

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 10 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.

*Address in Reply*

### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.

(Continued from 9 May 2018.)

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

**Mr MURRAY (Davenport) (11:02):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As others before me have done, I congratulate you on your election and your appointment as Speaker. Unlike most others, I suspect, I have observed firsthand your outstanding work supporting your community and its volunteers through my role as president of the Norwood basketball club, which is based in Hartley at the ARC recreation facility at Campbelltown. You richly deserved your win. May I also congratulate you on your scrupulous and fearless application of the standing orders thus far, particularly when proceedings become rowdy. The consequent mix of consternation and incredulity on the face of my very good friend the member for Waite when he is being chastised by you is something that I will not easily tire of.

In supporting this motion, I commend the Governor for his work in the community and thank him for the inspiration his story of a refugee made good provides to all of us. In doing so, I relate another similar story. Bridget Corbett was born in 1847 in a village called Mullagh in County Clare on the west coast of Ireland. Mullagh is today perhaps best known as the site of a golf resort developed by US President, Donald Trump, whereas its previous claim to fame when Bridget was born was the nearby Spanish Point, the site of a mass grave of sailors from several ships of the Spanish Armada, which ran aground in the area.

Unfortunately, Bridget was born at a time when a wider, more infamous history was being written for Mullagh and all of Ireland, and 1847 was the worst year: the height of the five year long great famine. County Clare and Mullagh were the worst affected areas. In the five years of the famine, one million died of disease and starvation and a further one million emigrated to countries such as Australia. Whole families of tenant farmers, like Bridget's, were summarily evicted from their homes during this time, and all the while Ireland was a net exporter of food.

Somehow, Bridget survived, although she would always suffer the physical side effects of her childhood suffering from malnutrition. She emigrated to Australia as a child where she would later marry another Irish immigrant, the son of a Tipperary schoolmaster. He was literate, whereas she signed their wedding certificate with a cross—her mark.

Bridget and her husband would go on to be successful landowners and farmers and raise a family together. Two of her grandsons would serve overseas in the Second World War, with one paying the ultimate sacrifice in the infamous Sandakan prisoner of war camp. Bridget's story is like so many others, where successive Australian generations enjoy further improvements in their standard of living, compared to their parents, with a strong desire for education and self-improvement being inculcated into them in part as a response to the shadow cast by the past.

I am Bridget's great-great grandson. The son of the Tipperary schoolmaster whom Bridget married was James Murray. I come to this place mindful of my own history and that of our state,

optimistic about our future and utterly determined to do all I can to ensure that successive generations will continue to enjoy a life equal to, or better than, their parents.

I am the eldest son of Peter and Bev Murray, who provided me with a loving stable home environment and all the support, encouragement and discipline that I needed and/or deserved. In enumerating Peter and Bev's traits and characteristics, I will leave it to others to determine which, if any, I have inherited from them.

Peter was an articulate, outgoing man with a wicked sense of humour, who was a leader in his community and his workplace. He rose from the factory floor to become the CEO of agricultural machinery manufacturer Horwood Bagshaw, which was based in my home town of Mannum. Peter was a man of immense integrity who instilled in me the lesson that you must always do the right thing no matter how unpopular or difficult that may be. Peter was not just my dad but my mentor and my mate. He has been gone for almost a decade now and I miss him enormously.

Bev is here today. She is the peerless people person who can talk literally for hours and who has a genuine love and compassion for people and their stories. She has the original heart of gold and immensely enjoyed herself on a booth for me on election day, in the process striking up a rapport with all and sundry, notably some of the volunteers for the member for Hurtle Vale and that nice young man from the Greens, that is, their candidate. She is hopelessly optimistic when seeking to meet deadlines, a trait I will readily admit has been passed on to me, and I love her enormously.

I thank my siblings—Andrew, Suzanne and Natasha—for their help, love and support and for their patience with me and the inevitable issues that can arise with politics. I am immensely proud of you and your extended families, and I love nothing better than when we socialise together.

I spent my formative years in the river town of Mannum. I was a graduate of what was then the smallest high school in the state, playing all manner of sports but with a particular emphasis on football and the local club, the Roos, the theme song for which I am happy to teach their new local MP, the member for Hammond, should he require some assistance. It is with particular fondness that I recall many of the misadventures we participated in in an age where, fortunately, there was no such thing as social media.

Many of my mates from this time are still friends all these years later and they still keep me grounded. I acknowledge and thank, in no particular order: Bocky, Gobby, Harry, Pudge, Drew, Rocket, Sparky, Cooky and Zooks and many other Resting Roos, as they are now known, and observe not for the first time the disturbingly high proportion of them who support Port Adelaide.

From Mannum, I attended Adelaide University and was awarded an economics degree with an accounting major. At this stage of my development, my favourite sounds were anything sung by Cold Chisel and the noise made by anything powered by a Ford 351 Cleveland. As testimony to the civilising influence my wife has had upon me, I would later add, for example, Andrea Bocelli to that list.

This next paragraph or two carries the standard caveat that applies when someone (that is, a middle-aged male) is recounting their sporting prowess: to wit, the older I get the better I was. It should be noted that this caveat does not at any time apply in cases where the tale is being recounted by, for illustrative purposes only, a former commonwealth gold medal winner or a bona fide former long-term AFL player, but otherwise the caveat applies.

The caveat dealt with, I can share that at this time I also played football for Adelaide University, the Mighty Blacks, a distinction I believe I share with the Leader of the Opposition and, it is alleged, also the member for Waite. I subsequently enjoyed the highlight of my time as a footballer when I was invited in 1983 to trial for the Sturt Football Club senior team. This quickly turned into a life lesson in the comparative advantage theory that I had learnt in my economics degree. Put simply, after training with the great Peter Motley, I quickly realised that I was wasting my time because I did not have sufficient skill for my size to be competitive.

I will return to the subject of competitive advantage that South Australia must have or develop in order to best compete for jobs and investment. Unencumbered by any delusions about my football future, I won an IT and management role with the Ford Motor Company at a time when they held

market share of 30 per cent, versus its 7 per cent in 2017, and the 2017 market leader Toyota's share of 18 per cent.

After a number of years, I next moved to the country's leading automotive IT supplier with responsibility for their overseas sales and then, latterly, responsibility for their nascent internet site carsales.com.au, during which time I oversaw its first revenue generation, the formulation of its business and marketing plans and the logo and branding, which persists to this day, with its publicly listed successor. I subsequently established and ran, for the best part of the last 20 years, several of my own successful IT start-up businesses, which quickly grew staff to up to 50 or so people in order to accommodate multiyear contracts with some of the biggest and most successful classified businesses and websites in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the UK.

In 2014, I successfully stood for a vice president's position on the governing board of the South Australian Liberal Party, the state executive. In 2015, I was elected state president, a role I relinquished exactly 12 months ago in May 2017 so that I could focus on my campaign for Davenport. I sought election as president with, in part, a platform to modernise our IT and admin systems, repair our finance systems and to aggressively prosecute the party's case in the state redistribution process. It is now history that the outcome of that 2016 redistribution process was a successful one for the Liberal Party.

What was not widely known until now is some of the key things that occurred so that we were able to derive that outcome. I want to take the perhaps unusual step of detailing on the public record what occurred because it is so fundamentally important and I may not get an opportunity like this again. The Liberal Party has won the two-party preferred statewide vote in seven of the last eight elections, including the election in March of this year, but has only governed on three of those seven occasions. Prior to this year's election, the fairest in 25-plus years, the Liberal Party won the two-party preferred percentage vote in six of seven elections contested, with government in only two of those six two-party preferred wins.

Stretching back to 1989, when Labor won government with just 48 per cent of the two-party preferred vote, a fairness clause was inserted into our constitution in 1991 to try to ensure that the boundaries were drawn up in a manner that was fair: that is to say, consistent with the mathematics. Very simply, the fairness clause meant: get more than 50 per cent and you will win. To be clear, from 1991 to 2016 the redistributions were not fair—they were fundamentally mathematically flawed, curiously always in the same way and always favouring the same party.

The fairness clause sat unused and unloved from 1991 until 2016. South Australia had an electoral system that was regularly corrupted or contrived so as to derive a predetermined outcome, regardless of the actual vote. All the while, myths were peddled to cover the contrivance. Amongst the most egregious were that Labor won due to superior marginal campaigning or the fatalistic excuse that it is not possible to draw fair boundaries, it is the fault of the system. The fourth estate were, with one or two notable exceptions, only too willing to peddle and perpetuate these falsehoods.

What changed in 2016 was a new Liberal team that asked questions, mounted arguments never made previously and availed itself of opportunities not previously made available. To understand what changed, consider the process or steps used by the Electoral Commissioner at many successive redistributions:

- Step 1: Public submissions are sought by the conduct of hearings, and expert witnesses can provide advice to those hearings.
- Step 2: A draft set of boundaries is produced and distributed, the draft being based on the evidence provided and/or data provided by the Surveyor-General or the Electoral Commissioner.
- Step 3: Written submissions may be made regarding the draft.
- Step 4: A final set of boundaries is delivered.

In 2016, the Liberals argued in step 1 that the fairness test should be the highest ranking criterion for drawing up boundaries, not just communities of interest, etc. In step 2, the commission agreed with the Liberals' 'fairness first' argument, but then went the same way they always had before: delivering

draft boundaries which, if the two-party preferred vote had been 50-50 for both Labor and Liberal, would hand Labor 28 seats and the Liberal Party 19 seats; that is, the boundaries commission's idea of a 50-50 split of the 47 seats is to give Labor 28 and Liberal 19. Clearly, the fairness test was still gathering dust.

In step 3, the Liberal Party was able, for the first time, to use data provided by the boundaries commission, the same data they used in their own mapping systems. This enables a highly accurate and detailed assessment of how many voters lived in a mapped area and which two-party preferred the people have, in aggregate, voted previously in that mapped area. There is no more guessing about voter numbers, quotas or two-party preferred for a given map shape, etc.

Liberal and Labor were given this data by the commission. The Liberal Party purchased mapping software and hardware and trained staff and volunteers so that we could replicate the boundaries commission's processes and results. As a consequence, the Liberal Party submitted in step 3, the response to the draft boundaries, roughly 70 pages of maps, based on those provided by the commission, but making them fair. This was done by using the data and mapping software to adjust the commission's maps so that they became fair.

By contrast, the Labor Party did nothing with that data and submitted nothing with the data provided to them. Although, to be fair to them, why would they bother when they had just been handed a 28-19 result in return for getting just a 50-50 two-party preferred vote? Two unexpected things then occurred. The commission announced an unprecedented further public hearing regarding the fair maps produced and provided by the Liberal Party.

I am the sole author and producer of those maps and the associated pendulum analysis submitted by the Liberal Party. It was my very great pleasure in my capacity as the Liberal Party state president to attend those hearings and watch my very good friend the current member for Heysen eviscerate, in a polite and respectful manner, the three silks employed by Labor, who were in essence arguing the retention of what amounts colloquially to a gerrymander, although it is more accurately termed, if you are a pedant, a malapportionment.

The second unexpected outcome is that the commission elected to adopt and fundamentally apply our fair boundaries. They accepted that it is possible to derive fair boundaries and that it is desirable to do so, and they did it. The fairness clause had been dusted off and applied. The people of South Australia would, on 17 March 2018, have their first fair elections in a quarter of a century.

Members opposite appear to be surprised at the extent of the boundaries changes we all faced, with 40 per cent of the population going into another seat. That is in fact the best indicator of how badly corrupted the old boundaries were. They needed massive change if they were to be fair. It is a matter of record that the Supreme Court rejected 5-0 a challenge by Labor against the notion of the supremacy of the fairness provision. Clearly, from Labor's point of view this fairness had to stop. The clause was now working as intended. South Australians may now always get the government they want—clearly not acceptable to them.

After all, Labor lost seven of the last eight elections measured on the two-party preferred vote, so the fairness clause had to go. The fairness clause, and what it represents, was effectively assassinated as the last act of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parliament. I look forward to its return so that South Australians can have their say reflected in an equitable outcome at the ballot box.

By way of a footnote, remember the draft boundaries provided by the commission before the fairness clause—the first lot put out prior to our maps submission, with 28-19 if the two-party preferred vote was 50-50? The 52-48 result of 17 March would have, if those boundaries stood, resulted in 24 seats for Labor—25 if we include Frome. That is a taste of the future without the fairness clause. To be clear, the commission's first set of maps at the last redistribution would have enabled Labor to win government with 48 per cent of the vote.

The Liberal team who worked on the party submission were party vice president Morry Bailes, who articulated our requirements and facilitated them; Tom Duggan SC; Josh Teague, now the member for Heysen, who researched, argued and authored our submissions; Sam Hooper and state director, Sascha Meldrum, who arranged everything; and me, the chief mapmaker and spruiker. This team laid the groundwork for the first demonstrably fair election result in South Australia for at least 25 years, with the former member for MacKillop saying it is more like 40 years.

I will close my discussion about my time as state president by looking back at how incredibly difficult things were for staff in 2015 and how magnificently the Liberal Party's SA division now runs. I want to express my enormous pride in and thanks to the secretariat staff for the job they have done and the help they have provided me over the years. Thanks and well done to Maurice, Julian, Laura, Yvette, Lynne, Ben and Sascha.

Moving to the seat of Davenport and our campaign, I want to start by thanking the people of Davenport for the faith they have invested in me, and I dedicate myself to doing all I can on their behalf. Davenport now encompasses the suburbs of Bedford Park, including the Flinders precinct, through to Bellevue Heights, Flagstaff Hill, Aberfoyle Park, Chandlers Hill, Cherry Gardens and a substantial part of Happy Valley. Davenport has comparatively high levels of retiree communities and workers engaged in academic fields and in particular health in the Flinders precinct, a very high number of whom commute on a daily basis on roads and public transport which are not fit for the task.

I have lived in this community for over 25 years and I share their concerns and their perspectives, and that is why the Liberal Party has promised to contribute \$500,000 to the upgrade of the Flagstaff Community Centre as well as fixing the intersection of Candy, South and Lander roads and the addition of a permanent fourth lane on Flagstaff Road, which carries 25,000 cars a day on a three-lane road with a reversible-direction middle lane known as the suicide lane.

Davenport is renowned for its hills. In fact, one of the issues I had as a candidate was that the people who came out to letterbox or doorknock with me were rarely seen a second time after walking up some of those hills. It has significant communication issues, with mobile reception and the NBN being major sources of frustration. Access to mobile black spot funding and CFS maintenance backlog funds is also important to the rural and semi-rural areas of the electorate.

I want to thank Sam Duluk and Nicolle Flint for your help, friendship and encouragement—the last in Nicolle's case anyway—and your support to me over the years generally and in this endeavour particularly. I am deeply appreciative of all your help and I look forward to reciprocating, especially in the upcoming election in Nicolle's seat of Boothby. To Alex Hyde and Leighton Stuart, my campaign director and campaign manager respectively, thank you for the enormous amount of work you did but especially the intellectual and creative contributions you both continually made. My apologies for those times I was distracted, grumpy or sceptical or some combination of all of the above. Simply put, we would not have won the seat without either of you, so thank you.

To Kian Rafie-Ardestani and Matt Shilling, thank you for the countless hours you gave and even more so the laughs we had as well. Thanks, Paul Frisby, Angus Heaton, Keith Eva, Matt Hume, George Galloway, Dave Henderson, Andrew Rowe and Ralph Billet for the work and for the friendship. Thank you to Jocelyn and the YLs and Caroline for your doorknocking and letterboxing. To Rachel and Vondy and all the phone canvassers, thank you.

To my mum and my siblings, again, thank you. To Kerry, and in particular to Nick Minchin, thank you for your help and, importantly, your advice as well. Thank you to Michael van Dissel and Terry Stephens for your magnificent help and support. My congratulations go to all elected members, and commiserations to those who stood but fell short.

To two special women in my life, my wife, Aileen, and my daughter, Erin, thank you. Aileen, you have always been a selfless supporter of me and my aspirations, and I thank you for your encouragement, enthusiasm and organisational skills. I love you and I love how you continue to try to get me organised despite the poor results you have had from me for so many years now. Without you, I am incomplete. Erin, you are my inspiration. I am so incredibly proud of you. You, of course, have my unconditional love as your dad, but I often reflect on how lucky you are to have inherited your mother's organisational skills and her sense of direction and her looks and her work ethic, although I suspect you have inherited your tenacity and resilience from Bridget.

I want to spend the remaining time touching on my political philosophy as well as addressing a number of issues that I will seek to develop and/or pursue in the near future. My credo is best summed up by Thomas Jefferson's United States Declaration of Independence, where it states or describes the equality of all men and, in particular, the endowment by God to all men of the rights of life and liberty. I am a Liberal because I passionately believe in the importance of liberty. Liberty is

the right to the capacity to exercise one's own free will in any sphere or pursuit. The pursuit and exercise of liberty is the cornerstone of our party.

This is tempered by my conservative, practical inclinations. My lived experience is that the existing order is an evolved, organic solution which should not be discarded or modified capriciously. Economically, I am not a supporter or adherent of trickle-down economic theory, nor frankly do I know anyone who professes to be. I believe in the inherent merits of capitalism with appropriate protections in place to prevent predatory behaviour. I believe that these protections are a hallmark of a civilised society. I am a believer more in the outcome than the economic ideology and, in that regard, I have much the same philosophy as Sir Thomas Playford.

I propose to pursue the following issues, some of which are the subject of policy measures announced by the Governor: fair elections, addressing the ice epidemic, domestic violence, nuclear technology and SA's comparative advantage in that regard, debt and our standard of living, and education outcomes. I wish to propose that we all challenge the inevitable 'business as usual' mindset. As John Lewis, a freedom rider, said when speaking out to end segregation in the US South in 1961: 'If not us, then who? If not now, then when?'

I am not proposing prescriptive solutions here, but offer the following examples of some of the questions I think we should be prepared to ask. For example, I am old enough to remember when Adelaide was the third largest city in Australia. Why are Perth and Brisbane now much bigger? Why do we not set our sights on retaining that third spot? What sort of Adelaide would we have then? Why do we not have the hard discussion about debt levels, and especially the interest costs, which now run at about \$1 billion a year?

In my view, if we have no other form of backup, then South Australia's base load power will likely eventually come from Queensland coal. We will be long-term dependent price takers. In South Australia, we sit on about 38 per cent of the world's known uranium reserves and we already export enough to power about 20 million homes every year. We should investigate the implementation of fourth-generation reactors that require no water and leave waste with a 30-year half-life. South Australia would, in my view, be in the box seat to be a net power exporter to as many places as it sees fit, given the comparative advantage we have with sourcing that fuel.

We need a hard series of discussions about not just addressing the by-product of domestic violence but also locking up the perpetrators. We need to ascertain why our literacy rates have fallen or stagnated despite record spending on education. I am deeply humbled and honoured to be given this opportunity to represent my community in this place. I close by reiterating and embracing the freedom rider's question and I challenge all members to likewise embrace it so that we may build a better South Australia: 'If not us, then who? If not now, then when?'

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, I welcome the new member for MacKillop to the house, and as this is the member's first speech I would ask members to extend the traditional courtesies to that member. Member for MacKillop.

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (11:33):** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Firstly, I congratulate you on your deputy speakership. I would also like to congratulate the Speaker on his election as the Speaker. I am confident that his time in the chair will give this house respectful dialogue, decorum and equal voice for the men and women on both sides of the chamber. I also express my gratitude to the Speaker for winning the seat of Hartley, as the alternative may have meant that we were required to dress Bollywood style and sing along to motions, and, given my poor singing voice and lack of dance moves, those in the chamber should sigh with relief.

On a more serious note, I am very proud to have been elected to be the third member for MacKillop and have been humbled by the support that I have received from the people within my electorate, most notably the support of the former member Mitch Williams, and his wife, Leonie. I wish to acknowledge his passion and persistence in ensuring the correct enactment of the electoral boundaries fairness clause, as this now means that the people of South Australia will have a government that the majority elect.

I wish to acknowledge the first member for MacKillop, Mr Dale Baker, who sadly passed away in 2012 after a long battle with motor neurone disease. Dale was the leader of the Liberal Party, and many thought he gave our party spine with his tough stance on the State Bank debacle. However, he is most remembered in my circles for his business success, insightfulness, quick wit, charm and charismatic persona, all delivered with a dash of larrikinism.

I was born to Philip and Helen McBride in 1969, the fourth Philip in my family, and named Nicholas after my mother's maiden name, Nicholls. My father came from a family of South Australian pastoralists and was a grazier himself, and my mother, a teacher, was the eldest daughter of a Duntroon-trained Army brigadier who hailed from Wallaroo. I spent my younger years at Newry, which is in the Taratap region 50 kilometres north-east of Kingston. This is prime sheep and cattle country, but at that time it was native scrub and swamps. My father spent many long days clearing and developing pastures to ensure that it could carry good stock numbers.

When my grandparents, Phil and Pat McBride, moved to Adelaide in 1978, our family moved to Conmurra, which is 40 kilometres south of Kingston, and this is where my family resides today. I attended Kingston Area School from reception to year 7. I caught the school bus each day, leaving home early and arriving home late but still consider this to have been an incredibly happy time with memories of giant courtyards, paddle bats and foursquare.

I had many teachers at Kingston Area School, but the standout was my year 3 and 4 teacher, the late Mrs Anne Maczkowiack. She was by far the strictest teacher in the primary school, but she was every parent's dream. She concentrated on the essentials, like maths, times tables, English and grammar. She had high expectations on neatness in workbooks, respectfulness and good manners. These are characteristics that I continue to value today.

Secondary education in 1982 saw me head to boarding school at Prince Alfred College, an obvious choice for the family, given that I would be the fifth consecutive generation to attend the school. Some find the transition to boarding easy. I found the transition from country living to city life more difficult. However, I am left with a multitude of fabulous memories, but perhaps less fabulous memories of the boarding house food, which was bleak and bland and only constituted a meal if one was starving and nothing within a bull's roar of country home cooking.

I often reflect and reminisce with old scholars as we spend much time laughing about the tricks, mishaps and antics that amused our young minds. My son, Philip, has since followed the tradition and flown the banner for the family and, to his credit, enjoyed greater leadership roles than any family member since the late Keith McBride. I am happy to report that he did not get up to the school adventures of my father who, at the ripe old age of 10, made an attempt to flee back to the farm. Knowing his parents were abroad, he and his mate planned to live in the scrub and eat rabbits. Thankfully, they only made it by bus to Meningie before being discovered and relocated back to Adelaide school dormitories.

I need to mention two memorable staff from the college. Mr Don Millard, my geography teacher, was an ex-military man and took a no-nonsense approach to the subject. He always ensured that the core content was interesting and relevant, which engaged the class. Mr Bowman, my metalwork teacher, was a true gentleman, and the respect given to him by the students was a reflection of the man himself. In a metal workshop with a class of eager teenage boys, the fact that he could contain classes where stupidity could reign supreme attests to his quality teaching skills.

The reality is that sometimes we do not appreciate what we have until it is gone. It was not until I finished year 12 that I truly understood with real appreciation how lucky I was to have attended the college. To be part of a school that in this year is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is something that I will value for the rest of my days. Following metal fabrication with Mr Bowman in year 12, and my mother's involvement with the local TAFE board, I found myself commencing a pre-vocational training course at Panorama, and this led to my apprenticeship at Adelaide Ship Construction.

The time I spent in the North Arm shipyard was the making of a new chapter of my life. Mr Joe Glamocak, the owner of the yard, was a hardworking man from Croatia. His working life in Australia started at the Holden plant as a fitter and turner. He, like many new immigrants, built his business from the ground up and every cent he saved was put back into the business. It is small businesses like this that build, drive and grow our economy and we must foster them, support them,

and reduce the demands placed upon them by bureaucracy and departmental regulation. The shipyard was a cultural explosion, with over 20 nationalities working as employees or contractors during the busiest times. Most were great people and fantastic mentors, always willing to impart their wealth of knowledge onto the younger generation.

The multicultural nature of the shipyard taught me many things about the importance of cultural diversity and how, as a nation, we are richer for it. It has also gifted me in other areas. Gabriella taught me how to grow tomatoes, not to drink cheap Italian wine—which he mixed with lemonade—and where the best bargain shops are in Port Adelaide. Istvan, a Hungarian fitter and turner, taught me machining skills along with an eye to performing all jobs as perfectly as can be constructed.

At this time, I had been a member of the Liberal Party since leaving school, and I had met the late Senator Jeannie Ferris. When working through my apprenticeship at Adelaide Ship Construction, there were quiet times with a lack of consistency of work, so I contacted Jeannie, who went above and beyond to assist. From this time and well through the nineties, Jeannie was significant in my growth and development. I will be forever grateful for her friendship and counsel.

I returned to the South-East to work on the family property in 1992 to face the consequences of the greatest corporate collapse in Australian history. The removal of the Australian wool floor price saw the biggest commodity price correction Australia has ever seen. It will likely never be matched in real monetary terms. It crippled rural communities and forced many from the land. There remains a generational gap of livestock-skilled labour and managers today because of the drastic loss of people within the industry.

If I had known then that it would take until 2003 to see a small improvement in the wool market and a further eight years for it to recover to its manageable level, I would have made many different financial decisions through the nineties and 2000s. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but I am glad to say the industry is now looking positive, and I believe livestock agriculture will again be an industry of choice. This experience has taught me a significant amount about influence, control and impact. This downturn for 20 years of recovery has provided me with many learnings moving forward.

On returning home, I embarked on a TAFE on-farm training course that was led by Mr Ken Solly. Ken was an integral part of my learning, and he constantly provoked and challenged my thought processes. In its final year, the course offered an educational trip to New Zealand. Exposure to practices on the other side of the Tasman taught me to further challenge our farming business and increased my drive for long-term sustainable profit. It is worth noting here that TAFE formed an integral part of my learning experience. They offered advanced, highly technical and basic practical learning opportunities for people from any walk of life. This was not the last time I sought education from TAFE.

In 1995, I married Katherine and, in 1997, our son, Philip, was born. Parenthood opens a new chapter in all families, and ours was no different. The responsibilities, nurturing and unconditional love you feel for your child somehow changes you. My son, Philip, at the age of seven, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes and will require multiple injections of insulin every day for life. As a child, he adapted to the finger pricking and needle regime, and not once can I recall him complaining. He is a champion in Katherine's eyes and in mine.

Philip is now 21 and, despite wanting to take over the property, understands that forging his independence, gaining life skills and developing his own sense of self are critical to developing his own identity. He currently lives in Middleton and is in the second year of a mechanic apprenticeship at McIlroy Motors. The Fleurieu Peninsula does apparently have some advantages over the farm. Of course, it is only an hour away from the city and night-life, and surfing, wakeboarding and kitesurfing are just a few of the daily activities to occupy one's time.

Katherine and I commenced a farm management diploma through TAFE in preparation for operating our family business. Again, Ken Solly was a course facilitator and, again, he inspired me to seek and establish where I want to be in business and in life. I wish to thank him for his counsel, knowing the questions he made me ask of myself. He has given me confidence and made me a more objective thinker. In 2016, Ken Solly was acknowledged by Kondinin Group and ABC Rural as the Rural Consultant of the Year.



My appointment to the inaugural South East Water Catchment Board in 1998 saw me in the agri-political arena for the first time. We spent six years consulting and working through water allocation plans to ensure the underground water in the South-East was managed in an equitable and sustainable manner. The water debate at the time was a very emotive issue and had many stakeholders all wanting a piece of the pie. Today, those water allocation plans continue to be developed, assessed and reviewed according to our changing land use and seasonal fluctuations.

Our daughter, Annabel, was born in 2001. Annabel is a sporty number and makes herself busy playing netball, touch football, Aussie Rules, running, and has recently added golf to the list. She is in her final year at boarding school and, given how hard she applies herself, I have no doubt she will achieve well. She does seem to have a fond passion for shopping for clothes but, as fancy as she can look all dressed up, she is tremendous help when home on the farm. She is not afraid to work in the yards or run the mower over the lawns, and she is happy to move a mob of sheep or cattle when asked. Philip and Annabel are, without doubt, the pride of my life.

In 2004, the family business purchased a property 50 kilometres west of Armidale in New South Wales. We made the decision to buy on the premise that fine wool prices were at the 30 per cent decile point over 10 years but, several years later, it wound down to the 15 per cent point. Our time at the Armidale property was hard work, particularly because of endemic parasite problems resulting from a summer rainfall pattern. Katherine and I spent days drenching sheep. I think because of the short time frame between doses, we drenched over 120,000 sheep in a single year while managing a flock of 15,000. Philip was at school, but Annabel used to come out with us each day and happily occupied herself by stoking the fire for billy tea or making castles out of sheep dung.

It was not all doom and gloom in New South Wales, as we found our children an excellent education system. Armidale, with a population of 20,000, is an education hub with over 20 schools—public, private and independent—and they are all competing to be the best. This showed across the board. It made the education system adaptive and outcome driven, and the winners were the students who, despite which school they attended, got great results and a good education. The education department also worked collaboratively with all campuses and allowed the school bus drop-off and pick-up at every site regardless of school type—something we could learn here in South Australia. After 2½ years, we placed a manager on the property and moved back to South Australia. After many tough seasons, we divested ourselves of the property in 2017.

At this point, it would be remiss of me not to mention my great-grandfather, Sir Philip Albert Martin McBride, a federal member of parliament and a senator for 25 years, a defence minister, privy councillor, and a co-founder of the Liberal Party with Sir Robert Menzies in 1944. Prior to being promoted to cabinet, Sir Philip is reported in *Hansard* on issues of primary industries, unemployment and communications, issues that are still important to this day in rural and regional Australia. Politics was different back then. When he retired in 1958, one political commentator said of Sir Philip that 'he left national politics without making an enemy'.

Sir Philip and his father, Albert, were pastoralists in the north-eastern and north-western districts of the state. In 1920, father and son incorporated the small business into AJ and PA McBride Limited, Sir Philip serving as chairman of the company for 50 years. Over the past 98 years, AJ and PA McBride has expanded to nine pastoral grazing properties across South Australia and is now one of the largest wool producers in the country, despite the wool crash in the early nineties.

In 2006, I joined the board of AJ and PA McBride as the fifth generation of the family company. During the early part of my directorship, the industry was struggling, with low rainfall and low commodity prices. It was important that the board and management comprehensively reviewed the company's outlook and put in place the strategies that have now allowed the company to capitalise on the good commodity prices of this decade. In business, as in government, it is important to get the strategies in place to achieve the desired outcomes, strategies based on empirical evidence. It is my intention to work in parliament in this manner, by reviewing the facts, creating a plan and implementing it.

Parliament should not forget the contribution to gross state product that regional areas provide from food, fibre and resources. The 10 top export products produced in South Australia are from regional areas, from wine, wheat, meat, to copper, lead, iron ore. Given that South Australia is

the most urbanised state in the country, it has been easy for the previous government to treat the regions like a cash cow, deriving income from the bush without investing sufficiently back into the communities.

In 2015, the previous treasurer called for submissions into a taxation review. In the AJ and PA McBride submission the company noted that in 2014 it paid more to governments—federal, state and local—than its profit for the year. In particular, the removal of the primary producers' concession on the emergency services levy resulted in that levy increasing by 900 per cent. There was never a response from Treasury to the review, but the resulting changes to taxation were skewed in favour of urban areas. On the spending side, virtually every budget delivered by the former government resulted in real reductions for PIRSA and there was a chronic infrastructure underspend in regions, with road quality getting so bad in areas that the speed limits have been reduced.

My areas of focus are undoubtedly led by my commitment and the constituents of MacKillop's commitment, knowledge and experiences from living in the middle and upper South-East areas of our state. MacKillop is home to some incredible natural wonders, such as the Coorong, Bool Lagoon, the Naracoorte Caves, amazing farming land, incredible vineyards and wineries, southern rock lobster fishing and rugged coastlines to name a few. MacKillop contributes a lot to our great state; however, over the past few years, along with other regional areas, MacKillop has not received the infrastructure resourcing it has needed or deserved.

The people of MacKillop have lived through the reduction of speed limits because the roads are in poor condition. In many areas, they struggle to access reliable mobile phone coverage, along with many regional South Australians, and they have endured power outages that have graced the covers of many a national paper over recent years.

Also in MacKillop, we have two drainage schemes: a recent northern development, which is 20 years old, and an older southern scheme, which was started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. What should be highlighted here is that the drainage board has been operating on a budget of \$2.4 million since the last Liberal government, and the drainage area has doubled. I am as aware of these infrastructure issues as the people in the electorate of MacKillop because these concerns are concerns to me, too.

In regard to infrastructure and development, I am excited for the people of Penola, who will finally have a completed bypass due to a state and federal Liberal government and a local Wattle Range Council—three levels of government working together to complete community projects. The community of Penola first considered a bypass for the town 60 years ago, and when the state Labor government delivered the bypass they only built half the project, which was three years ago. If there was ever an example of how regional South Australia has been treated, this is it. We know that we have come last. We know that we have come second fiddle and, basically, the last Labor government did not care.

I have spoken today of my experiences in public and private pre-vocational education settings. I have been incredibly fortunate to have had access to excellent education and training opportunities that suited both my interest and my academic level. I have been able to access different educational opportunities, despite geographic location or age. Families should not have to fight to have access to a school bus to get their children to school. Children should be able to access all levels of education and schooling from kindy through to year 12. There should be no difference between the educational opportunities available to a student who attends a public school versus a student who attends a private or independent school. If we cannot do this, then I think we are failing our youth.

Anecdotally, it is well known that our poor education levels and engagement with training and employment can lead to poorer outcomes longer term. Given we know this, I feel strongly that we have to invest in our education and training to improve the longer term outcomes for our youth today and assist them to find their purpose. Further, I believe that everyone should have access to an education that provides them with the skills they need to engage or re-engage in the workforce and to diversify, if required. There is a significant gap in our regional workforce, and we owe it to everyone living in regional areas to ensure they have equity of access to education and training.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the value and importance of volunteers in our regional communities. MacKillop has over 240 community groups, and volunteers form the backbone

of our regional spirit. This is never more obvious than at our sporting events, local shows, fundraising occasions, schools and other assistance services, such as Lifeline and Men's Shed. I have been privileged to have met many of these volunteers over the past 12 months. I am a football umpire for the local Kowree Naracoorte Tatiara Football League and, while I am confident my umpiring decisions are not always favoured by everyone on the field, participation ensures that regional activities continue.

Education and training are not the only areas where regional people continue to miss out. Due to a lack of funding, the health services of our regional communities have continued to suffer, depriving people of basic health services. In my electorate of MacKillop, the township of Millicent has lost access to obstetric services. Not only can this jeopardise the health and wellbeing of an expectant mother and her unborn child but it also places a higher level of burden on our families who need to travel to seek services, access accommodation or are isolated from family during a most significant and stressful period in their lives.

The current Patient Assistance Transport Scheme is inadequate, far from covering the expenses of a family that needs to travel to Adelaide from Mount Gambier and secure accommodation. The cost of accessing health care, especially timely health care, by rural families is high. This is unacceptable to me. No family should be placed in a position where they cannot access the required medical treatment. South Australia recently opened the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, and we are kidding ourselves and the people living in regional South Australia if we think this is a regional hospital—it is not.

Again, we need to fund regional health services to be able to provide the health care that regional South Australians need. This includes working with GPs, enabling continuity of care but, most importantly, providing primary health care. This is everyone's business and, as the adage goes, prevention is better than cure. These are some of the areas I will be focusing on as I represent the people in the electorate of MacKillop. I will continue to engage closely to hear their concerns and ensure their views are considered when we are discussing matters relevant to my electorate.

In getting here today, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who have supported my journey to this point. First, I would like to thank the people of MacKillop for putting their faith in me—I will not let you down. I would also like to make special mention of my campaign committee, which consisted of my campaign manager, David Hood; treasurer, Sonia Winter; secretary, Jillian Andrews; social media officer, Derek James; Carol Koch; David Malpas; Liz Rymill; Jo Edwards; Robert Bull; and the MacKillop SEC president, Lachie Haynes, who has an infectious political appetite and is a great sounding board.

As this process started way back in March 2017, I owe the six Liberal candidates who were successful a huge amount of gratitude for being encouraging, helpful and supportive through this election campaign. To the federal member for Barker, thank you for your assistance, wise counsel and mentoring over the last 12 months. I hope in the coming years we can work together as a team and bring the benefits to MacKillop and Barker that regional South Australia has been looking for. With 29 polling booths in MacKillop, it is no surprise we needed a well-organised volunteer group, and there is none better than the Liberal branches around my electorate. I thank all the presidents and their members for their help with corflute placement and retrieval and the management of the polling booths.

I wish to acknowledge my family, including my parents, Phil and Helen, who are here in the house today. I also give thanks to my favourite sisters, Kate and Georgie, who have supported me throughout life's journeys. Both have kept me level-headed and ensured I ate a good dose of humble pie each Christmas, and for this I am eternally grateful. I need to make special mention of Georgie, who has gone above and beyond her sisterly duties to write letters and speeches for me over the past weeks but, I might add, this speech is not one of those.

I would like to thank my children, Philip and Annabel, for their love and support. Of all the changes this political career has made to our family, they have had to wear the biggest change. As a grazier, it is a seven-day-a-week commitment and this means I have been home most days throughout their lives. As they are entering their adult lives, I do not think they quite understood the time this political opportunity would take up, and I thank them for their patience and understanding.

My hope is that the outcomes of the decisions we achieve here in this parliament will ensure that they and their contemporaries are afforded the opportunities and rewards that I have been afforded as a proud South Australian.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the incredible support of my wife, Katherine, who has been a friend, companion and a rock of support for 30 years, as well as my wife for 23 of those years. We have been through thick and thin together and endured and relished all that marriage can bring. I would like to congratulate all the new members in the house today, particularly those with whom I have shared the journey over the last 18 months. In particular, I would like to thank the Premier for his support and congratulate him on becoming the Premier of our state. I look forward to working with you and I am excited by the strong leadership qualities you all possess. My election motto was 'substance not spin' and that is what you can expect from me now and in the future. As a newly elected member of a Liberal government, I will endeavour to make MacKillop matter.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (11:59):** I would like to start my Address in Reply by congratulating all the successful candidates on their election to this place. It is a bit of a surreal experience when you come back in and see 11 new faces sitting in the Liberal team. It reminds me of a time when I finished playing football and went back the next year to support the same team from the sidelines. When you look at the team that you were playing in, it seems like half the team has changed from just a short period of time before. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will find that when he finally hangs up the boots.

I also think of those MPs who contested the election and who are no longer here with us. I would like to thank them for their service to this great state: the Hon. Kelly Vincent MLC, the Hon. Robert Brokenshire MLC, Tom Kenyon, Annabel Digance, Duncan McFetridge and Leesa Vlahos. I was genuinely happy to see Tom Kenyon find employment post politics, and I wish all the others my sincerest best wishes. It is one of the stranger professions, where you are employed on a Saturday, but you have no idea whether you are going to be still employed on the Sunday.

I think this is an area where we can improve somewhat. Sporting codes recognised this a long time ago and provide opportunities for participants to keep their skills up or develop additional skills in preparation for their career coming to an end. It is sometimes quite an abrupt end, just like politics. I think about my previous colleagues and their transition into meaningful employment post a political career. It may seem strange to some, but in actual fact I would argue that the longer you are in here the more de-skilled you become and the harder it is to find job opportunities going forward.

During the election for the seat of Mount Gambier, the electors were spoilt for choice. I want to acknowledge the candidates in the last election and their efforts. While some people are critical of politicians and politics, it is often the same people who are not courageous enough to stand for election. The following people are not only courageous but will serve our community well, and on behalf of all the people of Mount Gambier I thank them for participating in the democratic process. SA-Best was represented by Kate Amoroso. Kate has advocated for a number of years for more services in areas of drug addiction and mental health. As a reformed drug addict, she is passionate about assisting those who are struggling with this insidious addiction.

Lance Jones of the Dignity Party is a lawyer, academic and successful local business operator. Twenty-five years ago, Lance launched a disability service called COMREC from his home. That is now functioning very well in the seat of Mount Gambier, assisting those with disabilities. Gregg Bisset from the Australian Conservatives has had a number of roles during his lifetime and has owned, managed and developed businesses throughout regional Australia. Gregg was passionate about helping regional families and communities.

Gregg spoke passionately at numerous forums that were held and is very knowledgeable about the many issues that were raised by the audience. This man, along with his wonderful wife, Helen, really walks the walk. They provide assistance for people coming out of prison and help them readjust to life as a functioning member of a community. I remember one weekend during the campaign when Gregg had to fly halfway around the country to bring a young person home. They are amazing people and it is a real privilege to get to know them.

Isabel Scriven for Labor, the daughter of Legislative Council member Clare Scriven, provided a youthful view of issues within the electorate, and I am sure she helped secure those much-needed Legislative Council votes which helped Labor achieve their fourth spot. I am sure she will remain active in the political arena.

Craig Marsh for the Liberal Party: many local constituents recognise Craig as a local weatherman, who for numerous years provided information to the entire Limestone Coast about all things weather. Following the closure of the weather station, Craig transitioned into real estate for a short time before joining the Liberal Party to run as its pre-endorsed candidate. He dedicated his time to campaigning full time and had knocked on over 3,000 doors. I know this because my phone would ring most days. It is an amazing effort and I want to give him the credit he deserves for dedicating his time to the cause and to our community.

Gavin Clarke from the Greens, the son of a local veterinarian, Rex Clarke, returned to Mount Gambier after spending many years away in his role as an entertainer. Gavin was deeply concerned about the prospect of fracking in the South-East and that was his number one issue. Lastly, Richard Sage, an Independent, who is the Mayor of the District Council of Grant, has served our community over the last 20 years in local government and has been mayor for nearly nine. Richard is, and continues to be, a strong advocate for the residents of the District Council of Grant.

I would like to put on the record my gratitude to all those candidates for the time that they and their supporters put in to what was a very hard-fought campaign. I would also like to acknowledge the success in the other place of Clare Scriven, who is based at Port MacDonnell in the seat of Mount Gambier. I look forward to working with Clare in the coming years to deliver for the people of the South-East.

Some people may wonder how we won the seat. Well, the truth of the matter is that you cannot fatten the hog on market day. Your re-election starts the day after the election, and you do this by looking after everybody who walks into your electorate office. I have an amazing electorate team that looks after everybody who walks through the door. The first person they see when they come through the door is our trainee. Over the last four years, I have had a number of trainees because I always want to give young people an opportunity or their first full-time, paid job—whether it is a gap year student or a student who has finished year 12. My trainees over this period have been Victoria Ceceli, who is currently with me, Abby Hepburn, Ruby Nicholas, Lilly Thornley and Ashlyn Clarke.

Once a constituent comes in and sees our smiling, wonderful trainee, they are then greeted by either Denise or Travis. No matter how large or small their issue is, Denise and Travis show concern and compassion, and they research. We have had many wonderful results due to their diligence and hard work. Over the last four years, they have assisted many thousands of people who have walked through that door—sometimes the same person thousands of times, but you will get to notice that in your own electorate offices.

To the campaign team and to all the volunteers who gave up many hundreds of hours to support me, I will be forever grateful. To Doug Mullen, Chris Patterson and some who will not want to be mentioned because they are associated with another party, I want you to know that I am truly honoured by your commitment to and support of me. Before I start on the most important people in my life, I want to say that I admire the commitment that the Leader of the Opposition has shown in taking on that role, especially with such a young family.

I reflect on the resignation of Tim Hammond, the Western Australian federal member, and commend him for prioritising his family. Being a country MP with a young family, a number of points he and Wayne Swan made resonated with me, and they are as true in this place as they are on the federal scene. Most in this house will go home every night to their family, especially during sitting weeks. Those of us from country areas will not. Wayne Swan talked about families lives moving on without you—soccer practice, family routines. The family (quickly, it seems) learns to live without you, and then when you are there there is a little feeling of getting in the way because the routines are occurring without you actually needing to be there.

I would ask that this government keep this in mind when developing sitting schedules for next year. Whilst back-to-back sitting schedules may be more efficient for city electorates or

ministers, it is often the case that those members can still attend functions in their electorates in the CBD or close by before or after sitting times. That is not the case for us. We find that the weeks we are home get jam-packed with constituents or events, particularly in a back-to-back sitting week.

I thank my beautiful wife, who has endured more than is reasonably expected and who has sacrificed a great deal and who takes the true meaning of marriage for better or worse. I have a lot to make up to her and I dedicate my time on this planet to doing just that. To my children, Jordan, Jackson and Bridie, thank you for your understanding and ongoing support. To my mum and dad, thank you. The babysitting, the taxi service, as well as the support over the campaign are truly amazing and something that I am forever grateful for.

I have heard a number of members in this chamber speak about their boundaries and the electoral changes. In this respect, I am lucky. My electorate cannot go any farther south, or east, because I have a coastline and a state border. It really only can progress into more conservative territory, which is quite okay by me. My aim is that my electorate gets smaller because that will signify that the City of Mount Gambier and the District Council of Grant are, in fact, growing in population. That is what I would like to see happen.

I am profoundly grateful that my community has supported me and I commit to them. I will not let them down. We have achieved a number of amazing things over the last four years. To that end, I do need to pay credit to the previous Labor government. The MRI machine was a conversation between Jack Snelling and me about getting past roadblocks that were put in the way for this machine to go into our hospital. I thank Jack and I always will for that.

The traffic lights between Wireless Road and Penola Road were a combination of our federal member, Tony Pasin, and Stephen Mullighan, then minister, providing the funding and making it happen. To Stephen Wade, the \$2 million upgrade to the renal dialysis unit, which has been promised, is much needed and greatly appreciated, as is the reinstatement of palliative care services, rail trails and vibrancy of our community.

I note that the new leader of the Labor Party announced that he is embarking on a listening tour. I welcome this. Listening, however, is one thing. Acting on that information is where the challenge certainly lies. I point out that the seat of Mount Gambier has not always been a Liberal seat or an Independent seat. In fact, Ron Ralston held it with a primary vote of 68 per cent to the Labor Party in 1962. Alan Burdon held it with a primary vote of 58 per cent in 1973. In fact, Labor held the seat continuously from 1958 right through to 1975.

However, if we look at the 2014 election results, Labor's vote in the seat of Mount Gambier was 10.9 per cent and 14 per cent in our neighbouring seat of MacKillop. If we look at this last election, that has dropped to 9.9 per cent in Mount Gambier, under 10 per cent for a major party. MacKillop just pips me at 9.8 per cent. They have gone from 14 per cent to 9.8 per cent in the space of four years. You would need to ask yourselves: why is that the case? I am hoping that when the leader of the Labor Party comes to the lower South-East he understands the real reasons behind that. I appreciate and welcome his travel to the Limestone Coast. It appears that the big, black, shiny bus did not make it down south during the campaign; maybe it can be filled up and driven down by a new driver.

What you are going to find in the South-East is that the residents are opposed to fracking. What the Liberal Party did was listen to the community and acted—a 10-year ban on fracking in the South-East. I have just introduced a private member's bill, which will be debated on 4 July. The ex-treasurer stands here and says that there is no science. In my second reading contribution, I will outline a number of peer-reviewed studies that provide the science. The problem is that the ex-treasurer is a relic of the old Labor, a relic that does not listen. If you follow his lead, you will find that the Labor vote in the seat of Mount Gambier and MacKillop will not improve, but I fear the listening will not turn into anything more than lip service.

If the Leader of the Opposition is genuine about listening, then here is his first test. It is probably a little bit difficult when he has a previous minister for mining and resources, the member of West Torrens, in his ear and, in fact, that member's previous chief of staff now employed by Beach Energy, the one company that is operating a conventional gas well in the South-East. To be clear, our community is not opposed to conventional gas. It has been welcomed and that activity continues.

It is probably a little bit difficult when that same person is the Leader of the Opposition's brother, Robert Malinauskas. I do hope the appropriate disclosures of all conflicts of interest, when deliberations get underway, are made. It is also probably a little bit more difficult when his party gave \$11 million to Beach to keep its headquarters in Adelaide, and probably a little bit difficult when his party gave \$7 million to Beach to drill down in the South-East; but here is his chance to listen.

A small warning to the members on the government side: the rarest commodity in politics is trust. If you say you are going to do something, then you need to do it. Once trust is lost, it is very difficult and a long road to get it back. If you listen to the member for West Torrens and start taking his advice, you are heading down the wrong path. If you honestly believe that the member for West Torrens has your or the Liberal Party's best interest at heart, then you must also believe in the tooth fairy and Father Christmas. The member is trying to wedge the Liberal Party because he knows that this broken promise will have consequences and it will be telling.

I congratulate the government on their election victory, but one name that has not been mentioned is that of Mitch Williams, the previous member for MacKillop. Mitch fought long and hard for fair boundaries, and I credit part of the Liberal Party success to fair boundaries. I hope the history books reflect the important contribution that Mitch Williams made to this cause. In fact, if you look at the boundary redistribution and the prediction based on the 2014 results of 53 per cent Liberal and 40 per cent Labor, two-party preferred, you will see that it was calculated right back in January 2018, before the election, that the new boundaries in 2018 would deliver the following based on that percentage: 19 seats to Labor, 24 to Liberal and four Independents.

The end result was pretty close, with one less Independent going to the Liberal Party side, so three Independents, 25 Liberal seats. If you look at the pendulum, it is unbelievably close to the seats that lined up due to the boundary redistribution. If you swap King (which they had in Labor's side) over the Liberals and Mawson (which they had in the Liberal side) over to Labor, it is 100 per cent accurate minus that one Independent.

Just be aware: before people start congratulating themselves on an amazing campaign strategy, which I think both sides had, I would say that both campaign strategies pretty much cancelled themselves out and that the boundaries made the greatest difference to achieving a fair outcome. The word of caution is that boundaries will be redrawn now not on a 53-47 basis but on a 52-48 basis. It is actually an increase to Labor for the 2022 election. It is possible that fracking will be an important topic at the next election.

Last week, we listened to the Governor outline the government's agenda over the next four years. Today is about addressing those goals and replying to them. Can I assure the members of the government and this house that many of the aspirations of this incoming Liberal government I share and will be supporting. I have also specific goals for my region, and I have introduced a number of motions on the floor of parliament to debate and progress these. These include Generations in Jazz achieving major event status and epilepsy reform.

Believe it or not, South Australia and the Northern Territory are the only states in Australia that do not recognise epilepsy as a disability or provide any funding to support them. With over 61,000 people living with epilepsy in South Australia and 8,000 in the Northern Territory, I think this needs to be addressed. Mount Gambier mother Katherine Gray has brought this to my attention having watched her eight-year-old daughter suffer seizures since she was three months old. To watch an eight year old, bright and bubbly, suffer seizures is terribly distressing. Another of my goals is a meningococcal B strain vaccine for all South Australian children, as well as an awareness campaign. Quite frankly, I find it unacceptable that a preventable disease is still claiming lives, particularly young lives.

The advancement of a cross-border commissioner based on the success of the New South Wales model, a bioenergy fund, the advancement of nuclear energy and discussions around that, a covered aquatic and sporting centre, an opt-out organ donation scheme for South Australia, and also protection for our tradies and subcontractors so that all small to mid-sized operators receive a greater level of protection are also my goals. Every single tradie I know has had to write off bad debts of people who refuse to pay, or of businesses going broke and leaving the subcontractor or tradie out

of pocket for work already completed and materials already paid for. We need to give tradies and subcontractors a fair go in this state.

Imagine if we randomly chose a teacher or a politician every week and said, 'Thank you for your work, but you are not getting paid this week. If you do want to get paid, you are going to have to take us to court.' There would be protests up and down North Terrace. There would be people in every electorate office demanding that the system change, yet this is the exact same situation that occurs every single week for our tradies and subcontractors in South Australia. We need to better protect and support our tradies and subcontractors.

With those remarks, I look forward to engaging in debate over the next four years to improve South Australia and the lives of South Australians.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (12:21):** I rise today to give my Address in Reply to our Governor's speech when opening the 54<sup>th</sup> parliament. I would like to join other members in this place and acknowledge the wonderful way the Governor and Mrs Le have undertaken their public duties in this state. They are both great servants of the people and ambassadors of the state. We are fortunate to have them in their respective roles.

I wish to extend a welcome to all the new members in this house and the other place and wish you all success. We are a privileged lot, each of us having been entrusted by our local communities to represent them in this house where we have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the betterment of South Australia. To our new members, I would urge you not to take your new position for granted and to focus your attention on your electorate, for it is your electorate that has granted you this honour. To those former members who either resigned or have not returned, I wish you well in your new endeavours.

I have now had the opportunity and honour of representing the people of Light in this house for a fourth term. I look forward to continuing to work closely with my community to improve the quality of life for all and, in particular, those who are politically, economically or socially less powerful. On this occasion, I will have to undertake my duties from the opposition benches. It is not a position I ever contemplated, not because I thought I would always win or be re-elected but, in holding a very marginal seat, I believed that should Labor not be in government I was unlikely to still be in parliament myself.

My new position is an opportunity for me to learn new things and new ways. The people have made their judgement and I respect their decision. As John Steinbeck says in *The Acts of King Arthur and his Noble Knights*:

Somewhere in the world there is a defeat for everyone. Some are destroyed by defeat, and some made small and mean by victory. Greatness lives in one who triumphs equally over defeat and victory.

Turning to my electorate, I am happy to accept this role, as the electorate holds a special place in my heart. It is a place where my parents raised me after arriving in Australia from our native Italy. It is the place where I formed my views starting work as a small child in neighbouring farms, where I received a strong public education and where I have chosen to raise my family. I have been privileged to continuously represent parts of Light in some form since I was first elected to the Munno Para district council in 1981. I sincerely thank the people of Light for bestowing upon me the great privilege and honour of being their representative in state parliament. I hope that their trust in me is not misplaced.

The population centre of Light is based around the Town of Gawler. Gawler is an historic town, the first country town established in South Australia. It has a proud history of manufacturing with James Martin and Co and May Brothers and Co building locomotives and agricultural machinery there until the early 1900s. Gawler is a thriving community where sporting clubs, service clubs, churches and many other community organisations mould the culture of the town. The residents of Gawler, while proud of their history, have their eyes fixed firmly on the future, with many young entrepreneurs seeking to make their mark on our town and our great state.

I have enjoyed working with the local community in establishing the training schemes for existing small businesses through the Northern Entrepreneur Growth Program. The program supported Red Centre Enterprises to grow from a small home-based native foods business to a



native foods manufacturing enterprise employing 10 people. It has also supported other businesses such as Down to Earth Sustainable Solutions in securing their business futures.

Currently, there are 11 young people participating in the Young Entrepreneurs Program Pilot, which is providing training to help them form their business and social enterprise ideas and providing them with the knowledge of how to build a successful business or social enterprise. In this regard I wish to thank the City of Playford, the Stretton Centre, Business SA and the Gawler Business Development Group, who have worked with me to develop programs to promote business activity and job growth in Gawler and the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

Like many members of this house, my electorate changed significantly as a result of the electoral redistribution. The redistribution brought with it a tinge of sadness, as I lost many of my rural constituents I had worked with over the previous 12 years. I built strong relationships as I worked closely with residents in the wonderful townships of Wasleys and Roseworthy, the surrounding districts of Magdala, Hamley Bridge, Woolsheds, Pinkerton Plains, Kangaroo Flat, Reeves Plains, Gawler Belt, Ward Belt, Gawler River, Concordia, Kalbeeba and Kingsford.

I was awestruck by the resilience of the residents in Wasleys and the farming communities in the northern reaches of the electorate during the Pinery fire. The licensees of the post office, Lew and Dawn Richter, exemplified the spirit of the Wasleys community. They did not let the fire define who they were. They picked up the pieces of their business and operated out of a makeshift space within weeks of the fire. They continued to support the local community until they were able to move back into the main post office after it was repaired. The dedication of Lew and Dawn to their community was recognised by Australia Post when they received an award for excellence in customer service and post office operations. I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Wasleys Community Group for their hard work in supporting their community.

I also lost the Angle Vale township to my colleague the member for Taylor. While I may no longer continue to directly represent these areas, I will continue to count the many residents of these areas as my friends. While I was sad to lose the northern parts of my electorate, I was pleased to regain some of the southern areas that had formerly been part of Light in previous elections; however, these areas are much different now compared to when I last represented them.

Munno Para has changed largely from farmland to a highly population residential suburb containing a public college with approximately 1,500 students from preschool through to the senior school. I have been fortunate to commence an excellent working relationship with the four schools in Munno Para: Munno Para Kindergarten, Munno Para Primary School, Mark Oliphant College and the Adelaide North Special School. All of them have great leaders and staff. We have worked with a local community leader Sandra Watherston, the City of Playford, Renewal SA and the Gospel City Church in setting up the Munno Para Community Market with the aim of building a stronger community in Munno Para.

I would like to thank the small army of volunteers who have assisted me over the past 12 years and more. I could not have achieved what I have without their dedicated support. There is also a special note of thanks to those volunteers who donated so much of their time during the recent election campaign. I had the privilege of speaking with many of my constituents at their homes, as I knocked on their doors and visited shopping centres, local cafes and pubs during the campaign.

I was aided in this task by a group of volunteers who joined me on most weekends. I would like to give a special mention to Ruben Bala and Tom Counce. Tom and Ruben rarely missed an opportunity to join me in speaking with the people in Light. I would also like to thank Martin Kennedy, Gerri Donaldson and Gill Counce, who regularly gave up their time to speak with local constituents by phone to discuss the issues that impacted upon them.

To Margaret Hague, Kelly Richards, Gill Taylor, Angela MacFarlane, Cheryl McKibben, Akram Arifi, Pat Fabian and Anna White, who donated so much of their shoe leather to my campaign, thank you for your regular contributions. These are just a few of the volunteers who regularly came out to assist me as I sought re-election as the member for Light. I also thank my campaign committee: Paul Martin, Tom Counce, Ackram Arifi and Ruben Bala, who commenced meeting and strategising even before the Liberal Party had preselected their candidate for Light.

My campaign committee was headed up by Joel Wemmer, who gave his all to this campaign, so much so that on election day he was sending out text messages and making phone calls while lying on his back because he was unwell. I thank Joel for all those hours he put into the campaign. I thank those members of the community who publicly endorsed me for re-election as your public support helped instil confidence in the community that I was worthy of re-election.

Within the party, I acknowledge the support I received from people like David Wilkins; Paul DeSisio; Cameron Smith; Daniel Romeo; our current leader, Peter Malinauskas; and former ministers Tom Koutsantonis, Stephen Mullighan, Zoe Bettison and Susan Close. These are some, amongst many others, who contributed to my success in some way. I also acknowledge Reggie Martin, the Secretary of the ALP SA Branch, for taking my endless number of phone calls. There are many others I could thank and should thank, but it would be difficult to mention them all in my allocated time. If I have not mentioned you personally, I hope you understand.

Campaigns put a great deal of strain on the electoral office staff, so I acknowledge their contribution: both my current staff—Janet, Brad and Joel—and those who have worked alongside me over the past 12 years. I would also like to thank my two sons, Raffaele and Stefan. Stefan dedicated many weeks to my re-election campaign and played a critical role in organising and managing my 200 volunteers. I would like to acknowledge the support of my mum and other members of my family. Without the dedication of such hardworking volunteers, family and friends, it is unlikely I would be here today.

In my time growing up in this community I have seen great changes in the Town of Gawler as its population has grown and the suburbs of Munno Para and Munno Para West have changed from farmland to residential housing. These changes have brought with them the challenges that occur with rapid expansion.

Challenges for which I have fought hard to obtain funding to resolve include \$55 million for the construction of the Gawler East Link Road, a road that the member for Schubert has often advocated as a link from the northern suburbs of Adelaide to the southern Barossa region. He expressed such an interest in the road over the past year that he joined with other Liberal MPs and the unsuccessful Liberal candidates in calling for the road to be extended further south to Tiver Road.

I support the extension of the road. However, I do not support the preferred route of the Town of Gawler, which would negatively impact the residents who live along the Bentley Road corridor. Unfortunately, the member for Schubert does not understand the impacts on the Evanston Park residents who live along the route preferred by the Town of Gawler council.

It now appears that the member for Schubert's dedication to this infrastructure upgrade has waned since becoming a minister. The local Gawler newspaper, *The Bunyip*, inquired with the member for Schubert about his ongoing views on the extension of the road. Mr Grady Hudd, the editor of *The Bunyip*, claimed to be disappointed with the response from the now minister, who is the minister with the power to make the extension of Tiver Road a reality. Despite his regular calls for the extension of the road, the member for Schubert now says that the extension should be treated as a separate project. To quote the editor—these are not my words but the words of the editor of *The Bunyip*—a member of the Country Press association, that august body:

Less than one month since his party formed government, the Liberal Member for Schubert Stephan Knoll has already distanced himself from a key local infrastructure initiative that he has for years advocated for.

He goes on to say:

It appears as if Tiver Road has been placed in the 'too hard basket'.

It appears that the member for Schubert has taken a leaf out of the advice Quintus Tullius Cicero gave to his brother, Marcus Tullius Cicero, on the eve of the consular elections in Rome in 1BC:

Broken promises are often lost in the cloud of changing circumstances so that anger against you will be minimal. If you break a promise, the outcome will be uncertain and the number of people affected small. But if you refuse to make a promise, the result is certain and produces immediate anger in a larger number of voters.

The community is tired of such cynical political games, and you can rest assured that I will continue to advocate that the Town of Gawler look at alternative routes for the extension of the Gawler East

Link Road. The minister will be held to account for this broken promise and for the other statements he has made in recent days.

Curtis Road, which now forms the boundary between the electorates of Light and Taylor, has become inadequate at managing its current traffic load. Curtis Road has become a link road from the Main North Road to the Northern Expressway and carries many thousands of vehicles a day. Parents taking their children to Mark Oliphant College, Munno Para Primary School and St Columba College create havoc in the mornings and afternoons as there are no viable alternative routes.

I will continue to be a loud voice calling on the City of Playford and the state government, including the new state government, to fund the upgrade of this road and its many intersections. I will also be calling for a rail crossing to be separated from the roadway. As a former minister for road safety, I know the dangers of level crossings. As a motorist who regularly uses this road, I know the delays that the rail crossing causes on this road. Munno Para has become a wonderful place to live, work and learn. By improving Curtis Road, we will make it a better place.

I would like to thank the former and existing members of this house who have assisted me over the years. I would also like to thank the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Croydon, for putting his trust in me and including me in his shadow cabinet. I look forward to working with my colleagues in keeping this new government to account. In my new role as the shadow minister for planning and local government and shadow minister for housing and urban development, I look forward to working with many stakeholders to hear their views on planning, urban development and housing in our state and to ensure that we do achieve housing affordability.

Our leader has committed our party and its members to listen to the views of South Australians and hear what their priorities are. I intend to follow his lead in my new roles, and I have already been lucky enough to join with the leader in hearing the views of a number of stakeholders at a recent building communities forum. I look forward to continuing to meet with stakeholders and hear from individuals, community groups, not-for-profit organisations and business groups in this important policy area to learn what they want and need and to work out how housing and urban development in this state will create stronger communities.

As the shadow minister for veterans' affairs, I have already had the privilege of attending a number of commemoration services remembering the sacrifices of our country's service personnel. I have had the joy of working closely with the local Gawler RSL sub-branch for many years. The local sub-branch and its members are a great support to the many veterans and current service personnel who live in the Light electorate. The sub-branch president, Paul Little, also serves as its welfare officer. Mr Little regularly visits elderly veterans and provides assistance to them and their families in obtaining services, pensions and allowances.

If it were not for dedicated members like Mr Little, our service personnel would not receive the care that they need. Mr Little served in the Australian Army during and after the Vietnam War and was a South Australian police officer until his retirement. He served his country with pride and continues to serve his community to this day. In my new roles, I look forward to working alongside Veterans SA and meeting other members of the RSL, the Vietnam Veterans Association, the Vietnam Veterans Federation and other veterans' groups from across South Australia that are dedicated to the welfare of their colleagues, as Mr Little is.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge other candidates at the election. This was not their time, but the future may be different. I look forward to working with all members in this place, and in particular the ministers, for the betterment of my community and the wellbeing of South Australia.

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (12:37):** I rise today to speak on the Address In Reply, which sets out the Liberal government's reform agenda for the 54<sup>th</sup> parliament. Thank you to the Governor, His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, for his opening of parliament last week. As the 35<sup>th</sup> Governor, you and your lovely wife, Lan, have served the South Australian community well, and I hope that you serve for many more years to come. I would also like to acknowledge the election of our Speaker, the youngest Speaker in South Australian history, and wish him all the best in this prestigious and important role in this parliament.

I also congratulate the Premier. As the leader of the Liberal Party, you took a strong and focused team to the election. You articulated our many, many policies to the masses and led from the front during the whole campaign—not only during the campaign but for the many years leading up to 2018. I remember fondly our time together on the back bench when we were both first elected in 2010.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the new members in this place: the Liberal members, the members for Colton, Davenport, Elder, Finniss, Heysen, Kavel, King, MacKillop, Morphett, Narungga and Newland; and the Labor members, the members for Badcoe, Croydon (arriving from the other place), Playford and Wright. I stand today in government, led ably by the Premier but also equally ably by the Deputy Premier. Almost 125 years after women got the vote and were able to stand in this place, the member for Bragg holds the highest parliamentary role held by a woman in South Australia's history, and she also holds the role of Attorney-General—again, the first woman to do so.

As Minister for Child Protection, I am very pleased to be taking responsibility for overseeing a department that is building a better system to protect vulnerable children and young people in South Australia. There are currently 3,583 children and young people under my guardianship as at 31 March this year. As Minister for Child Protection, I see my ultimate responsibility as doing everything in my power to see that vulnerable and at-risk children and young people are kept safe from harm and neglect so that they have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential, and I take this responsibility very seriously.

During my time in opposition, and indeed since taking up my place as minister, I have met with many young people, carers and other stakeholders in the industry who have felt that they were not being heard in the past and that they had been undervalued by the previous system. Since assuming the role of minister, I have already visited more than a dozen Department for Child Protection site offices, speaking with staff, children, young people and carers, gathering their thoughts and opinions so that we can work with them to build a better system where there are fewer children and young people in care and so that those who are already in care are served better.

Where possible, those in care should be living in stable, nurturing family-based environments surrounded by love and encouragement so that they have the best opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. In the lead-up to the election, I campaigned on a number of issues relating to child protection that became Liberal and now government policies that I intend to deliver on. These include the diversification of the workforce. The Nyland royal commission talked about the shortage of suitably qualified social workers to meet the demands of the child protection system in South Australia.

My department is working on a recruitment process and criteria where the types of qualifications recognised by recruitment panels will be expanded beyond those with a degree in social work to include qualifications in a relevant field. This will go a long way towards addressing the skills shortage. I have met with both the PSA and the AASW to discuss their preferred qualifications that should be included. In particular, this government will not restrict its workforce to those holding an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in social work. This will be done without compromising the welfare or safety of children who need protection.

As the Nyland royal commission found, South Australia has not aligned itself with the recruitment practices in all other Australian jurisdictions which have targeted workforce planning strategies. As a result, vacancy levels have been consistently higher, placing pressure on staff to work beyond their capacity, compromising service delivery and potentially risking the safety of vulnerable children.

Like all other Australian jurisdictions, this government will recognise a broader range of qualifications in the human services field. As the Nyland royal commission recommended, while social work will continue to be regarded as the preferred qualification, other relevant qualifications will also be recognised which can be augmented by further in-house training.

Another policy that we are working on is to appoint an Aboriginal commissioner for children. The over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care is also something we will be addressing. Our government has committed to appointing an Aboriginal

commissioner for children, and this will occur shortly. The Aboriginal commissioner for children will focus on assisting Aboriginal families and communities to keep children safe in culturally appropriate ways. We must do more to deal with the poor outcomes for Aboriginal children in child protection, education, health and justice.

In South Australia, 37 per cent of all children admitted to care and protection orders in 2015-16 were Aboriginal children. Aboriginal children comprise more than 32 per cent of all those on care and protection orders. A series of inquiries in South Australia, including the Nyland royal commission in 2016 and the Mullighan report in 2008, identified the extent of Aboriginal child sexual abuse, child abuse and neglect, and also educational issues, youth crime and substance abuse. The Aboriginal commissioner will develop policies and practices that promote the safety and wellbeing of all Aboriginal children and, once appointed, a round table will be organised to discuss with all of the stakeholders where best to direct his or her initial concerns.

I have also long been an advocate for extending foster care and kinship care payments from age 18 to 21. This will enable the young person to remain in a stable supportive family home environment. This will provide some of the most vulnerable young people in our community with the extra security they need to branch out into the workforce, attend university or gain further training. Thirty per cent of those leaving care are homeless within 12 months. This policy will provide the opportunity for young people to remain in their foster care or kinship care placement through to 21, should they choose to do so, by ensuring the provision of reimbursements to be paid to carers.

While this policy is about removing barriers that keep our children in out-of-home care from achieving their best lives, it is also about allowing government the flexibility to move with the times and update their policy settings to reflect changing society values. The whole community benefits when our young people are safe and secure in a loving environment. We want to ensure that young people who have suffered a hard start in life are able to get on their feet as they approach adulthood.

Research shows that home-based care is far better for children than eight-hour rotational care, such as is used in residential and commercial care. I have directed my department to audit all children in either government or non-government residential and commercial care to identify children and young people who are suitable to be moved into home environments, such as foster care or kinship care. Unfortunately, there are some children who, I am told, may require therapeutic care in a residential care home. However, the use of commercial care should be stopped as soon as possible, and that is certainly one of my goals.

The best interests of children and young people under my guardianship are at the heart of all decisions and policies that will be implemented. A whole-of-government approach is one of the major priorities of this government. We need to stop the silo approach of the former government and work as one for the best interests of children and young people and the staff in our departments. The department and I cannot do this alone. Over the next four years, we will be calling on other government agencies, the non-government sector, families and community as we work together to continue to improve how we do business and create opportunities to ensure that children and young people in our care have the best chance to thrive and have success in adult life. Child protection is everyone's responsibility.

I would also like to thank my electorate for believing in me once again. It was a hard-fought election, being my third election, and I would like to thank the many volunteers who made this possible. There are many volunteers who have been with me through all three campaigns, working tirelessly, putting up posters, doorknocking, letterboxing, working on booths and helping with administration as well. There are lots of workers. Everybody in this house would know that it takes a whole community to win an election.

I am both humbled and privileged now to be the Minister for Child Protection. Whilst this is a very difficult area that has been fraught with controversy, royal commissions, reviews and inquiries for many years under a Labor government, I will do everything I can to work with my department to implement changes and reforms that are needed to improve the lives of children who are already in care, reduce the numbers of children at risk of coming into care and support families to be stronger so that they are able to maintain their relationships with their children.

It is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a Marshall Liberal government, and I certainly take my responsibility very seriously. Again, I will not only work very hard in my new ministerial role but I will continue to be a very hardworking local member and advocate strongly for my constituents throughout my whole electorate, where for many years development issues have been one of the hot topics: the risk to heritage buildings, the overdevelopment, in many people's opinions, the change of the landscape in Prospect—Prospect Road and Churchill Road in particular—and now some of the institutional zones in North Adelaide. There were a lot of planning decisions made under the former minister that have seriously affected my electorate, and I look forward to working with the new minister to ensure any issues can be tidied up so that there is not such a dramatic and devastating effect on my local community.

I will continue to be accessible to my electorate; however, I must say that in the first couple of months it has been a bit of a whirlwind needing to contact so many people in my ministerial role. Literally hundreds of people have written to me in relation to my new portfolio, whom I need to get around to meeting, so I hope that my electorate will be a little bit patient. I will certainly be back there, as I always was, but there is a lot to clean up from what was quite a devastating 16 years of Labor government in child protection. There is a lot to do, but I will work very hard over the next four years to prove to my electorate that I am able to do both very well, and that I will serve them well in this parliament.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (12:50):** Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on this motion. I want to start by congratulating the Speaker, for whom you are ably standing in today. I want to congratulate him first of all on becoming the Speaker of this house. It is an ancient office and it is one which is worthy of respect, and I can see from the first few days that he is taking it seriously. I am sure that there is a lot to remember, but I am sure he will rise to the occasion.

I want to congratulate him also on his success in the electorate of Hartley. Hartley was one of the few electorates outside of Elizabeth in which I took an active interest during the campaign itself. It was fascinating to watch. I saw firsthand how hard our candidate, Grace Portolesi, was working—the phones, the doors and all of those things. She worked very hard and it is a disappointment to me that we do not today count Hartley on our side of the ledger, but I do, however, congratulate the Speaker on his victory in Hartley. It was a hard race—

**The Hon. S.K. Knoll:** At least he is not on the crossbench.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Indeed. It was a hard race, I am sure, and in fact he was the only person on the other side of the house I congratulated before this house returned because I was so interested in that particular race. In some ways, the race in Hartley informed a whole lot of what happened in Elizabeth and other northern seats and across the state generally, but I will get to that.

I also want to congratulate the member for Flinders on his election as the Chair of Committees. This is also an important position, not least because he gets to chair some of the estimates committees, which I have had the pleasure of doing over the last four years.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Pederick):** Always enjoyable.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Indeed, always enjoyable and unfairly maligned I think, Mr Acting Speaker. It is always good fun. It is probably fair to say that there are voices on both sides who would like to see the whole process reformed, but I have to say that as the Chair of Estimates Committee B, I always had a good time and I hope that the new incoming Chair of Committees will have a similarly good time—while it lasts.

I want to sincerely thank the people of Elizabeth for re-electing me. It was an interesting election campaign, obviously. It was, as I say, informed by the presence of a third party, but I will get to that. Elizabeth, as no-one here would have failed to notice, has been through some hard times recently. We have seen hard times before. In fact, there is a very good book by Mark Peel, I think from Flinders University, called *Good Times, Hard Times: The Past and the Future in Elizabeth*, which was written in the 1980s, I believe, so that just shows how far back this sort of theme in Elizabeth goes.

But it is fair to say that over the last five years it has been particularly challenging, and the closure of Holden, which for many years was the essential reason for the establishment of the City

of Elizabeth by Tom Playford, put us all under enormous strain—obviously the people who worked there and the people who worked in the subsidiary industries, and their families, many of whom I have spoken to over the course of the last five years about this issue.

In the end, I think, due to the resilience of the community and also due to some good government policies and some good corporate responsibility from Holden, the final hitting of rock bottom was not quite as bad, in a general sense, as it could have been. Of course, it is an absolute tragedy for many families who were victims, particularly in the supply chain that serviced Holden, who may not have got quite the same support from the parent companies as Holden gave to their workers.

The state government did a lot of good work through the task force and also through the good work of the Industry Advocate, Mr Ian Nightingale, whom I will just mention briefly. I hope that the current Minister for Transport and Infrastructure listens to the wise advice of the Industry Advocate, Mr Ian Nightingale. Over recent years, he has made sure that the economic benefit to South Australia, and the economic benefit to the northern suburbs particularly, has been front and centre when negotiating contracts for large infrastructure projects.

We have seen some very good results on the Northern Connector. I cannot speak with much authority about some of the other projects along the line, but the Northern Connector certainly has had very good results. Lendlease have been good corporate citizens. They have delivered some very good results on their targets. The last time I checked, more than 50 per cent of the workforce were from the northern suburbs, and that includes a lot of ex-auto workers both from Holden and from the subsidiary industries. I want to acknowledge the work of the Industry Advocate in ensuring that the impact of Holden's closure was not quite as devastating as it could have been.

However, it has been hard. Over the course of the election campaign, as we all did, I knocked on hundreds of doors and spoke to many people at shopping centres and on street corners, and Holden was a continual theme. In my first speech to this place, I said something along the lines that I hoped that Elizabeth was always a place that made cars. In my time here, I have seen that time come to an end. Of course, there is always talk of things replacing Holden. In fact, while I was knocking on doors throughout the campaign, a lot of the talk was not so much about the jobs: it was about the site itself and the fact that no-one wanted to see the GMH site be an enormous testament to our collective failure in manufacturing.

So I was pleased that, in the early months of this year, there were some announcements from the Pelligra Group about purchasing that site and creating a high-tech manufacturing hub there. The first tenants were negotiating moving in as the election campaign got into full swing, and I sincerely hope that the current Liberal government will facilitate that process and ensure that manufacturing continues in Elizabeth and at the GMH site. The last thing we want to see is it perpetually fenced off, surrounded by security guards, in an area that needs jobs and needs government assistance in helping those jobs to materialise.

I want to talk a little about the election. The election was informed, first of all, by the redistribution, of course. The member for Lee yesterday made a series of observations about the redistribution, which I will not repeat here. In my case, it had the effect of making my seat nominally safer on a two-party preferred basis but also making it attractive to a third-party candidate, and in that sense it was not safe at all. Indeed, it focused my mind and focused the mind of my campaign team. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.*

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### **PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Ombudsman SA—ISG Audit Report, Assessing State Government Agencies'  
Implementation of the Information Sharing Guidelines for Promoting Safety and  
Wellbeing Report April 2018 [Ordered to be published]

By the Premier (Hon. S.S. Marshall)—

Remuneration Tribunal—

No. 2 of 2018—2018 Review of the Remuneration of Members of the Judiciary,  
Presidential Members of the South Australian Employment Tribunal, the  
State Coroner and Commissioners of the Environment, Resources  
and Development Court Determination

No. 2 of 2018—2018 Review of the Remuneration of Members of the Judiciary,  
Presidential Members of the South Australian Employment Tribunal, the  
State Coroner and Commissioners of the Environment, Resources  
and Development Court Report

No. 3 of 2018—2018 Review of Salary of the Governor of South Australia  
Determination

No. 3 of 2018—2018 Review of Salary of the Governor of South Australia Report

No. 4 of 2018—Reimbursement of Expenses Applicable to the Electorate of  
Mawson—Travel by Ferry Determination

No. 4 of 2018—Reimbursement of Expenses Applicable to the Electorate of  
Mawson—Travel by Ferry Report

*Ministerial Statement*

**BATTLES FOR FIRE SUPPORT BASES CORAL AND BALMORAL ANNIVERSARY**

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:01):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tet Offensive, a significant event in the Vietnam War. This Saturday morning, 12 May 2018, the members for Gibson, Light and Florey will be joining me at 10am on the Torrens Parade Ground, in front of our Vietnam War Memorial, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battles for Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral. I believe it is important that this house understands why this commemoration is significant, and I will now refer to the official record of what happened.

Fire support bases were used in the Vietnam War to provide flexible defended locations for artillery and mortars to support infantry, armoured and cavalry units. During the Tet Offensive launched by North Vietnamese forces in 1968, the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force deployed two infantry battalions, three artillery batteries and support units 45 kilometres north of Saigon and 60 kilometres north-west of the Australian Task Force base at Nui Dat, to establish fire support bases astride enemy infiltration routes to Saigon.

On 12 May 1968, Australian forces landed to establish Fire Support Base Coral. An ominous warning was given to several Australians by the commander of the American company providing initial protection at the landing zone: 'You won't need to find Charlie,' the commander said before departing, 'They'll come looking for you.'

The Australian forces established their positions during the day, but by nightfall Fire Support Base Coral's defences were only partially completed, leaving the troops dangerously exposed to attack. At the same time, hundreds of enemy soldiers had formed up to the north-east of the base and launched a series of battalion-sized assaults at 3am on 13 May following a heavy artillery bombardment.

The battle was fierce, with genuine close-quarter fighting and guns firing Splintex rounds over open sights. At one point, an infantry commander ordered his company to fix bayonets. The North Vietnamese managed to penetrate the Australian perimeter, temporarily capturing a forward-gun position and overrunning the mortar position before being repulsed by Australian forces.



The Australians held their position, but it was a near-run thing. The North Vietnamese attack on Fire Support Base Coral had been the most sustained ground attack on an Australian position since the Second World War.

Operations continued in the area for almost four weeks as the Australians fought some of the most sustained battles of the Vietnam War. Further actions around Coral and the nearby Fire Support Base Balmoral accounted for over 300 enemy soldiers killed. A total of 26 Australian soldiers died and over 100 were wounded. The units involved were later awarded one of the five battle honours approved for the Vietnam War. The honour title 'Coral' was also awarded to 102<sup>nd</sup> Field Battery and 34 decorations were awarded to individual soldiers for their actions.

Our Governor, His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, was a 14-year-old boy during the battle and has previously described the efforts of our troops, saying:

The Battle of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, in 1968, has gone down in history as one of the most significant battles Australian servicemen fought in the Vietnam War...

While I was barely 14, many of the Australian diggers who fought in this battle were not much older. Many of them were only 19 and 20.

No words can adequately express the sorrow I feel for those Australian heroes who never returned home.

Those brave young men may be gone forever. But they will never be gone from our hearts and memories.

A predecessor of His Excellency was the then Colonel Donald Dunstan. Lieutenant General Sir Donald Dunstan AC KBE CB, as he later became, remained South Australia's longest serving governor, having held the office for more than eight years, between April 1982 and February 1991.

During the Battle for Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, Colonel Dunstan took over as Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force. It is said that when he took charge at Fire Support Base Coral he commanded with few words and a winning smile. He quickly endeared himself to his troops by abandoning the dry policy and ordering crates of beer. Colonel Dunstan drew on his World War II experience in the Bougainville campaign against the Japanese in 1945 to utilise Centurion tanks at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral. For his service in the battle, he was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1969.

I commend the Vietnam Veterans Federation for arranging this Saturday's service of commemoration, and I encourage South Australians to attend. The Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson AO, will give the keynote address on what will be a moving day for our Vietnam veterans, their South Vietnamese comrades who have settled in South Australia and their families. On Saturday, we will pause to reflect again on the service of our Vietnam veterans, in particular, the 26 young men who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Battles for Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral.

Three of these men are buried at the Centennial Park Cemetery. Sergeant Peter Lewis, from Poochera, Streaky Bay; Private Allan Cooper from Rose Park; and Private William Thomas, a national serviceman from Adelaide, served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment that was barracked at Woodside before deployment. Their service and their sacrifice will never be forgotten. More than 60,000 Australian served in Vietnam; 520 died and more than 3,000 were wounded. We honour all who served in this conflict—those who did not return, those who returned wounded and those who have since died. We will remember them.

#### **INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:07):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** The Independent Commissioner Against Corruption, Mr Bruce Lander QC, has announced his intention to commence an evaluation of the practices, policies and procedures of SafeWork SA. The ICAC is tasked by section 7(1)(d) of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012 with undertaking such evaluations. These evaluations are separate to investigations by the ICAC into alleged corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration and are of a broader scope.

The ICAC has written to the chief executive of the Attorney-General's Department as the department within which SafeWork SA is currently housed and has advised his intention to evaluate the practices, policies and procedures of the Attorney-General's Department insofar as they relate to the operations of the regulatory arm of SafeWork SA. Mr Lander has indicated his decision to conduct such an evaluation has been influenced by, amongst other things:

- the importance of the regulatory functions of SafeWork SA, and in ensuring the integrity of the conduct of those functions; and
- the number of complaints and reports about the regulatory arm of SafeWork SA that his office has received since opening in 2013.

The evaluation is separate to the investigation being undertaken by ICAC in relation to the matters surrounding the recent withdrawal of a prosecution arising from a fatal accident at the Royal Adelaide Show in September 2014.

The commissioner is currently able, under the ICAC Act, to conduct the evaluation by way of a public inquiry. The commissioner has indicated his intention to do so in order to maximise public participation and confidence in the process and outcome of the evaluation. The commissioner has further indicated, however, that he will consider hearing evidence or submissions in private, where appropriate. I expect the commissioner will have more to say about his proposed approach in due course. While it is difficult to estimate at this point how long the evaluation is likely to take, it might be expected to be a number of months.

Both the chief executive of the Attorney-General's Department and the executive director of SafeWork SA have welcomed the proposed evaluation and its conduct by way of public inquiry as a way of allowing the agency's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement to be debated openly. I also welcome this announcement and await the commissioner's report. Everyone—everyone—has the right to attend a workplace and to be safe, and the agency charged with the responsibility to regulate the same must operate at the highest standard.

#### *Question Time*

### **MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION**

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:10):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Is it an appropriate use of the Minister for Child Protection's time to be playing golf during work hours?

**An honourable member:** If this is the best you can do—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members on my right, the question was very clear.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Minister.

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:11):** I am not sure what kind of working hours the former minister keeps, but my work is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —from when I wake up in the morning to when I go to bed. We have functions till 10 or 11 at night and all weekends, up to eight functions in a day. I was part of a charity golf day. I had one hit.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** The hours that I work, I feel no—and it was actually before work.

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens is called to order.

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** I think it's a ridiculous question.

#### **MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION**

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:11):** My supplementary question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Why did the minister then post a tweet of herself enjoying the game at 10.18, given that she doesn't see that it's an issue?

**An honourable member:** That's not a supp.

**Dr CLOSE:** It's a supplementary, given that she doesn't see that it's an issue because she works every day.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Dr CLOSE:** Why did she tweet at 10.18 on Friday 13 April—not the day of a charity tournament, as I understand it—and delete it a few minutes later?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members on my right, order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The leader is called to order. The Premier is called to order. The minister will be heard in silence.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley is called to order. The member for Hammond is called to order. The minister will be heard in silence.

*Members interjecting:*

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

*The Hon. S.K. Knoll interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Transport is called to order. Minister.

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:12):** I find it very disappointing that the former minister for child protection has nothing to say about the department she left in an absolute mess after four years under your leadership. I am working very hard to fix the mess that you have left and will not be answering the question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I think the minister has finished, member for West Torrens. It was a broad question. I allowed the minister some latitude, as I allowed the deputy leader some latitude. Is there a supplementary?

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

**The SPEAKER:** The minister has finished now. We will move on to the next question.

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES**

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:13):** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the house on our state's performance in relation to unemployment figures over the past four years and what opportunities there are for improvement?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:13):** I thank the member for Colton for his question. The answer is: there are plenty of opportunities for improving our performance in terms of creating more jobs in South Australia. In fact, if we look at where South Australia has been over the last four years, as the member asked, it's a pretty pitiful set of numbers. Between the 2014 election and the 2018 election, Australia did extraordinarily well. In fact, when I look at those numbers, Australia created almost a million new jobs—in fact, 954,000 new jobs nationwide.

The question that we need to ask ourselves, as members of this parliament, is: did we achieve our pro rata entitlement in terms of those jobs that were created around the entire country? The answer to that is no. The answer is no because those opposite were in government, they had a very casual attitude towards creating new jobs in South Australia and they failed the people of South Australia.

Let me tell you how they performed. Let me tell you that, during that four-year period, South Australia created just a pitiful 35,800 jobs or 3.7 per cent of the jobs that were created in our country. Whilst those opposite want to beat their chest and get all excited about their performance in the very last month that they were in power—as if this were some great accomplishment over their 16 years of government—the reality is that they failed the people of this state.

We won't do that. By contrast, we will work diligently every single day. We will be applying ourselves, not to when golf is played but to the real issues of this parliament, issues like lowering the burden on businesses in this state. As you would be aware, sir, we have already announced a very positive policy to remove payroll tax for all small business in South Australia. Businesses that have a payroll of up to \$1½ million will not pay a cent in payroll tax, that tax on jobs, under this government. I can't wait for 1 January to tick around so that we can remove that burden.

More than that, we will be creating almost 21,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships in South Australia. We know that by doing this we will create jobs. We will give the next generation hope. They will stay in South Australia rather than exiting our state at the end of school or at the end of university when, under the previous government, they could not find a job. Jobs are critical to the Liberal Party. We are really enjoying our time on this side of the house because we want to implement the positive policies that will create the environment to create more jobs and not lag behind the rest of Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I call to order the Minister for Police and I warn for the first time the leader, the member for West Torrens and also the Minister for Police.

**Mr Koutsantonis:** I didn't say anything.

**The SPEAKER:** You have been saying things.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:17):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Has she met with the Guardian for Children and Young People since becoming the Minister for Child Protection?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:17):** I thank the member for her important question. I note her interest in this portfolio for many years as a journalist and I hope to sincerely work with you for the positive outcome of our children. I have not at this stage had a chance—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** I have actually met with—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —many, many of my officers around the regions. Can I say—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —my staff—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —have not met the last three ministers.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** So I think it's important—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Is there a supplementary?

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:18):** There is, Mr Speaker. My—

**An honourable member:** You can't read supps.

**The SPEAKER** Order! Copious notes and cheat sheets are allowed. The member for Badcoe.

**Ms STINSON:** When is the minister scheduled to meet with the Guardian for Children and Young People?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:18):** I have a list of about 100 people to meet with. My first priority—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —was to meet with my staff in my offices. And, as I will say again—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —most of the regional staff—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —have not met a minister—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —since the member for—the former premier was the last minister they met. The last three ministers didn't even meet their own staff in many of the offices. That is the starting point.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** I have an order and list of priorities that I am meeting every person. Thank you.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, the leader is continuing to interject, as is the member for West Torrens. The interjections are not always persuasive, but they have been interjecting, and I warn them for a second and final time. Member for Badcoe.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:19):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Has she met with the Commissioner for Children and Young People since becoming the minister?

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** For one, they haven't had any power.

**The SPEAKER:** The deputy leader is called to order. Minister.

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:19):** I have met with all of the people you are mentioning—before coming into government.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** So, they are on my list to meet.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will resume her seat. Please resume your seat. Members on my left: the member for Badcoe was heard in silence when she asked a question. I ask that the minister is also heard in silence for her answer. Minister.

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** As I've already said, I will be meeting with all of the stakeholders in the order that I choose and see fit.

**FOOD PRODUCERS**

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:20):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister update the house on how government is supporting our food producers to grow the economy and create jobs?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:20):** I thank the newly elected member for Narungga for his very important question. As we all know, food producers here in South Australia are a huge contributor to the state's economy. They are hugely important to everyone here, whether they are on this side of the chamber, the other side of the chamber or in the gallery, because we all expect three meals a day. We all expect food that's grown at a premium level and making sure that our domestic markets are met as well as increasing our export opportunities.

South Australia's food growing industry contributes to our state's economy to around about \$17.6 billion and it generates about 18 per cent of South Australia's workforce—critically important. South Australia has a global reputation for producing world-leading food for local consumption and international exports. What I will say is that food production represents over 50 per cent of our GSP. It represents over 50 per cent of South Australia's merchandise exports. It is critically important that food producers, the food manufacturing sector, get the respect as well as the support that they need, to grow their industries, to grow the sector, so that we can actually produce more food for a greater demand, not only domestically but internationally, so that we can value-add and grow our economy.

Just as importantly, food producers, as one of the great backbones of our economy, of the state's economy, are now a vital piece in the puzzle in creating more job opportunities, particularly with a growing red meat industry, particularly growing with the wine industry, particularly growing with the manufacturing sector, with vertically integrated—

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens is on two warnings.

**Mr Koutsantonis:** I was talking to my leader, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** I don't think you were. You're on two warnings. Interjections are out of order. Continue, minister.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** What I want to say is that this government will support our food producers. That's why there was an election commitment of this government to commit \$1 million per annum to Food SA to support continued growth to our South Australian food and

beverage industry. They are an outstanding peak body organisation that represents almost every sector of the food industry. It is ably led by a team that is passionate and is striving for excellence in growing South Australia's economy but also supporting the sector that needs support entering export markets. That organisation is also about promoting investment. It is also about promoting research. It is about giving the people that grow our food the support that they have long waited for.

The increased funding will also support the South Australian Food Industry Awards Program. That is a critical piece of the puzzle when it comes to recognising the outstanding work that our food producers do. Let me tell you, we understand on this side of the house the diversity that food producers have to live with day in and day out: the weather conditions, the biosecurity threats. It is also about people supporting their industry. It is about people making sure that, when they put food into their mouth, it is safe.

It is about understanding the importance of biosecurity, understanding that this government will implement more fruit fly measures. They will make sure that biosecurity is front and centre. On my recent trip to Brisbane for the AGMIN meeting, biosecurity was the number one agenda item. I have said that we will support biosecurity. We have announced that we will introduce two extra fruit fly deposit bins coming into the Riverland. We all know that the Riverland and myself as a very strong advocate has been—

**The SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired. Thank you, minister. The member for Badcoe.

#### COMMISSIONER FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:24):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Why has the minister not appointed a commissioner for Aboriginal children since becoming the Minister for Child Protection?

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** Because we have to change the law.

**Ms STINSON:** You don't actually.

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

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

*Members interjecting:*

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

*Members interjecting:*

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members will cease interjecting. The Premier and the Deputy Premier are called to order. Minister.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:24):** I thank the member for the question. As the Minister for Education, the Aboriginal commissioner for children election commitment falls under my responsibility. We committed to having that process undertaken and underway within the first 100 days, and we will.

*Mr Brown interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Playford is called to order for an audible sigh. The member for Kavel.

#### PROBLEM GAMBLING

**Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (14:25):** Mr Speaker, my question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney outline to the house the important work being done to identify potential problem gambling behaviour in our communities?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:25):** I thank the member for Kavel for this important question, because problem gambling can be a nightmare for those entrapped in it, and to identify potential problem gambling behaviour to ensure that we are able to manage this and to support people is an important aspect of our government in this area.

So I am pleased to advise the house that, as of 1 May, a new initiative has been in operation which enables all gaming machines in hotels and clubs to now be connected to a new automatic risk system (which is a monitoring program) and which allows the frontline venue staff in these premises to identify people who are playing gaming machines and who may be at risk of harm.

Essentially, it works on the basis that the staff in the venue are alerted if a player reaches a certain threshold of play, and that is identified essentially by the time at which they have spent at the gaming machine and/or how much money has been spent. Why is this important? Well, the Independent Gambling Authority has approved this process because it recognises the significance of how effective this can be.

Members may be aware that, since about 2014, the Casino has operated a similar surveillance in the sense of enabling a monitoring program to identify those at risk of problem gambling in that area, but, in this instance, this is to alert the venue staff in the hotels and clubs, and having identified the vulnerable customers who might need assistance or staff intervention, they are then able to do so.

Obviously, the training in respect of staff in these venues is also important to ensure that they are able to sensitively raise this issue with the customer and to assist them. Members may be aware that we have certain other procedures in operation, including that, where there has been a problem gambling identification, barring arrangements can be put in place, at the extreme end. But, earlier on, attempts should continue to be made by the venue providers who have specific responsibility in light of their licensing arrangements to ensure that they do act responsibly and be alert where there is a problem gambling aspect on which they have a responsibility to act. So identification and allowing for a lower level intervention, across to referring them to gambling health services, are all part of this.

The reports and data gathered from the automatic risk monitoring system will be able to better inform us, and also in relation to gaming machines in local venues and communities. All of these matters assist those who are facing the plight of problem gambling, and the member for Kavel importantly has raised this, because it does not matter where you are in South Australia you can have a problem in relation to gambling, which is otherwise a legitimate and enjoyable experience for thousands of South Australians, but some people need some extra assistance when an addiction may take hold.

There are plenty of addictions out there but gambling and gaming machines are in the mix of where there can be a suffocating consequence and major financial impost on families and communities if an unidentified area like this has not been identified and acted on.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:29):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. How many of the extra 200 child protection staff promised to be recruited by the Minister for Child Protection have been hired?

*The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:30):** How ironic! Four years ago in this house —

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —in budget and estimates the then minister, Jennifer Rankine, said that she was hiring 350 extra staff in residential care. They are still not employed. The



understaffing of the department lies fairly and squarely with your opposition party, and you should be embarrassed.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:30):** Supplementary: when will the 200 staff you have promised be recruited?

*The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:30):** I have met with the PSA union and the AASW to discuss the diversification of the workforce, which we believe is a very good policy and a way to be able to fill the FTEs your former government have been completely incapable of filling in the last four years since they promised it, bearing in mind the PSA union threatened strike action when you were in government because of the failings of your government.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I was not in government. Please direct your remarks through the Chair. The minister to continue. Minister has finished, okay.

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens will depart the chamber under 137A(1) for half an hour.

*The honourable member for West Torrens having withdrawn from the chamber:*

### GLENTHORNE NATIONAL PARK

**Mr MURRAY (Davenport) (14:31):** My question is for the Minister for Environment and Water. Will the minister update the house on the government's commitment to the creation of Glenthorne national park and the role the local community will play in its establishment?

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:32):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and, with the way you controlled the house just there, it will be far more pleasant to answer this question, I am sure—

**The SPEAKER:** I can only try, minister.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** —and for people to listen, so I applaud your control. The member for Davenport asks a very worthy question about what is one of the new Liberal government's flagship environmental policies for South Australia. In October 2016, we announced that if elected to government we would create Glenthorne national park, an area of around 1,500 hectares of open space stretching from the member for Davenport's electorate, around Happy Valley reservoir, covering that open space, moving through existing areas of Crown-owned land—O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park, Marino Conservation Park, Hallett Cove Conservation Park and areas of the Field River valley.

But most importantly our vision captures the site of Glenthorne Farm, 208 hectares of open space, which for far too long has had a cloud hanging over it and has been under threat from development for one reason or another. That land, which encompasses Glenthorne Farm, has been held in stewardship by the University of Adelaide since the early 2000s. It is fair to say that the University of Adelaide has struggled to find a clear purpose for that land, and its potential has not been maximised. I am delighted to be able to tell the member for Davenport and the house today that initial conversations have been had with the University of Adelaide about bringing that land into a body of management which would become Glenthorne national park.

We should not underestimate the significant environmental legacy this will leave South Australians, particularly those living in the southern suburbs. Individual conservation parks by themselves are valuable, but the idea of a nature corridor extending from the Hills to the coast and encompassing 1,500 hectares of land will be an incredible asset to our southern suburbs environment. That nature corridor has the opportunity to create recreational opportunities for people living in the local area and visitors alike.

Majors Road, which runs from the coast through towards Flagstaff Hill, will be the recreational spine of the new park. Existing recreational activities such as Riding for the Disabled, which is there at the moment, the model aeroplane club, the archery and the pistol club will have the potential to be complemented by other recreational activities in the future—walking trails, cycling trails. There is already a substantial mountain biking facility at O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park and there is the option to establish soccer facilities, and potentially BMX facilities, down the track as well.

It really is the wellbeing of the southern suburbs and the natural environment which will benefit most from this policy. As to the opportunity to undertake a large-scale revegetation project on Glenthorne Farm, I hope to be able to partner with the University of Adelaide and local environmental groups to fulfil that. Community engagement will be critical to the fulfilment of Glenthorne national park.

The new government will work with the various stakeholder groups and the friends groups that exist at O'Halloran Hill Recreation Park, Marino and Hallett Cove conservation parks, the lower Field River and on Glenthorne Farm itself. I pay tribute to the Friends of Glenthorne for their perseverance over many years which really pushed Glenthorne and the need to save it into the public domain. Community consultation will also involve a community forum at some point in the coming weeks, and I look forward to working with members from across this house on both sides of parliament as we develop what should be an incredible environmental legacy for all South Australians.

#### **ABORIGINAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:36):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Has she met with Aboriginal Family Support Services since becoming the minister?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:36):** I believe that is in my diary for later this week.

**Mr Duluk:** A supplementary or not? No?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Waite, I ask if there are any supplementaries, not you.

**The Hon. S.K. Knoll:** He's trying to steal your job, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Not yet. Member for MacKillop.

#### **CROP AND PASTURE REPORT**

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:36):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Continue. The member will be heard in silence.

**Mr McBRIDE:** Can the minister update the house on the 2017-18 Crop and Pasture Report outcome?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:36):** I thank the member for MacKillop for his insightful question. Of course, we all know how important the crop and pasture sector is and how much it contributes to our state's economy. Our primary industries are one of the backbones of the South Australian economy, in particular in regional areas. Yes, this year has been quite a testing year for the majority of the grain growing regions in South Australia.

Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula had fairly successful years, but sadly there were areas that missed out on the finishing rain, particularly in the South-East and the Mallee. Those areas were also quite severely affected with those November frosts that came through and impacted on the grain itself, on the grain head filling out, and a lot of the crop estimates had to be reduced.

What I can say is it was slightly below the long-term average at 7.7 million tonnes, following from a record 2016-17 grain harvest of 11.1 million tonnes, and I think our farmers have done an incredible job through adversity over this last growing season. We all know that primary production—

grain growing, any form of farming—is always fraught with risk, and I think our primary producers do an outstanding job in their risk management and dealing with the elements. Those elements have played a role in last year's crop. We are starting off with a very dry subsoil moisture profile coming into this season. Some areas have had good starting rain, and it is great to see, but we haven't had those widespread soaking rains that every farmer who is looking to the skies is waiting for. For those who have, seeding is underway.

It is great to see that both cereal and legume crops look as though they are going to be planted at an average planting regime. But I would like to commend our grain growers here in South Australia. They are using some of the world's best technology through the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and the great work that SARDI is doing to be able to give us market advantage, to get our farmers to have a capacity to increase yield and to put in crops of new types in the rotations that are very important with today's technology around primary production and grain growing.

It is also very important to note that a majority of our cereal farmers are now working on no till or minimal till. It is also very important to know that some of the new crop rotations are world groundbreaking technology. It enables the primary producer to be able to utilise every square metre of dirt for the most benefit to their bottom line. They are competing on a more and more global stage as every year approaches, and it is important that we are in front of the game. It is important that, as primary producers, we are supported.

This government, the Marshall Liberal government in South Australia, have put good initiatives in place to support primary producers to make sure that we have the infrastructure in place, to make sure that we upskill our farmers, because we all know nowadays that we don't just employ a tractor driver: we employ a technician, we employ engineers and we employ specialists to undertake the vital role that our primary industries need.

#### **MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION**

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:40):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Given the minister prioritised playing golf over meeting with the guardian—

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order, sir: standing order 97 does not allow this.

**The SPEAKER:** For argument. The minister is correct: the question does contain argument. Member for Waite.

#### **AGED-CARE FUNDING**

**Mr DULUK (Waite) (14:41):** My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney-General update the house on how the federal government's \$1.6 billion aged-care sector package will help improve standards in South Australian aged care?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:41):** Thank you to the member. I know he is a long way off needing these aged-care packages, but the \$1.6 billion—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** —that was announced the other night by the commonwealth government is welcome news for South Australia. It is very important to recognise the serious areas of neglect and inaction by the former state Labor government in this space. But the money is on the table. Some of the initiatives that are proposed include \$22 million of that over the next five years to establish and trial the hubs for older persons. I think the new word is growing 'elder' hubs, not 'older persons' but, in any event, language changes all the time in this space. Obviously, it is to locate in centres the services to support our growing number of older persons.

The success really follows this type of area in relation to domestic violence, which, over a number of years, has been developed and enables women particularly, and sometimes children, to be able to seek support and protection in these areas. Aged members of our community who may become more vulnerable, particularly as they become more frail, significantly need assistance, and

to have this through the package is particularly important. The circumstances relating to the Oakden scandal obviously bring front and centre to us the importance of offering protection in this regard.

One of the other areas in relation to care relates to the financial abuse of our older South Australians. This is an important area, which had actually been identified by the member for Cheltenham when he was a minister. He published a nice pamphlet about it and then, frankly, did not much else since to actually address it. He highlighted in that pamphlet—now 12 years ago—the significance of ensuring that we protect older persons, who may actually be living independently or in their own homes, who are not in some kind of institutional or regulated service or residential facility, but who are very vulnerable in these circumstances.

Enduring powers of attorney is one way of assisting persons as they mature in age, particularly if they are losing decision-making ability, to pre-empt that and to ensure that they have the chance to instruct and authorise someone to conduct their affairs on their behalf. The national funds will assist in the development of the establishment of a national framework for enduring powers of attorney. This is particularly important for South Australia.

The previous government—indeed, even back as far as the Hon. Martyn Evans, who was a former minister for health in the Bannon administration—undertook a review in relation to documents of instruction, including what culminated into advance care directives in this house. When I first came into parliament, I remember meeting with Mr Evans, reading his report and looking forward to there being some development in this area.

Apart from the advance care directives, which started under minister Hill and finished under minister Snelling, or at least were amended under his regime, the fact is that again the government have completely left this space unattended. So we continue to have a situation where our older South Australians don't have the reforms they need to access enduring powers of attorney in a simplified form, which is the original objective, and now we are going to look to work at the national level for that protection.

Time expired.

#### MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:45):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Can the minister name the charity that the golf tournament was in aid of?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:45):** It was the Lady Mayoress's golf tournament, and I played one hole of golf. It's up to her to determine the charity.

#### NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTS

**Dr HARVEY (Newland) (14:46):** My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the house on plans for the 2018 NAPLAN tests?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:46):** I thank the member for Newland for his question. I am pleased to advise that, yes, I can, and I am pleased to offer some information in that regard.

NAPLAN is, of course, the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy, and it has been an important part of our education system for 10 years now. It came out of a product of the Howard Liberal-National government in Canberra—their work towards national standardised testing. Of course, the former Labor government here in South Australia signed South Australia up to that testing regime, and it is one of those occasions where I will commend the former government for doing that.

The NAPLAN tests are important, first and foremost, as a tool within which students undertaking these tests who are less successful in them than had been hoped can be identified perhaps for slipping through the cracks. Indeed, I noted an article by Louise Pascale earlier this week, a parent who previously, as a journalist, had written in opposition to NAPLAN, identifying the benefits of NAPLAN from her family's perspective where the success of her child in the NAPLAN tests informed useful discussions with the classroom teacher about some of the strengths in her child that were identified as a result of the NAPLAN tests.

It is a useful tool to help students to help us identify where extra support is needed. I note that the former Labor federal government, led by Julia Gillard, and the former Labor government here in South Australia introduced the My School website, which allowed for the rankings and league tables issues, which have been pointed out as a concern by a number of people. I nevertheless believe, and this government believes, that NAPLAN remains a tremendously important tool in our education system to assist us to identify school advancement, student advancement, and ensures that we pick up those students who need more support.

I listened with interest to the shadow minister's Address in Reply earlier in the week in which she suggested that there were questions to be asked about our relationship with NAPLAN. I am sure that she will contribute to the discussion in this space in the years ahead and, if the Labor Party does propose to withdraw its support for NAPLAN, then that is a matter for them. I reiterate that the Liberal Party, this Liberal government, will continue to work with ACARA, the national curriculum and assessment authority, on the tests.

Indeed, one of the election commitments that we undertook was to work with ACARA in their desire to develop and have understood and reported proficiency standards, not just the national minimum standard. Of course, proficiency standards can be seen as a better scale of a student's achievement in providing further information to families about how their student is going.

In 2014, the former government, along with other ministers around Australia, made a decision that we were going to enhance the work of NAPLAN by signing up to NAPLAN online, which would commence in 2017 on a voluntary basis, with a full transition sought by 2019. There are many advantages of the NAPLAN online proposal. There are, of course, challenges undertaken whenever you are looking at any new IT system. Next week, this government will continue the work that was set in place by the former government. It was good work that was set in place.

NAPLAN online will be undertaken in 141 schools of the 700 schools in South Australia next week, almost exactly 20 per cent, in 100 government schools and 41 non-government schools—basically 20 and 21 independent and Catholic. The NAPLAN test is being undertaken online in those schools and we have made sure that there are resources, if there is an IT problem, so that those children will get the benefit of the NAPLAN test either way. We are confident that NAPLAN online will work this week and can be rolled out across South Australia next year.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:50):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Is the minister still aiming to achieve her department's objective of between zero and 10 children in emergency care, and what is her time frame for achieving that?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:50):** I thank the member for her question and I note that, when the Labor Party came to power in 2002, the Liberal government had zero children in commercial care.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** It was under your failed government—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —that the figures blew out, and completely out of control.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** Every day I work hard to fix the mess that has been left after 16 years of Labor. Where are all of your promises that were made? Where are all of yours?

*Members interjecting:*

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

**Mr PICTON:** Point of order: it was a very specific question, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes. It is entirely reasonable that the minister be given an opportunity to get to the substance of the question. Is the minister finished?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** Yes.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister is finished. The member for Hammond.

*Members interjecting:*

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

#### RIVERLAND BIOSECURITY

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:51):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister update the house on the progress of the election commitment to install two new quarantine bins leading into the Riverland?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:51):** Thank you, member for Hammond, and I thank him for his question.

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Is the leader still interjecting?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

*The Hon. S.S. Marshall interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! The Premier is warned. The member for Waite is warned for a second and final time. The member for Hammond is warned. The minister will be heard in silence. It is the end of the sitting week. I have no hesitation in sending members out of the chamber under 137A(1), if I must, to retain order. Minister.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order, Mr Speaker: I believe it is unparliamentary to be turning your back on the Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes it is, and I will watch carefully that that does not happen. Minister.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** I thank the member for Hammond for his very important question. It is all very well for the opposition to laugh about such an important question, because obviously you do not—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** —understand what biosecurity means for food safety in this state and in this country. We have threats on our border on a daily basis, whether it be from fruit fly, whether it be from pests and weeds, whether it be from phylloxera to wine grapes, whether it be to the fishing sector. We have biosecurity threats every single day. What I do ask the opposition is, have you ever bitten into a peach and got a mouthful of maggots? We are so quiet now, so listen to the explanation.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Leading up to the election, the Marshall Liberal government made a commitment to further secure our borders from the invasive insect, the Queensland fruit fly. I am sure that the previous agriculture minister would understand the importance of biosecurity in South Australia. We hold being fruit fly free as one of the jewels in our production crown, particularly

in the Riverland. Just recently, through negotiations with the state government and the federal government, we were given pest-free status into China. That has been a huge coup for South Australia. We are now the only state—not just the only mainland state—the only state in the country to be fruit fly free and that is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** What I will say is that the South Australian Liberal government has seen the necessity to further bolster our biosecurity needs with regard to fruit fly. We will install more fruit fly bins on two of the arterial roads leading into the Riverland. The Riverland is one of the largest horticulture production areas in this state. It is the engine room of the wine industry. It is a huge economic driver to South Australia's economy, and it is a market advantage into international and domestic markets.

It's really important to understand that the bins come with a package, and that package will be that we will see more signage and better education programs—and that makes Biosecurity SA's job just that little bit easier. But they will be relentless. They will make sure that those random roadblocks are upheld; they will make sure that those education programs are put in place to complement this Liberal government's initiative to further bolster biosecurity in this state. I cannot overemphasise how important it is to make sure that the world knows that South Australia has a fruit fly-free status. It's important to note that our international markets are watching every day as to whether there are incursions with fruit fly.

That message that goes to them rings alarm bells in those markets to make sure that they are buying produce that is clean, green and, more importantly, safe—that when they buy a box of peaches, when they buy any food product out of this state, it has a gold-clad guarantee of being fruit fly free. As I have said, it's critically important that we all spread the message that we have to be vigilant with cleaning up fruit around the trees, making sure our monitoring traps are monitored and making sure that Biosecurity has the resources it needs to keep this state's reputation second to none. I will say that the Marshall Liberal government has underpinned biosecurity here in South Australia, and I expect that we will do more because there is always more to be done to uphold our reputation with biosecurity.

#### MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:56):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Who directed her to remove her tweet on 13 April?

**The SPEAKER:** That question does assume that—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** That question does assume that someone directed the minister to delete her tweet. I will allow a modification on this instance. Member for Badcoe.

**Ms STINSON:** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Was the minister requested to delete her tweet of 13 April in regard to her golf day?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (14:57):** I make my own decisions.

*Members interjecting:*

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

#### COST OF LIVING

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:57):** My question is to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member will be heard in silence. Member, continue.

**Mr ELLIS:** Can the minister update the house on how the state government plans to lower the cost of living for all South Australians by introducing rate capping on council rates?

*Members interjecting:*

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

*Members interjecting:*

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Lee is warned a second and final time.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:58):** Rate capping is a policy that the South Australian Liberal Party has been prosecuting for five years now. It's something that we have, up hill and down dale, fought with to help the South Australian public understand this issue and help them to realise how important it is and what we can actually do to help fix this situation. Upon having been sworn in as the minister for this portfolio and having realised, very quickly, that this is going to be a major fight that is my job, on behalf of the cabinet and the party, to prosecute, the more information I have sought and the more important this policy has become in my eyes.

The real rub of this problem is the fact that when you look at what councils have done over the past decade in terms of rate increases, it is so out of step with where ratepayers think it should be and where households and businesses can actually afford to pay, that it is imperative that this parliament acts to enact rate capping. Over the past 10 years, to 2016-17, there was a 79 per cent increase in rates revenue over that 10-year period. Over the same time, CPI was only increased by 26 per cent. That is a huge differential, especially when you consider that state taxation only increased at basically the same rate as inflation over that same period.

Councils do, I think, spend money wisely, but there has to be a limit to the amount of money they can take out of ratepayers' pockets. Whilst there can always be good arguments for why governments of all persuasions need to spend money, the Liberal Party seems to be the only party that is willing to stand up and say enough is enough. There may be many worthy causes out there but, at the end of the day, sometimes people's pockets are empty. That is where the South Australian Liberal Party is stepping in to protect ratepayers from exorbitant increases—79 per cent is not okay.

In the 2017-18 year, the average is 6 per cent, whilst at the same time inflation is running at a third of that rate. This cannot be sustainable and over the longer term will further and further punish South Australian ratepayers. We also see instances of where council should probably look at tightening their own belt, whether it comes to golf memberships, whether it comes to expensive IT, whether it comes to expensive dining and wine—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —councils need to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members on my left will remain quiet. The member for Lee is on two warnings.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** What I am really enjoying is how members opposite would love to stand up and say that a golf membership is okay.

**The SPEAKER:** Don't provoke, minister. Please continue.



**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** We have one half of this parliament that has for the past five years stood here and said that there is no argument for rate capping. What I want to know is why members opposite think it's okay that 6 per cent average increases for council rate revenue is okay.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** Is it because they have never met a tax increase they didn't like? Whether it's the car park tax, whether it's the bank tax, or whatever else it is, this government will—

**Mr PICTON:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** There's a point of order, minister.

**Mr PICTON:** Standing order 98: I think the minister has diverged—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr PICTON:** 98.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! For debate.

**Mr PICTON:** Mr Speaker, standing order 98: I think the minister has diverged into debate.

**The SPEAKER:** I think the minister was wrapping up his answer. Minister.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** He was. To bring the house up to date with where we are at, we have progressed very early stages of the legislation; actually, it is in the process of being drafted right now. As part of our 100-day commitment, we will bring this legislation to parliament within 100 days. What I would like to do, and what I have committed to the Local Government Association to do, is consult with them on that draft bill before we bring it into this place, time permitting. There will be many conversations that we are going to have. I know that this scheme is going to be made all the better from the input of the local government sector, as opposed to them sitting on the sidelines without it.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (15:02):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Can the minister advise what the costings are to extend payments for children under guardianship until 21 years of age?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (15:02):** The budget will be in September and all the figures will be part of that.

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GAMES

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:03):** My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Can the minister update the house on the success of the Special Olympics national games held in Adelaide in April?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:03):** I thank the member for Heysen for his question. He is doing a stellar job for his local community. I know he is very interested in this, and I thank him for his interest. It was with great pleasure that I was part of the Special Olympics national games, and it was a great event for South Australia from 16 April—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left will remain quiet while the minister gives his answer.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —to 20 April this year. It was a great opportunity to showcase the talent, skills, dedication and achievements of nearly 1,000 athletes with an intellectual disability. It was the second time that Adelaide had successfully hosted the games, after it hosted the games in 2010. Athletes travelled from all parts of Australia to partake in 11 sports.

Before it actually started, there was the law enforcement torch relay in collaboration with the South Australia Police and the Special Olympics. This was a great moment in itself. It kicked off at the Marion aquatic centre, where the STAR Group was called in to carry the torch through the water, if you can believe it. It was a wonderful sight and great to have that part of SAPOL involved with this wonderful event. I know that everyone watching was quite amazed at how the torch went through the water, and everyone was suitably impressed, as you would understand.

It was my great pleasure and honour to have my first official speaking function at the opening of the Special Olympics this year. I know that the member for Hurtle Vale was there as well. I saw her. She was upstairs for the canapés and drinks beforehand, and she was there for the start of the ceremony as well. As I said, it was my great pleasure to be able to have the opportunity to formally speak and say a few words.

I'm not sure if the member was still there when I finished —she might have left early—but I would like to just let her and the chamber know that one of the things I pointed out in my speech, which I think was really evident and summed up these games as I looked out upon the audience, was the thousand smiles that came back from the people who were partaking in these games; it was worth a gazillion dollars, it really was. The look of joy on their face when they were going to compete in these games was absolutely outstanding, and it was something that will last with me for a very long time.

I was lucky enough to go to some events as well. In fact, the Premier and I went to the swimming at the SA aquatic centre, and we both got to present some medals to some of the winners. He did the gold—he's the Premier. I did the silver, and I got lucky because a South Australian athlete, Danah Gobbett, won the silver medal. Again, I put the metal around her neck, and the smile on her face and the joy with which she glowed is one of the greatest moments I've ever witnessed in sport. It's wonderful what sport can do from an inclusion point of view. This event, as I said, and this moment were absolutely outstanding.

The other great part of the event, for anyone else who got to go along (and I know a colleague, the member for Boothby, was at the gymnastics) was when these athletes finished—in our case, getting out of the pool. They will give you a hug, they will give you a high five, and again the smiles are just to die for. I would like to congratulate everyone that was involved in the Special Olympics.

Jehad Rasheed is the Chair of the Special Olympics National Games board. Again, I commend the member for Hurtle Vale for her involvement because it is absolutely outstanding. Sponsors as well are a big part of these events. I know that NAB were the major sponsor, and they helped contribute to the some 900 volunteers who took part in this event. A big thank you to all those volunteers. They were outstanding. Part of that volunteer group was, in fact, the former New South Wales premier Mike Baird, who was there again probably leading the charge on the high-fives and the hugs.

A big thankyou to everyone, but to the athletes in particular. They were outstanding. It was a true pleasure to be involved in this event. I think it is one of the most significant things and one of the most joyous things that I've had to do in this house and a great duty for the whole thing.

Time expired.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (15:07):** My question is to the Minister for Child Protection. Has she met with SACOSS since becoming the Minister for Child Protection?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (15:07):** I have met with SACOSS unofficially at different functions. However, my priority, unlike the former government, the Labor government, is to firstly go out and meet all of the department staff to see on the ground what is happening, how we can assist them, what pressure they are under—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —and to meet the children who are under my guardianship and to see the residential care facilities where they live. Unlike the former Labor government, who had never even visited Oakden, which was an absolute shame—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** —my priority is the staff and the children first. When I have visited all of those, we are working on the terrible contracts that the Labor government have left us with in residential care and commercial care, then foster care we need to fix up. There is an endless list of mess that has been left by your government that I am working on.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! Supplementary, member for Badcoe.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (15:08):** Supplementary, Mr Speaker: can the Minister for Child Protection detail what these unofficial meetings were with SACOSS and when?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! Minister.

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (15:08):** I don't see that as necessary.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I could not hear that answer over a wall of noise. Is the minister finished?

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** Yes.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister is finished.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: if a minister in the executive won't even answer a question, sir, she is not only insulting you, she is insulting the entire chamber.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, over the wall I did not hear. I will have a look at the *Hansard*. I did not hear the answer.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** She just simply refused to answer, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** The member will be seated. I will have a look. I couldn't hear it.

*The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Point of order.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Former Speaker Atkinson made it a standard of the house that arguing with the Speaker was a naming offence.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, that is true. I did not hear the answer. I will have a look at the *Hansard* and come back to the house if it is appropriate. Another supplementary and then the member for King.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (15:09):** Is the minister able to table the list of stakeholders that she intends to meet with, which she mentioned earlier?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! There are two minutes left.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (15:10):** I understand you are a brand-new member, but that is not necessary for me to do.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### **AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY**

**Ms LUETHEN (King) (15:10):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update—

**The SPEAKER:** Point of order. Let's hear the point of order.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** I have two points to make, sir. Did you hear the response of the member for Adelaide to you? She said to you, Mr Speaker—

**The SPEAKER:** What is the point of the order, sir?

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Mr Speaker, she is ridiculing the house.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not uphold the point of order. She gave her answer. The member for King.

**Ms LUETHEN:** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on progress towards a national space agency for Australia?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:10):** This is a very important issue. I am very surprised that those opposite haven't asked a question about this because this is important for the people of South Australia to understand. There is an enormous opportunity on the table at the moment, courtesy of the federal government. They have made a decision to establish a national space agency for Australia—I would add, not before time. Nevertheless, it is finally coming.

And I update the house that this announcement by the federal government was made here in Adelaide. It was made as part of the keynote address when the conference for the International Astronautical Congress was held in Adelaide last year, and what an excellent congress that was.

I know those opposite like to suggest that they brought it here to South Australia, but I have made inquiries and let me tell you that, as per usual, those opposite are the ultimate photobombers. Every time somebody in the private sector has ever done anything in South Australia, any time anything has ever happened in South Australia, it was because of the former Labor government.

I was delighted this morning because the sun rose, and I got on the phone as soon as I could to ring up the Leader of the Opposition to say to him, 'Thank you, sir, for the work that you did in those 16 years—those 16 long, tedious years—in government to make the sun rise today.'

The reality is that a lot of hard work has been done by a lot of people to bring about an announcement by the federal government to establish a national space agency. Now, here is the opportunity. What we need to be doing is working as hard as we possibly can to ensure that that space agency comes to South Australia. That is certainly what I will be doing.

I was delighted when I was listening to the federal budget being handed down the other night—that budget which talks about lower taxes for households, lower taxes for businesses in South Australia—because it also talked about an additional federal government investment of \$41 million to establish the national space agency. Can I tell you, those of us on this side recognise the incredible opportunity which space provides.

We know that hundreds and hundreds of South Australians are employed in this sector. We know that there is plenty of private sector activity in this area at the moment. Very innovative companies like Fleet, like Innovare, like many other companies in South Australia, are really seeing the opportunities, especially around smart small satellites. This is the future, and it is a great future and we want to be a part of that future.

The federal government established what they called the Expert Reference Group, and the Expert Reference Group has completed and handed in its report (chaired by Megan Clark) to the minister, Michaelia Cash. We all have to be extraordinarily nice to Michaelia Cash. If anybody is friends with her, give her a call at the moment because she has a big decision. But I am convinced that South Australia will do very well with this decision because we've got an enormous capability. We have a great history in the space sector. We've got great geography to support a space sector here in South Australia. Most importantly, though, I think that we've got the companies based here in South Australia and the capability based here in South Australia to make Australia proud.

Can I just say, it is not just the \$41 million that the federal government has committed to the national space agency but the huge amount of work that is coming in this sector. Just briefly, in the few seconds I have remaining, I will update the house that, in the federal budget, \$260 million was invested in world-class satellite positioning infrastructure for Australia. This is an enormous opportunity and it is one that I will be working very, very hard on.

#### *Grievance Debate*

### **TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Mr MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:14):** What a shocking, terrible week for this fledgling government. They spent most of the last week boasting about this fantastic infrastructure deal that they had apparently done on behalf of the people of South Australia, and it only took the release of the federal budget on Tuesday night for all that deceptive, misleading, deceitful spin to come unravelling.

The boasts of the member for Schubert that he had done a great deal on behalf of the state, that he had repaired the relationship, that he had taken a mature approach to negotiations and that the dividends were flowing—well, nothing could be further from the truth. He crowed about \$1.8 billion, and so did the Premier. We were told \$1.8 billion of new infrastructure funding was coming to South Australia over the next four years to 'continue the pipeline of projects currently underway'. 'Locked in,' said the member for Schubert; 'definitely happening', said the member for Schubert; and 'the first one to be delivered in the 2019-20 financial year'—so he committed on ABC radio and so he recommitted in this chamber in question time.

What did we find out on Tuesday night? That only \$162 million of that \$1,800 million that he said he had secured for South Australia was going to be delivered over the next four years—less than one-tenth of what he had been crowing to every media outlet and what he had the temerity to come into this place, on Wednesday afternoon, and claim that he had secured.

It was a dud deal, and this is what happens when you send your most junior, most inexperienced cabinet minister over to Canberra to negotiate with the federal government. They get played like a fiddle, and what a tune that fiddle played: a melancholy requiem of disappointment and dejection for the thousands of South Australian civil construction workers who were relying on the member for Schubert, as minister, to secure that future pipeline of projects, let alone the dozens of South Australian businesses and subcontractors who are keeping their heads above water on these projects that the Labor government secured at the moment. It is a comprehensive failure by this inept government to do a good deal with their Coalition buddies.

Most importantly, we have to ask: did the member for Schubert or the Premier even ask the federal government how much of that \$1.8 billion was going to be provided over the next four years? Did they even ask? They could not have, surely, because if they had asked and if they had been told what was coming over the next four years then it means that they have engaged in over a week of calculated, deceptive spin to deliberately hoodwink South Australians about this deal. It means that they knew and they deliberately misled South Australians. What outrageous behaviour.

But, of course, I am a bit more generous than that. I will give them the benefit of the doubt—that they did not even have the brains to ask, that they just got what was given to them unquestioningly. How could a minister and a government be so inept in their dealings with a federal government? The minister did not have a clue in question time about how much money had been allocated across the forward estimates when he was specifically asked, project by project, the day after the federal budget had been handed down. This was despite the fact that that detail had been

publicly released. It was in a press release on the federal infrastructure minister's website. How could he have not seen it?

I have to say that the member for Schubert, his frontbench and the member for Sturt—sorry, Mr Speaker, I meant the Premier; that was a genuine, Freudian slip—this is the way they enjoy being treated by their Coalition counterparts. They rolled over on Holden. They were ready to roll over on the submarines. They roll over on education funding, they roll over on health funding and they even rolled over on pensioner support in the 2014 budget—absolutely shameful.

Time expired.

### AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (15:19):** I think the house has just seen another example in the first grieve, another example in question time today, as we have seen over the last week, of how this Australian Labor Party has failed to learn a single lesson from 17 March and the result. They have failed to pick up a single issue that is of day-to-day relevance to the people of South Australia and run with it in this parliament. All we get from them is abuse and minutiae, majoring in the minors and not even doing a very good job of that.

This is an opposition who, after seven weeks, when they have come to question time the best they can come up with is the first question: what is the name of the staff member who was representing a minister at a function? The first question today was about a tweet that they were arguing about on Twitter weeks ago. This is an opposition that thinks that it is an appropriate question time strategy to ignore the everyday needs of South Australians, the people who elected them and the people whom they purport to represent in this chamber.

Instead, they draw not on issues but on tweets written by backroom operatives in the Labor Party headquarters. It is quite pathetic and sad. It shows that they have failed to look in the mirror over the seven weeks they have had. I have good news for members opposite. They have another three years, 10 months and one week to do so before the next election. They have three years, 10 months and one week of sitting on the opposition benches without public servants and without supporters to write their speeches, with only the Labor Party operatives in head office, the people who wrote their questions today.

We had questions about a charity golf day in which a minister played one hole. We had questions about diary entries in a minister's office. Did we hear any questions about the things that matter to the people of South Australia, about concerns about the taxes they pay, the costs they pay, the services they receive? Have we even had an apology from those opposite for the failures they perpetrated on the people of South Australia over 16 years? This is the party, the Australian Labor Party, those sitting opposite, who gave us the scandals of Gillman, the scandal of Oakden, the scandal of TAFE. This is a group of people who after 16 years in government—after failure upon failure, after delivering the worst performing systems in so many fields of government—are yet to apologise for their mistakes.

The Leader of the Opposition says he is going to go on a listening tour of 47 electorates. What is patently apparent is that over the last 16 years this is a party that failed to listen to the people of South Australia during the time they had in government and that is why they find themselves in opposition. Take a look in the mirror; that is our advice to you. Have a look in the mirror and have a think about the things that drove you to be interested in running for parliament. I am sure that many of you are good people who desire to serve your communities.

You do your communities a disservice with the way you behave in this chamber. You do your communities a disservice when, rather than focusing on important things like the economy or energy prices or delivering better services for the people of South Australia, instead we get trite asinine questions about diary entries and golf days. This is an opposition that has now three years, 10 months and a week to sit on those benches. If they wish to stay on those benches, as opposed to being removed from this parliament altogether, I encourage them to take that long hard look in the mirror. Talk to us about education, talk to us about the economy, talk to us about health services.

The member for Florey asked a very good question yesterday about improvements this government seeks to make at the Modbury Hospital. That is a sign of a member who is asking a

question and using question time for the purpose for which it is intended. Asking questions about matters of concern and interest to the state, to our communities, and in particular our electorates, that is what the member for Florey did. The Labor Party have had a general malaise about them ever since she left them, and clearly in leaving them, their question time strategy has been much diminished.

But I also have to look at myself and wonder what on earth did the member for Wright and the member for Torrens do? We have had four question times now and we are really yet to see any sort of basis on which the shadow ministers, who have presented themselves, have been possibly selected over the member for Torrens and the member for Wright. I can understand the rest of the backbench because largely we are waiting for the announcements of their retirements, but the member for Wright and the member for Torrens? These are purported to be rising stars of the Labor Party.

It is amazing to me that they have been overlooked. Instead we have the shadow ministers, who are concerned about asking questions about either community golf days or diary entries, or alternatively some of those on the front bench who would rather hurl abuse, display thuggish behaviour and point at ministers, behaving in a way that their communities do not expect of them. I encourage you all: have a long, hard look in the mirror and do better next week.

### **ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICES**

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:25):** I rise today to say a few words about a couple of events around ANZAC Day in my electorate and around the state that I was lucky enough to attend. All of us attend services on ANZAC Day in our communities, of course, and it is always a sombre occasion. This year, I was lucky enough to have ANZAC Day spread over a week or two, attending various events. First, I was invited to join the minister at the Police Academy on 22 April at the South Australia Police ANZAC Memorial Service, ostensibly commemorating members who lost their lives in World War I, World War II and on peacekeeping duties in Cyprus.

The point was made, and it is well known to me, that police officers are generally among the first to volunteer to serve in conflict. When I was a serving police officer, there were many reservists who went on peacekeeping missions at various times while I was there. This was a service to pay tribute to them particularly. The minister was there, as I said, and the commissioner and his wife were there. Before I move on, I want to pay tribute to Mrs Geraldine White. I do not know if the minister has had a chance to get to know Geraldine very well, but I am sure he will. She is the lifeblood of these events both at the Police Academy and police foundation. She brings it all together, and behind the scenes she is very much the backbone of it all.

Of course, on the morning of ANZAC Day I went to the Elizabeth RSL as I always do, as I have for the last 10 or 15 years. It has become trite to say now, but we have all made the observation that every year it gets bigger and bigger. The service gets bigger and the crowds get bigger. The number of young people, particularly, is always heartwarming, although some of them seem reluctant to get out of the car as you walk past. It is always a big crowd. The fireys are always there, the police, the army and the armed forces, of course. We have a large number of defence families in the Elizabeth area, and I will get to that a bit later.

Representatives of the members for Wakefield and Napier were there. I understand that they both have big electorates and there were other services there, so that is no reflection on them. As I said, it was the largest service I have ever seen at that RSL. It did not rain, I should add. It did not rain on the Sunday at the Police Academy, and it did not rain on that Wednesday morning.

**An honourable member:** It was sunny.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Yes. It was actually hot at the Police Academy. It is the first time I have been to one of those where it has not rained. I usually stay around for a beer with some of the old guys at the RSL, but this year I did not. I had one of my first official duties, which was attending the anniversary of the liberation of Italy from Nazi aggression and 23 years of fascist rule, and 25 April was chosen because it was the day it was first announced by the National Liberation Committee that the fascist dictatorship was over. Of course, Mussolini was killed three days later, as were many

fascist leaders. That was a day to commemorate and to remember the lives of Italians and others lost during that campaign.

A number of people were there whom I should mention: the Minister for Education; the member for Florey, who laid a wreath; and the Speaker. I am trying to remember who was there. A lot of people were there: the mayor of Norwood and St Peters; the federal member for Makin; a new MLC in the other place, the Hon. Frank Pangallo; and Joe Scalzi and other representatives of the national association of the Carabinieri (I will not try to pronounce the Italian version of that name). I really look forward to having dinner with them in coming weeks for the 204<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Carabinieri Corps.

Finally, on 4 May there was a particularly poignant ANZAC Day service at two of my local primary schools, namely, Playford primary and Catherine McAuley—a public school and a Catholic school with a joint campus. A lot of defence families were there, and they had a very poignant ANZAC Day service at which they also officially opened their remembrance garden and their mural all under a shade sail provided by funding from the previous government. I met Jacqui Langstreth, who is the Defence School Transition Aide and who aids all those defence members in settling.

Time expired.

### REGIONAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (15:30):** Regional and rural areas are the engine room of the South Australian economy. As can be seen on the carpet in this place, wheat and grapes are part of the great produce of this state. It includes not only agriculture but also tourism. Particularly in the seat of Finniss, tourism is very important to the regional and rural economy, which brings in \$25 billion a year to the gross state product, and it accounts for 50 per cent of merchandise exports. Agriculture is certainly a big contributor to that, and over many years my industry, the dairy industry, has played a great part in providing income for this state.

There is still huge potential in this space. We are seeing great investment occurring in some of the dairy regions of South Australia at a processing level and, hopefully, that will lead to higher prices paid to farmers and therefore increased economic development right down to the farmer level. We are gradually seeing those improvements come forward. It is great news that dairy industry processing factories at Murray Bridge and Jervois, as well as at Penola, are going to require significant increases in volumes of milk over the next 12 months or so, and we are seeing an extra 100 litres of milk required just for the factories over at Murray Bridge and Jervois. When that is about 20 per cent of what is currently produced here, we are going to see significant demand and, hopefully, good returns to farmers.

We are also seeing the neglect that occurred over the previous 16 years. At times, rather than encouraging dairy processors to set up and re-establish in rural and regional areas, they were actually trying to encourage them to move into the city to set up in metropolitan areas and do the processing here. We would have lost jobs in regional areas, where it is so important to keep that economy turning.

The other thing we are seeing now is investment from the Marshall government to support the regions, with Infrastructure SA to prioritise grain and mineral ports on Eyre Peninsula, the investment towards Globe Link and the rail and freight corridors that are being looked at. With Royalties for Regions, 30 per cent of mineral and petroleum royalties—\$750 million over 10 years—will be put back to the regions. These are fantastic commitments by this Marshall government.

We are seeing \$150 million in the Regional Growth Fund, and we are seeing \$3 million per year to Regional Development Australia boards. We are also seeing significant support for Food SA and for the Country Fire Service. We are seeing \$150 million towards regional hospitals and the maintenance required there. This is what we need in the regions, that sort of investment and focus. We are seeing \$10 million towards mobile phone black spots, etc. In Finniss, there is a commitment to a recreation park at Mount Compass and a commitment to a roundabout in Victor Harbor, both of which are really important projects that need to be delivered.

One thing we are really very grateful for is the investment that we have seen by the federal government in regional areas across South Australia, particularly in the area around Finniss. In the



past two years, we have seen \$4.7 million in grants for the couple of councils that operate in Finniss, and we have also seen \$5.5 million towards the Roads to Recovery funding.

We saw \$7½ million dollars go to the Fleurieu Aquatic Centre, which is a great investment to encourage people to go out there, go swimming and get fit. That was a great working relationship between Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor, as well as the money from federal government, with just a token from the state. We are seeing this sort of investment, and I thank those from the federal Coalition government for it. We have seen \$16 million invested in Mount Barker and \$9 million in Kangaroo Island. In conclusion, it is the Liberals who have delivered and are delivering for regional and rural South Australia.

### COOBER PEDY DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:35):** I rise today to talk about a number of issues, especially in some of the smaller communities in my electorate. Before I do so, I would like to say that this Liberal Party mantra of the Labor government ignoring the regions requires an incredibly blinkered look at this state. When you talk about the federal government's investment in regional South Australia—for instance, in the biggest seat in this state, the seat of Grey, which is over 90 per cent of the state—since the election of the Liberal government, led by Abbott and then Turnbull, there has been a massive collapse in federal government discretionary investment in regional South Australia.

Indeed, in the member for Frome's seat, when the smelter was facing a crisis it was left to the state government to do the heavy lifting to actually underwrite the reinvestment that was needed in that community. The federal government was nowhere to be seen. The federal government would have let that industry just slide away, and the impact on Port Pirie and the region would have been devastating.

My community of Whyalla has just recently been through what was an existential crisis. We lost over a thousand direct jobs in the lead-up to administration and, once again, the federal government was missing in action. At a time when my community needed assistance, the federal government was nowhere to be seen when it came to helping the community. Indeed, part of their response was to cut some of the programs they were supporting, and it was left to the state government to step in and provide the funding for those programs. That was not going to be the subject of my grievance, so I will get onto the subject of my grievance.

I want to start with Coober Pedy. Coober Pedy is a great community, and when I use the word 'unique' it has genuine applicability to Coober Pedy. It is in an incredibly challenging place. Earlier this year, I wrote to the then treasurer to indicate that I believed it was beyond the capacity of the Coober Pedy council to run some of the essential services that they were expected to run in that community when it comes to water and when it comes electricity distribution and billing. I thought, 'Enough is enough. We need to take those responsibilities away from the council.'

They have an incredibly small rate base. They have had revolving door senior officers. They have had revolving door mayors. Many people in that community are socially and economically disadvantaged, yet we expected that council to run services that no other council in this state is expected to run. Last year, we ordered the Auditor-General to carry out an investigation into the Coober Pedy council, and I await with interest what the outcome of that investigation will be; irrespective, I believe that we do need to be looking at what services the Coober Pedy council have the capacity to run.

There are people up there who have amassed electricity bills in excess of \$10,000. These are people on Centrelink payments. They have no chance of being able to pay that back, and when people are cut off—these are usually people in above-ground housing in Coober Pedy—the consequences are pretty dire, especially if you have young kids or elderly people in those houses through the summer months.

So I will be writing to the new government, laying out some of my thoughts about Coober Pedy and what needs to be done. I think, as a first step, SA Water would be a reasonable body to take over the running of the water assets up there in Coober Pedy.

Time expired.

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GAMES

**Mr BROCK (Frome) (15:40):** First up, may I congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker. I believe that you will do a fantastic job, and I would hope that you will continue your impartiality regarding the chamber in question time; I must compliment you on that. Today, I would like to speak about a small group of youth who have faced challenges throughout their lives. This group—Lissie Waterman, Kathleen McGrath, Kellie Martlew and Daniel Antel—recently participated in the Special Olympics Australia National Games held in Adelaide, as the Minister for Sport mentioned a few moments ago.

All these youths live in Port Pirie. This group participated in tenpin bowling, and during the championship they not only performed well but, very importantly, participated in a sport that they thoroughly enjoy. These young kids—I say 'young kids', but some of them are up to the age of 25 or 30—are really happy people, and they go out and make certain they enjoy exactly what they are doing. I will continue a bit later with what my personal involvement with these people is.

I am going to list the medals that each person won during their events. I am going to give a copy of this *Hansard* to these youths and their parents for them to be able to put it in their memorabilia. Lissie Waterman won silver in the singles, silver in the doubles, gold in the team event and scored a single strike. Daniel Antel won silver in the team event, bronze in the singles event, came fifth in the doubles event and scored a double strike. Kathleen McGrath won gold in the singles event, gold in the team event, came sixth in the doubles event and scored a single strike. Kellie Martlew scored a gold in the singles event, gold in the doubles event, another gold in the team event and scored two double strikes.

As members can see, they won medals in all three events and got places in every event that they participated in. These four young people have done Port Pirie, and specifically their families and their friends, very proud. The total cost of attending these games was in excess of \$3,000, and these youths did not sit on their laurels. They went out and fundraised. They had barbecues and they fundraised with various organisations. They raised over \$1,000 towards the cost, with great support from businesses in Port Pirie, as well as the Orana organisation and the Port Pirie sporting association.

At times, they had to get up at 4am for travelling and/or training, most of which was in Adelaide, but not once did they complain. The record of their coach, Maxine Bowden, as a mentor to these people is second to none, and she deserves praise for her dedication, commitment and loving support for people who have an intellectual disability. Maxine really needs to be congratulated. She does it because she wants to do it and she has been involved with these groups for over 26 years. All these people have attended a special school at some time in their lives, and some of them have also attended the Orana organisations across South Australia. These young people are an example of what people with intellectual challenges can achieve and what they are able to do.

I had a chat with the Minister for Sport a minute ago, and one of the things you see when these young people go down the street or are out in the community is that they are always happy, they are always smiling and, no matter where you are—either in the street or at a sporting event—they will give you a high five. People who do not know these young people look at them as though this is something unusual. Well, it is unusual. They are true human beings. They are absolutely fantastic people.

As the local member, as a councillor and as the previous mayor, I have so much gratitude and respect for these people. I have visited both the Orana and Bedford organisations and I see these young people there. They just want to get on with their lives. They are not sitting back and complaining. They are out there having good fun.

**An honourable member:** Full of fun.

**Mr BROCK:** They are full of fun. They should be an inspiration to all of us to enjoy our lives and to make certain that we acknowledge those people, bring them into our lives and make the best of everything.

Time expired.

*Bills***EVIDENCE (JOURNALISTS) AMENDMENT BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:46):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Evidence Act 1929. Read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:47):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased and proud to introduce the Evidence (Journalists) Amendment Bill 2018. The bill amends the Evidence Act 1929 to introduce a default position that journalists cannot be compelled to answer a question or produce any document that may disclose the identity of a confidential informant—joyous news to journalists in South Australia. Communications with journalists do not enjoy any special privilege under the common law in Australia, and there is High Court authority to this effect.

However, there are strong public interest arguments for confidential communications with journalists to be protected. As many members know, for some years this bill, in its various forms, has been reintroduced into the South Australian parliament. The former Labor government maintained consistent opposition to provide journalists with a shield, and it was an astonishing position for them to hold. No amount of persuasion, logic or common sense could change their minds. I commend the work of the Hon. Stephen Wade MLC, the Hon. Andrew McLachlan MLC and the Hon. John Darley MLC, all in the other place, for their contributions and relentless efforts in this matter.

The bill I introduce today essentially reflects work undertaken in 2013, 2014 and 2015 in attempting to protect journalists in certain circumstances from being prosecuted and/or persecuted by dint of them undertaking their lawful activities. In a liberal democracy, the media facilitates the rational and the critical debate, which in turn provides an additional check on all branches of government.

As we know, many sources risk their own health or career prospects to bring to light information in the public interest, much of which would not be disclosed were the anonymity of the source not protected. This can have the effect of hiding corruption, undermining accountability and impedes public debate. In contrast, by enabling journalists to keep confidential the identity of an informant, people will more readily come forward with information on matters of public interest, which will hold governments, interest groups and large corporations to account. This is a principle that the Marshall government strongly supports.

Journalists and other members of the public have expressed concern at the lack of legal protections afforded to those who expose information in the public interest. We on this side of the house believe that those concerns are well founded, and that is why, in the lead-up to the March state election, the Liberal government promised to introduce journalist shield laws if elected, as we have done previously three times. Importantly, shield laws form part of the Marshall government's broader accountability and transparency agenda across government, which stands in stark contrast to the modus operandi of the former government.

It is instructive that a majority of Australian jurisdictions, including the commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and the ACT, have already legislated to introduce a similar rule, commonly referred to as 'journalist shield laws' or 'journalists' privilege'. Returning to the details of the bill, it defines 'journalist' as a person engaged in the profession or occupation of journalism in connection with the publication of information in a news medium, in turn defined as a medium for the dissemination to the public, or a section of the public, of news and observations of news. This is consistent with the definition in the New South Wales Evidence Act 1995 and also the approach in the Victorian Evidence Act 2008. A journalist, for the purposes of the provisions, need not be employed by a media outlet. The definition applies also to contracted and freelance journalists, provided journalism is their profession or occupation.

The risk in defining 'journalist' more widely—for example, the equivalent commonwealth definition refers to a person engaged and active in the publication of news—is that less scrupulous people, potentially with fictitious sources, may receive protection. This risk needs to be balanced against a concern to adopt a definition sufficiently wide to allow for rapidly evolving online platforms for journalism and a shift away from traditional forms of news towards new modes of public communications, such as blogs and tweets. To allow sufficient flexibility to respond to rapid evolution in modes of public communication while avoiding the risks associated with a wide definition, the bill allows for regulations to specify classes of persons who are deemed to be included or excluded from the definition of journalist.

These new laws will apply to courts, which is broadly defined in order to include a tribunal, authority or person invested by law with judicial, or quasi-judicial powers, or with authority to make any inquiry or to receive evidence as set out in section 4(1) of the Evidence Act 1929. There will be no change to that law from the current position. Accordingly, this will include inquiries conducted by the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.

Further, the bill will provide that no civil or criminal liability is incurred by a journalist for failing or refusing to answer any question or to produce any document or other material that may directly or indirectly disclose the identity of their informant. This must, however, be an informant who reasonably expected that their identity would be kept confidential, whether because of an express undertaking given by the journalist or otherwise; that is, the expectation of confidentiality may be implied from some circumstance.

The bill also provides that the default position against disclosure is subject to an overriding public interest test. Under public interest, a court may order disclosure if satisfied that, having regard to the circumstances of the case, the public interest in disclosing the identity of the informant outweighs any likely adverse effect of the disclosure on the informant or any other person, outweighs the public interest relating to the communication of information by the news media generally and outweighs the need of the news media to be able to access information held by potential informants.

The ability of a court to order that an informant's identity be disclosed if it is in the public interest strikes an appropriate balance between what may be competing public interest, on the one hand, in having the informant's identity disclosed in particular circumstances versus, on the other hand, an adverse impact on the informant and the public interest in facilitating the free flow of information. This is an important bill. It is one that has been a long time coming, and it would not have been introduced had it not been for a change of government. I would like all members of the parliament in this house and in the other place to consider the favourable passage of this bill. I welcome the debate that will follow in this regard.

I note that the member for Narrunga, newly in our chamber, is a journalist. The member for Torrens is a journalist, and I am hoping that she might have a lightbulb moment and decide the significance of this notwithstanding previous positions taken by those on the other side. The Hon. Mr Frank Pangallo (who is now a member in the other place) and the member for Badcoe, newly in this house, have a background in journalism.

*The Hon. C.L. Wingard interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Of course, and our Minister for Police. I have been so impressed with his recent presentation. I thought how brilliantly he presents under all sorts of pressure, that he understands the significance of performance under fire, and he certainly has attributed those skills to his extensive history in the media.

Not all of us are so privileged to have had that experience or qualification, but now is the time for members, whatever political persuasion, whatever party they represent, to stand up for what must happen. We cannot be left behind in South Australia to not have this and to ensure that we have the public debate. I look forward to that debate warmly.

I should disclose, just in case there is any conflict of interest, that I have a son and a daughter-in-law both in the media, and probably I will have some sort of comment from them that it is the most useful thing I have done at all since we have got into government. Nevertheless, I want to say that there are a number of people and stakeholders who have contributed to the development of this legislation and we are very pleased to have it presented.

I table formally the explanation of clauses, which I hope will assist in the considered debate of this bill.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

**CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (DISHONEST COMMUNICATION WITH CHILDREN)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:57):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935. Read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:58):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Criminal Law Consolidation (Dishonest Communication With Children) Amendment Bill 2018 amends the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 to include two new offences to apply where an adult communicates with a child and lies about their age or identity seeking to meet with the child or with the intent to commit an offence against that child. Serious penalties will apply.

This bill is prompted by the tragic death in 2007 of Carly Ryan, who was pursued online by an adult predator who pretended to be a teenage boy and groomed, deceived and subsequently murdered Carly after she rejected his advances. Unfortunately, this is just one example of the danger posed by adult predators who use deceptive means in order to make contact with children, but it is Carly's loss to her family that is just so heart wrenching and the ultimate price has been paid. I welcome Carly's mother, Sonya Ryan, to the parliament today and would like to thank her and the Carly Ryan Foundation and its hardworking members. Indeed Carly's brother has also been here today in support of the Carly Ryan Foundation.

A number of people and a number of organisations have raised the broader cyberbullying responses and education programs in the community, and the Carly Ryan Foundation has been at the forefront of the incredibly important work that is done in this area. I am also aware of Ms Ryan's support and contribution at the national level. She now spends time assisting at the national committee and also gives up her own personal time to traverse the country and alert the next generation about what they face and the perils of not seeking protection in this area.

So I am very pleased to be able to introduce this bill, which provides that adults purporting to be children in an attempt to meet up with young girls and boys can be punished for the ruthlessness of their actions. This bill makes it clear that there should be no situation where an adult sexual predator is able to take advantage of a child through deception. What has happened to Carly can happen to any child. The Marshall government is making the protection and wellbeing of children a priority and above all is ensuring community safety is first.

The bill creates two new offences targeting adults who lie about their age to get a child aged under 17 to meet with them. Firstly, it will now be an offence, with a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment, for a person to communicate with a child and say that they are younger than they really are or that they are someone else and then meet or arrange to meet the child. Secondly, if a person communicates with a child and says that they are younger than they really are or that they are someone else and they also have the intention of committing a crime against a child, there will now be an offence punishable by a maximum of 10 years' imprisonment.

The offences in the bill apply to persons who are or who are over the age of 18 years. A child is defined as a person under the age of 17 years. This bill will promote the safety of children and counter the danger posed by adult predators who use deceptive means in order to make contact with children. The offences in this bill, we hope, will act as a very clear deterrent to such predatory behaviour and will provide another mechanism for the early intervention of law enforcement into grooming activity.

What is most important to me is that it will be a law that intervenes to be able to expose or prosecute someone before they have had a chance to actually come into contact with or cause harm to that child, whether through grooming or through direct contact, which will lead to their having a lifelong legacy—as Ms Ryan has pointed out again today—of that type of conduct towards them, if they are lucky enough to survive and not be killed. It is just a horrendous thought, either way.

Again I turn to Ms Ryan and thank her for the tireless work the Carly Ryan Foundation does to protect children, to make them aware and to educate them, and indeed their parents, when they use the internet. Again, as Ms Ryan has pointed out, the internet is a valuable tool in communication and education, but when somebody mischievously and with a prurient interest enters that space for their own gratification and sexual appetite against the interests of children, that must be stopped, and that is something we hope this bill will be effective in doing.

I commend the bill to members. Although this is rather unique legislation, we are intending, if the parliament does approve this legislation, to take it to the national level. The next meeting of attorneys-general is in Western Australia in June, and I will commit, if the parliament does us the honour of ensuring that this legislation is passed, to use our best endeavours to ensure that it is replicated around the country. I table the explanation of clauses.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

### **INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER AGAINST CORRUPTION (INVESTIGATION POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:05):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012. Read a first time.

#### *Second Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:05):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce this bill, which amends the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012 (the ICAC Act), as a demonstration of the government's committal to address the need for transparent justice in South Australia when investigating serious and systemic maladministration and misconduct in public administration.

As part of the 100-day commitment the Marshall Liberal government made to the people of South Australia, we committed to bring an open and transparent government. We did this for good reason. For too long the former government operated in ways that were anything other than transparent. The difference between this government and the former Labor government could not be more stark.

As members recall, on 28 February 2018 the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption, Mr Bruce Lander QC, handed down his damning report into the Oakden aged care facility scandal. His report exposed scandalous failures and shocking attempts by ministers and senior government officials to keep information and evidence secret by virtue of having their name suppressed. As appalling as Oakden was, it was but the latest in a series of scandals to engulf the former government which knew of no other way to govern but in secrecy.

The former government was responsible for the Gillman fiasco, the purchase of dirty diesel generators, the litany of failures in child protection, and investigations were not prompted by the gross waste of taxpayers' money, failure to follow proper process or failing to act on royal commission recommendations. The former government was only forced into action when they were caught out or when the public pressure forced them to act. Let's not forget that Labor never wanted the ICAC in the first place. Until premier Rann was replaced, the government's refrain was that South Australia was different to other states and that the ICAC was not needed.

However, the ICAC that the next Labor premier introduced was still less than perfect because it did not have the ability to hold public hearings. Fortunately, South Australians resoundingly voted

for transparency and accountability on 17 March. They supported a policy and government that would allow the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption the ability to conduct public hearings into maladministration and misconduct.

This is a significant reform, yet one that has been doggedly resisted by those opposite. Clearly, over the last few years, the then government refused to support legislation to allow this to occur. The position is now that the government has changed, and we are here again, and we are committed to the people of South Australia to the passage of this legislation.

Turning to the actual structure and composition of the bill, in short, it clarifies how the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption investigates matters, raising potential issues of serious or systemic misconduct and maladministration in public administration. Importantly, it will provide him with the discretion to hold public hearings. It should be emphasised that the amendments do not affect anything in the ICAC Act in relation to investigations into corruption. The government nor the commissioner support open hearings into such investigations.

As I have advised the house on previous occasions, the commissioner has made this very clear: corruption inquiries by him are matters that he investigates. He does not make any findings, but if he considers there is sufficient weight in the information that he ascertains then it is referred to the DPP or police for the proper administration of those matters. Under the current convoluted scheme, the commissioner's power to investigate misconduct and maladministration is provided by reference to the Ombudsman Act 1972. The Ombudsman has the powers of a commission as defined in the Royal Commissions Act 1917. However, neither of these acts provide a power to conduct an investigation in public.

By taking these powers and inserting them into the ICAC Act, we are consolidating them and then adding the ability to make a choice that those hearings with a public interest can be held openly. Because the commissioner is both the investigator and the decision-maker in these types of investigations, people whose rights, interests or legitimate expectations might be adversely affected must be accorded procedural fairness. Therefore, it is crucial that the process be transparent for that to occur and that the commissioner is able to determine when and if an investigation, or part of an investigation, should be held in public.

This bill does what the commissioner himself has been requesting for several years. However, the Oakden investigation particularly highlighted the issue of open hearings. For those new members who have not read the Oakden report, this shameful chapter in our South Australian history, I urge them to do so. I hope it will be a sobering reminder of how a government has failed in its proper administration and has let down very vulnerable people. It should never happen again. On page 16, Mr Lander says:

This investigation has firmly reinforced my view that the legislation under which I operate ought to be amended to give me the discretion to conduct investigations of this kind in public.

He went on to state:

There is a tension between the Act which provides jurisdiction to investigate and the Acts which provide the powers during the investigation...The tensions could be resolved if the ICAC Act were modified to seamlessly include the powers of investigation and reporting in respect of misconduct and maladministration.

I have previously proposed to the Government that the powers to investigate such conduct be found by a more direct route than is presently the case. The Government did not accept my proposal.

I am hopeful that these issues will be considered again.

The amendments I introduce today address Mr Lander's comments in a practical and simple way. They remove the requirement for the commissioner, when dealing with investigations into matters raising a potential issue of serious or systemic maladministration or misconduct in public administration, to exercise powers of an inquiry agent and to set out the powers and functions relating to such investigations in schedule 3A to the ICAC Act.

The schedule consolidates the powers and functions available to the commissioner under the ombudsman and royal commissions acts, clarifying the manner in which the inquiry is to be heard, the powers available to the commissioner and ensuring those powers are fit for purpose. In particular, clause 6 of schedule 3A clarifies the extent to which legal professional privilege and public interest

immunity are abrogated during a maladministration or misconduct investigation, and clause 26 of schedule 3A provides for the commissioner to report on one or more investigations in such manner as he thinks fit. Setting out the powers and functions in this way will ensure that arguments about the scope and nature of investigative powers available to the commissioner are avoided in future investigations of this nature.

With the passage of this bill with the blessing of this parliament, I hope that I never again hear the rude, disrespectful and unacceptable reference to Mr Lander's investigation in both the Gillman matter and the Oakden matter as being an ombudsman's inquiry, as though it was attempting to diminish the value and stature of the inquiry. A number of ministers from the former government fell into this childish trap of trying to diminish the significance of these inquiries by diminishing Mr Lander's status as the inquiry agent.

Mr Lander is the commissioner. He is the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption and he has a role. To try to diminish that was completely unacceptable and it should never happen again. We appoint these people to do a very serious job. It is a difficult job. They have to bring governments to account. We are in the government now and we expect that we should be up to that standard to ensure that we do not fall below what is acceptable. But, it should never be a situation where we go along and try to diminish the status of an inquiry by trying to demean it into something that it is not. I hope that all future governments do not fall into that trap.

Finally, the bill includes three amendments to improve some operational aspects of the legislation. For example, clause 10 of the bill inserts new section 39B into the ICAC Act to provide a delegation power so that if for some reason the commissioner is unable to conduct an investigation, the deputy commissioner or the examiner may head the investigation and report to the commissioner. The bill also provides for the person heading the investigation to make non-publication or suppression orders. These changes are necessary for purely practical reasons.

As the Premier has made clear, excuses which washed with the former government are no longer good enough. There will be no protection racket for incompetence or wilful ignorance, and I welcome these changes, which are solely designed to make it easier to get to the bottom of corruption and maladministration allegations. The Premier's comments have been very clear on what his expectation is in respect of his government and the ministers in it. The commissioner will have the discretion as to whether a hearing will be held in public, in private, or both, and in this way we recognise that one size does not fit all. It is for the commissioner to determine the way in which the public interest is best served in the conduct of his own investigations.

The Labor Party has an opportunity to put its historical resistance behind it and support this bill. I encourage them to support the government to ensure that we do appropriate public examination when so required. We have heard from the new Leader of the Opposition of his desire to listen to the people of South Australia. Well, he has two ears and one mouth and I hope he uses them in that proportion because he needs to hear loud and clear the public's demand for transparent government. I commend the bill to the house and I table a copy of the explanation of clauses.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

*Address in Reply*

#### **ADDRESS IN REPLY**

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

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Elizabeth.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (16:19):** Thank you, sir. Welcome back. I think I left my remarks before lunch around the redistribution and I was reflecting on the fact that the member for Lee had already made many pertinent remarks about the redistribution and its effect on the overall result of the election. I was making some comments about the effect that it had on the electorate of Elizabeth, which was to make it ostensibly safer on a two-party preferred nominal basis but also, at the same time, more attractive to a third party. I will go into that a bit later.

During the course of the election campaign, because of the substantial redistribution and nearly a third, I think, of my electorate changing hands, I got to know what I will call in shorthand new



areas, although they are not particularly new to me. The first and largest of those was Elizabeth Downs where I grew up and went to school and where my parents still live. It is a great pleasure to be able to represent the people of Elizabeth Downs in this place. It is a place that is close to my heart. My son played soccer there. I have so many connections to Elizabeth Downs that I cannot count them.

It was interesting to see the Hon. Rob Lucas from another place make a surprise star appearance at the Elizabeth Downs Primary School on election day. I am not sure what that was about, but suffice to say that it did not help. I have inherited the rest of Craigmore from my friend the member for Taylor. Again, Craigmore is a place I grew up in and around. There is also Blakeview and Blakes Crossing. When I was growing up in Elizabeth Downs, Blakeview and Blakes Crossing did not exist. There was a large expanse of bamboo and wasteland in between Elizabeth Downs and the old town of Smithfield. Now, there is housing there, the Munno Para shopping centre and the very nice new development of Blakes Crossing.

It was my great pleasure to knock on doors and get to know the people of Blakes Crossing well. It is a fine development with great kids' playgrounds and a nice new shopping centre. Monica's dine-in and pizza has to get a mention: it is one of my favourite places to eat and go to after the playground. It has been great to get to know what I will call new areas. It has also been instructive, certainly over the last five or so years, but also in the intensity of the election campaign, to get to know many of the new arrivals in Elizabeth.

When I grew up in Elizabeth, it was extremely monocultural. Essentially, everybody looked like me and the member for Napier and my parents, but now there are people from all over the world, particularly from Africa and the Middle East who have come to make Elizabeth their home. They left in circumstances that sometimes are difficult to stomach hearing about, and they are great citizens of Elizabeth. I got to know many of the communities well, particularly, as I said, over the course of the election campaign. I want to thank them for their support in quite large numbers as well.

I will continue to work with those communities to help them better integrate with the rest of the Elizabeth community, although that process is already going ahead in leaps and bounds, particularly through the primary schools. I was at the Elizabeth Downs Primary School on Monday, hearing some great success stories about how the kids of Elizabeth Downs now see the world through very multicultural eyes.

As I said, it was an interesting election on paper. Mine is a nominally safe seat, two-party preferred, but there was a third candidate. It was an interesting election in that I felt that I was the only person on the ground campaigning and shadowboxing. The Liberal Party preselected very late. They preselected a candidate whom I am sure they did not expect to win, but I could be wrong about that. There was a third candidate of course in SA-Best. The SA-Best candidate came second overall, although I hasten to add that I increased my primary vote. The SA-Best candidate came second overall and the Liberals came third. The Liberals did come second, oddly enough, in the newer areas—Craigmore and Blakeview—and I will have to look at the reasons why that happened in coming years.

It was an interesting election. I felt like I was the only person on the ground and, happily, we won. Of course, it was not me who won. It was a huge team effort, and I want to thank a few people here while I have the time. First of all, I want to thank the former premier, the member for Cheltenham, who led an incredible campaign, obviously with help from his cabinet, the party office and many other people. It was due to the force of his leadership, his relentless positivity, his relentless focus on winning every seat that we could and his genuine interest in every seat. He was in Elizabeth on the Thursday night before the election. I assured him everything was fine and he went away.

**The Hon. C.L. Wingard:** Was he worried?

**Mr ODENWALDER:** He was not worried. He was not worried by the time he left, I will tell you that. He was convinced that what I had been saying was true, that we were going to win Elizabeth and win it well. But this is about him. He was a great leader. He will go down in history as one of the great Labor leaders of this state.

Of course, there is the senior party, the cabinet and the party office, too many people to name in that respect, but I thank them all. The people in the premier's office and the party office and everybody across our great party worked together cooperatively with one goal in mind, which was winning the election. As many people have already, I want to pay special tribute to Reggie Martin, who led the campaign, who led the machinery of the campaign. He is one of the great campaigners of the Labor Party, ably assisted by Eamon Burke and many others. The team they assembled did some great work, some really innovative work, and the results spoke for themselves in the seats where they were working.

In the Premier's office, there are again too many people to thank individually, but I want to make special mention of Amy Ware, David Wilkins, Emily Bourke and Emmanuel Cusack, and, as I said, many others. All those people in their own different ways contributed immeasurably to the campaign. They were always there when we needed them, working very hard at all hours of the day and night so that we could prosecute our agenda.

In my own team, I want to thank Chantelle, who has been with me from the beginning. Indeed, she has worked in the office where I work longer than I have. She was the trainee for the Hon. Lea Stevens when I first started working for Lea Stevens back in 2003, so she has been in that office all of that time. She knows the electorate of Elizabeth back to front. She is invaluable, and I hope she sticks with me for the next four years at least.

I also thank Chad Buchanan, who was new to my team, Wendy Gee and Zach Galloway. Those three came together to form a really strong team, particularly early this year. We did immense amounts of work. I probably worked harder than I have ever worked in my life, largely due to those people pushing me. I thank them very much. Brad Templer, who left my office before the campaign, deserves special mention. He went on to bigger and better things. He has a bright future, I think, in the Australian Labor Party, and I wish him all the best in his endeavours.

I want to quickly congratulate everyone who was elected. I think it was the member for Mount Gambier who observed how odd it was to walk into this place and see a whole lot of people whom I barely recognise, having been so immersed in the campaign in Elizabeth. I want to welcome you all to this place. Hopefully, I will get to introduce myself and get to know you all fairly well. I want to particularly welcome the new members on our side: the member for Wright, the member for Playford, and, of course, our new MLCs, particularly Emily Bourke, whom I have known for a long time, whom I worked with in the Legislative Council a long time ago. I welcome her to the other place.

As everyone else here has observed—except the member for West Torrens—opposition is a new experience for us and a sometimes baffling experience. Like the government, we are learning a little as we go, but it looks like it will be an enormous challenge. It should be said, notwithstanding all the words that have been spoken about learning from our mistakes and things like that—which are all true—that the previous government was a good government. It was 16 years of good government. There were some mistakes.

You can make some fair criticisms of the previous government—or the previous governments, however you want to characterise it—but there were many things to be proud of. As the leader said in his Address in Reply, Adelaide is consistently now rated by *The Economist* and others as one of the world's most livable cities. This does not happen by accident. I think it will be one of the great legacies of the last Labor government. The livability of Adelaide will be comparable to the reforms of the Dunstan era, in the sense that it really put Adelaide on the map.

This has largely been due to the leadership of the member for Cheltenham and the former members for Ramsay, Elder and Port Adelaide, but also the member for Enfield and the member for Lee, who each in their own way have contributed to what I would call Adelaide's rebirth, whether it be investment in the arts and the expansion of our world-class festivals and Writers' Week; our record investment in infrastructure and public transport, which connect communities, and which other people have spoken at length about; our changes to liquor licensing legislation and the small bars, a great initiative; and the revitalisation of the CBD generally, the Riverbank, the Festival Plaza, the Oval; and the list goes on.

Adelaide is one of the most livable cities in the world and one of the most walkable cities in the world. I think there is more to be done in terms of cycling infrastructure, and I hope that the new

Minister for Transport and Infrastructure is as keen on seeing some cycling infrastructure as I am; I would not hold my breath, but we will see. I am honestly not playing politics when I say that I am genuinely worried that all this might be lost. I sincerely hope that it will not be.

The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, who is also the Minister for the City of Adelaide, is a capable and intelligent young man, and I really hope that he looks at the transformation the City of Adelaide has undergone in the last 16 years and sees its value. If, as the incoming government states, they want to keep young people in this state and they want to keep people here generally, including businesspeople, then the livability agenda developed by the previous government, particularly by the member for Enfield behind me, cannot be thrown away.

I do not know that I am going to get time to expand on all the things I wanted to, but I want to talk a bit about opposition and becoming a shadow minister. I am very grateful to the new Leader of the Opposition to be given this responsibility. I do want to reflect a little on the leader. He is a man I have known for quite a long time now, not as long as some here, but he is a man who, as others have said and as he himself has said, is genuinely values driven. I think he is a fine leader. He is going to lead us to victory in 2022, I have not doubt about it, and it is going to be because of the values he has and the strength of his leadership, and I wish him all the best. I wish his deputy all the best. She is a woman of great intellect, capable of leadership herself, and I wish her all the best.

I think we do have a strong shadow cabinet. We have emerged from the election not decimated, as some oppositions have done. We have remained fairly intact. We have lost some good people, I have to say—the member for Newland springs to mind, the member for Elder, very good people—but we have emerged fairly well intact and, as again the leader has observed, we have a very good mix of experience and new blood in the shadow cabinet and also in the caucus. We are a very united team, a very disciplined team, and we are all looking forward to the next four years. We are all looking forward to presenting alternative agendas and holding the government to account for their many promises.

Of course, we have a lot to learn, and in my particular portfolios I do not shy away from the fact that I have a lot to learn. I have a lot to learn in terms of the emergency services portfolio. I have seen them working at close hand, but to say that I fully understand the culture and the departments behind them would be an overstatement. Similarly, in relation to corrections, although I do concur with the member for West Torrens that this is a sometimes underrated portfolio area, it is such an important area because it is dealing with people who have had their liberty taken away, which is no small thing, and it is preparing those people to re-enter society. That is an enormous responsibility and I am sure that the minister has reflected on this responsibility.

Policing, though, I obviously do have some experience with. I will talk more about this in my contribution to the Supply Bill, but the new Liberal government has very big shoes to fill in the community safety area. Since Mike Rann assumed the leadership some 25 years ago, this side of the parliament really has made law and order its own and stamped its authority on it. We have more police officers per capita than we have ever had before, and we are continuing that process with Recruit 313, or presumably the current government is continuing that process. It is my very strong hope that they will continue to recruit at least to attrition, if not above attrition, so that we can continue to maintain the strongest police force in Australia.

Again, I will reflect more upon this during the Supply Bill. However, I do just want to say that we have achieved this, and previous police ministers in the last government have achieved this, by working closely with the commissioner and by trusting the wisdom and experience of the police commissioner and his senior team, whichever commissioner that has been. We have also introduced a whole lot of legislation, and I will touch upon this in my contribution to the Supply Bill.

The member for Enfield and his predecessors introduced a whole lot of legislation that really tightened the criminal code, introducing aggravated offences and specific aggravated offences for assaults on police officers, transport workers and other classes of people, and also on working animals when they act as agents of police or emergency services. We have equipped the police with the tools they need. There is always more, of course, and we are looking at expanding the vests and other accoutrements they may need. Over the years, we have done a very good job of providing them with the tools they need to do the job—that is, to keep South Australians safe.

Members who have been here a while will know my longstanding interest in police operations in relation to domestic violence and, in particular, the development of a domestic violence disclosure scheme. I followed the development of the scheme in the UK and the trial period in New South Wales, and I have been very keen to see such a thing progressed here. A discussion paper was released last year, or the year before last, and the response to that discussion paper came out last year. There was a whole lot of consultation with departments around the viability of a domestic violence disclosure scheme. It is obviously complicated and obviously touches on people's privacy. These things are not done easily, although the models in the UK and New South Wales, by all accounts and by the government's own admission, are working well.

The previous government also established the Multi-Agency Protection Service (MAPS), which I think forms a good basis for something like a domestic violence disclosure scheme. I note that at the beginning of last month an article in *The Advertiser* suggested that the police had a workable model for a domestic violence disclosure scheme ready to go and ready to present to the Premier. I do not know whether that briefing has taken place, but I sincerely hope that it has. I hope that they will not stall on the trial any further now that the police have a workable model in consultation with the other affected agencies. I think it is well past time to get something started in this space. Again, I will reflect more on that in my contribution to the Supply Bill.

I want to make the final observation, which is by no means an original observation, that this job is very difficult on the families of those who choose to do it. Election campaigns, in particular, really put a lot of stress on your family. In this case, there was a confluence of events, which meant that it was a particularly trying time. I want to thank my family very much for supporting me through this. My son, Jimmy, who finished high school last year and has now gone on to university, has started his own, independent life elsewhere. He went through that whole process while I was preparing and running an election campaign. Over the last eight years, almost without my noticing, he has turned from a shy little boy into the most beautiful young man, and I am so proud of him.

My wife, Ann, started back at work part time during the election campaign, or in the weeks leading up to the election campaign, so we have been through the process of putting our two beautiful young boys, Felix and Miles, into child care. We have been trying to manage that while running an election campaign. My wife is an amazing woman, scrupulously professional and a woman of enormous intellect, and I am very proud to be with her every day. I thank her from the bottom of my heart for the support she gave me and for the patience she had, in a particularly trying time for herself, in supporting me through the election campaign. With those words, I commend the motion to the house.

*Personal Explanation*

**LADY MAYORESS' GOLF DAY**

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON (Adelaide—Minister for Child Protection) (16:40):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R. SANDERSON:** During question time today, I described the Lady Mayoress' Golf Day as being a charity event. I have since been advised that it was not a charity event.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Taylor.

*Address in Reply*

**ADDRESS IN REPLY**

Debate resumed.

**Mr GEE (Taylor) (16:41):** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and congratulations on your election to the Deputy Speakership. I also extend my congratulations to the new Speaker on his election. I wish to acknowledge and show my respect to the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of this land where we meet, to the elders past and present, to those who were the first to place their footsteps upon this land and to those who continue to do so today.

Also, I thank His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC for his speech in the other place. His Excellency and Mrs Le are excellent representatives for our state. It is always a pleasure to meet with Mr and Mrs Le. I recall all the events that I have been to with the Governor and Lan, and I have noticed how they always manage to have a few words with everybody in the room. They seem to represent South Australia in a most positive way.

I congratulate all the new members of this place on both sides of the chamber and those in the Legislative Council. I also want to congratulate those members who have been re-elected. I know, as a new member four years ago, that the first month or so is a bit chaotic, where you are being introduced to a whole regime of electronics, new cars, new procedures, policies and everything else, but things soon settle down.

I say to all those members who retired at the time of the last election that I enjoyed working with them and good luck and best wishes for the future. I would specifically like to acknowledge the former member for Newland (Tom Kenyon), as have many other people, as well as the former member for Elder (Annabel Digance). Both Tom and Annabel, as government whip and deputy whip, provided very good organisation to our side in the last parliament.

My perception really was that it was very unfortunate for both Tom, in Newland, and Annabel, in Elder, that the redistribution put these marginal seats just out of reach this time around. The same thing occurred with retiring member Paul Caica's seat of Colton. Again, my perception is that the redistribution literally handed these seats to the Liberal Party—

**Mr Pederick:** We got rid of a gerrymander.

**Mr GEE:** —which in turn delivered government to the Liberal Party for the next four years. It is interesting to listen to those members opposite, that false sense of security, but congratulations just the same. It was not really South Australia, as you say, saying, 'We want a change,' that delivered a Liberal government; it was the Electoral District Boundaries Commission that delivered government to the Liberal Party.

However, congratulations to the member for Dunstan on becoming Premier and to the member for Bragg on becoming Deputy Premier, but I am not sure how long they will be able to hang onto that top job. I would encourage them to get on with the reality of the election result, or they could find themselves back in opposition in four years' time. Again, I congratulate all members. I know the commitment and hard work that is required to win.

I want to acknowledge the shadow ministerial team, led by Peter Malinauskas as leader and Susan Close as deputy leader. The team will hold this government to account and will work every day to ensure that the positive progress delivered by Labor governments, under the leadership of Jay Weatherill and Mike Rann, is not destroyed over the next four years. I want to thank Jay Weatherill for his support and leadership since becoming premier and leader of the parliamentary Labor Party.

I also became good friends with Duncan McFetridge, Robert Brokenshire and Steph Key while working together on the Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee and the Natural Resources Committee. I will really miss them, and I really thank them for their friendship during that time.

For long as I can remember, I have been focused on grassroots, down-to-earth issues, and I try hard to ensure that my community gets its fair share of the prosperity in South Australia. I have lived in the north almost my entire life. I have played junior and senior sports for local clubs (as have my children and my grandchildren). We have attended the local schools and we have all worked across the north. In fact, I love living in the north, and it is unlikely I would choose to live anywhere else.

I am very fortunate to have been employed, continuously now since my 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. I spent 12 years of my working life at Holden, and during that time I also worked a second job at the Adelaide Produce Markets at Pooraka working from midnight until 7am, and then I headed off for my shift at Holden's. I now enjoy talking to all the growers of our fruit and vegetable produce from Angle Vale, Two Wells and Virginia, whose produce I used to pack and deliver and whose areas I now have the pleasure to represent.

At a recent shopping centre visit, I met a grower from Virginia I used to work with at Holden, and he and his family now have a successful horticultural business in the area. Following my time working at Holden, I went on to work for the next 20-plus years as a union official representing car workers, and now I find that at almost every community engagement or event I attend I am approached by old mates from the auto industry.

In my last term, I fought for road safety upgrades, more investment in our public and independent schools (including more school places), community safety improvements, more public transport, better council facilities and services, the construction of additional affordable housing, our emergency service personnel and greater support for our not-for-profit community support organisations.

I know the Taylor suburbs of Burton and Salisbury North well. My wife, Wendy, and I used to live in Salisbury North. We were fortunate enough to be given a Housing SA property while saving a deposit for our home together. I remember the deposit was \$500 in those days, and it took us nearly two years to put that together. Recently, it was a pleasure to doorknock the current residents of that property during the election campaign. I always remember we had a magnificent mural on the wall in that house, and when we doorknocked those residents they asked me if I was the person who put that up—but it was some 35 years ago, and it was already there when we lived there.

I have been able to spend many hours in the suburbs of the Peachey Belt, enjoying sport, meeting workers or socialising, and have many friends in Smithfield Plains and Davoren Park whom I have known for several decades. I have seen the expansion of Andrews Farm and Direk over the years, and it is good to now meet with those new residents. I look forward to the continued growth of these parts of Taylor. I want to thank the voters of Taylor who have stayed true to the Labor Party and trusted that I was the best person to represent them over the next four years.

I was pleased, despite the challenge by a third party, to achieve the highest primary vote in every booth in the electorate and increase the Taylor two-party preferred result against the Liberals back into double digits. In fact, the 2018 result for the Liberal Party in Taylor was the lowest on record. Apart from the 2006 election, when we witnessed a 15 per cent swing to the Labor Party across the state, now less than one in five voters supports the Liberals in the seat of Taylor. I acknowledge the dedicated local Liberal candidate, Sarika Sharma, who, despite her best efforts, was outpolled by SA-Best candidate Sonja Taylor.

The Taylor electorate was created at the 1993 state election and won by former premier Lynn Arnold. The seat is named after Doris Taylor MBE, renowned for her work in setting up Meals on Wheels in 1953. Despite being severely physically handicapped from the age of seven, she spent most of her life devoted to the welfare of the aged, needy and chronically ill. She was also active in the Labor Party, arranging office space for Don Dunstan when he returned to this state in 1950. I am the fourth member for this seat, after Dr Lynn Arnold AO, Trish White and, most recently, Leesa Vlahos.

I would like to say that, from my experience since moving from the seat of Napier to Taylor, Leesa Vlahos and her electoral office staff are held in high regard for their service to the people of Taylor. The electorate of Taylor is very diverse, ranging from the suburbs of Andrews Farm, Davoren Park, Elizabeth North, Eyre, Smithfield and Smithfield Plains in Playford and Burton, Direk and Salisbury North in Salisbury, to the rural towns and localities of Middle Beach, Port Gawler, Two Wells, Virginia, Waterloo Corner, Angle Vale, Buckland Park, MacDonald Park, Penfield, Penfield Gardens, the employment lands of Edinburgh Parks and Edinburgh North and the very important RAAF Edinburgh.

The electorate contains a mix of young families and older people and is very ethnically diverse, with notable populations from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Vietnam and all the countries of the African continent, as well as probably the largest group of Indigenous folk outside of the APY lands. It is the mix of culture, food and colour that makes my community exciting and ripe for opportunity.

The electorate also has a percentage of severely disadvantaged people, high levels of intergenerational unemployment and many residents suffering with mortgage stress and struggling with ever-rising costs, including our growers trying to access water for irrigation at a reasonable price

point. These are the many challenges and many battles to fight, but that does not faze our community. Our community has battled drought, fires, floods and tragedies and is used to fighting hard. Having said that, I, and the residents, remain hopeful that this government will continue to deliver prosperity, jobs and training opportunities into the area.

It is a real privilege to be the local member representing the Edinburgh Defence Precinct, including more than 3,500 RAAF and Army personnel at RAA Edinburgh, the Defence Science and Technology Group and key defence companies including Airbus, BAE Systems, CAE Australia, Lockheed Martin, Meggitt Training Systems and Raytheon. RAAF Edinburgh is one of two superbases in Australia and is the centre of the nation's military intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and electronic warfare capabilities.

The base is home to No. 92 Wing, which operates the AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft, and No. 1 Remote Sensing Unit, which operates the Jindalee Operational Radar Network and Space Surveillance systems at the Air Warfare Centre. The staff at the base have been welcoming and I look forward to working with Air Commodore Joe Iervasi AM and his team over the next four years. It is important that we support our ADF personnel.

This is my second term in parliament and being in opposition will not hinder my efforts to continue trying to improve the lives of the people in my community. Over the last four years, we have delivered record investment in health, education and key road safety upgrades. The upgrade and expansion of the Lyell McEwin Hospital continued with an expanded emergency department underway soon and I am hopeful that continuing investment for this important northern hospital will occur as the demand grows.

Our record investment in education includes a \$5 million upgrade to Swallowcliffe Primary School, which is almost completed, and a further \$5 million to Elizabeth North Primary School, where planning for the upgrade is currently underway. Also, \$1 million was invested in both the Burton Primary School and the Two Wells Primary School and there was significant investment in our other local schools.

Labor encouraged new business investment in the north, which should also be a priority for the new government. It is important to continue investing to attract businesses and jobs to South Australia. If the state government is serious about small business tax cuts, it should commit to deliver them in full in the 2018-19 budget. It should not be reviewing grants and loans that have already been committed to for local businesses, placing thousands of jobs at risk.

In the Taylor electorate, I also have the coastal area between St Kilda and Middle Beach. My hope is that the state government will continue to develop the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary, which is already an important location for local and interstate visitors and will become a go-to destination for the international birdwatching community.

I also hope that the state government will commit to appropriate investment to mitigate flooding in the Gawler River basin so that local landowners' and residents' flood risk is minimised. I note that the Hon. Frank Pangallo, of the other place, made a commitment to fully fund the floodway flood mitigation infrastructure at a cost of \$27 million if elected. I further note that the Hon. John Dawkins MLC supported action in relation to the Gawler River.

Over the next four years, I will again be fighting alongside our communities to ensure road safety is a major priority, along with public transport to Angle Vale, Virginia and Two Wells. Programmed school upgrades must go ahead, along with the elimination of all asbestos fibre from classrooms in our local schools. School expansions and the new school in the Munno Para West area must be delivered to accommodate the growing population in the north.

Meeting with the residents' association at Angle Vale during the election, I was made aware that there is no land available for sale in Angle Vale. It has all been sold to developers, and within the next four years some 8,000 new residences will be established. This is on top of thousands of other new homes around the Andrew's Farm area. I will also be working to ensure that residents receive appropriate services and facilities from local councils and I will be opposing any policies that will disadvantage my community.

I am lucky in my community to have a wide range of sporting, community and faith groups who provide valuable service to the community. I have 29 sporting clubs in my electorate, over 10 service clubs (including the CWA, Lions and Rotary), faith groups from the Buddhist, Christian and Islamic communities, and other volunteer groups, including our selfless CFS volunteers and the Northern Carers Network. Education is a key priority of mine, and I am proud to have 11 schools in Taylor. I have eight public primary schools, two independent schools and the very successful St Patrick's Technical College.

All these schools have strong leadership and are delivering good outcomes for our young people, but continued investment in literacy and numeracy and assistance for schools and parents with students identified as having learning and behavioural needs across all sectors is crucial. I look forward to the next four years doing what I enjoy, which is helping residents, businesses, clubs and schools make improvements to our community. I want to spend more time assisting families with disabled children. I was sorry to see that the Disability member, the Hon. Kelly Vincent, lost her seat in the Legislative Council.

While it is my face and my name on the Stobie poles and on T-shirts and caps, every member in this place knows that you do not get here solely by your own efforts. I want to thank the many people who supported me, those who have given me advice or been friends and mates. I cannot mention everyone individually, but I must start with my parents, my father, Les, and my mother, Olwyn, who tried to guide me with a set of values that has assisted me through my life, including hard work, persistence and determination.

I thank my wife, Wendy, who is the most important person in my life and who has always been there by my side. In fact, Wendy was more involved in politics than I was. She worked for many members, federal and state. A couple of years ago she was working here in Parliament House and, having got long service leave, decided to leave so that she could care for her mother, who has dementia. I thank our children, Robbie, Matthew and Julie-Anne, and our beautiful daughter-in-law, Hayley, and grandchildren, Benjamin, Franklin and Marley. I love and thank you all.

I think one of the most important things for politicians, certainly for me, is to have a very strong family structure. When you are in a situation or a position of being a politician—and I learnt this as a union official—you tend to put everybody else first, all the members, all the community. You tend to look after everybody else and you leave your family until last. So when my children were growing up, as a union official and before that working two jobs I really did not have much time to spend with my children. I know now that they are grateful and understood that I was acting and working for their best interests. I may have missed that time with my own children, but in this term I am certainly making up for it with my grandchildren, much to the delight of their parents, I think.

I want to thank my staff: Alex Coates, Frances Fitzgerald, Sonya Smethurst and Tyler Curness. They have really looked after me and the electorate with effort and compassion. When you live in an electorate like mine—and it may be all electorates—there are a lot of disadvantaged people, and a lot of people knock on our door who do not have anywhere to stay that night, who do not have any relatives and who only have the clothes they are wearing. It is a bit of a tough gig, but my staff have worked very hard and have given freely of themselves to respond to the demands of this campaign and, through careful and strategic planning, have delivered a better than expected outcome.

To the Taylor sub-branch, led by Glen Malthouse, Stephen Hollingworth and Geoff Pope, who are not just members of the local Labor Party but also very good friends of mine, some for more than three decades, and really to all our committed membership, every person who volunteered in my campaign, whether it was letterboxing, erecting corflutes, folding, stuffing, delivering, standing on a polling booth on election day or just spreading the Labor message, it was a fantastic effort by everyone. I would especially like to thank my booth captains for their care, compassion and professionalism.

I was extremely lucky on polling day. If I remember rightly, I think we were very lucky with the weather. We had a lot of cloud cover, and it was going to be a very hot day, but across all the booths we had a sea of red with friendly smiles. These volunteers were there to ensure that everybody had a positive experience, no matter what their choice was at the ballot box, and it was



great to be able to join my volunteers handing out how-to-vote cards. I remember in 2014 I was told that candidates were not allowed to hand out how-to-vote cards.

The only negative on the day came when I received a phone call when I was at the Angle Vale booth. I was told that one of my volunteers had collapsed, so I headed back to the Smithfield Plains booth just as the ambulance was about to leave.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr GEE:** I was glad she was in good hands. Thankfully, Joan Mentha made a full recovery, and I am grateful for her support. I thank the member for Waite for his good wishes.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank John Camillo, the state secretary of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, and Scott Batchelor, the vehicle division secretary of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union. When I worked at Holden, John Camillo was the union organiser when I became shop steward, and we have maintained that friendship. Every year, I find myself up on his property picking his olives, and no doubt that will happen again.

I would like to again thank Jay Weatherill for his leadership and support over the last four years. I would also like to thank our hardworking and committed staff in the community liaison group and secretary of the state Labor Party, Mr Reggie Martin, and his team for the excellent campaign we ran in the 2018 election.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I welcome the member for Morphett to the parliament. As this is your first speech, I ask other members to extend the traditional courtesies to the member.

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (17:09):** Thank you. Deputy Speaker, parliamentary colleagues, friends and family in the gallery, it is an honour to rise this evening in support of this motion. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to you, Deputy Speaker, on your re-election to parliament for another term and also to the Speaker, the member for Hartley, whose win was crucial to the delivery of a majority Liberal government and who was subsequently elected as Chair of this house for this term of parliament. I am sure he will carry out his role with dignity and ensure the orderly conduct of proceedings in this house. I also offer my congratulations to all new members of parliament—16 in this house—and in fact all members on their election to this 54<sup>th</sup> parliament.

I sincerely thank His Excellency the Governor for opening parliament last week and the dignity with which he conducted himself. I would like to recognise his service to the state. In my role as mayor of Holdfast Bay, I regularly attended ceremonies with His Excellency. His presence at these events always brought a significance to the event. At Proclamation Day ceremonies, he would speak of the hopes and aspirations of the early European settlers in an uncertain time in our state's history. On finishing the ceremony we would exchange speeches.

Both His Excellency and his wife, Lan, were always welcoming to me and my wife. We were privileged to be invited to dinner after a Queen's Birthday celebration and, in our discussions, His Excellency's passion and true desire for the welfare of all South Australians were evident, which are sentiments I am sure all of us in this house share.

Last week, His Excellency outlined the government's agenda for the coming term. It is an agenda for change and renewal, and I am pleased to say that it is an agenda that brings with it optimism, which is supported by many in my electorate in Morphett. It is therefore an honour and a privilege to be delivering my maiden speech as their voice in parliament. I hope that in this role I will represent the electors of Morphett with passion, integrity and humility, and that I will be a strong advocate for all the people who live in Morphett, irrespective of who they voted for in the March 2018 election.

Morphett really is a fantastic part of not only metropolitan Adelaide but of South Australia. It offers the best of both lifestyles, being close to the city and where no suburb is further than five kilometres from the beach. The eastern-most suburbs of Plympton, Camden Park, Plympton Park and Park Holme came into the electorate at this year's election. Like the remainder of Morphett, these suburbs are mostly residential in nature, with Plympton and Camden Park also having a light industrial precinct.

With their convenient metropolitan location, these suburbs are currently experiencing renewal via a surge of new residential building activity, with younger families moving in. These are aspirational families who are susceptible to cost-of-living pressures and benefit from a strong economy that provides jobs, both aspects that are front and centre in this government's plans. Moving in a westerly direction towards the middle of the electorate, there are the suburbs of Glengowrie, Morphettville and Novar Gardens. Novar Gardens is the home of Immanuel College, where the current Premier went to school, and is a unique suburb where there are often no side fences between neighbours and grass verges take the place of footpaths.

While I was out doorknocking, I came across an old council sign prohibiting horseriding on the footpath, a throwback to the suburb's first origins, which derived from the land surrounding the historical Cummins House, built in 1842 by Sir John Morphett and his wife, Elizabeth. Cummins House originally stood on 130 acres of working farmland on which orchards, vines and olive groves were tended. Today, the house and remaining grounds are preserved to give visitors a strong sense of history and the life of one of Adelaide's founding fathers.

Sir John Morphett is who the electorate of Morphett is named after. John Morphett came to South Australia in 1836 on the *Cygnets*, one of the survey vessels sent from England to found the province. He first arrived on Kangaroo Island before sailing with Colonel William Light to Glenelg near the mouth of the Patawalonga River. The following day, his survey party found the freshwater stream that was later named the River Torrens.

John Morphett was present on 28 December 1836 when the first governor of South Australia, Captain John Hindmarsh, read the charter of proclamation beneath the Old Gum Tree at Glenelg. He was first appointed and later elected to the Legislative Council. He became Speaker and later President. John Morphett took an early interest in horse racing and kept a stud at Cummins House. He was one of the original directors of the Morphettville racing club, founded in 1847, which moves us along to the neighbouring suburb of Morphettville, which includes the Morphettville Racecourse. The racecourse is the home of thoroughbred racing in South Australia, with the Adelaide Cup and other significant horse races occurring throughout the year.

The remaining suburbs of Glenelg East, Glenelg, Glenelg South and Somerton Park border the electorate and are home to 2½ kilometres of spectacular coastline that makes it truly Adelaide's premier seaside destination. The beach itself provides a natural barrier to westerly travel and at the same time, along with the foreshore, provides much of the electorate's open space. As such, it is a place that is highly valued by the community and brings so many other people in the electorate together. Consequently, coastal protection is an important priority for the people. The seaside environment itself lends itself to relaxation and, as such, there is a strong community feel that is easy-going and friendly.

Being so close to the beach and also so close to Adelaide Airport, tourism is one of the key industry sectors in a local economy that is thriving and vibrant. Approximately 80 per cent of visitors to Adelaide will visit Glenelg during their stay and there are over 1.3 million unique visitations per year. The residents have a progressive mindset and embrace the activity and continual refresh that occurs, but they are also very respectful of the area's history. Glenelg is the birthplace of European settlement on the mainland of South Australia in 1836.

The waters off the shoreline of Glenelg are known as Holdfast Bay, so named because the anchors of *The Buffalo* and other ships could hold fast in the sandy ocean floor. Being such a fantastic place to live, many families have lived in the area for multiple generations. My young family moved into Glenelg South 14 years ago. Not living in the electorate all our life does give us a great perspective on how truly fortunate we are to live here, and I truly feel it is the best electorate to represent in the South Australian parliament. The experiences I went through before I moved to Glenelg South and also since living there have significantly shaped me and, with your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I would like to share my journey.

I started my life living in the north-eastern foothills of Adelaide in the then new suburb of Highbury. The suburb was still made up of many family-owned market gardens that have since been converted to housing. Being a new suburb, there were many young families moving into the area and the local primary school, Highbury Primary School, was one of the biggest in the state. To keep

up with demand, many of the classrooms were made using transportable buildings, which, on hot summer days and prior to air conditioning, were character-building experiences, to say the least.

Being one of so many students allowed me to form many friendships, and I remember cycling to and from school with mates and that the bike racks would take up more space than the car park. The trip to school was mostly up steep hills, but the advantage was that the trip home was quick. Prior to any structured physical education program in schools, this was a great way to develop fitness and build up my leg muscles, which held me in good stead for my later sporting pursuits. I lament the decline these days in the number of children riding or walking to school. It gives each student a sense of freedom, but also lets them take personal responsibility for their safety, which can only be beneficial later in life.

It is at this point that I wish to recognise my parents, who are both here today, and the debt of gratitude that I owe them. Both my parents are now retired. While I was growing up my mum, Susan, was a part-time teacher and looked after both my brothers and did so much for her three boys so that we could be the best we could be—thank you.

My father, John, was a university lecturer and researcher who holds a PhD in nuclear physics after studying at ANU in Canberra and Caltech in California, USA. He studied at such an exciting time to be a scientist, when the limits of human understanding were expanding. The nuclear industry never eventuated in Australia. However, he maintains a keen interest in its future as technological advances are made and, out of respect to him, it is an area of interest for me.

My father's focus turned to astrophysics and deep space exploration, including building a gamma-ray telescope based in Woomera to understand supernovas. This allowed me to visit the derelict launch pads and empty mission control buildings in Woomera, and it is exciting that the government is once again pursuing the space industry in South Australia.

My parents both highly value education and the importance of continual learning. They sacrificed a lot to send all their three children to Pembroke School. The school not only had a strong academic focus but also provided great sporting opportunities where I played First XI Cricket and First XVIII Football. I was very fortunate to have the then state cricket captain, John Inverarity, as an influence on my school life. He was one of those leaders who demanded high standards who you did not want to let down. So later in life it meant a lot to play football for South Australia on the WACA in Perth and run down the wing in front of the John Inverarity Stand.

I had many influential teachers along the way, including my maths and physics teacher, Dr Possingham. She was a key factor in my first visit to Government House where I received two merit certificates for attaining 100 per cent in year 12 maths and physics. Following on from school, I attended Adelaide University where I studied electrical and electronic engineering, but at that stage of my life my real passion was football. Living in Highbury, I was in the Norwood Football Club zone and so began my adult life. When I first joined the mighty Redlegs, the SANFL was the pre-eminent competition in South Australia and a player retention scheme was set up to stop the Victorian football clubs from raiding the state's best talent.

It was my dream to play league football. I started in the under 19s and, along with my junior teammates, we developed our game believing we would go through as a cohort. This changed abruptly when the Adelaide Crows were established and entered the AFL in 1991. At the time, I was in my first season of senior football and Neil Craig was our coach. Being a sports scientist, he introduced innovative training techniques and a heavy emphasis on fitness. In the summer months while on university holidays, I worked on the production line at Holden's Elizabeth factory doing the day shift and then backed up with pre-season training where Craigy would not let us drink during training in the summer heat so that we could condition our bodies not to get thirsty during matches. He is a hard man!

Both taught me the value of hard work and respect from an early age. On the production line, I was working alongside an Italian migrant who had been there for many years to make a better life for his children. In football, I played alongside bricklayers, painters, plumbers, doctors and lawyers. Sport brings out the egalitarian Australian culture of mateship. Football has taught me to value each person equally, and I have taken this with me in my public life.

I played with legends of the Norwood Football Club—Michael Aish, Keith Thomas and Garry MacIntosh—who played over 300 games for Norwood. Supporters saw their great skills executed on a game day but they also taught me the value of preparation by the way they went about their training. Neil Craig set high standards and would often say, 'Raw talent is not enough.' Not only did he emphasise hard work but he sought to build each player's character and leadership so as to be able to perform under pressure.

During this time, I graduated from Adelaide University with a Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering with First Class Honours and also a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Physics, and worked at Technology Park and DSTO. From here I was drafted to Collingwood in the AFL, which has the biggest supporter base in Australia, and I was coached by some of the game's legends—Leigh Matthews, Tony Shaw and Mick Malthouse. They were each strong leaders who showed me the importance of strategic planning and developing people.

We would play in front of big crowds on the MCG. My first game against Carlton was in front of close to 90,000 people. Other highlights were playing on ANZAC Day to honour our service men and women, and of course playing against the Adelaide Crows and Port Power, especially kicking the first three goals against Port in their first AFL game in 1997. I have played with and against Brownlow medallists and club champions. To compete in this atmosphere requires self-belief and a desire to continually improve.

During this time, the game was evolving from a tribal suburban league to an elite national competition. Towards the end of my football career, the TV rights had increased to a level that allowed the rookie players to be paid well enough, and so the game became fully professional. Prior to going into full-time football, I worked at the Telstra Research Laboratories at the birth of the internet into homes with its resulting commercial opportunities, as well as the widespread take-up of mobile phones beginning. Today, these two technologies have merged and transformed how society functions but then they were in their infancy.

By the time I had finished playing AFL, I was married to my wife, Tammy, and we had started our family. My football journey had taught me the importance of hard work, discipline and team first, where success does not come from individuals but from working for each other. These are qualities that I hope to bring to my time in parliament. As proud South Australians, we both wanted the best for our children, and we believe there is no better place to raise a family than South Australia. In 2004, we purchased a house in Glenelg South. Without knowing it at the time, this would lead me to the path to parliament.

My engineering background allowed me to start a company with my business partners that specialises in sporting membership and ticketing software and web hosting. We also proudly run a membership call centre and packing house located in Adelaide, providing South Australians with jobs when so many companies seek to cut costs by outsourcing overseas at the expense of providing a quality, responsive service.

Living close to the beach, our family became involved in the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club. The club has over 850 members. Surf lifesaving clubs are key community hubs along the Adelaide coastline. They allow adults and juniors, both male and female, to be actively involved together. Being volunteer-based, they provide a vital community service in keeping our beaches safe while at the same time providing a healthy lifestyle through competition. Currently, my family and I are volunteer patrolling lifesavers for the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club, and I have myself been a patrol captain for five years.

My family grew over time to four children, and we all lead an active, outdoor lifestyle, utilising many facilities that thousands of other constituents of Morphett use. This is at the heart of why I chose to serve my community, firstly in local government, starting in 2010 as a councillor, in 2014 as mayor of Holdfast Bay, and now as their representative in state parliament. As mayor, I promoted a plan that incorporated four pillars to transform the local area: community, leadership, economy and environment. Implementing this vision required rebalancing the way the local economy was valued.

Tourism and related industries are key local job providers, and a plan was implemented to grow visitation that in turn grew expenditure. There are opportunities to set Glenelg up as a hub that

connects to the regions, such as Kangaroo Island via a ferry service. As the member for Morphett, I look forward to contributing to this government's agenda to grow tourism in South Australia.

Prioritising the local economy also allowed investment into community infrastructure, important upgrades to CCTV and lighting to increase safety, health initiatives such as being the first dementia friendly council and home care programs for seniors to give them the support and respect they deserve. While a lot of these achievements are highly visible, I feel the most worthwhile achievement has been the community building that has been achieved over the last three years. Being mayor is a rewarding role that allowed me to authentically connect with so many wonderful volunteer community groups.

My time as mayor was both challenging and pleasurable. I thank all of the elected members I have served with, including former mayors Dr Ken Rolland and Rosemary Clancy, as well as the CEO, Justin Lynch. I hope I leave the council better than I found it. Importantly, being mayor reinforced that the most important role of any elected leader is to be close to the community that they represent. Citizens are crying out for politicians who can connect with the community and, importantly, articulate that connection.

As mayor, I worked hard to engage the community in decision-making. It is my hope that I continue to build this connection with the community in Morphett as their newly elected representative in state parliament. While campaigning in the election and listening to the electorate, I identified a suite of priorities that will continue to allow Morphett to be a great place to live and conduct business. These include an emphasis on building community, supporting and growing the local economy, ensuring safety, protecting the local environment and coastline, assisting seniors and improving our road and tram transit corridors.

The journey to election day based upon these priorities saw local commitments made to extend the Glenelg Police Station operating hours, playing surface improvements at Plympton Oval and installing a safety barrier for the Glenelg Primary School. I look forward to delivering on these commitments and then continuing to further build upon these pillars to inform and guide me in my local role over the coming four years.

I am very mindful that my election to parliament is by virtue of being a member of a larger team and a fantastic group of volunteers. Rather than waiting for people to come to us, we went to the community and engaged at a grassroots level. The people of Morphett were crying out to be listened to and involved in the democratic process. They are an intelligent electorate who want to contribute to the betterment of South Australia.

There are many people to thank and, pleasingly, many are young, desperate for change and to make a difference to their future in this state. I would especially like to thank my campaign manager, former minister Joan Hall, who worked tirelessly to keep the campaign on track and, importantly, train the next generation in our committee. I thank my Morphett SEC president, Trent Harron, for providing continuity and level-headed advice throughout the campaign. Trent doorknocked with me without complaint, sometimes in the most punishing commitments, such as one weekend when both days were over 40°.

Thank you to our campaign chair, Alex Antic, who also came doorknocking, and my other doorknocking companions. To communicate what we had heard while doorknocking and at listening posts required an army of letterboxers, who covered the electorate. Thank you to two of my hardest working volunteers, Emma Harron and Luke Vagenas, for organising information and street maps to distribute the literature and for the feet on the ground. Special thanks to my father, John, for making time each week, and Henry Lodge, whom I would often see in the backstreets of Morphett, bundle in hand. Thanks also to the many Young Liberals who helped out with the blitzes along the way.

To my listening post companions, Hugh Sutton, Laura Coppola and Jack Newton, thank you for being on hand to note down people's concerns as they chatted to me in the parks, shopping centres and street corners of Morphett. Jack Newton deserves special mention for his work rate and commitment. Jack gave up time to stand with me in Plympton Park on a Sunday and, sadly, his father passed away the following week after battling cancer. In the early days of the campaign, I received terrific support from Sara Duncan, Tim Rose, Penny Pratt and Michael Pratt, with whom I first crossed

paths when he was the federal member for Adelaide and would MC at Norwood Football Club after matches—he has not improved.

Then there was the group of volunteers who helped out on election day, many of them friends and family who had never been involved in politics. Jim and Gerry Burston were at the biggest booth in Glengowrie, and my father-in-law, Kym Peters, who is here, would rather, truth be told, have been at a pub on the day, but he has been a great supporter of mine, and he has even changed his footy team to Collingwood. My brother, Tain, and his wife, Nat, also helped put up posters on Stobie poles. A special mention goes to James Scott Young, Grant Edwards and Michael Eyres, who spent all day on the Plympton booth and charmed the undecided voters. Jamo was resplendent at times, wearing the coveted Norman Craig jacket. The overwhelming feedback I received was that the Liberal volunteers had a positive energy and were the friendliest.

Within the Liberal Party, I would like to thank members of parliament for their assistance. I thank the Premier for his support from the early days when I first became mayor and, more recently, during the campaign, including running the City to Bay with me last October. I worked closely with the member for Black, previously the member for Bright, which spanned the southern half of Holdfast Bay council. While mayor, I saw firsthand the energy and commitment he provided to his constituents. His advice to me over coffee was crucial and, because of the boundary changes, he helped doorknock the first street he ever doorknocked in the early days of my campaign.

The member for Gibson assisted me at shopping centres, and the member for Colton stood with me during pre-polling. To the people living in these neighbouring electorates, and some I formed close relationships with as their mayor, the electorate boundaries are arbitrary. These coastal communities span across lines on the map. Consequently, I look forward to working collaboratively and as a unified team with my coastal neighbours to provide positive outcomes along the coast.

I thank the members for Waite and Schubert, who spent time doorknocking in the rain, and the member for Stuart for speaking alongside me at the energy forum. In addition, I would like to thank the member for Hartley and the Hon. Terry Stephens MLC for providing sound advice, and also the hardworking team at Liberal HQ—so many to name. Thank you also to my federal colleagues. I have worked alongside Nicolle Flint, member for Boothby, starting from my time as mayor. I have seen her dedication to her constituents. Thanks also to Senator David Fawcett and Senator Simon Birmingham.

Finally, as I am sure you would all understand, I want to publicly thank my family for their extraordinary patience and their hands-on help with their enthusiastic letterboxing approach, especially my youngest, Gabe, who ruthlessly charged \$5 for his efforts. My children, Oliver, Coco, Violet and Gabriel, who are here today, have been understanding throughout as their dad held listening posts at a tram stop or a shopping centre and could not watch them play sport or help with homework. I hope that it demonstrates to them the importance of making a difference to the community they live in. Their volunteering as surf life savers would say that they do understand. In return, they drive me to work hard in this parliament to make a better future for them and their generation.

The person who deserves the biggest thankyou is my wife, Tammy, who is also here tonight. She has been through the weekly highs and lows that went with my life as a footballer, the uncertainty that goes with starting and running a business and the long hours that being a mayor, a candidate and subsequently a member of parliament entail. Tammy is always there to keep me grounded and act as a sounding board. Stress levels and exhaustion are part of any election campaign, especially for a first-time candidate and all I can say is heartfelt thankyou. Her contribution and support made it all possible over months and months of disruption in our house.

My path to this parliament is not as a career politician but rather as a citizen who has real-world experience, who is self-made and aspirational, but who has a firm sense of community and state pride and wants to give back to South Australia, which has given me and my family so much. I sincerely thank the electors of Morphett for the faith they have shown in me. I am proud to become the fourth member of Morphett and the third Liberal member, the first being the Hon. John Oswald, who was a former Speaker of this house.

I acknowledge the previous member, Dr Duncan McFetridge, who has represented you well. That the baton has now passed is less a reflection on him than it is a belief in renewal. In fact, the desire for change and renewal was expressed by the people of South Australia. After 16 years of Labor rule, South Australia is faced with systemic problems with the economy, electricity, education and health. His Excellency outlined the government's reformist agenda for the next four years to transform the state.

The priorities are to create more jobs, to lower costs for households and businesses and to provide better government services to address these problems. It is a plan to govern for all South Australians, rather than pick winners. It is a government that will conduct our business in the light of day so that we can restore trust with the people who give us their consent to govern. I stand ready to contribute to this plan as part of the Marshall Liberal team, knowing that I have the skills and life experience as an engineer, professional athlete and business owner to make a difference at this point in South Australia's history.

My particular interests cover energy and our transitioning of the electricity system, growing businesses and improving general community health to keep people out of hospital. Our electricity grid was originally designed at a time when generation was centralised in a few larger power stations with consumers spread out across distribution networks spanning thousands of kilometres. The previous government's interference via aggressive renewal targets pushed too much wind and solar into the system too quickly and contributed to the premature closure of the power station in Port Augusta.

For the first time in 50 years, South Australia had a shortage of reliable base load power and an over-reliance on intermittent wind and solar, leaving South Australia exposed to an unreliable network and higher electricity prices. Engineers have changed the world in many positive ways, and a properly engineered grid that includes renewable energy can be made reliable. Decisions relating to electricity need to be based on engineering and sound economics. This will allow the electricity grid of the state to again become the foundation of our prosperity for the next 50 years.

We are currently in the fourth industrial revolution and the lines are blurring between the physical and digital. Ours is a period in history characterised by the rapid pace of change, while at the same time the cost of innovation has been reduced. This presents significant challenges to strategic government direction to be able to address the aspirations of the community of tomorrow. As a business owner and software engineer, I have firsthand knowledge of the hard work and sacrifice it takes to commercialise innovation in a modern globalised economy.

Small business is the backbone of the state's economy, and as each business grows they employ people and bring desperately needed interstate and international money into South Australia. Private business, not government, must lead the expansion of the future. To support this, the government is equipping our state's young people with the skills to participate in the future economy. My ethos is based on Liberal philosophies which, among other key tenets, encourages individual initiative and enterprise as the dynamic force of progress. As a father of four children, I also view family as fundamental to the wellbeing of society and that youth should be provided every encouragement to fully develop their talents.

I am a product of education, and so I look forward to having input into the introduction of entrepreneurialism and innovation into the school curriculum. I firmly believe that a strong economy that provides jobs will give not only our youth but everyone the chance to reach their full potential here in South Australia. Hope is a powerful motivator, and I believe that we can harness our youth to be part of the solution and take their rightful place in making this state great again.

This parliament will begin the work of rebuilding South Australia. The challenges we face are significant and will not be easily overcome or solved in a short period of time. I dedicate myself to serving for the common good of Morphett and South Australia and to building communities so that individuals can contribute to a shared future. Our success will depend on hard work, discipline, sacrifice, honesty, curiosity, tolerance and courage. My journey to this parliament has proved to me that these values can be relied upon as the engine of progress and, knowing this, I can faithfully say that the best is still ahead for South Australia.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Morphett. I ask members to take their places, please. Member for Giles, my next-door neighbour.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (17:42):** Indeed, and congratulations on your elevation. I am sure that you will make a very able Deputy Speaker, so it is good to see you there. In rising to give my Address in Reply speech, I acknowledge His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC and the dignity and grace that he brings to his role as our Governor and to the part he played in the opening of this 54<sup>th</sup> parliament. We are very fortunate to have a Governor who not only carries out his duties in an exemplary manner but also shows what is possible in our state and nation, given the circumstances surrounding his arrival in Australia. It is worth reflecting on whether that would be possible today: the milk of human kindness does not seem to flow as freely.

I offer the new members elected on 17 March and all those re-elected my congratulations. To those members who lost their seats, I wish you well for the future and acknowledge the contribution you have made to our parliament and to our state. I congratulate the Premier. I also congratulate the new Leader of the Opposition. He will lead us with vision and strong leadership, hopefully back to government in four years, but that will not be an easy task and will be in the hands of the people of South Australia. I would like to acknowledge our former premier, the member for Cheltenham. He was always there in those difficult few years for the community of Whyalla. He was unstinting in his support, as was the member for West Torrens in his role as treasurer.

I was going to wax lyrical about the new Speaker. He is not in the chair, so I might reduce the waxing lyrical a little bit, but I am sure that everybody in this chamber as well as places further afield took a strong interest in what the outcome in Hartley was going to be. On that St Patrick's Day night, I did have a beer to toast his success in Hartley because it did give me a sneaking amount of pleasure. I would of course have loved to see the Labor Party take that seat, but that was not on the cards. To see the member for Hartley do what he did, I think is a credit to him.

When Mr Xenophon announced that he was going to run for that seat against somebody who had just been there for that first term, I tried to imagine how the member for Hartley would have felt. I imagine there would have been a degree of trepidation, so to see him come through in the way that he did—good on him. I hope by saying that he will never kick me out of this place. I do wish the Speaker well, and I hope he carries out his role in a fair and balanced manner.

To my family—Kathryn, Liam, Sinead and Ciaran—a loving thankyou for all your support during the campaign and over the years. When you are running in such a large seat, with such a massive area to cover, with so many diverse communities, you really do need the support of your family.

Elections are always a collective effort, and I deeply appreciated the work put in by many volunteers. I especially acknowledge the voluntary work put in by Tracy, Caitlin, Cherie and Shirley, to name just a few. In Roxby Downs, I was deeply appreciative of the support offered by the Cranes, and in Coober Pedy, Bill, Matt and Ian held the fort. In the vast APY lands, a big thank you to all who lent a hand. I look forward to visiting the lands in June. I also want to acknowledge the support of the union movement and especially United Voice, the AMWU and the work done by its local organiser, Steve McMillan, and the AWU, to mention just a few.

The election this year was, of course, on St Patrick's Day. I figured that might be a good omen, given my mum was Irish and my dad Scottish, of Irish descent. In the seat of Giles, we held our party on election night at that unique Whyalla institution, the Left Hand Club, a club noted for its support for charities, its billiard tables, its hosting of blues nights over many years and its on-tap, well-priced Guinness. On that St Patrick's night, the Guinness was not available—not a good omen on St Pat's Day, especially given we did not know if we were there for a celebration or a wake.

As it turned out, it was a celebration, at least as far as retaining Giles was concerned, and that is down to the good people of Giles. For those people who voted for me, a big thankyou. I am committed to delivering for all the people of Giles, in all the communities from the Far North in the APY lands to the most southern community at Cowell, and all the communities scattered far and wide through an electorate larger in size than Germany but probably with the population of a relatively small German town. Whether you are in Whyalla, Cowell, Kimba, Quorn, Hawker, Woomera, Pimba,



Andamooka, Roxby Downs, Coober Pedy, Marla, Oodnadatta, William Creek, the APY lands, Oak Valley or the Maralinga lands or outside of those communities and areas, I am there for you.

I will make special mention of Liberal voters in numbers in Whyalla who did not follow the Liberal how-to-vote card and gave me their second preference and those lifelong Liberals who told me that they were going to vote for me first. They did say, 'My dad would probably turn in his grave if he knew that I was voting for Labor.' I am not going to put that down to my charm or to my capacity but they knew what was at stake in Giles courtesy of Nick Xenophon's pick.

I would like to congratulate the Liberal candidate, Robert Walsh. He was a very decent and down-to-earth person, so I wish him well in his future endeavours. I will have more to say on another occasion about Nick Xenophon's pick and what actually transpired in the seat of Giles over a period of a year and a half.

I listened with interest to the Governor's speech and the laying out of the Marshall government's agenda. It was a mixed bag with some specifics but much that was general in nature. A regional roads and infrastructure fund will be established, but whether that will lead to a net increase in financial support for regional infrastructure is yet to be seen. I suspect there will be nothing to match the port authority that we were going to set up to address the issue of market failure when it comes to even the expansion of a port at a brownfield site or the setting up of a new port to unlock additional resources and agricultural potential in our state, especially in the north of the state and Eyre Peninsula.

A regional growth fund will be created, with the reported allocation of \$150 million over 10 years. The money will support employment and community growth. It looks like a rebranding exercise, as the previous government's indexed regional development fund would have delivered \$160 million over the next decade. Of course, specific programs like these do not capture all or indeed most of the investment that does take place in regional South Australia. In my electorate, there is serious unfinished business, especially in relation to finalising the assistance package to secure the future of the former Arrium operations in South Australia.

I look forward to a bipartisan approach and acknowledge that, when in opposition, the leader and his front bench did not play politics with what was an existential crisis in the community of Whyalla. I was proud to be part of a state Labor government that provided real leadership in response to the Arrium crisis. Both the Premier and the Treasurer were unstinting in their support when it counted for my community of Whyalla. In the lead-up to Arrium going into administration, over 1,000 direct jobs were lost in Whyalla, to be followed by the initial profound uncertainty generated by administration. Support was provided in many ways by the Weatherill government and the list of initiatives across departments is long.

During much of that period, the federal Liberal government was missing in action when it came to supporting a community experiencing real pain. Indeed, at times they responded to the crisis by cutting funding for essential community services, such as the withdrawal of \$8 million from the community mental health rehabilitation beds. As a measure of the responsiveness of the Weatherill government, we stepped in to ensure the continuation of that essential service, an especially essential service given the stress the community of Whyalla was under.

The federal government was nowhere to be seen when a whole series of local contractors faced going to the wall due to cash flow problems arising from Arrium going into administration. Once again, it was left to the Weatherill government to protect those jobs and to support those companies, often family companies built up over many years. So, I find it a bit rich when Liberals talk about support of the regions when the Liberal government that was there at a federal level was sadly lacking when it came to the community of Whyalla when it was going through a real crisis.

The lesson from the Arrium crisis and Nyrstar near-death experience in Port Pirie is that you cannot just let the market rip because the consequences for communities, families and workers are likely to be dire. There are times when government should not get out of the way; there are times when government needs to step in. If government had got out of the way in Port Pirie, we would have seen the end of the smelter and the people of Port Pirie would have faced huge job losses.

The former government played its part in helping to secure the future of the steelworks and associated operations and now the people of South Australia have handed the baton over to the Marshall government. Do not drop that baton when it comes to the future of Whyalla's main industry. I am confident that as a government you will do the right thing, given the importance of structural steelmaking not just for Whyalla but for our state and our nation.

I will be more than supportive if you do the right thing, but the right thing may be, as one serious option, helping to underwrite the transformative redevelopment of the steel industry in Whyalla. As a Labor government, we did that in Port Pirie and we were prepared to do that in Whyalla based on a credible business plan. It probably would have been on a greater scale and over a longer time period than what was needed in Port Pirie.

The South Australian economy is in transition and there are positive signs everywhere. The green shoots of regrowth started to appear in abundance last year. We now have the third lowest unemployment rate in Australia, and there is a stream of committed or planned private sector investment in regional South Australia. We have weathered a very difficult period but the momentum is now with us as a state, and it was clear that the transition that we are going through predated the change of government by a long way.

*Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. R. Sanderson.*

We have weathered a very difficult period, but the momentum is with us and I hope the government goes with that momentum and adds to it. I have mentioned the challenges faced by Whyalla and Port Pirie, but another community that suffered in the lead-up to the 2014 election and just after was Roxby Downs. Many jobs were lost in Roxby Downs, but this has now been turned around with a \$600 million investment at Olympic Dam. This will help set the conditions for a potential \$2.3 billion investment package, assuming the BHP board gives the green light. I was in Roxby Downs and Andamooka two weeks ago and the mood is very buoyant.

If we get it right with GFG Alliance in Whyalla, up to \$1 billion of investment might well flow. In addition to what is going on in Port Pirie and Roxby Downs, we are talking about over \$4 billion in investment and the jobs that will be generated as a result. Add to that the close to \$1 billion development of the OZ Minerals Carrapateena deposit, the largest undeveloped copper resource in Australia. Mine development and operation will deliver over 1,000 jobs.

At this point, I will just briefly discuss the discovery of that Carrapateena deposit because it is a Labor initiative that I am very proud of: the PACE program and its predecessor. For those who do not know, PACE is the plan for accelerating exploration. The government has actively invested in exploration efforts, the aerial magnetic surveying of the state and other sophisticated approaches to discovering mineral wealth in South Australia.

I am particularly proud of this because it was an initiative of the late Frank Blevins, who used to be the member for Giles. That program was initiated in the early 1990s and I acknowledge that it was continued by the incoming Liberal government at that time. I hope that the current government will also commit to the continuation of the PACE program. It was with some direct assistance from PACE that that one hole was drilled at Carrapateena, and the largest undeveloped copper deposit in South Australia was discovered.

That was done in conjunction with a small explorer, Rudy Gomez, who was willing to give it a go with a few mates, and they certainly struck pay dirt. In the broad northern region, covering the seats of Giles, Stuart and Frome, there is actual and planned investment beyond what I have just mentioned, not the least of which have multiple energy projects, including solar thermal with storage, solar photovoltaic, winds, pumped hydro, co-generation and batteries.

We are also seeing the start of investment in renewable-based hydrogen production because of the support provided by the previous government. I think the potential for hydrogen production in this state, and related ammonia production, using renewables, if it can be done commercially at scale, is one avenue that we should really be following in South Australia. So, all of these changes are part of an energy system in transition, which will drive down wholesale energy costs while giving us clean, reliable electricity.

Sanjeev Gupta, the new owner of our state's steel industry and Middleback Ranges iron ore operations is on record as saying that he will drive down the cost of energy for his operations through renewables by 40 per cent. The capital costs of renewables and storage continues to fall, and the recurrent costs are negligible. That is why South Australia is going to be in an ideal position to capitalise on cheap electricity, given our premium renewable energy resources in the form of wind and solar. There are not many places in the world where a world-class solar resource overlaps with a world-class wind resource.

Given the Marshall government's support for a new interconnector, I would suggest their revisiting the Rann government's initiated green grid study, the study focused on upgrading grid infrastructure on Eyre Peninsula, with a view to exploiting the largely untapped, world-class wind resource. The study found that the wind regime on Eyre Peninsula could support up to 10 megawatts of capacity, but focused initially on developing 2,000 megawatts. In order to effectively use that resource a new interconnector with the Eastern States was proposed. There would be multiple benefits for Eyre Peninsula and the state if we were to move in that direction, and I am sure the member for Flinders would like us to move in that direction.

To date, more than 40 per cent of the \$77.1 billion investment in renewables in South Australia has been spent in regional South Australia. Contrary to what is often said opposite when it comes to the regions, with the story put out of neglect and doom and gloom, there is in parts of our state distant from Adelaide, well north of Gepps Cross, real growth and vibrancy. It is well on the way and it will continue.

As another measure of our commitment to the regions when in government, we initiated the redevelopment of several general hospitals, including those at Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, the Riverland and Whyalla. Some of the redevelopments represented a partnership with the former Labor federal government. In the case of the \$70 million upgrade of the Whyalla hospital and other hospitals, the then federal Coalition, fortunately in opposition at the time, opposed the funding stream to upgrade regional hospitals in South Australia. So much for Liberal commitment to regional centres.

The Weatherill government also injected an additional \$140 million for minor capital works at country hospitals. I would have preferred that that happen sooner, but that commitment was made and money put on the table. That money will especially benefit some of our smaller hospitals. PATS funding was also increased by 30 per cent. I would be the first to acknowledge that additional work needs to be done on PATS to make the system easier, more flexible and have a greater degree of common sense.

Sometimes there is that conflict about getting specialists out to regional areas and using those specialists as opposed to people travelling to Adelaide, but there is sometimes good reason for people travelling to Adelaide, even though there might be visiting specialists coming in to regional communities. One of those issues—and it is an important issue—is around continuity of care.

We invested very significantly in educational facilities in regional South Australia. I was fortunate to get five STEM facilities in the seat of Giles, in Whyalla and in Roxby. We invested \$17 million in upgrading the school at Fregon. We made very significant investment in early childhood education, and education generally, in Roxby Downs, but there is a lot more that needs to be done.

On the agenda, with funding committed, is the new high school in Whyalla, and I hope the new education minister will commit to that new high school. As I said, in the Mid-Year Budget Review the Weatherill government committed money to the new high school, and it is needed. We are one of the few places in the state where we have three public high schools, two of which are junior high schools feeding a senior high school. One of the schools has well under 200 students. It is just not a viable or sustainable proposition.

The new high school, which will be located next to TAFE and the university, will create an educational precinct. It will allow a far greater range of choice and have far more resources than the current three high schools can provide. I am conscious of the time, so I will use another opportunity next week to go into more detail about a range of other initiatives.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. R. Sanderson.

At 18:06 the house adjourned until Tuesday 15 May 2018 at 11:00.