth. Light sent Finniss to survey the area and he reported it was poorly suited for settlement; however, Hindmarsh suggested the report had already been dictated by Light. It is a historical irony that Finniss sought to trash the reputation of the area that now bears his name.

This was an argument that raged for more than a century, during which communities like Goolwa, Port Elliot and Victor Harbor were firmly established as working ports. They transferred goods transported down the Murray for shipment to domestic and foreign markets using Australia's first ever public railway to do so. The steam train, the *Cockle Train*, still runs today.

Adelaide won out, of course, but in the earliest days of the colony, it was not a certainty by any means. It was in those very early days that my ancestor, William Basham, arrived in the district. The son of a convict transported to Van Diemen's Land, he bought property near Adelaide in the late 1830s, where Hindmarsh Stadium now stands actually, but soon after he took his family to the south coast. My family has always been in the district from that date.

Our family first began dairy farming in Hindmarsh Valley in 1848 and we have been associated with the industry ever since. We established a butter factory and a flour mill in those very early years, remnants of which survive even now. My family moved into the Pleasant Banks property, next to what is now called Basham's Beach, in 1856. It had been built by South Australia's governor at the time, Sir Richard MacDonnell. It is still in the family today. The Bashams grazed their dairy cows in the lands around Pleasant Banks for generations, lands which now make up the townships of Middleton and Port Elliot. My family are very much locals of the district and so am I.

After being born in Victor Harbor, my first home was in Middleton and my first school was in Port Elliot. I was just seven when my parents, Judy and Roger, purchased the current family farm at Mount Compass. I remember it quite well because *Storm Boy* was being filmed at the time. A new community meant a new school, the Mount Compass Area School, after which I boarded at St Peter's College and then attended the University of South Australia. But the call of farming was never too far off, and I went back to Mount Compass in 1989, where I have been dairy farming ever since.

The family farm has been my life, my career and my home. It is where I watched my father work hard as the vice president of the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association, developing my own strong interest in representing the state's dairy producers. When my parents retired, I took over the farm in 2006. I was already heavily involved in dairy industry representation at the local level. With fellow dairy farmers in the district, I formed the Fleurieu Dairy Farmers' Collective Bargaining Group in response to poor-performing local milk companies paying farmers below the cost of production and less than the world price.

In response to this obvious market failure, we received ACCC authorisation to sell milk as a group. This was unprecedented for Australia's dairy industry and had a lasting impact nationwide. Milk prices rose not only on the Fleurieu but all across the nation. It was an amazing outcome, and it was not long afterwards that I became president of the South Australian Dairyfarmers' Association, closely following in my father's footsteps. SADA has been a great organisation to serve over the years. While I was president, we were successful in getting every dairy region drought-declared during the terrible year that was 2007. No dairy region in South Australia had ever been declared before.

In 2013, we developed and launched the SADA Fresh milk brand. It was a monumental effort to provide South Australians with a tangible way to support their local dairy industry. It started with a meeting in the office of Hon. Robert Brokenshire, himself a dairy farmer at Mount Compass, including John Durkan from Coles and my friend and colleague, former SADA CEO Ken Lyons. Ken is in the



gallery today, and it is great to be able to acknowledge the critical role he played. Together, we developed one of the most popular milk brands in the state. It provides income for our dairy farmers and supports local research and development for the industry.

SADA Fresh milk can also be found on the supermarket shelves in China. This was a pet project of mine long before the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement was finalised. We wanted to prove such a thing could be done. I only had to visit China once, but I took several trips to meet with buyers in Sydney. I remember googling the protocols of meetings with Chinese businessmen over lunch and the need to have waiters translate conversations because they were the only ones who spoke both languages.

I also distinctly remember that it was on the Mount Compass farm where my interest in politics was first sparked by a visit from the local member for Alexandra, the Hon. Ted Chapman. Ted represented the seat with distinction for almost 20 years. He served as the minister for agriculture and forests in the Tonkin government, and he paved the way for his notable successors in what became the seat of Finniss. I acknowledge the presence of Ted's daughter, the member for Bragg, in this place. I am confident that Ted would be immensely proud of her achievements in becoming the first woman in South Australia to hold the office of Deputy Premier and Attorney-General.

Ted's successors also served the people of Finniss with distinction. The electorate has given me a singular honour in following them. The Hon. Dean Brown AO had already served as a member of parliament for many years before becoming the member for Alexandra in 1992 and then Finniss in 1993. He has left a considerable legacy to our state, particularly in his service as premier of South Australia. I thank him for his support and guidance to me over the years.

I also thank my immediate predecessor, Michael Pengilly. As many in this place would acknowledge, Michael would not hesitate to confront friend or opponent alike, sometimes in the strongest terms, with the truth as he saw it. However, there was another side to Michael that a few people saw. This was the unmatched compassion for constituents who needed his help. He often went to extraordinary lengths for them; sometimes, he went to unbelievable lengths. Michael understood a simple truth in this respect: politics is first and foremost about people. His support and advice have been very helpful to me, particularly during a whole year of campaigning.

I mention one more representative of the area—the first single member for Alexandra, George Connor. He was the president of the organised dairymen's association of South Australia, so it would appear Finniss has come full circle. I had only been president of the Australian Dairy Farmers for a brief time when Michael told me he would not be contesting the 2018 election. Another simple truth about politics is that timing is everything, so I decided to put my hand up as a candidate. It turned out that the timing was good.

For this, I must also thank and congratulate the new Premier of South Australia, Steven Marshall. He has been the leader of the Liberals for more than five years, persevering through volatile polls, experiencing a narrow loss at the 2014 election. As opposition leader, he presented a true alternative government for the people of South Australia. He developed genuine policies and held the previous government to account at a time when government accountability was at its worst. He ensured that the Liberal Party remained an effective voice for our state's regional, rural and remote communities at a time when they were increasingly ignored, and he led us to victory in a most unprecedented election contest, never losing sight of the need for change in South Australia.

I am very fortunate and immensely proud to represent the best electorate in South Australia as the member of the Marshall Liberal government. Finniss is a beautiful place. It has amazing beaches, rolling green hills and a well-tilled countryside basking in a lovely climate. Finniss has thriving communities, where so many people are always working to make it better every day. It has been a holiday playground for South Australians since the 1800s. In summer and on long weekends, the roads are full of visitors. Surfers come to the coast all year round, chasing waves they cannot find on city beaches. So many South Australians have crossed the causeway between Victor Harbor and Granite Island. It is the people and the communities of Finniss that make me most proud to represent the electorate.

I should note that it is one of the fastest growing regions in South Australia. In the past 10 years, the population of Victor Harbor has increased by 47 per cent, Goolwa has grown by 31 per

cent and Mount Compass by a whopping 61 per cent. They are not all coming here to retire. They come here to live, work and raise families and to enjoy the unique lifestyle the region has to offer. They are industrious, committed, welcoming and friendly. The people of our region embody the term 'community spirit'. They truly care about their neighbours and their town. They strongly support their local businesses. They do not hold back when engaging with their elected representatives at any level of government. They take a keen interest. This was something I already knew, which was driven home again and again as I doorknocked the electorate.

I am confident that the people of Finniss will place me and the Marshall Liberal government under a high level of scrutiny. They have been waiting for a state government that considers regional and rural South Australian communities no less or important than Adelaide. They have been waiting for a government that listens to regional communities and that allows them the autonomy to make their own decisions about what is best for them in terms of health, education or natural resources management. I welcome the scrutiny of the people of Finniss because they have placed enormous trust in me and this government.

Another important feature of Finniss is that it sits at the very end of Australia's largest river system, the Murray-Darling. The Murray River is our state's most important natural resource, supplying water to communities from Paringa in the east to Ceduna in the west, including Adelaide itself. The river is critical to the future of South Australia. To ensure the survival and the recovery of the Murray-Darling we must disregard state borders and dispense with the politics as well. We must work together.

Finally, Finniss is an electorate and a region with great potential. With the right support, the right infrastructure and, above all, the right vision, our region will grow into much more than it is today. There is a lot of room for more all year round and diverse tourism offerings. Tourism will always be a major industry in Finniss. I am looking forward to working with councils, businesses and other stakeholders to grow and modernise it, offering more and more visitors unique experiences that they will always remember.

However, as a farmer I see great potential in agriculture industries in Finniss. The region enjoys rainfall that is usually more reliable and abundant than in many areas of the state. It enjoys good soils and the closeness to export links in Adelaide. I have a vision for agriculture in the region: greater diversity and more commodities; high-value, low-volume exports; value-adding, finished food and beverage products; and fresh produce that is the safest and cleanest in the world, produced under a famous regional brand. I see an agricultural industry in Finniss that could offer huge employment opportunities and people would come from all over the world for the unique food and wine experiences.

I see Finniss being a home for cutting-edge agricultural research and development, where schools offer opportunities for education and careers in the sector. There is no more important industry in the world than agriculture. It produces the one thing that everyone needs: food. It has been one of the most important economic contributors to our state since its proclamation and it is the biggest contributor today. Grain, wool, wine, beef, dairy, seafood and citrus are among our most important and lucrative South Australian exports. In quality terms, they are among the best in the world because our farmers are among the best in the world. They are innovative, resilient and they deserve the recognition and support I am confident that the Marshall Liberal government will deliver.

I hope that I have provided a glimpse of the journey I have taken to get here. This is not a journey I have taken alone. I have had the support of my colleagues in this place, the people I have worked with in the dairy industry over the years and the Liberal Party of South Australia. I have been fortunate to have the support of a great local team of Liberal Party members and volunteers in Finniss who put in a tremendous effort during a year-long campaign. I have had the support and guidance of close friends. I thank all of them, some of whom are in the gallery with us today.

Most importantly, I have been lucky with two great inspirations in my life: my father, Roger, and my grandfather, Bunny Basham. Men of the land and dedicated to family, they are great thinkers, hard workers, decent and compassionate. They have provided the best role models I could have hoped for. I could not be prouder to follow in their footsteps. Above all, I have had the strongest support and love from my family. To my amazing wife and partner, Kate, I could not have done this without your unwavering support, hard work, sacrifice, advice and love. To my beautiful daughters,

Evie and Annabelle, it is for you more than anyone that I come here to work for a safe and prosperous future.

**Honourable members:** Hear! Hear!

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (16:15):** It is good to be back. I want to start by acknowledging, first and foremost, my family. As all members know, as they travel through the journey of political and public life, those who are the passengers in this unwanted journey that we have put them on are often the ones who suffer the most. I am blessed to have been married to a beautiful woman, Anthea, who has put up with the scrutiny of political life.

It is difficult. I can only imagine what spouses go through on either side of the chamber. It is a very difficult journey. We have had two beautiful daughters throughout this journey. We have lost a son through this journey. It has been very difficult, but of course it has kept us together. At the end of the day, whoever the members are, whichever side of the parliament you sit on, you go home to a loving family who do not care who you vote for or what it is that you did that day. Their love is unconditional.

I also want to thank those who served me, who gave up their time and labour to work for a political party. It is not easy being associated with a political party. Right now, the Liberals have their tails up, as they should. They are in power at both a commonwealth and state level. Staff are excited about the opportunity to work for those governments, to work for a party they believe in. The same can be said for those on the Labor side of politics.

Of course, many of our staff have lost their jobs and are now attempting to find employment, of course with a stigma, in a town where there is a new administration in place, and carrying that stigma of having worked for a former Labor government. I remember talking to former Liberal Party staffers after the 2002 defeat about how difficult it was for them. I wrote some personal references for some of those staff members because I know how difficult it can be because staff often get unfairly tarnished with what it is that their employers do.

I have been very lucky in my political career, which has now extended beyond 20 years, to have been served by some remarkable staff. Jarrad Pilkington, my former chief of staff at the time of the election, is an exceptional young man with a very bright future. He started as a media adviser and rose up through the ranks and worked for the premier of this state and for me. Lucy Hood is now working for the opposition. She was a journalist and a cadet from Naracoorte in the South-East of South Australia. She worked for the premier of South Australia after leaving *The Advertiser* and then worked for me.

My staff, who have come with me along this journey, include Nick Antonopoulos, who started with me at the very beginning. He is a young man I went to school with. Emma Schwartz is a former journalist who became my energy adviser. She is off to bigger and better things. Again, leaving OZ Minerals to come and work for a government that had a redistribution that, for all intents and purposes, put it in opposition, saying that we needed a swing to us to be re-elected, took courage, and for that I am very thankful.

Peter Labropoulos, my adviser who worked with me in the finance area, is an exceptional young man whom I hope one day to see in this chamber. Mr Chris Russell, former business editor of *The Advertiser*, someone who is devoted to South Australia, worked exceptionally hard for me. His counsel was of course very important. David Russell, a young man with a very bright future, was my media adviser to the very end. He is a very loyal, hardworking and very smart young man who has a very bright future as well.

To my electorate staff, Betty and Zoi. With ministers, electorate staff are often the people left behind in the electorate offices. As Liberal frontbenchers are now starting to become aware, the pull of ministerial office can be overwhelming. The centre of gravity is in your ministerial office and it often takes you out of your community and your electoral office. The people who are left behind to deal with the complaints, to deal with the issues, to deal with what is being asked are your electorate staff. Betty and Zoi have handled themselves exceptionally well. They went through a statewide blackout, they went through Gillman, they went through all sorts of things that were foisted upon them—and,

of course, we were able to get a swing to us in the seat of West Torrens. I put that down, in large part, to their hard work.

To my former chiefs of staff Robert Malinauskas and Tom Carrick-Smith. These two young men have very bright futures; they are exceptional young men. Tom now works for Senator Don Farrell and, of course, Robert works for Beach Energy. These young men are the future of the Australian Labor Party, and the work they do for us and the work they bring to the Labor Party are exceptional.

Of course, you become very close to your personal drivers in this job. I have had the same driver for most of my career, a gentleman called Geoff Mundi. Geoff watched me get married, saw the births of my two daughters, saw the passing of my son. He has been there with me through the highs and the lows and he knows exactly what I have been through. I have been the same with him. I have seen his daughter marry, his son get married, him become a grandfather.

These relationships, these bonds you build through the time of public service, become very tight. I spent more time with Geoff than probably anyone else, driving throughout regional South Australia. One time we drove to Ceduna to make a speech and then drove straight back so I could get on a flight to go on a trade mission. That was very tough on Geoff indeed. These people are exceptional public servants. I thank them all for their time, and apologise for not mentioning everyone who served with me over my last nine years as minister.

To the public sector. I think the public sector in South Australia is one of the very best in the nation—as I hope ministers opposite are discovering—and I want to single out the Department of Treasury and Finance. I think it is fair to say that the Department of Treasury and Finance is not a hotbed of socialism and is not a hot bed of left-wing activity. The people there dedicate their lives to serving South Australia and they dedicate their lives to serving the government of the day. They do an exceptional job from the top down, and I was very pleased to see a lot of those permanent public servants remain.

I want to congratulate the Premier and his government on their election. It was an exceptional campaign and they did exceptionally well. I think the Premier should be very proud of what he was able to achieve in the election campaign. Taking your party into government is a special occurrence; I think the only other living Liberal premier who did that was Dean Brown, who took his party from opposition into government. I do not think Steele Hall did that; I think he inherited a government, or did he bring it—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Well, Steele Hall and Dean Brown—and now Steven Marshall joins the ranks of people who have taken their Liberal Party into government. It is a remarkable feat and congratulations to him.

To the Speaker, I congratulate him on his appointment and his election victory. He did it tougher than most Liberals, being up against one of the most high-profile candidates, insurgent candidates, you have ever seen. Congratulations to him. We tried to sneak in victory behind the back of it all, but that did not work. All the very best to Grace Portolesi and to Nick Xenophon, who served our state with distinction over the last 20 years.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** No, I am not joking. He is someone I think deserves recognition—

*The Hon. V.A. Chapman interjecting:*

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Good to see you have risen to the position of Deputy Premier. I also want to congratulate the Chairman of Committees on his elevation. I have a great deal of time and admiration for the member for Flinders. I hope that does not hurt him in his local constituency. I think he is one of the quiet achievers in the Liberal Party. He works very, very hard, and every time I travel to Port Lincoln or travel anywhere on the Eyre Peninsula he was spoken very highly of by his constituents, something I cannot say for most members of parliament, but congratulations. I am glad that the member for Flinders has received this office. He is well deserving.

I want to thank, again, also people who served me in the portfolio. I have held many portfolios in my time in this parliament: obviously Treasury, finance, mineral resources and energy, road safety (my spiritual home), transport and infrastructure, and correctional services, which I think was one the most rewarding portfolios that I ever held. If there is ever a portfolio that a backbencher or someone wants to get their teeth struck into, this is a portfolio where you can make a real difference.

This is about taking an opportunity to change people who have committed crimes, who are being held in our facilities, and the question for us is: what happens to them when they leave? Do they reoffend or are we able to make an impact on their lives? Crime and punishment are very topical issues, and no doubt every member of parliament has their views on these, but I think that corrections is an area where we can do more and we should have done more.

When I first joined the Labor Party I aspired to be the transport minister. It is a job that I always wanted, and I had it for at least, I think, 13 months in the parliament before the last parliament. It is a great job, and congratulations to young Stephan Knoll on his promotion.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** Point of order, Mr Speaker: members need to be referred to by their electorate.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Affectionate, but never again. There you go. Good to see that you have risen to the position as well. Congratulations on that appointment. We will be looking forward to holding those people to account.

I want to congratulate, on our side, our former premier, the member for Cheltenham. It is a tough job leading this state, indeed, as the current Premier will find. The member for Cheltenham did a remarkable job as leader of this state under very difficult circumstances. There were a lot of economic headwinds, a lot of hostility from Canberra, a lot of hostility in this parliament, and I think that he conducted himself exceptionally well and can be very proud of the legacy that he has left.

Leaving the political bitterness to one side, I think that time will judge the former premier very kindly. He was ably assisted by his deputy, a man who was a legitimate contender for that job. He was someone who the Labor Party could have quite easily gone to to lead us and who I think would have been just as successful.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** I will get to that in a moment. I think that the deputy premier served us well, especially in his role as attorney-general. I think that everyone on this side of the parliament can be very proud of the reforms that he made as attorney-general. I am exceptionally proud that he made it to be deputy premier. I remember that one of my first campaigns in 1993 was establishing the Netley polling booth, which was like the Nuremberg rallies in terms of the amount of posters and stuff that we had up. Netley did not fall in 1993, but fortunately for us in this parliament that election campaign for the then aspirant candidate for Hindmarsh was unsuccessful and he entered the parliament as the member for Enfield.

I am also very pleased to be in here with my very good friend, the member for Playford. The member for Playford and I started out together a long, long time ago in Young Labor as very young men, plotting and scheming to take over the party, to destroy our enemies, but, of course—

**An honourable member:** In the party.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** In the party, yes. We were not interested in the Liberals at that stage. We were only interested in the people internally.

**An honourable member:** You needed to cleanse your side first.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, we needed to cleanse internally first. Unfortunately, we were not successful, but we did grow in our roles and, of course, some of those people we targeted we became very close friends with and indeed have served them quite well. I have always believed that Young Labor is a remarkable training ground for this place and for the union movement because, as I have always said—not that I want to talk about factionalism—to our young ones in the Labor right, 'if you can beat the left, the Liberals are easy.' Some of the members of the left are the most tenacious campaigners and hard workers that I have ever met.

I also want to congratulate Ms Clare Scriven. Ms Clare Scriven was the former electorate officer who worked for Michael Atkinson, who was the member for Spence, from 1989 to 1993. She was one of the people who first got me involved in Young Labor. She was a very early mentor in my life in terms of how to get involved in politics, and I am very glad and very pleased to see her giving her inaugural address today. It has been a long journey for Clare. It is long overdue, as it was for the member for Playford, who waited far too long to come to this place. I am very glad to be serving with both of them, as I am glad and pleased to be serving with all my other colleagues who have been returned and, especially, with the new ones.

I of course have to give a shout out to the giant of Mawson, the man who should not be here, the man whom no-one predicted could win but did. It is a remarkable testament and, I think, a good lesson for every member of parliament in this place on the power of local advocacy, the power of being a good local MP and what that can achieve. If anyone has any doubt that an individual can make a difference, look no further than the campaign in Mawson. That seat was drawn by the Electoral Commission to be a Liberal victory. Make no mistake about it. They drew the boundaries deliberately to hand that to the Liberal Party, and the member for Mawson said, 'I'll see about that,' and went out and campaigned and won. He did a magnificent job.

I also want to thank Reginald Martin, our fearless leader, our campaign manager, a man whom I have complete faith and trust in. This is a young man who has devoted himself to the labour movement and the Labor Party. It is a great movement. I am proud to be a member of it, and I am proud to be associated with a man like Reggie Martin, a man who does everything he can to get Labor elected and Labor candidates elected at a federal and state level.

He is ably assisted in his office, and I want to also thank Mr Aemon Bourke for the work he did. Of course Aemon is the partner of Ms Emily Burke, who is also giving her inaugural address here, I think tomorrow. She is another exceptional young woman who is entering the parliament. I also want to thank Darren Moss. Darren Moss was the creative brains behind our campaign. After 16 years in office, to achieve a swing to us in a losing election is rare.

Again, this was a unique election, so we should not read too much into it. Both major parties had swings against them on their primary votes, and both major parties recorded record low primary votes. It is nothing for either of us to be exceptionally proud of. Yes, the Liberal Party were able to achieve a two-party preferred vote, but in terms of raw first preference votes a majority of South Australians did not vote for the Labor Party or the Liberal Party.

There was a very definitive break-up of their allegiances—about 38 per cent for the Liberal Party and about 32 per cent for the Labor Party—which mean a vast majority of South Australians did not vote for us or the Liberal Party. That is something we have to look at. We have to ask ourselves: why is it that so many South Australians are choosing a third option over the oldest political party in Australia, the Labor Party, and the second oldest political party in Australia, the Liberal Party? What is it about us that is allowing these insurgent movements to try to take votes off us? We have to address that.

I think the way we address that has been ably assisted by the election of our new leader, the member for Croydon. I have known this young man for most of his adult life. I have played some small role in his entrance into this chamber and to the other, making sure that we did not lose him to the federal parliament, and I think the people of South Australia are the better for it. The most impressive thing about the Leader of the Opposition's message to the people of South Australia is that it is values based. It is not politically based. He wants us to talk about our values: what Labor values are. People are happy to debate what these values are. Obviously, members opposite do not endorse all Labor values.

I am not one of these members of parliament who thinks we all come here and only the Labor Party strives for goodness and greatness for people and the Liberal Party is out to hurt people. I do not believe that at all. I think we all enter this parliament with aspirations for our communities to try to do the right thing by the people of this state and we all aspire to do great things, grow the economy and create jobs and prosperity. There are just different paths to Mohammed at the top of the mountain. Of course, for this party on this side there is some serious soul-searching for us to do. A lot of our base voted for someone else and we have to ask ourselves why. What is it?

**The Hon. A. Piccolo:** Not in my electorate.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, though not in the member for Light's electorate. They stuck with him in droves, as they should, but in large parts of South Australia we got it wrong and we have to ask ourselves why that occurred. I completely endorse the Leader of the Opposition's plan to go out and listen to South Australians, to take a moment to pause and understand the defeat. Let's make no mistake about it, it was a defeat. Yes, the boundaries were against us. Yes, we were asking for 20 years. Yes, I think there were some prejudices against us. But by and large the electorate came to the conclusion quite early that it was time for a change, not that it was some great ringing endorsement for members opposite, given the primary votes were so low on both sides.

So I think when we get back to base values we have to ask ourselves some fundamental questions. By and large, I think we got a lot of our policies right but we got some dramatically wrong. I think the Premier was right when he talked about Oakden being a great shame and that it was inescapable. I think every minister in that former cabinet, when reading that report, was horrified to know what was occurring under our watch. It was terrible. No member of this place would say that it was acceptable behaviour.

It is terrible to know, especially when little children are being hurt or being preyed upon by predators under our watch. It is horrific. I hope no member opposite ever has to live with a phone call to their ministerial office to say that a little boy or girl has been hurt on their watch, because it is horrific. Being the parent of young children, I can tell you that each and every one of us in this chamber felt it personally. The idea that somehow we did not care or were not interested is simply ridiculous. Of course, we do, as do members opposite. Fundamentally, we have to ask ourselves: how did that occur, and what can we do to make sure it does not occur again?

In terms of my portfolios, I am a passionate believer in the resources industry, not because I like digging things up out of the ground or I like wrecking aquifers or I like the idea of tearing up the beauty of the landscape for shareholders' profit, but because it creates jobs and wealth and we have a need for these resources. As a developed country, we have a responsibility to the world to develop our resources to lift people out of poverty and where we can to export these resources to countries where they cannot mine these resources safely so that their communities can be lifted out of poverty.

I think one of the great mistakes the Labor Party made in the 1980s was opposing the establishment of Olympic Dam. I think that was a mistake. I have said publicly many times about minister Goldsworthy that the courage he showed in getting that mine up should be congratulated, but I also think the decision by this government to ban fracture stimulation in the South-East of this state is a mistake. Why? It is not based on science.

The moment you start making political decisions based on emotion rather than on science, the people who tried to stop Olympic Dam from being built are vindicated because you are not basing the decision on prosperity. You are not basing the decision on some advice that you had that this cannot be done safely or adequately. You are simply doing it because you want votes, and I think that is a shame. Yes, we are politicians, we are in the business of votes, but sometimes leadership is about standing up and telling people who vote for you that they are wrong, and that is difficult.

One of my political heroes, former President Kennedy, wrote a book called *Profiles in Courage* where he talked about politicians who lost their seats because they advocated for positions they thought were morally right but that their constituency fundamentally disagreed with. To this day, a Profile in Courage Award is handed out to politicians who make brave decisions in the face of overwhelming public opposition because they have a conviction that it is the right thing to do.

Members opposite need to ask themselves: are they banning fracture stimulation in the South-East of this state because it is the right thing to do, or are they banning it because it is popular? That is a tough question to ask yourself because, as a new member of parliament, when you come into this place and you are told by your shadow minister, minister or caucus that we took this to the election and it is very important and we have to honour it and you have to vote for it, the first thing you are doing is outsourcing your thinking to someone else and outsourcing your judgement to someone else. That is fine if that is what you want to do, but, when it comes to issues, the one thing I have admired about the Liberal Party is this sense that the individual is greater than the whole. I do not necessarily agree with that.

I believe in our system of solidarity. I believe in our system of working together for the greater good, but the Liberal Party have always held to this true form that no member is bound by any decision and I think, quite frankly, that it has served the Liberal Party well. It is a great escape valve. We have it on conscience issues. The Liberal Party have it on all issues—congratulations. I am yet to see it in practice in this place, but I am told that it is a very deeply held belief by members.

I would say to members: what is the intellectual, honest answer when you ban unconventional gas in the South-East while not banning it somewhere else? What is the honest answer? The honest answer is that you can do it safely there and in the South-East, but we want votes in the South-East because we do not want an Independent to win those seats. We want the Liberal Party to win those seats and it is very popular down there, so we do not want to speak truth to power, so we outsource our thinking to others. I am sure many of you have a great admiration for the Lock the Gate ideologue, but, given that you have outsourced your thinking and your legislative program to them, I am concerned about what is next.

In terms of transport and infrastructure, I am very concerned that in tonight's budget there will not be \$1.4 billion worth of money. I hope there is. If there is \$1.4 billion of infrastructure money for South Australia over the next four years in the federal budget tonight, that is a massive victory for South Australia and I will be the first to congratulate the government on being able to achieve that. If it is not in tonight's budget, we have been conned. It is pretty simple.

It was not us who made the promise to complete the north-south corridor within a decade: it was the Liberal Party. To complete it within a decade, they need to start work now and get their skates on. That money needs to be in the forward estimates, and our matching money needs to be in the September budget's forward estimates. The question we have to ask ourselves then is: can the state afford \$1.4 billion worth of expenditure on the north-south corridor over the next four years with matching federal money?

The minister says that the Pym Street to Regency Road piece of infrastructure is funded at 50:50 because projects on either side of it were done at 50:50. Well, Darlington was done at 80:20. I look forward to the commonwealth government tonight having that infrastructure money running through the member for Elder's electorate being funded at 80:20, otherwise she can explain to her constituents why we are borrowing more than we need to to fund that piece of vital infrastructure, using the words of the Minister for Transport (member for Schubert).

I wish the government well. I hope they do well. I hope they grow the economy and create jobs. We are here to keep you to account, but I believe in the words of former prime minister, Paul Keating, who stated that governments begin to die the day they are born. The question for us is: how long will this government live and when will it die? I hope that we are able to convince South Australians that we are ready to return in four years' time with our new leader and his team offering fresh visions for South Australia based on our values, not necessarily on what is popular but what we believe is right. That, fundamentally, I think is the difference.

I remember the former member for Elder in this place, the Hon. Pat Conlon, in his valedictory speech as he was leaving the chamber saying, 'There is a fundamental difference between the Labor Party and the Liberal Party and it is in *Waltzing Matilda*. In that song, if you are for the troopers, you are a Liberal. If you are for the swaggie, you are Labor.' I am not sure if that is right or not, but I would like to think it is. The other night, my daughter brought home a book that had the words to *Waltzing Matilda* in it. She was fascinated by it, and I showed her a YouTube video of our former prime minister Bob Hawke, who is in hospital, singing *Waltzing Matilda*.

I want to use the last two minutes of my speech to wish him a very speedy recovery because he is, I think, a great influence on this nation, a force for good. He is someone who brought economic sanity to the Labor Party. He is someone who made reforms in the 1980s and 1990s that still hold this country in stead for consecutive periods of economic growth. He is someone to whom this country owes a huge debt. I hope I get to hear him sing *Waltzing Matilda* one more time in person because there is no better experience in life than to see our former prime minister get up and sing *Waltzing Matilda*.

In my final remarks, I want to thank the Labor Party. It has given me more than I have given it. I am a loyal servant of her, and I will always fight for her because I think overwhelmingly she is a



force for good. I commend all members for the next four years to serve this parliament and their constituents well.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (16:46):** I, too, rise today to speak on the Address in Reply, which has laid out the Liberal government's reform agenda for this 54<sup>th</sup> parliament. I would also like to acknowledge many people for the recent state election and for the great opportunity for not only me but all the newly elected Liberal Party members, and, of course, for the front bench. It is a huge honour bestowed upon us that I think the previous government had taken for granted for 16 years.

I acknowledge the outstanding role His Excellency Hieu Van Le continues to play for South Australia, of course aided by his wife, Lan. They are a great asset to South Australia. I would also like to congratulate people behind the scenes in the outstanding victory. It cannot be stated lightly that this party was ably led by the honourable Premier, Steven Marshall, member for Dunstan. In his five years as leader, he displayed incredible courage. He displayed incredible leadership that people continually supported but, at some point in time, being the Leader of the Opposition is probably one of the worst jobs going.

As a friend of the Premier, as a colleague being elected in the school of 2010, it has been great to see him grow, as have the other members elected in 2010: the Hon. Dan van Holst Pellekaan; the member for Flinders, Peter Treloar; the Hon. John Gardner, Minister for Education; the Hon. Jing Lee in the other place; and, of course, the member for Adelaide, the Hon. Rachel Sanderson, who has had outstanding courage in what has been a tumultuous battle, right from 2010 up to the 2018 election, to be re-elected for the third time. Of course, we were all ably assisted by a team headed up by the president, John Olsen. John Olsen is obviously renowned not only for being a past premier and a federal senator but also for his leadership and calmness, ably assisted by the party director, Sascha Meldrum. I think they have done an outstanding job.

All those in the now Premier's office—back then, it was the leader of the opposition's office, the leader's unit—have done an outstanding job. The Premier, through the course of his five years up to this past election, promoted unity and promoted a vision and our values. While we were very encouraged by all the documentation that came out, it gave us a focus. It gave us a focus to be the best we could be with Liberal values and, of course, to remember those values to govern in our own right.

One of the boldest statements that the now Premier made leading up to the election was that we would govern in our own right, that we would not do a deal and that we would not be compromised. It was one of the strongest statements that he made. People had to make a decision when they were voting: 'Are we going to vote for more of the same—16 years of disconnect?' Coming into the election, the previous government had disconnected with the people of South Australia. They had become very arrogant, they had become tired, and I think they had also become believers in their own mischief.

Over that time, the people of South Australia had to make a firm decision. Did they want change? The answer was yes. Did they want that change to enable a new government to govern in their own right? The rest is history. It is great to see that the South Australian Liberal Party has now been able to step into the fray and govern in its own right.

People came to me prior to the election and post election regarding our Liberal values. On reflection, we were there to govern for the people; we were not there to govern for a political ideology. Free speech—we are a cabinet-led government, a government that will promote confidence and not a people's bank picking winners. For far too long that is something that I have seen.

For the eight years that I have been in this place, the previous government has been about picking winners. South Australian taxpayers have been used as a bank. In regional communities, when governments pick winners they always create a divide: those who do and those who do not, or those who have and those who have not. As I said, for far too long we have seen it in businesses, within industry, but particularly in small regional communities it has been amplified, and it creates that division. Those who have a bigger resource are able to infiltrate ministers, government departments and be more eligible for those grants and funding streams and to be able to promote themselves to go further.

This government will be about governing for all South Australians. It is about a government that will be getting out of the way. It will be about a government that is going to promote infrastructure over individuals. It will be about a government that promotes the betterment of industries rather than picking winners. In my very short time sitting on this front bench, it has become very evident that people are now just waiting for the next stream of money so that they can make a decision as to whether they are going to expand their business, open a business or be part of a new business venture without actually being prepared to put skin in the game when it comes to looking for government assistance.

I will put on the record that we will not be a bank and we will not be picking winners. We will be out there for the betterment of industry. We will be out there for the betterment of small business. If it is to be large business, they will be treated accordingly. South Australia will be at the front and centre of what we are about. We will be there creating confidence within the business sector, creating confidence within my portfolio—within agriculture, the primary industries, the regions that have been sadly neglected for so long, for 16 long years. The former premier has been widely reported as saying, 'There are no votes in the region, so why do we support them?'

We have seen the former government for so long kicking around something that is dear to my heart: the lifeblood into the Riverland, into South Australia—the River Murray. It has been used as a political football for way too long. For me to travel to Canberra with the Minister for Environment and Water was an absolute godsend. We have a minister who went there and presented himself, looked the federal minister for water in the whites of his eyes and said, 'We will work for the betterment of the Murray-Darling Basin. We will work and we will fight for South Australia's rights. We will work for South Australia's best interests, but we will work to implement a basin plan. We will work for water reform and we will lead by example.' That is exactly what he did.

He got a commitment from the federal minister that he would work together in a bipartisan approach, as he would have done with all the other states' water ministers, because for far too long we have seen politics played out in what has been one of the biggest reform agendas in the history of this country. There is nothing more sure than when the basin plan is fully implemented and reformed that every Australian will be better off. Not only will we have a healthy, working river but we will have much more healthy economies.

We will have communities that are engaged, but will remember those communities that are giving up their water, those irrigators who are selling or have sold some of their water but are now part of the process to make sure that their businesses are better for the water that they have contributed back to the environment. It is about a collaborative approach. It is about the river. It is about the environment. It is about the economy. It is about monitoring. It is about all levels of government. It is about everyone coming together to make sure that we have a healthy, working river in 100 years' time.

It is very easy and flippant for me to say that we need a healthy, working river in 100 years' time. We will go through drought once again. We will go through hardship, hard times, lean times once again, but we will also go through recovery phases. We will go through high rainfall events and we will go through flooding and we will go through drought once again. I must say that the platform and the reason why I am in this place is for the betterment of the River Murray, particularly in South Australia.

Regional South Australia, as I have touched on, has clearly been neglected for a great period of time. The line is that for 16 long years we have had a government that have reflected on their interests and have sadly pushed regional South Australia to one side. We have seen a centralised mentality when it comes to all services: when it comes to health, when it comes to education, when it comes to all of the front-line services and when it comes to the greater good of South Australia. We look at the crumbling infrastructure in regional South Australia while we are gold plating infrastructure projects in metropolitan Adelaide. The great wall of Gepps Cross and the tollgate continue to resonate in the ears of the people of regional South Australia. For far too long, they have been so forgiving of a government that has continued to ignore them.

This government's agenda is to make sure that our mandate is to govern for all of South Australia. It is going to create huge opportunity, not only for industry but for our resources sector and for our energy sector. It is going to create huge opportunity for what is perceived that we

can do to grow our economy and our exports and services that we can export to overseas countries. Dealing with new opportunities, with free-trade agreements, with trade-specific partnerships, they are there for the taking.

We look at what we have seen in the Northern Hemisphere with the political unrest through Brexit. They are opportunities that here in South Australia we must take hold of, we must grasp, to make sure that we can generate something from nothing. Until the split between Europe and the UK, there were a lot of industries that were in lock step and they were very comfortable where they were. The breakaway will mean that here in Australia, particularly in South Australia, those opportunities will grow.

Our food and beverage sectors and our international education have created opportunities that we can offer the world by coming to South Australia to gain an education that they will experience nowhere else. It is not just about education; it is about the package and what they experience here, a life experience, as well as South Australia being a great education state.

Of course, regional South Australia will grow and prosper. One of the great parts of our great nation is regional South Australia and the opportunities it presents. I know that moving to the regions and back onto the land as a reasonably young fellow created opportunities for me and for other people by my employing them. At certain times of harvest, I would have 20 or 30 families on my farm working for me. It was about not just employing a person; it was about employing families.

The husband and wife would come out, and their children would come out after hours, on weekends and during school holidays. Nothing made me prouder than to give these people that opportunity. Today, I look around and see that those families have now bought farms, where they are raising their children and creating opportunities for their children. I think that is something that many of us in South Australia take for granted.

We must remember that 50 per cent of the state's GSP is created by just 28 per cent of the population for almost 60 per cent of the state's merchandise exports. In terms of this government's commitment to our regions, I remember meeting with the Premier at the Limestone Coast only a week after I had been sworn in as the minister. The Premier turned up at the Limestone Coast in his usual fashion—promoting regional South Australia, listening to the constituents within the wine industry, looking within the manufacturing industry and the ways he could promote what they do and ways that he could instil confidence in those sectors.

Last year, the Premier made over 50 regional trips around South Australia. That is incredibly important because he practises what he preaches. Not taking away from metropolitan Adelaide—he lives and breathes metropolitan Adelaide—he was prepared to put up what he presented as a Recharging Our Regions policy document that has been very well received. It is a comprehensive policy document that is looking at how we are going to grow jobs and how we can promote South Australia's economy. It is a renewable asset in regional South Australia, when we look at agriculture and the beverage sector, because #regionsmatter.

What really matters is that the primary industries that have been long neglected are now feeling a sense of confidence, that someone does care about them, that someone wants to help them grow, help them employ more people and create more opportunities for exports. They want to retain our youth in regional South Australia and, on that point, in South Australia, when it comes to up-skilling, making sure that we are ready for defence contracts, making sure that we are ready for our renewed export contracts for wine, food, extra beverages and services for which we need skills to export that high-value, low-volume product, it is extremely important that our policy agenda is rolled out.

Obviously, within primary industries some of the policies that were announced include providing support for the food and beverage industry by increasing funding to Food SA—a great organisation—to up to \$1 million per annum. Not only is it about working with Food SA and the initiatives they are using and the promotions, the hard work that they do in our international markets, but it is about coming back with the intel, making sure that our exporters or our wannabe exporters are ready to export.

There is nothing more disheartening than if—and my previous role was in making sure that if we are going to export food and beverage these people, these businesses, are ready to export, and that they do not go overseas unprepared—they are not ready to be part of the big game, because exporting is tough. It is a very tough industry and in some way, shape or form it can be quite soul destroying if you do not get it right.

It is a matter of this government supporting and promoting exports. It is about helping those exporters to help themselves, making sure that they are ready. It is about undertaking an independent expert review into the GM moratorium and taking a scientific approach. We do not want these ideologies that we have lived with for the last 16 years. That has to stop. As a conventional farmer, I had organic farmers as my neighbours. I had farmers who had taken that alternative approach, and we lived with one another; we coexisted. There is no reason why the scientific evidence cannot substantiate what South Australia should be doing to give those growers, those farmers, the choice, remembering that that choice is about looking at one commodity, and that is canola, nothing more, nothing less.

Of course, we look at biosecurity. My recent trip to Brisbane, to the AGMIN meeting, really did highlight to me the importance of biosecurity, obviously dealing with free trade agreements, dealing with exporting, dealing with more imports coming into this country, dealing with cross-border interaction and making sure that we have border protection when it comes to agriculture, horticulture and the fisheries sector, that we do have provisions in place. Yes, we will be putting in more quarantine bins for fruit flies into the Riverland. We will be increasing our monitoring and our education to make sure that we continue our market advantage, the importance of that market advantage we have of being fruit fly free.

Undertaking a business case for the wine and food centre in the Riverland is very dear to my heart. In terms of wine, the Riverland produces 25 per cent of the nation's vintage. It is over 60 per cent of the state's vintage. We are the engine room of the wine industry. We do not always produce the premium beautiful high-end wines, but in the Riverland we do produce the base, the platform, the foundations of the wine industry: 460,000 tonnes of wine grapes per annum. This year was down a little, but what it does highlight is that the Riverland is the base for our export program in wine.

There are many other issues that we want to talk about, such as looking at wild dogs and implementing extra trappers. We all know that wild dogs are heading south and having a bigger and bigger impact on our livestock herd as we speak. I will be introducing farm debt mediation into parliament and meeting with the New South Wales primary industries minister to look at ways that we can utilise the knowledge and expertise that New South Wales has used for some time now, with amendments that have just come into their parliament. It is about supporting and helping our primary producers to make sure that if it does hit the fan we have people there who will give them that mediation to help them get through the tough times.

Other issues are undertaking an independent review for PIRSA's cost recovery and establishing new representation for recreational commercial fishers. That has been a very contentious issue. As a very passionate recreational fisher, I met with most of the commercial fishing sector. It is there to be reformed. As a new government, we need to do more listening and act with care, not just have a knee-jerk reaction. Rather than dealing with the scab, we may as well deal with the illness. At the moment, the fishing sector is doing an outstanding job.

When I met with the fishing sector, I saw that the collaborative approach between the commercial sector and PIRSA is absolutely outstanding. I was so buoyed to see that it is a can-do approach: how can government help the sector and how can the sector help government? There is the real-time data, particularly in the rock lobster sector, understanding the pressures, of course, on our fish stocks and helping the commercial sector adjust. We do have a reducing fish stock number, so it is very important that we deal with it now before it is too late. The industry is working extremely well with the state government and the commonwealth government to understand how we can better adjust and adapt to the growing needs of the fishing sector.

We always look at ways to reduce treated water being pumped out to our gulf. This has adversely impacted on seagrasses, so my department is looking at the impact of that on our fishing sector. Working with nature-based groups and looking at ways that we can create new habitat for

the fishing sector is, I think, a really exciting proposition. Not only can we promote, rebuild and rehabilitate reef structure and fish habitats, but we can create industries around that. We can create a great environment to rebuild fish stocks and have the ability to make sure we support the industries. It is not just about commercials and it is not just about recreation; it is about a sustainable environment. It is about making sure that our regional communities are supported: more tourism, more fish. It is all about more sustainability.

Regarding forestry, South Australia has in the last few years been particularly off-footed with the sale of the forward rotations down in the South-East, and that has really taken some adjusting to. However, the government is committed to working to ensure the future is sustainable with replanting options, to ensure the mills have sawlog made available to continue a local timber economy. It is about growing jobs—it is about growing local jobs. It is not about just putting all our timber on ships and sending it away for another country to value-add.

As we talk about the food sector, in my short time here it was very exciting to announce the collaborative partnership between federal, state and industry when it comes to the Fight Food Waste CRC that will be headquartered at the Waite Institute here in South Australia. Currently, there is \$20 billion worth of waste. Just imagine if we can have the headquarters here to create an economy that would value-add to our food sector, grow jobs and give more and more businesses the opportunity to export. It really is a great opportunity.

As I said, through the Governor's speech, under this South Australian Liberal Party, we are going to support private businesses. We are not going to be looking at taxpayers for financial support before making investment and growth decisions. As I said, a Marshall Liberal government does not intend to be a bank, and we are not going to be considered a bank on behalf of the private sector. We have a very robust plan to slash taxes to create better conditions to back our businesses. I think that is what businesses have been lacking. That is what they have missed out on for so long: the confidence.

We have had a previous government that has just wanted to put in bank taxes—more taxes and increase charges. Everyone, particularly in my electorate of Chaffey, looks around and says, 'The border is 12 kilometres over there. How much easier is it going to be to do business across the border than it is to remain in this state under a government that doesn't care?' It is really important that this government has hit the ground running. The Premier has led by example with a business background, and I share his congratulations to his father for doing his apprenticeship at GMH, just as I did. The success of the Marshall empire is evident when you look at the Minister for Industry and Skills and his apprenticeship. It just shows you that anything can happen when you are not looking.

Again, I would like to put on the record that I thank the great electorate of Chaffey and the people who voted and put their confidence in me. I thank them for putting up with me for a third term. I live it and I breathe it. I love the electorate: the river, the horticulture, the agriculture, the people and the culture are so, so dear to my heart. For the last eight years, I have given life and limb—almost limb—to my constituents, and I will continue to do so.

In the lead-up to the election, there were a number of promises made, and one of the local policy commitments was, in particular, drug rehabilitation through a matrix pilot program that will be implemented in the Riverland. This is coupled with a new roads program. What that means is that the scourge of ice will be put under the microscope. The matrix program has been implemented in the US for 30 years. It is a great program and is successful, and it will be implemented into the Riverland very soon.

The electorate produces the majority of the state's citrus, stone fruit, wine grapes, avocados, the horticulture, but what I would like to say is that the Loxton Research Centre is alive and well. To those people who have seen what it has produced in history, I will be working very hard to ensure that the Loxton Research Centre continues to be front and centre. Roads will be a part of our regional infrastructure program, and I look forward to making a further contribution when I talk about the great work the people of Chaffey are doing.

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (17:16):** I take this opportunity to congratulate not just yourself, Mr Deputy Speaker, but also the Speaker on ascendancy as adjudicators of this place. I wish both of you every success in that role. I also congratulate the government and all its members, and all our

members as well, new and old. It is a wonderful place to work. Every day is different and you will get so much out of it. Congratulations, and I look forward to working with you more closely.

I rise as a member of the house in the 54<sup>th</sup> South Australian parliament. I will reflect on my time formerly as the member for Fisher, and on the many victories we were able to achieve in our local community, and also reflect on the 2018 election campaign and reaffirm the commitments, goals and motivations that inspired me to put myself forward as the member for Hurtle Vale.

Firstly, thank you to my community, the wonderful electors of Hurtle Vale, who have given me an amazing gift by putting their trust in me to represent them here in this place. As I made mention throughout my campaign just once or twice, I am a lifetime local of the Adelaide southern suburbs. My family and I have lived in the same Woodcroft house now for nearly 30 years. I have been and will continue to be an active member of many sports, social and community clubs across Morphett Vale, Woodcroft, Old Reynella, Reynella East and Happy Valley. All these wonderful suburbs come together to make the seat of Hurtle Vale.

With the boundary changes handed down by the commission, Happy Valley and Morphett Vale sadly now find themselves split across two electorates, Happy Valley into Hurtle Vale and Davenport and then Morphett Vale into Hurtle Vale and Reynell, divided down the middle by Main South Road. This second division creates many logistical issues from an information delivery point of view, apparently, because it is such a vast suburb. It was an issue brought to light in the Hurtle Vale campaign, when residents in the Reynell part of the electorate received newsletters and information and other material from the Liberal candidate for Hurtle Vale, causing them a great deal of anxiety and worry. They were not quite sure what was going on. This is something we may need to address in the future.

It is, of course, an honour to be given the privilege of representing the good people of Hurtle Vale and I thank them for that today. I also thank my wonderful family. They continue to sacrifice so much to enable me to perform this job: my husband Neil, our children Sheree, Ty and Sid. Thank you for your support, your love, your encouragement, your understanding during long nights at parliament, the chaos of campaigns and the busy weekends when I am out and about in our community, sometimes dragging you along with me. My apologies to my beautiful little boy Sid, who I fall asleep in bed with many nights after coming home late from parliament and just popping in for a quick minute.

Of course, my wonderful son Sam, taken from us on 4 May 2008, 10 years ago last Friday, continues to be my biggest inspiration, motivation and driver for the work that I do in this place. He is always here with me. Also during the course of the previous parliament, I lost my dear mum. Mum sat in here and very proudly listened to me give my maiden speech. Parliament can be a funny place at times—adversarial, friendly, loving, joyful—but, when you go through awful personal circumstances, there is wonderful support from members on all sides, and I know many of you here have shared that journey as well. I thank all members for their support when I lost mum.

I want to take the opportunity also to thank the hundreds of volunteers who have supported me throughout my time as the member for Fisher and in the lead-up to polling day this year. If you manned a polling booth, made phone calls, doorknocked, stuffed envelopes, attended shopping centres, donated, attended an event, dropped everything and came out to show mass support on short notice or any and all of the above, thank you so much for your help and for your support.

I give thanks for the support and dedication also of our union movement more broadly but particularly United Voice, the Australian Services Union and the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Union, South Australian Branch. Their hard work not only helped me in my campaign for Hurtle Vale but it also helps people every day—everyday South Australians fighting for fairer wages and conditions. I thank them for their support and I reaffirm my support helping them to change the rules.

Every campaign has a great campaign team. I must take a brief moment to thank my campaign manager, Ellen, who, together with my staff and also former staff, including Katherine, Tristan, Ella, Kelsey and Jess, helped me make the Hurtle Vale campaign a success. They are a dedicated bunch of staff. I could not wish for more. They have a great blend of youth and experience and wisdom. A couple of special mentions: for Ella, who supported me through some huge changes

last year and assisted me with amazing work when I was an assistant minister to the minister for housing and infrastructure, Stephen Mullighan.

The work around affordable housing and solutions to combat homelessness will be more than useful as I journey now as shadow minister covering many of these matters. I would also like to recognise Katherine. She took on the role of office manager for me at short notice in a time of rapid change. She is crazy at times and very loud, but she is joyful, friendly and superefficient. She brought in procedures and check mechanisms that have made a huge difference to the way that we can serve our community. I feel so very lucky to have her.

Hurtle Vale is an amazing electorate. I could not be more proud or more humble to be representing that community. Our community in the southern suburbs is one that we are extremely proud of as a group of southern MPs. I see this every day from fierce competition and camaraderie at the Southern United Netball Association at Morphett Vale's Wilfred Taylor Reserve, to the true sense of community through Happy Valley's Old Cottage Playgroup, the community centres, the siren song of a Panthers' home game at Hickinbotham Oval. It truly unites the south and the southern MPs who I also work alongside.

I am pleased that, as first the candidate and now the first member for Hurtle Vale, I was able to commit to and secure a number of programs and projects in our local community that will start rolling out in the coming months and years. They will make a huge difference. We were lobbied really hard about the Hurtle John Potter Reserve in Woodcroft to provide somewhere for young people to spend time. We were also lobbied really hard about the mural at the youth centre at Old Reynella that was vandalised, and we were able to secure some funds to repair that as well. That means a lot to the community. We also secured \$290,000 to repair the leaking roof at the Morphett Vale basketball stadium at Wilfred Taylor Reserve that has caused great risk and injury to players.

I am also really pleased that the Liberal Party throughout the course of their campaign matched that commitment to repair the basketball stadium roof so that it was happening no matter what. Also, the commitment of \$1.3 million towards establishing a nature play adventure playground at Wilfred Taylor Reserve was matched by the Liberal Party, and I look forward to further discussions between the government, the City of Onkaparinga and myself on making this commitment a reality.

I will also continue to lobby the government on a number of key priorities around Hurtle Vale that we committed to throughout our election campaign, including female changing facilities at the Morphett Vale Football Club and a commitment to improve and streamline a very dangerous kiss-and-drop area at Woodcroft Primary School and surrounding areas. It causes a great deal of anxiety for many parents and students at the school, so I will continue to discuss that.

I also note the government's commitment, made throughout the election campaign, to install service lights at the intersection of Main South Road, the Southern Expressway, Kenihans Road and Panalatinga Road. I look forward to receiving an update from the minister regarding the time line of that important upgrade.

Before entering this place in 2014, as many of you know, I worked as a nurse for nearly 30 years. I am extremely thankful for that experience in the profession, which has provided me in my work as a member of parliament with much great reflection. I am honoured to be able to maintain my strong nursing roots through my annual International Nurses Day morning tea or lunch at Parliament House, amongst other things. I am sad to farewell the previous member for Elder, Annabel Digance, a midwife by profession and a fantastic advocate for women's and babies' services in our community. I will continue to work for midwives on her behalf here in parliament, and I will honour International Day of the Midwife regularly as well.

Nurses and midwives work at the coalface where health and social policy meet real-world application. They assist and support the sick and the injured, the mentally ill and the elderly. They are there to support those in mourning or suffering significant grief and loss and to celebrate the miracle of new life and extraordinary recoveries. They work incredibly hard across long shifts in trying circumstances and in health systems that are under stress and often undergoing significant change and rejuvenation.

My experiences as a nurse have served me well as a member of parliament and help me to listen to and understand concerns of my electors as well. My time as a nurse has instilled in me a passion for both health and social policy and has dovetailed nicely with my former portfolio as assistant minister for housing and urban development as well as my new role as shadow minister for human services.

I would like to take this opportunity as well to commend His Excellency the Governor, Hieu Van Le, and Mrs Le for their outstanding commitment and for all the hard work they do for our great state of South Australia. I would have to say, though, last week, when I sat and listened to the Governor read the speech covering the government's vision, it raised some red flags for me. My palms began to sweat, and I began to feel unwell. While sitting in the other place listening to that speech, I was reminded of my year 11 economics teacher, Mr Marin, in his efforts to teach me trickle-down economic theory. I really have not heard economic speak so disconnected from the economic imperative required for our state since that time.

If I examine my own economic values and explain them to you, you might understand why. If I fill out anything to do with the political compass, I land somewhere between Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, so I really have difficulty with trickle-down theory. The opposition, I know, is committed to supporting business investment, entrepreneurship and innovation, but the notion that the blunt instrument of tax cuts, like the mooted cuts to land tax—cuts that will benefit the state's most wealthy—will somehow trickle down and support South Australian workers, and support vulnerable South Australian people, for me is laughable.

I have enjoyed and appreciated the work of the current Minister for Human Services from the other place from a distance. Her commitment to equality, equity and access over her time in the parliament must be commended. I am very concerned that she will not have the capacity to stand up to the economic conservatives who sit around her cabinet table and ensure that South Australia's most disadvantaged do not suffer for the benefit of the big end of town.

I will work constructively with her, and I will support her to get her voice heard as a social advocate amongst trickle-down economics theorists. Her cabinet is led by a Premier, Premier Steven Marshall, who, when asked on 4 March 2014 which social issues were important to him, answered, 'Social issues? To be quite honest, I didn't go into politics for the social issues'. Well, minister Lensink in the other place, frankly, I did go into politics for the social issues and I have your back. I, along with my community sector friends, will have your back as your pleas for assistance for vulnerable South Australians potentially will fall on deaf ears.

I have relished my time as a shadow minister this past month, and I am looking forward to working with the minister in the other place to ensure South Australia remains an inclusive and equitable place to live. I am committed to holding the Marshall Liberal government to account while pursuing positive, socially progressive reforms to the sector that really only a Labor government delivers. I thank my caucus colleagues, and in particular our leader, Peter Malinauskas, for placing confidence in me with this awesome portfolio of human services. I could not be happier.

As a shadow minister with oversight of portfolio areas, including communities and social inclusion, disabilities, social housing, volunteers and youth, I have spent the past month meeting and consulting with dozens of peaks and stakeholders from the sector. I could not be happier. I feel like I am in the place that was written for me.

As our leader, the Leader of the Opposition, has made mention that Labor is committed to listening to both the public and to sectors to learn more about what went wrong for us in the March poll and how a Malinauskas Labor government can come in 2022 and better represent and deliver on their behalf. To this end, I am committed to engaging and listening to the sector over the coming weeks and months to better understand the sector and Labor's role in facilitating positive, progressive change where necessary.

I also wish to echo the Leader of the Opposition's commitment to work cooperatively and in good faith across many areas with government. We will not take that Marshall and Abbott approach of opposing for opposition's sake. We understand that the people of South Australia are best served when the parliament works and delivers for them. That is my pledge here today. But, should this government seek to target or forget the most vulnerable in our community, should the agenda seek



to discriminate against low and middle income earners, against teachers, nurses, health, education and critical social services, or should it hurt our people, we will be there and we will put up one hell of a fight.

We on this side of the house are here to represent every South Australian, regardless of their income or circumstance, and I would urge the government to choose their policy settings wisely moving forward. I know I will be working hard every day throughout this 54<sup>th</sup> parliament, not only representing the constituents of Hurtle Vale but fighting for a fair and reasonable cost of living for all South Australians and better support for the housing and homelessness sector, as well as continued investment in key Labor initiatives that will have a substantial economic and social benefit to the people of South Australia, including our former Labor government's virtual power plant program.

This is same program that the Premier axed within days of coming to office only a few weeks ago, a program that must be reinstated. It is a fantastic partnership that will shield our most vulnerable and the broader community from the high cost of living. It was foolhardy to axe it, and there is no embarrassment in reversing that decision—we will support it.

I look forward to working more closely with the disability sector, and I put on record today Labor's in-principle support for the Disability Inclusion Bill. I hope it will return to parliament in short order. I will work more closely with the youth sector throughout South Australia. I have already convened a Hurtle Vale youth forum—you all know who you are. Thank you so much. You are an incredible bunch of young leaders. You will advise me on areas of concern for young people in Hurtle Vale and more broadly.

I think everyone comes into this place for the same reasons: we all want the same outcomes, and we all want the best for the people of South Australia. We just have different priorities, different journeys and different ways of getting there.

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (17:33):** Mr Deputy Speaker, colleagues, family and friends, it is with a great sense of pride and privilege that I rise and deliver this Address in Reply to His Excellency the Governor's speech opening the 54<sup>th</sup> Parliament of South Australia. Congratulations to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and to the Speaker on your appointments to high office. I trust and am certain that you and the Speaker will undertake your duties with diligence and integrity. Congratulations to all newly elected and returning members from both sides of politics.

At the recent election, the Liberal Party, like South Australia, welcomed a fresh start, new ideas and new faces. Eleven first-term members sit on this side of the chamber. Each brings a diverse range of skills and experiences due to the broad cross-section of life and employment journeys undertaken prior to entering this place. I believe that this diversity in background and thinking is of utmost importance to good decision-making, and I will touch on that in more detail later.

It would be remiss of me at this point not to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by other candidates who do not sit in this chamber with us today. They, like us, willingly put their lives to one side in the hope of seeing a Liberal government here in South Australia. Our candidates in Wright, Lee, Torrens and Badcoe, to name a few, are not absent from this chamber through lack of effort. Their work was just as important in realising our collective goal, and this must be acknowledged.

I stand here today in this place humble but prepared, ready to make the most of the immense opportunity that the good people of Colton have provided me. It is honestly an honour and a privilege to represent my local community in this parliament, a community that my wife grew up in—and Lizzy is here today—where I fell in love and where we plan to raise our children.

I want to acknowledge the former member for Colton, Paul Caica, for his 16 years of service. I am a firm believer that there are two things that really matter: firstly, what you do; and, secondly, how you go about it. While I did not often agree with Paul's politics, I have great respect for the way he went about his work. He always exercised humility and passion and was never afraid to stand up for our community. I think the people of Colton expect this from their local member, and I endeavour to meet their expectations.

Colton captures the suburbs of Henley Beach and Henley Beach South, Fulham and Fulham Gardens, Kidman Park, Lockleys, and the newly distributed suburbs of West Beach and Glenelg North. While I am biased, I am certain that at the very least a few in the chamber today also believe

I have the privilege of representing the best electorate. You only need ask the many who move into the area, never to leave, about the laid-back lifestyle, the community feel and the fantastic coffee and coastal charm that combine to make Colton and the western suburbs special.

Colton is home to individual communities, each with a different character and feel. These communities are underpinned by the many and varied clubs and community groups that entertain and serve the western suburbs. Our fantastic two surf clubs, West Beach and Henley, take pride in protecting all who use our beaches and are focal points for community sentiment and culture. Our sporting clubs—whether it be the Sharks, the Demons, the Tigers, the Eagles or one of the many others—provide grassroots sporting opportunities for our youth but also play an important role in defining the identity of our community.

While the numerous service clubs provide opportunities to unite around shared interests and goals, behind each of these clubs are local legends, people who have committed themselves to serving their communities. I met many of them through the campaign period and I want to put on record my thanks to them for what they continue to do for all of us.

Colton is a mix of Riverside suburbs. Kidman Park, Lockleys and Fulham are tied together by the banks of the River Torrens. Linear Park is always littered with dogs and their owners leisurely making their way to the river mouth. The beachside suburbs of Henley Beach, Henley Beach South, West Beach and Glenelg North share a unique stretch of coastline, a stretch of beaches that attract not just locals but visitors from all around our great state, our country and, in fact, the world. Our beaches are the economic powerhouse of the western suburbs and their future is vital to the prosperity of our region. It is a stretch of beaches that should be in better shape, if not for the previous government's refusal to admit that a new approach to coastal management is necessary.

I spoke with thousands of locals during the campaign, not just paying lip service but listening to the things they view as important for our local area, ideas to improve our part of the world and the things that frustrate them. Listening is an important skill for any leader, for anyone who represents a group of people. It is something that we as elected representatives must never forget or take for granted. I am committed to continuing to engage with our local community over my time in this place, to doorknock, to hold community meetings and, as simple as it may sound, to turn up for our community.

It was clear from my discussions with the people of Colton that, like most South Australians, they wanted a change and a new government—a government focused on reducing costs; creating jobs not through picking winners but with the government as the custodians of a competitive business environment, an environment that provides the private sector with the opportunity to grow and sustainably employ more South Australians; providing better services; but, more than just this, taking the time to understand what services are important to South Australians, a feature that was absent towards the end of the previous government.

I am truly excited about the opportunity that lies in front of me—to be part of a Liberal government focused on delivering these vital changes and to be part of a government that delivers for all South Australians. My journey to this place, my life so far, has been shaped by events, circumstance and opportunity. My parents, also here today, associate as working-class people. My mother, a teacher born in Wangaratta who made her way to Adelaide in her youth, found her lifelong passion for teaching straight out of school and celebrates her 43<sup>rd</sup> year in the classroom this year.

My father was a 1965 ten-pound Pom. Well, my grandparents were. Dad's memory recalls that the fare was waived for children. Dad originally worked as a typesetter before turning to graphic art and starting a small business with two friends. They successfully ran the business for 13 years. I witnessed firsthand the effort and work ethic required to keep a small business afloat. I vividly remember, as a young kid, helping dad enter thousands of product codes into a sales brochure on a Sunday afternoon. When work needed to be done, it was all hands on deck.

From these experiences grew a respect for South Australian small business owners. They, at the end of the day, are the backbone of our economy. More needs to be done to make things easier for those willing to take a risk, willing to create their own futures and wanting to employ more South Australians, and I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering in this area.

In December 1988, my parents faced the unexpected. Their first-born son was born premature and different from most kids yet, significantly, perfect in their eyes. I owe my parents, Peter and Vivienne, a debt that I will never be able to repay. They have given both my sister and I every opportunity to succeed in life and provided me with support beyond measure. For this, I must publicly say thank you.

Importantly for someone in my position, they taught me the value of independence and self-belief at an early age. This was done through simple tasks like learning to tie my own shoes or to open jars. Although menial, day-to-day tasks for most, they were not always easy. Learning to do these things by myself and understanding that I should not rely on others was critical.

I got involved in sport at a young age, originally leg-dominated sports like soccer and Little Athletics. Swimming was simply something I did for water safety because of our backyard pool. However, it became evident that I had some talent and I progressed quickly through Learn to Swim and moved into squads. My interest and passion for the sport grew as I raced and sometimes even beat other able-bodied swimmers.

The next 16 years of my swimming career were spent in one way or another under the direction of Pete Bishop, my long-term coach, friend and confidant. Pete, or Bish as he was known on pool deck, is just as responsible for my athletic success as I am. Over this period, I swam millions of laps, worked on my strengths and weaknesses and developed strokes and techniques that compensated for the absence of my left arm. Every 4am start, every session, was completed under the watchful eye of Pete and made possible through my dad's dedication and commitment as a swimming parent undertaking early morning taxi duties.

I had the great privilege of representing our state and our country at three Paralympic Games (Athens, Beijing and London) and three Commonwealth Games (Melbourne, Delhi and Glasgow) and a range of world championships. I never took these opportunities for granted and I achieved more than I ever could have expected or have dreamed. I got to do something I loved for a long time. What is more, I got to do it with fantastic and inspiring people.

On reflection, one gold medal does stand out above all others. My parents, for various reasons, never had the opportunity to travel and watch me race at international competitions. They had, instead, been glued to the television, the live stream and the live results webpage at home. Towards the end of the London Paralympics, one of my sponsors clued to the fact that my parents were not in London and, unbeknownst to me, organised to get my parents to the games. They had the opportunity to watch the 100 metre freestyle, my final race of the London 2012 Paralympics.

That day, and that event, will always be the most special of my swimming career. In fact, it ended up being my final Paralympic gold medal, making it even more significant. To share that race and that medal with two people who sacrificed so much to get me to that point—I cannot even begin to describe what that gesture meant to both me and my parents. When I look back at my time in the pool, I realise just how much I grew as a person. Over the years, I learned the importance of dedication, persistence, resilience and attention to detail—all things that have served me well since.

I was also supported over the journey by so many other people, and I cannot not mention David Baker. David has been the chair of the South Australian paralympic committee since I started my career. His passion and exuberance for life are evident in everything he does, and I thank him for his friendship and continued support. Another thing that my parents made a point of doing was ensuring that I always had one eye on life after sport. My mum, being a teacher, always stressed the importance of education. While still competing, I completed school and double degrees in law and media at the University of Adelaide.

It was during this period that I started to develop an interest in politics and government. This led me to apply for and take up a fellowship with an experienced US congresswoman from Miami, Florida. My experience in Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's congressional office was transformational. I learnt the ins and outs of a very different form of politics and political world, but also about the passion and work ethic needed to be successful in public office. Ileana is as motivated to influence change as she is passionate, but she also knows that small things and taking the time can profoundly change any conversation, which is why every visitor to her office is greeted with a cafe Cubano and a smile. After 26 years, congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen is retiring in November to spend more time with her

husband and grandbabies, as she would say. I want to take this opportunity to thank her for her generosity and wisdom.

Many young people came through her office: some have gone on to serve other constituencies. I am certain that the experience had just as much of a profound impact on others as it did on me. On returning from the US and while still swimming, I started my professional career at KPMG here in Adelaide. I joined the government advisory practice, motivated by a desire to see government services and processes delivered more efficiently and with greater return on investment for the public. I can credit KPMG with a large part of my professional development. Technical skills and industry knowledge were built up over the years. There is no such thing as a standard day in consulting, and I imagine that will be the case in this place too.

Once retired, I found I had more time to dedicate to other passions. I joined the board of Variety SA, a charity organisation that provides opportunities for South Australian kids in need. I had the privilege of managing our Commonwealth Youth Games team in 2015 and 2017, and I appreciated the chance to assist the next generation of Australian athletes as they began their careers.

My journey to this place was made possible by a team of fantastic people, who have shaped my life, my values and my future. I would also not be here without the support I received during the long and at times gruelling campaign process. Campaigns are a testing time, not just for the candidate but also for their family and friends around them.

I want to specifically recognise my wife, Lizzy—she is my best friend; she is my rock—and so many other families and friends for their understanding and contribution over the past year or so. I must congratulate and thank South Australia's 46<sup>th</sup> Premier, Steven Marshall, the member for Dunstan, for his frequent visits and belief in my team and our campaign in Colton. The Premier's work ethic is unquestionable and his leadership and vision for the future of South Australia, refreshing and practical. I hope we can continue your visits in our new capacities for many years to come, and I am sure your mum and dad, Tony and Barbara, will be happy to have you drop by, too.

I was lucky to have the support of so many. The Deputy Premier (member for Bragg), the Treasurer in the other place, and the Minister for Education (member for Morialta) all provided invaluable support and counsel. My southerly neighbours, the members for Black and Gibson, were always happy to provide assistance and advice, as were many other now colleagues. I must also thank Senator Simon Birmingham for his ongoing support. Our Colton campaign team did a stand-up job. We letterboxed and doorknocked thousands of households. Many in the group went above and beyond to deliver a victory in Colton, the first in 16 years.

It was a privilege to have such a diverse crowd helping on election day—branch members, family and those who joined us along the way—all handing out flyers, many of them for the very first time. To my volunteers, including Bec Lynas and Madeleine Church, thank you for your dedication to the cause. It is one thing to do what is necessary and another entirely to enjoy doing the hard work together. I am certainly richer for the experience from both a professional and personal standpoint. To Priya Pavri, thank you for your ongoing friendship and for starting me on this journey.

I have spoken frequently about the importance of opportunity and those that were presented to me. During my time in this place, I will endeavour to provide opportunity for others: opportunity for those less fortunate, opportunity for those willing to work hard to benefit from it and opportunity that transforms our state for the better. The notion of opportunity underpins core Liberal concepts—for instance, that government should provide citizens with the opportunity to succeed and put the economic and social settings in place that allow all South Australians the opportunity to forge their own success through hard work.

I also want to be an advocate against government waste no matter who is in power. Waste is simply a lost opportunity to deliver more services, better services or to provide a tax break to stimulate growth or help those in need. I will be working to ensure that the skills I have acquired over my time do not go to waste in this area. I hope that my presence in this chamber and work that I undertake will add credence to the notion that diverse crowds make wiser decisions. I hope to be a catalyst for increased diversity within both the parliament and the Liberal Party. Our parliament is a

representative body and we need to do more, both as individuals and as groups, to ensure that our leaders are more representative of our state and community.

In conclusion, I want to again thank the people of Colton. I am in this parliament to participate, to challenge and to improve our great state. I believe in the power of the individual and in efficient government. I believe we can be more than we are now if we work together and grasp the opportunity with two hands. It is and will be a privilege, and ultimately a responsibility, to represent the people of Colton and our state in a different and new capacity.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Pederick.

At 17:55 the house adjourned until Wednesday 9 May 2018 at 10:30.