

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 17 May 2018

**The SPEAKER (Hon. V.A. Tarzia)** took the chair at 11:01 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.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

*A quorum having been formed:*

*Bills*

### SUPPLY BILL 2018

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 May 2018).

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (11:06):** I would like to take a few moments to address the Supply Bill. I open my contribution with a few observations and introductory remarks. First of all, I put on the record the previous government's philosophy regarding how we saw the government interacting with both business and the not-for-profit sector. It was clearly the policy of the previous government and the previous premier that to advance our state the government would have to work closely with the not-for-profit sector and also the business sector.

I note in the Governor's speech in opening parliament he also indicates that it is a priority for his current government, simply and clearly stated, that there be greater co-operation between the public, private and non-government sectors for the overall good of the state. He also says that his government's view is that the new value proposition is to partner with industry, business and communities to deliver the services they most need efficiently and innovatively.

That has presented something new, but that was certainly the policy and the practice of the previous government. It is interesting to note that in the contributions to date on the Supply Bill two out of those three parts—even though it was mentioned in the Governor's speech—have not been touched upon very much at all by those opposite. It is interesting that basically their approach to government is to say, 'The government's role is hands off and let the free market do its bit.'

**Mr Duluk:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The member for Waite says, 'Hear, hear! which is interesting because according to the Governor the policy of the current government is not that, yet the member for Waite now quite clearly holds a view different from his own leader.'

It is interesting that the government also wants to establish Infrastructure SA to vet or assess infrastructure projects. It is interesting that when in opposition, the Premier, the then leader of the opposition, told this chamber on a number of occasions that for the government to get involved in infrastructure spending, infrastructure build, was actually a false economy. He used those words, 'false economy'. So it is interesting that the government has now seen how important it is to have infrastructure projects—

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** It's been our policy for six years.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It has not been, because—

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** Two elections.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Not at all. Why would your leader call it a false economy if that is your policy? The other observation I make is that in speaking to this \$6.6 billion bill—which, as I

indicated, is literally a blank cheque for the government to spend until the budget is brought down—a number of members have used quite a bit of their time attacking the previous government's record. It is interesting they have done that because to spend time attacking the previous government but not talk about their own program indicates a lack of confidence about their own program. I would have thought you would use up all your time to talk about what you are going to do in the next four years but, instead, members opposite have used quite a bit of their time to talk about what the previous government did or did not do well.

I would also like to talk about some of the things that happened with previous budgets and previous supply bills in this place, and perhaps some of the things that are in train. That is certainly not the electrification of the Gawler line beyond Salisbury at this stage because, despite the rhetoric, the federal government appears to be quoting the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport as on the hook for the second stage of that project. It is not hook, line and sinker yet because it is way beyond the forward estimates.

It is very important to get a commitment in the budget papers from both this government and the federal government to make sure that stage happens. If Labor wins federally it will happen because the Labor Party has made it very clear, at the federal level, that they have committed to partnering with the state government to deliver on the project and would deliver that project in the near term.

The other thing we did as a government was introduce additional funding for non-government schools, and non-government schools in my electorate were certainly beneficiaries of that. I am hoping that both this state government as well as the federal government will also pursue that additional funding for those schools in my electorate.

One of the major upgrades to schools—and schools are an important part of my community, the education of young people—is the upgrade of the Evanston Gardens Primary School. It took some time but the \$6 million project, which is just about complete or which has just been completed, will provide a new administration facility, a new library resource, classrooms and support facilities to cater for future growth of up to 480 students. The school is close to a new housing development, Orleana Waters, and it needed a major upgrade. It is good to see that after some years the school has the facilities to match the great teaching and parent and student body at the school.

Something that is also in the pipeline—I am seeking clarification from the minister on where these projects are at, infrastructure being one of the things that are very important to my community—is the upgrade of Dalkeith Road with the installation of traffic lights. This project had been championed by the Dalkeith CFS. It is an intersection they use constantly to get to various locations around the electorate to fight fires or attend a car crashes or whatever they are required to do. They worked tirelessly for about 2½ years to keep this project on the agenda and I was pleased to see it delivered by the previous minister for road safety, now our leader. Unfortunately, work has not started on that project but I am hoping the current minister will deliver on it because it is important to the community.

Something that is also important to the community is the upgrade of the intersection of Tulloch Road and Main North Road, again a project committed to by the previous government. Over recent days I have been asked where that project is at, and I am seeking clarification on that from the minister. I hope it is one of the projects this government will honour funding for because it is another very important project not only for road safety but also to ensure that the shopping centre in that locality does well, as is difficult to get out of that area. I am hoping that the Supply Bill will ensure these programs are started before 30 June.

The other thing that is very important in terms of transport infrastructure is the Gawler East Link Road to which the previous government committed \$55 million. I am hoping the work will start on that shortly and that the money will be used from the Supply Bill to make sure it also starts on time. It is an important project. There have been some differences of opinion between the new government and the previous government regarding the extent of that road. It is interesting that prior to the election the Minister for Transport was a very strong supporter of having that road extended to Tiver Road, and after the election he could not drive the other way quickly enough to get away from that commitment, which is sad news.

Unfortunately, that project has been delayed because of the inordinate amount of time the Town of Gawler took to form its position. The Town of Gawler has not covered itself in glory on this issue. The Town of Gawler took about two years to arrive at a position. In the end, they accepted the transport department's view about the alignment of the road, but in the meantime they spent hundreds of thousands of dollars getting reports done, which delayed the project for two years. That project could have been finished and delivered by now had it not been for the Town of Gawler.

The other issue I need to mention is that the current government wishes to extend the Gawler East Link Road to Tiver Road, which I support, and hopefully that will get done. What I do not support is the proposed alignment. It would be a great thing if this government could get the Gawler council to engage with the community and find an alignment that is acceptable to both the people who want to build the project and the residents who live there.

The previous government also announced a virtual power plant to help with cost pressures and also power prices for the most vulnerable in our community, those people living under Housing SA. That proposal was going to cost the government, and the taxpayer, very little. But importantly, was also aiming to target those people most in need of reducing their power bill. I am hoping that this government will honour that commitment. I think it is a worthy project. It would also give the battery storage industry in this state, and in fact in this country, a boost—I might even say a bit of a surge—and that would help with employment in the northern suburbs.

The other thing which the previous government did, which I am hoping this government will also honour and fund through the Supply Bill, is the government's commitment to invest \$7.6 million over five years funding the Gig City. The Gig City project basically identifies precincts to enable greater capacity for the internet. It is designed to enable micro and small businesses in those localities to take advantage of the internet and also the digital economy. I know that the Town of Gawler was one of the beneficiaries of this access to the Gig City in the same way the Stretton Centre was, and I am hoping that the government will honour that commitment. I think it is very important to deliver because it would help small and micro businesses in the area to market their products in the digital age.

One of the great success stories, I felt, of the previous government—and according to the feedback I got from small business in my area—was the Jobs Accelerator Grant Scheme where people engaged additional staff and were provided with a subsidy on the understanding that they were employed over a certain period of time. I know that a lot of businesses engaged additional staff under that scheme, and that grant helped to get them across the line to put on that staff. That program actually did create real jobs because the grant was not available unless new jobs were created. It certainly helped small business in my community, ranging from hotels to real estate businesses, etc. They were able to put on additional staff under that grant scheme, and that was very beneficial for people in my area.

One of the other things we did as a government that I thought was very good in terms of our infrastructure spend was that we made sure that a proportion of those jobs were taken up by local people and also that contracts were given to local contractors. That made sure that South Australian taxpayers' money was used to actually invest in this state, and I am hoping that the new government will also maintain this policy.

One of the biggest beneficiaries of grants in my area was Gawler and District College, which was my school when I was much younger. It is one of two R-12 public schools in my district and, from memory, it opened in the early sixties, in around 1962 or 1964. It has had a major upgrade in terms of STEM facilities, an additional \$10 million investment to facilitate grades, and it has also had additional funding to extend the disability program. Some of those facilities are already in place.

I just hope that the change in government has not put the \$10 million investment for the facility upgrade at risk. As I understand, from what I am hearing from both my colleague the deputy leader and other schools, even though the money will still go to the schools it may be redirected to implement the government's policy in terms of R-7. This school will probably not be affected because it is an R-12 school, but I would be concerned if other high schools and primary schools had to give up their money to implement the government policy, even though we have received a commitment from the Minister for Education that those agreements would be honoured.

Another infrastructure matter is Curtis Road, which my colleague and neighbour the member for Taylor has raised on occasions prior to the election. I have certainly campaigned strongly for both the local council, the City of Playford, and the previous state government to work together to resolve this issue. I am aware that it was seen by the local Liberal candidate as a key issue. She campaigned on it very strongly and made a number of suggestions and promises about what should be done, so I am very much looking forward to those promises being delivered by the current government. The Premier did say that his government would actually honour each promise and commitment they have made, and I assume that extends to the promises the candidates made on their behalf as well. I look forward to that issue being addressed.

One very simple way of alleviating traffic on Curtis Road is to put a road in between Peachey Road and Stebonheath Road, which would actually help funnel traffic from the new Munno Para West development through to the new school in that locality. I will be reminding the minister of the commitment his candidate made and look forward to that new road being built; perhaps it will not be in this Supply Bill, but certainly in the budget later this year.

I know that this government has a slightly different approach, and it has made it very clear that it will not be providing certain funding, and I quote from the Governor's speech:

My Government's approach very deliberately refocusses support for industry away from short-term stimulus and heavy reliance on individual company grants and subsidies.

That is an interesting comment because one of my biggest critics at election time was a small business person who worked on the Liberal Party campaign for Light. His biggest gripe was that he missed out on government grants because he did not qualify or meet the requirements. Given that this government is not going to have any grants at all to small business, I am not sure how he may see that now, given that he has actually helped elect a government which is contrary to what he wanted to achieve, but that is a story for another day.

There are a couple of things that I think we did very well in terms of grants. A program which the previous government ran, and which was very successful in supporting and growing small business, was the Northern Economic Growth program, a program funded by the state government through State Development in conjunction with the City of Playford through the Stretton Centre. This was a program in partnership with Business SA and also the Gawler Business Development Group.

That is one of the success stories, I think, of the previous government. It enabled its taxpayer funds to be used by both the non-government sector and the business sector to deliver good outcomes. In this case, one small business that took part in this program has employed 11 additional people. The whole program was just over \$100,000, involving a number of small businesses, and it has had a really good response.

One of the things which I would support, and which the Governor mentioned in his speech—and I assume that the Minister for Education will follow this up—is increasing in the curriculum entrepreneur-type skills and entrepreneur programs. I was pleased to see that because I was successful in convincing the previous government, in conjunction again with the Stretton Centre, to fund a program, which was funded by the premier's department, State Development, DCSI and also the education department, identifying senior young people in the local schools who have a flair for innovation and entrepreneurship and giving them the skills to develop their ideas, whether business ideas or social enterprise, to fruition. That program has started. I met with these young people a weekend ago and I was quite impressed by their enthusiasm and some of the talent. With those few comments, I would support the Supply Bill.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call on the next speaker, I acknowledge today Anne Gallo, vice president in charge of tourism, heritage and waterways and the mayor of Saint-Avé, who is a guest of the member for Mawson and also the government. Welcome to you.

*Bills***SUPPLY BILL 2018***Second Reading*

Debate resumed.

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (11:27):** I, too, rise to speak on the Supply Bill. As some speakers on our side of the house have already pointed out, the new government have said on many occasions, both before the recent state election and since, that they will seek to be what they describe as a more transparent and accountable government than the previous one. I note that this is only my third time on my feet as a new member of this place and already I am asked to speak in support of a Supply Bill that seeks to gain the approval of the opposition for \$6.6 billion of spending, yet we have no detail at all on what it is we are approving that spending for.

Nonetheless, I would like to speak, as other members have before me, during this debate about commitments that were made not only in the seat that I now represent, the seat of Wright, but also in the north-east more broadly. I refer not so much to commitments that the then Labor government made, because I acknowledge that we are no longer the government. There is a new government, and I would like to focus instead upon commitments that were made by the then Liberal opposition and how they will benefit or otherwise the communities of the north-east.

First and foremost, there are other members who represent seats in the north-east, and I know that we have the member for Newland, the member for King and the member for Torrens in the house now. I think the biggest issue in the north-east during the election campaign—at least the biggest specific local issue separate to the broader issues at play around unemployment, cost of living and power prices—would be Modbury Hospital. I know that speakers opposite have already covered in pretty extensive detail the many back and forwards that occurred about Modbury Hospital during the 12 months of the state election campaign. I think it is always true that people are very passionate about their own local hospital.

No-one wants to see services removed from their local hospital. After having doorknocked all the homes that I doorknocked, it was not lost upon me that Transforming Health was certainly not popular in the north-east. That was certainly feedback that I got in a very up-front and honest way from the residents I was at the time seeking to represent.

I might draw some distinctions between Modbury Hospital and other local suburban hospitals. I mentioned in my maiden speech the beautiful green space we have in the north-east, and the fantastic schools and that I think a lot of residents chose to move to the suburbs of Wynn Vale, Modbury, Ridgehaven and Golden Grove so they could be near those schools and that green space, but they also very much chose to move there because they would be near Modbury Hospital and they wanted to access the services that that hospital provided locally.

What happened was that the then minister for health, the now member for Croydon, upon becoming the new minister for health last year, did listen and conducted a series of community consultations, which I was very fortunate to be a part of. They were very well attended and very productive, and what we got out of that was a commitment from the then Labor government to put more services back into Modbury Hospital and upgrade the hospital. I was very proud at the time because I thought the campaigning of the members in the north-east had been listened to and that the complaints of the local residents had been listened to.

What we put together was, I thought, an excellent plan. I will point out that it was not an election commitment, of course. This was a government commitment, which meant that regardless of the outcome of the recent state election, these commitments, which were made by the now member for Cheltenham and the now member for Croydon, were going to be going ahead regardless.

Just to go through them briefly, they included eight new beds in the emergency department, in what was referred to as an emergency extended care unit. I will explain to members quickly what I believe that means. It means that if you were to present to the emergency department at Modbury Hospital, and it was potentially something that could not be treated there long term, then the extended stay unit would ensure that you could be at least treated and stabilised in the short term, perhaps

over a night or over multiple nights, while the staff at the hospital made a decision about whether or not your treatment could continue there in the long term.

That is really important because one of the biggest complaints I had from people in the north-east around Modbury Hospital and the changes to services was a perception, at least, that you presented to Modbury Hospital and would then be told that it was no longer something that was treated at the hospital. You would potentially be put in an ambulance and moved to the Lyell McEwin or maybe the RAH.

There will also be the construction of an acute medical unit, which I understand assists in helping patients who are coming out of the emergency department with a high level of care, so again they are able to stay at the hospital at which they have presented rather than being shipped off to another hospital. The commitments included also a brand-new 16-bed palliative care ward, each room with an ensuite bathroom.

I will touch just briefly on one related interaction I had with a resident in my seat, an elderly gentleman at whose home I doorknocked. He was very upset, and he had good reason to be upset: he had recently lost his wife, who had died of cancer. He was an elderly gentleman, as I said. I think his wife was in her 80s. She had gone and sought palliative care at Modbury Hospital, and she passed away there.

Whilst this gentleman only had very, very positive things to say about the staff at the hospital and the care they received, he was disappointed that a room with an ensuite bathroom was not available to her. He felt that she did not have the dignity she deserved in her final days and instead had to leave the room and use a toilet outside the facility. So I was pleased that the 16-bed palliative care ward which will be built there is going to have, I am told, private ensuite bathrooms in each room.

The commitments included also an acute surgical unit to allow a wider range of elective surgeries to be carried out at Modbury, including multiday elective surgeries. They included also an internal infrastructure upgrade, including air-conditioning units, and replacement of the ageing lifts in the building. All those people who have been to the hospital as I have, having used the services there for my young daughters a couple of times, will know that the lifts are very old and desperately in need of replacing.

The commitments also included a facelift of the outside of the building. This was something that I pushed really hard for with the member for Croydon. To some, maybe it seemed less important than other things, and that is probably true. I am sure services are more important than the façade of a building. However, I have had a lot of comments from people I doorknocked who said that Modbury Hospital really is in many respects the defining building of the north-east. It towers over pretty much everything and you can see it.

There were people, who I think possibly have not actually needed to use the services at Modbury Hospital for many years, which is a good thing, who looked at the state of the building from the outside and decided that it must be neglected because it looks so tired. So I thought it was an important thing to do, not just to invest in the services inside the hospital but also to upgrade the outside of the hospital to make it clear that the future of the hospital was secured and that we took its future very seriously.

I felt that this commitment was very well received by members of the north-east. We put a lot of material out to them, announcing that we had made this commitment. The feedback I got was very good, so good in fact that I note that those opposite decided to basically copy our commitment word for word. There was of course one very important difference, which I am going to address just briefly. I honestly believe that the then opposition now Liberal government decided that it probably was not enough to produce exactly the same plan as the Labor government, that there needed to be at point of difference. That point of difference became the high dependency unit and committing to a return of the high dependency unit at Modbury Hospital.

Much has been said about that both in this place and in the public arena already, including a letter that was signed by 46 senior northern Adelaide doctors, who claimed that it was unsafe and not clinically viable. I am certainly not a doctor, and I take the advice of people who know these things far better than me. However, the way it was described to me was that, if a patient's condition requires

care in a high dependency unit, and they are in that high dependency unit and their condition deteriorates beyond that, possibly the only place for them to go from there is to an intensive care unit, which Modbury Hospital does not have.

It was put to me that if we were to have a high dependency unit at a hospital that does not have an intensive care unit, the risk is that you are putting patients into an ambulance at what is probably the most critical time in their care, and that is probably not where you would want to be. Having said that, the member for Croydon, then minister for health, made it very clear that, if the advice from those senior doctors was that it could be done safely, then we would support it.

Certainly, my own personal position is that, if the new government can produce some evidence (for want of a better word) from clinicians and doctors that they believe it can be done safely at Modbury Hospital, I of course would support an HDU being put into that hospital because, as the local member for the seat of Wright, I know what the people in my electorate want. They want more services in their local hospitals.

There were other commitments made in the area, not many actually in the seat of Wright. It seems to be largely forgotten each election by the Liberal Party. There were things around the seat of Wright that certainly would go to benefit the people in the seat of Wright, but very few things that were actually specific to my seat. One of those things was a commitment that was made first by the then Labor government to conduct a business case into extending the extending the rails from Tea Tree Plaza to Golden Grove. I assume by that we were probably referring to extending the rails to the village, now called the Grove.

From my own personal perspective, I am a huge supporter of the O-Bahn; I catch it quite regularly from Golden Grove. I have, of course, followed very closely and taken note of how long my travel times are now since the tunnel leading to the stops on Grenfell Street was opened. What I am saving in peak hour traffic is as many as 15 minutes one way. If you were to have a look on Facebook—

*Mr Cowdrey interjecting:*

**Mr BOYER:** The member for Colton seems very surprised. I do not think the O-Bahn goes to Colton. If you look at Facebook and talk to people who catch the service regularly in peak hour traffic, you will find that many other people are reporting time savings of exactly the same amount. A 15-minute one-way time saving and a return trip on a single day of up to half an hour is pretty significant. I remind people in the house that this was a tunnel that Nick Xenophon told us was a complete waste of money.

That was the commitment made by the then Labor government. Not long after, we saw the then opposition come out and copy the policy and say basically the same thing. Their commitment, though, is that the business case of sorts will be done by Infrastructure SA, which will look at the viability of extending those tracks. I think it will also look at the viability of, if not extending tracks, potentially having dedicated bus lanes, and I certainly support that as well.

However, I think it is very important that, given this new government's commitment to being transparent and accountable—certainly, in its words, more transparent and accountable than the previous government—then it is important that whatever findings are made by Infrastructure SA into the extension of the O-Bahn are released publicly so that not just people in this place but also residents in the north-east more broadly can see what the reasoning was for either supporting or not supporting that extension.

There was also a commitment made by first the Labor government and subsequently by the then Liberal opposition, which has been touched on by the member for King and the member for Newland, I believe, about Golden Grove Road and a much-needed repair to that road. I echo the sentiments of those two local members. In fact, the member for King and I probably do not live too far apart and both use that part of the north-east regularly. I certainly do.

Golden Grove Road is in a state of disrepair—at least the 3.4-kilometre section from Golden Grove to Surrey Downs is not at all in the same state as the previously upgraded part. There are lots of potholes, the lighting is inadequate, and there are no places on the side of the road for buses to pull over so that people can hop on and off. I am pretty confident in saying that the intersection of

Hancock Road and Golden Grove Road is probably one of the most dangerous intersections in the north-east. If we do not have a serious accident there soon, it will only be a matter of good luck. I see the member King nodding. Indeed, it is a very dangerous intersection. I am glad to see we will be getting a roundabout there.

If I could return to the O-Bahn very quickly, one more announcement was made by both parties during the election campaign concerning the O-Bahn and that is the park-and-ride at Golden Grove, which, for those who are unaware, is a piece of land opposite the village, now The Grove. Due to the exponential growth in the number of people in the north-east who use the O-Bahn, it is now regularly full of a morning and people who wish to park their cars there and hop on the O-Bahn to take them from Golden Grove down to Tea Tree Plaza where it hops on the rails cannot get a park.

We committed to increasing the number of car parks by 210 places, which as a member in the area I certainly welcomed. As has been the case with the other two or three commitments I have spoken about already, it was then followed not long after by the then Liberal opposition who said they would match what we had done, although I note that the number of car parking spaces that has been committed to by the new government is, I think, 400, which is 190 over and above what was announced by the Labor government. I do wonder how exactly the extra number of spaces is going to be delivered. I know that part of my territory very well.

To the north of that spot at the moment is a big development being built called Helping Hand, which is a residential aged-care home of 110 beds, and directly to the west is the North East Hockey Club. What I am worried about—and I certainly hope this is not case—is that the new government is going to encroach on the synthetic pitch at North East Hockey Club in order to be able to build the 190 extra car spaces on top of the ones committed to by the then Labor government. Nonetheless, I welcome the commitment to build extra car spaces there; it is really needed.

Given that I only have about three minutes left, I might go directly to the two commitments made by the then opposition that are in fact specific to the seat of Wright. It will not take me very long to talk about them because they are rather small commitments; nonetheless, they would be welcome. The first was a bus stop on Wynn Vale Drive in Gulfview Heights. For those who do not know the area, Wynn Vale Drive connects The Golden Way in Wynn Vale with Bridge Road in Salisbury East. Between those two points is Gulfview Heights, which is a very pretty spot that has beautiful views down over the plains and out to the gulf.

When I saw this commitment by the Liberal candidate, Mr Luigi Mesisca, who I might add is a very decent man, I thought it was a good idea. People in Gulfview Heights raised the same thing with me and I had always wondered why it was that we did not have a bus route that went up Wynn Vale Drive. People living in Gulfview Heights currently must walk up the hill to Wynn Vale, a very steep hill, or walk down the hill to Salisbury East to catch a bus.

I am going to seek confirmation of this from the new Minister for Transport, but I am concerned that the reason there is not a bus stop or a bus route there is that the bus cannot get through the roundabouts on Wynn Vale Drive, and what has been announced by the new government is a bus stop that will be sitting by itself and a bus stop to which no buses can get. I hope that the research has been done on that because at the moment there is no bus route on that road. I will be following with great interest what the government does in order to make sure that commitment can be delivered.

The final commitment specific to the seat of Wright by the new government was for a shade sail over the play equipment on Kestral Way in Modbury Heights. As the father of three young girls who spend a lot of time at playgrounds and who have all inherited their mother's very pale skin, I know how important shade sails are, and I wholeheartedly support that commitment and look forward to it being delivered.

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (11:46):** It is an unusual experience for me to stand and speak on a Supply Bill in the position that I am in; nevertheless, it is a welcome opportunity to put a couple of thoughts on the record. Of course, I will be supporting the Supply Bill, as everybody else will be in this place, because we want to see good government here in South Australia. Supply speeches are



broad in their range and scope. Without a budget to look at in this context, we do have to focus our thoughts on the '2036' document, which was taken to the election by the now government.

In listening to other candidates' contributions, I have heard the word 'mandate' used a lot lately. Of course, what the government actually has is a majority. It is very difficult to say anyone has a mandate on any one particular issue. While I will not, unfortunately, be happy to agree with everything they are going to put forward, I thoroughly agree with them on Modbury Hospital. They do, however, have a mandate on that most definitely in the north-eastern suburbs. I guess that is why I felt it necessary to speak this morning. It is very important for me that people understand the issues at Modbury Hospital as part of the whole Transforming Health package.

Without a very strong, well-run and well-resourced Modbury Hospital, we are not going to be able to make sure that Transforming Health works, particularly for the people of the north-eastern suburbs, which is where I am centred and the area I represent. While the Florey boundaries have moved quite considerably from my initial boundaries, they have only really gone back to what the original Florey looked like, and there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the people from all over the north-eastern suburbs have strong opinions about Modbury Hospital and how it needs to work to make sure that the Lyell McEwin Hospital also works.

Of course, there is the nub of the problem: Transforming Health saw Modbury Hospital make a great deal of sacrifice to make sure that Lyell McEwin Hospital could operate in the way we wanted to operate so that Transforming Health, which seemed okay on paper, would be the success that we all hoped it would be. As we all know, health is our biggest issue. If we do not supply good health services, we are not looking after our community.

I have just left a rally this morning where a lot of people are calling on governments of all persuasions to get behind the notion that Newstart is so low that it is not even worth considering how one could survive on a Newstart allowance with a family and that it is important for parties of all persuasions to get on board and to understand those issues, just as it is important for all parties to get on board and understand the issues behind health, Transforming Health and Modbury Hospital, more particularly.

If my situation had not changed at the time it did, it would have changed not long after because Modbury Hospital did become the major issue of the election for us, and rightly so. There were many people very concerned because, as we have heard other members say, they have moved out to the Modbury area to be close to the hospital and the services it provides. While there is absolutely no doubt that those people are mostly older people now, 40 per cent of the electorate is still under the age of 60 and therefore we need to look at services for the entire community. This is more so though, of course, because Modbury is becoming a hub, a centre of excellence, for gerontology and all sorts of care for older people who are recovering from operations and serious health issues, but it is also going to be there for good service to the whole community.

This brings us to the raft of policy initiatives announced on both sides. I think the defining moment, of course, was when the bricks fell off the corner of the front of the building. I heard various reasons that might have happened. One was that that was the corner that took the wind. Whenever the wind blows out our way that is the corner where the bricks get the treatment. Luckily for us, no-one was hurt in that episode. The bricks fell straight to the ground. They could have killed anyone walking around beside them and it is the only part of the building that has fallen apart in that fashion so far.

However, it has not been possible to get hold of an engineer's report. I am really looking forward to seeing the new government push ahead on that because that is really important, not just for the aesthetics of the front of the building but because they must be safe. I would hate to think that, in months to come, having been spring-cleaned or steam-cleaned, that that did something else to the render or mortar and then the next lot of bricks fell off. We do have to make sure that the building does not create its own patients. It would be a very sad state of affairs indeed.

It is great that we are having the outside looked at, but even greater is that the inside is going to be looked after. We all know that Modbury Hospital has been around for a very long time and it is a sadness for all of us in this place that it has not been possible for governments of any persuasion to spend a lot of money up there. Everyone is welcoming the fact that there is going to be a big

infrastructure spend, particularly in palliative care, which is going to be an issue that is going to unfortunately have a lot of people using it in the future. Again, it is a really good initiative.

However, the extended stay area in accident and emergency is a problem in that it has been announced three times and nothing has yet happened. You can only go to your community so often and say that this is going to happen. If it does not start to happen, then there is a problem in the announcement, the timing of the announcement or the tenacity behind the announcement. I am still waiting to see the extended area in accident and emergency appear.

The next problem I have is that the staff turnover at Modbury Hospital has become high. This is not a good thing in a hospital, where it is very good to have experienced staff on hand who know the area and the people and who know how a good hospital is run, so this is a very important issue for me now. The important thing to remember is that the new government has announced the importance of safety in these measures, as has the now opposition. They keep talking about the word 'safety'. What safety actually refers to is the resources put in place to make sure that services are working correctly, and I will go into that a little bit more in a moment.

Ramping does occur at Modbury Hospital; it is just that you do not hear very much about it because apparently, from what I hear from our friends in the ambulance association, Modbury has a very long corridor that allows everybody to be brought inside, so it is very unusual for them to be ramping in the same way as they ramp at Flinders Medical Centre or the Royal Adelaide Hospital or, indeed, from time to time, at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. But let's not pretend that ramping does not occur at every hospital because one of our biggest issues is to make sure that people can be discharged in a timely fashion so that beds are made available for people who need them to go upstairs or onto the wards for the work that they need done.

A lot has been said about the issue of high dependency or higher care at Modbury Hospital being returned, and a lot has been said about a paper from 46 doctors signing to say that it would not be safe, but of course the detail is the problem. It is not safe if it is not properly resourced. So it is going to be a very important job for all members in this house to make sure it is properly resourced, because when it comes back it will be a very important part of health care in the north, because without it you will not be able to support the services that you think will go into Modbury Hospital.

I want to talk a little bit about one of the reasons I hear trotted out regularly for not having higher care services returned to Modbury Hospital, and that is that you cannot have a higher care area without an intensive care area. All members here today know that this is just not the case. Many hospitals have higher care areas without intensive care areas. It is also important for you all to realise that, if that were the case, everybody who ever went into higher care would go up to intensive care, and that of course is not true: 80 per cent of the people who are in high care actually go back to the ward or are discharged, so we are looking at around 20 per cent, again an issue, but we have always had that issue at Modbury Hospital—you have always needed to be shifted if anything has to go further with your care or treatment.

These are the sorts of issues we need to unpack, we need to make sure that members are all on the same page, and we need to get behind the new government, make sure that these resources are available, that the higher care unit is available sooner rather than later and that the extended stay area in the accident and emergency area happens immediately. I will be watching the new government to make sure this is the case. We will not let that slip by either. It is a very important part of what we see needing to happen in the health area. As I said, I have just left the Newstart rally. If we can't supply our people good health care in a timely fashion, we are letting everybody down and we are failing in our role.

As we saw this morning, hardly a day goes by when you do not see some other story in the paper about what is going on, this time with pathology. I must declare a conflict of interest here in that my son works for South Australian Pathology, and I will be speaking to him in detail shortly to find out what is happening because, as we often find, truth is the first casualty in every story.

The only other thing I want to add to the Supply Bill debate is that I was most concerned to hear overnight that there may be some parts of the transmission of the Lands Titles Office that we were not aware of at the time. I will find that deeply distressing if that is the case. At the time I spoke up quite vociferously about the transfer of the Lands Titles Office. I must admit that, when it achieved

such a great sale price, I wondered what I did not know. I look forward to the government making sure that that is known as soon as possible, because it is going to be an important thing to be able to go out to the community to inform them exactly what has gone on with that particular transaction.

In closing, we want supply, we want the state to be working, we want the state to have good services, we want as many opportunities for our people as possible. We do not want people going to work or, worse, to school hungry, and we do want people to have the opportunity to have a decent job with decent wages, full-time. We know we have a large number of underemployed and unemployed people in the country.

We do not want to be facing issues in the winter season where people are hungry. We know that the demands on Foodbank and other resources, particularly in our area, now are serving a greater number of people in hidden poverty, people who are experiencing poverty from time to time. As that number starts to increase we will start to see and examine how we supply our services, how we have come to the point where we are not sharing resources as well as we might.

These are all very big problems that the new government has to deal with. I know that every member in this place will be working with you to make sure that the aspirations of our community are met as quickly as possible so that we all have a decent standard of living.

**Mr BROWN (Playford) (11:59):** I rise to support the passage of the Supply Bill. The government has introduced this legislation because it wants to appropriate \$6.6 billion to spend. What should it spend it on? We have some suggestions. In the short time available to me today, I would like to discuss some of the spending areas that are important to my electorate of Playford. Perhaps the government will take notice, but I despair that they probably will not.

First is the area of social housing. My electorate contains areas that have some of the highest levels of social housing anywhere in the state for people who need the assistance and the security that can only come when you know where you are going to be staying that night and when you know that you are going to have a roof over your head. Before I came to this place, I was lucky enough to work in the area of social housing policy in the office of the member for Ramsay, the then minister for social housing.

I found Housing SA to be an agency that was dedicated to making sure that as many South Australians as possible were able to know where they would be sleeping, that the stock they were caring for was kept in as good a condition as possible with the maintenance budget they possessed and that the services they provided were the most effective that they could be. Just this week, a national report on homelessness showed that South Australia luckily had one of the lowest growth rates in the number of homeless between 2011 and 2016.

While we can take some comfort that the increase was not as bad as it has been in other states, we must act to try to reverse the trend and reduce the number of South Australians who are homeless. It has also been well established that the provision of social housing support is an important tool in addressing domestic and family violence. By enabling those who have suffered domestic and family violence to have an option of an affordable place to live, many will choose to leave a potentially dangerous situation that they would otherwise not be able to, due to financial constraints.

We know that agencies like Housing SA, in cooperation with the non-government sector, are already providing excellent services to those who find themselves homeless in our state. We know the government has already promised to perform an audit of every asset owned by the Housing Trust. I hope that this is not an example of the government just working out what it can potentially sell. These homes are too important to be simply flogged off in some short-term fix for a budget suffering under the weight of unaffordable promises.

But the lives of so many of our most vulnerable South Australians should not be made intolerable simply so that those opposite can continue to preach their trickle-down economic theories. For example, one thing I hope the government spends some of its appropriation money on is the continuation of the previous government's plan to deliver renewable energy to social housing. During the recent election campaign, I received an overwhelmingly positive response to this policy, not only

from those who are likely to receive assistance to install solar panels and batteries but also from the public at large.

I spoke to a number of people during the campaign whose view was that not only was this an important social policy initiative but that the distributed nature of the proposal would help grid stability and reduce prices overall. I say to the government: do not just junk this policy because you did not come up with it. Deliver it as organised by the previous government. The way has been prepared for you. You just need to put partisanship aside, say thank you and follow up on the good work already done by some of the best and brightest available in our state.

Another priority area of policy and spending for my electorate is that of education. Due to the policies of the previous government, schools in my electorate were able to receive an allocation of considerable funds with which to upgrade their facilities. Take, for example, Parafield Gardens High School. Parafield Gardens High is a fantastic school, with students from dozens of countries all over the world and from extremely diverse backgrounds and cultures. They come together to advance themselves and our society through the pursuit of knowledge and the acquirement of skills. They may not have the financial resources of students who go to other schools across our state, but I wager they have as just as much dedication as those anywhere else.

One of my first acts upon becoming a candidate for this place was to attend the school's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. There I met not only the students but also the very dedicated staff. One of the very first things they told me was about their ambition for their school to have a new hall, one that could be used not only by students but by the whole community and one that would be big enough, so that school graduations no longer had to be held in Elizabeth because there was currently no facility existing in the City of Salisbury that was of an adequate size.

I passed on their concerns to the then minister, the member for Port Adelaide, and asked the school to do the same through the department. It was therefore extremely pleasing for me to see that the previous government had listened to the students and staff of Parafield Gardens High School and provided \$10 million of funds for the construction of a new hall which not only would be suitable for school assemblies and arts performances but would also be available for the community to use.

One of the other schools in my electorate, right next door to Parafield Gardens High School, is Parafield Gardens R-7 School. Due to an increase in enrolments, capacity has been an issue at this school and it has also suffered from a lack of dedicated music facilities. The previous government allocated funds of \$6 million for the upgrade of the facilities at this school. I was fortunate enough to have students from that school here at Parliament House for a tour. I can tell members that they were among the most engaged and well-prepared students I have ever taken on a Parliament House tour and, during my time as a member of staff of various members of parliament, I have done quite a few.

Another school in my electorate seeking funds for the establishment of a more specifically targeted performance base is Para Hills High School. During the commonwealth program Building the Education Revolution, they submitted detailed plans for the building of a performing arts centre that would have been the envy of schools throughout the nation. Although they were lucky enough to get short-listed to the final five nationally, unfortunately they were unsuccessful. After this experience they despaired of ever seeing enough funding for the construction of the performing arts space that so many students and teachers so desperately wanted. It was, therefore, great news for Para Hills High School that \$5 million was made available for just that purpose.

Last, but not least, of the schools that were successfully funded to be upgraded was the local primary school, Mawson Lakes School. The school is extremely popular and thanks to the support of the previous local member, the member for Port Adelaide, the school was able to secure funding for some extra demountable buildings to increase capacity. Thanks to Building Better Schools—and here I would like to thank the previous treasurer, the member for West Torrens—\$6 million was allocated so that Mawson Lakes School can not only plan to replace these demountable classrooms with new permanent structures but can also build a new learning hub and upgrade the school's IT infrastructure. This is a fantastic result for the local community in Mawson Lakes.

There has been much speculation about the plans the schools have developed for the expenditure of money from the Building Better Schools program. I urge the state government to respect the views of the schools and not divert funds to pay for their statewide education promises.

The other area that I would like to talk about today is that of community safety. We have seen over the last 16 years how a government can transform the administration of justice in this state. When the previous government came to office in 2002, our state had suffered through an unprecedented period when the Brown-Olsen-Kerin government had made community safety such a low priority that police officers were forced to march in the streets simply to get a fair result from their enterprise bargaining negotiations with the government.

Luckily for the people of South Australia, the government, led first by Mike Rann and then by the member for Cheltenham, made the safety of citizens a higher priority. It is worth considering the extra resources allocated to our police over that 16-year period. The previous government oversaw a 139 per cent increase in the South Australia Police budget from \$369,372,000 in 2002 to \$822,400,000 in 2014, and then to a record \$886,400,000 in 2018. This has enabled the recruitment of close to 1,000 extra sworn officers, with officer numbers rising from 3,729 sworn officers in 2002 to 4,480 sworn officers in 2014, and then to 4,713 sworn officers and community constables in 2018.

These numbers have given South Australia Police the highest operational staff per capita of any Australian state, with 333 operational staff per 100,000 people. Importantly, the former government has ensured that this increase in police numbers is representative of South Australian society, with 50 per cent of the cadets starting at the Police Academy in 2017 being female. Budget increases have also included \$19 million for SAPOL's acquisition of new technologies such as facial recognition technology, a statewide rollout of body-worn cameras for front-line police, tablets for police officers to use—and I note that the ability for police to take and examine evidence out in the field has dramatically increased their efficiency—as well as world-leading, infrared sensor technology for the SAPOL helicopters.

Resources have also been used to rollout protective vests for police dogs and open new police stations at Henley Beach and Murray Bridge. New technologies introduced by the former government over the 16 years have also included the use of point-to-point speed cameras, which have served to boost the safety of roads right across South Australia. These extra resources for front-line policing have been complemented by enhanced police powers. These have included new powers for the management of antisocial behaviour in declared public precincts and increased powers for roadside drug testing, resulting in around 50,000 roadside drug tests each year.

There have also been new powers for police to prevent and respond to terror incidents and tough anti-biker gang legislation, which I hope the new government will properly implement. The previous government also sought to react to the behaviour of so-called 'hoon' drivers with new powers to clamp and impound their cars. The former government also established a permanent gun amnesty. This measure, along with historic reforms of our firearm legislation and regulations, achieved the dual goal of protecting the community from gun crime and clarifying the regulations on the possession, use and storage of guns for gun owners.

The former government also presided over the establishment of a nation-leading Multi-Agency Protection Service (MAPS). This innovative service has put together elements of SAPOL and other government agencies to ensure a coordinated response in high risk cases involving domestic violence and child protection. In this respect, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of former police commissioner Gary Burns. Former commissioner Burns went on a trip to the United Kingdom, observed the operation of the MAPS model overseas and was immediately struck by how effective it was and how it would be effective in South Australia. On returning from overseas, he lobbied very hard with the previous government for the introduction of MAPS, and I am very pleased that the government listened to his request.

It is important for the community to respond to these sorts of issues together, and this principle motivated the previous government to increase the funding of Neighbourhood Watch SA. This has resulted in the hiring of dedicated staff and an increased online presence, which has done a great deal to revitalise this important grassroots institution and provide the community with a forum to discuss and engage in the issues of community safety.

I know personally, as I am sure many members of this house do, of the good work our Neighbourhood Watch groups do. I am proud to be a member of the Mawson Lakes Neighbourhood Watch group, and I also regularly attend the Para Hills group in my electorate. Both those groups have benefited from the support of the extra resources we have provided. The Labor Party's privatisation of community safety in these ways has had a remarkable and profound effect on life in South Australia. We are extremely proud of the work of the previous government in this area and the empirical effect it has had on crime in South Australia.

Over the past 15 years, we have seen a 30.5 per cent drop in the state's overall crime rate and a 50 per cent drop in crimes against persons and property. During this time, the incidence of fatalities and serious injuries on our roads has also fallen significantly. We also appreciate that community safety does not end with a well-equipped, properly staffed police force or with community engagement, or indeed with a low rate of crime. The former government took a more strategic approach to combatting the rate of recidivism.

This included funding the ReBoot program which operated to ensure that young offenders who had come into contact with the criminal justice system were diverted to specific rehabilitation services. Programs such as ReBoot have ensured that South Australia enjoys a return to prison rate of 36.9 per cent, the lowest rate in the nation and far better than the national average of 44.6 per cent. South Australia's rate of return to corrective services is also far better than the national average at 46.1 per cent versus 52.6 per cent.

The previous government was also acutely aware of the impact crime can and does have on members of the community. In appreciation of this impact, the former government doubled the maximum payments available to victims of crime to \$100,000. A good example of the root-and-branch approach to community safety taken by the former government is the approach taken to tackle the prevalence of ice in our community. It is something I know only too well due to my involvement with the community in Parafield Gardens.

In response to this issue, the previous government established the Ice Taskforce, which concentrated front-line police resources while also providing an \$8 million commitment towards funding support for families, additional counselling and rehabilitation, and building education and prevention strategies within community groups and grassroots sporting clubs. Prevention is better than cure, and these measures have been complemented by legislation to curb the supply of ice through the development of new national regulations to restrict the sale of the chemicals used to manufacture ice. This approach demonstrates the sophisticated and comprehensive response required for issues of community safety.

In supporting the Supply Bill, it is my sincere hope that this new government will be mindful of the undeniably positive impact which has resulted for the community through our properly resourced police force and a more practical and less ideological approach to community safety which were the hallmarks of the past Labor government. I commend the bill to the house.

**Mr GEE (Taylor) (12:16):** I rise today to speak about the Supply Bill. I support this bill, which relates to the provision of \$6.6 billion of funds to operate the public services in South Australia. The bill lays out the basic expenditure for the operation of state government over the next year. The same as a household might budget the mortgage or rent payments, electricity, gas, water, council rates, telephone and other services, this all occurs before a household considers discretionary or enhanced spending.

The problem, as I see it, is that the government is not providing any details of what they are going to use the \$6.6 billion for. Something that all South Australians know is that you obviously cannot spend money that you do not have, so it is important that this bill is passed. In the Mid-Year Budget Review last year, the predicted result for the end of the 2017-18 year was a \$40 million surplus. We now know that in the first two months of the Liberal state government they are now predicting a deficit at the end of the 2017-18 year. This is despite a significant increase in GST revenue.

We have heard that this government will inherit an additional \$150 million in the current financial year for the operations and cost pressures within SA Health and a specifically allocated further \$24 million for child protection activities and cost pressures also in the current financial year.

If a deficit is delivered for the 2017-18 financial year, it will clearly be seen that this government is either inept, has not been able to adjust to government—

**Mr Duluk:** Did you read my speech from last year?

**Mr GEE:** I always read everybody's speeches—or believes that just playing political games is more important than providing stability for South Australians. The former Labor government, when it came to office in 2002, delivered responsible financial management for our state with appropriate expenditure and the elimination of state government debt. This continued for the next 16 years. I probably do not need to remind members that the current Treasurer, when he last held office as state treasurer, delivered four state deficit budgets that totalled nearly \$1 billion.

I want to turn to aspects of the economy. I will start with a portfolio area that I am quite passionate about, which is education. The former Labor government invested heavily in our schools and, as every Labor administration does, they invested in significant upgrades to most of the schools here in South Australia. In and near my electorate, the former government delivered two brand-new schools: John Hartley School and the nearby Mark Oliphant College. Both these schools have proved extremely popular, as has the almost brand-new Lake Windemere B-7 school, led by Michelle Lennox who, along with her immediate committed group of teachers and school service officers, does an amazing job.

There has also been a \$5 million upgrade to Swallowcliffe Primary School, where the strong and passionate Tonia Noble leads the way; a \$1 million upgrade to the very multicultural Burton Primary School, overseen by Alison Lynch; and a \$1 million upgrade to provide improved STEM facilities at Two Wells Primary School, where Lynda Fitzpatrick-Brown delivers leadership for our children. The former state government also invested \$1 million at One Tree Hill Primary School and Elizabeth Downs Primary School.

There were further significant multimillion dollar upgrades at Craigmore High School and Playford International College. In fact, both schools have and will see significant change, including a significant positive turnaround in enrolments and results. Graduations at both schools now see over 90 per cent of students achieving their SACE—in fact, it is over 95 per cent—compared with the past, when I can recall graduations were as low as 35 per cent.

There was also the installation of security fences at most schools across the state, allowing the community to access school ovals while protecting the school buildings from vandalism and arson. This program was conceived and implemented by my predecessor as the member for Napier, Michael O'Brien, following a large fire at the Elizabeth Park Primary School. I also remember a large fire at the Unley High School, and other schools, prior to the widespread introduction of school fences. Before we had that fencing, I remember that vandalism, fires, theft and graffiti were a weekly occurrence. Now these sorts of things are rare at the schools in the north, and I suspect across most schools in the state.

It would be remiss of me, when talking about the Supply Bill, not to mention our teachers, school service officers and site leaders. These professions, along with early childhood educators, play such an important role in shaping the future of our society. The appropriate funding of our schools, with quality resources and facilities for students, is important, but, more important are our teachers and school services officers.

I also want to acknowledge the educational leaders in Taylor whom I have not yet recognised: the very talented Iliia Tsoutouras at Virginia Primary School; the passionate Sharon Rich at Angle Vale Primary School; local bloke Rick Jarman at Trinity College, Gawler River; the committed Jo Everett at the John Hartley School; Leanne Carr at St Columba College; and I am yet to meet the new principal at St Patrick's Technical College, Danny Deptula, but catching up with him very soon is on the cards.

As we all know, the federal Liberal government has cut education funding across Australia, so we need to ensure that in the upcoming budget this state government does not further cut educational funding and actually pledges funding for more teachers and more school services officers. Education funding must not be cut. We need to encourage young people to choose teaching as a career and to pursue their teaching career here in South Australia. One of the best ways for this

government to achieve this outcome is to ensure that more teachers and school services officers can achieve permanency. Further, we also need to ensure that our educators and school services officers can undertake appropriate professional development, to provide them with higher qualifications and skills to assist students with wellbeing, mental health issues, behavioural issues and learning difficulties.

The former government also invested heavily in literacy and numeracy, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics. To improve the performance of our students, the former state government also invested in extra places for students with a disability, including a new Adelaide North Special School led by a very passionate leader in Byron Stuu. On this side of the house, we want to ensure that the government continues to deliver better outcomes for our children and grandchildren, including delivering their commitments in the Literacy Guarantee policy.

I am sure the government wants to have the best educated and trained teachers educating our children and grandchildren and have them using the latest technology and techniques to further improve literacy, numeracy and STEM outcomes. We also want to ensure that the proposed coaches, workshops and conferences linked to the Literacy Guarantee policy focus not only on the basic skills and students with dyslexia but also on wellbeing, mental health, autism and other learning and behavioural difficulties so that they can provide the latest knowledge on these challenges to parents and their peers.

The state government has committed to honour all the Building Better Schools commitments that the former Labor government announced, and I commend them, because this will make our communities stronger. Locally, they include \$5 million to Elizabeth North Primary School, led by the very committed Graham Wood; \$12 million to Paralowie R-12 School; \$10 million each to Salisbury High School and Craigmore High School; and \$3 million to Playford International College. I hope the school governing councils and leadership teams can continue to invest the funding in the areas of need that they have identified for their schools.

I will now speak about employment, jobs and businesses. As I have said previously, I have been lucky to have been employed continuously since I was 14 years of age, but not everybody is so lucky. As elected officials, we need to ensure that we are doing all we can every day to promote economic growth and the development of employment opportunities for South Australians. I am proud that South Australia's economic growth outperformed the nation in the 2016-17 financial year, and that is expected to occur again in the 2017-18 financial year. The previous state government also delivered 30 months of consecutive job growth and record levels of business confidence.

Business confidence is currently threatened under the new state government, as they have created investment uncertainty. The announcement on coming to government that they will review all the grants and loans provided as part of the Future Jobs Fund, and potentially other programs, make investment in South Australia a risk.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr GEE:** Yes, I know, you think that is funny.

**Mr Pederick:** Who writes your stuff?

**Mr GEE:** You still think you are in opposition.

**Mr Pederick:** No, we don't.

**Mr GEE:** Yes, you need to be serious about these things.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr GEE:** One day the sun will come up and you will wake up and you will realise you are in charge, that you are responsible. The state government is failing to understand that the commentary about not picking winners or the government not being a bank does not encourage businesses to look to South Australia when considering spending or investment. Further, South Australian businesses are very concerned about the current business environment in South Australia.

Our state needs businesses to be investing in South Australia, creating jobs and employing local workers. This should be occurring, as changes made by the previous government made South



Australia the most competitive place in Australia and one of the leading places in the Asia-Pacific to do business, but under the current government this is at risk.

**Mr Pederick:** You have to try to keep the facts right.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond, could you refrain from interjecting, please. Continue, member for Taylor.

**Mr GEE:** Thank you for your protection, Deputy Speaker. It is pleasing to see that the state government is promising small business tax relief, which was also offered by the previous state government, although like all policies it is doubtful that this will be delivered in the time frame outlined by the state government, as they continue to provide a diverse mix of answers in relation to this policy and its implementation.

As a former small business owner for five years, I know that small changes to taxation or other business costs can have a big impact on small businesses. Other policies, such as the proposed deregulation of shop trading hours, will also have a negative impact on small businesses, particularly retail stores. It is timely to note that retail consumption has been strong across the last 18 months, but it will not be further strengthened by changes to shopping hours, as households only have so much money to spend. While I am talking about the amount that households have to spend, I will turn to the emergency services levy and council rate capping.

It should be no surprise to any member in this place that households in South Australia and across the nation are suffering from cost-of-living pressures. It is therefore important that the commitments made by the state government in relation to the ESL are clear for the community to understand, and that they are delivered. As my colleague the member for Lee mentioned in his contribution on Tuesday evening, the state government has so far announced four policy positions in relation to the ESL. ESL reductions are suppose to occur at the start of the new financial year so will impact on the Supply Bill as a state budget will still be several months away. My residents need certainty and not four possible policy positions.

Local government rate capping is another area where the state government has announced a proposal, a thought bubble, but no details. How many local councils plan their budget and their forward estimates if they have no idea what course the state government will take? The Liberal Party say that they are about more jobs, lower costs and better services, yet their rate capping proposal will likely deliver fewer local services, see a reduction in jobs, and may or may not deliver lower costs. The government has been found wanting on this and on so many other policies. I will now talk about infrastructure, which is where there is a huge contrast between the former and current state governments.

It seems clear that in next year's Supply Bill there will be less funding for the infrastructure as this state government stalls the infrastructure spend in South Australia. The Liberal state government will create a valley of death for construction workers, just as their federal colleagues did in the defence industry. The former government delivered a large but responsible infrastructure spend that created and maintained thousands of jobs. The infrastructure spend, particularly in the city of Adelaide, along with an increase in world-class events in Adelaide and across South Australia, has driven tourism growth. The former government transformed the city of Adelaide by upgrading the Adelaide Oval, which the Liberals opposed—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Excuse me, member for Taylor. I ask members to listen in silence to the contribution of the member for Taylor. Thank you.

**Mr GEE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We invested in the Riverbank, again something the Liberals opposed. We delivered a world-class city hospital, which the Liberals opposed, and invested significantly in the upgrade of the Festival Plaza Precinct and the Adelaide Convention Centre. There are also small bars, the tram extension and the footbridge. These investments have significantly benefited our state.

The previous government also delivered the Port River Expressway, the Northern Expressway and the South Road Superway, which were delivered with contributions from the federal government, along with the Gallipoli Underpass and the dual lane Southern Expressway, and of course many other projects. Currently underway is the Northern Connector project, plus the Torrens

to Torrens and Darlington projects, both of which attracted an 80:20 funding split between the federal and state governments.

This is better than the 50:50 agreement achieved by the current state government for the Regency Road to Pym Street upgrade. As we know from the recent federal budget, there is very little funding in the forward estimates for this section of South Road, or for the remainder of South Road between the River Torrens and Darlington. This is despite the Liberals setting a deadline of 2023 for the completion of the full project from Gawler to Old Noarlunga.

One project I get asked about regularly is the electrification of the railway line from Adelaide to Gawler—another project that will not be troubling a supply bill in coming years, as most of the federal contribution is beyond the forward estimates. We have had some positive steps with the former Labor government funding the rail electrification from Adelaide to Salisbury. It looked like the federal government was finally going to step up and fund the remainder of the line, but once again the Liberals have failed South Australia and the residents of Adelaide's north.

Health is an area of the budget that we all hope our families and friends do not have much interaction with, as we hope that everyone remains healthy and does not need to use our hospitals. However, we all know that at some point in our life we will have an interaction with the health system. It may be that our wife or partner is having a baby, our parents have had a heart attack, a stroke or other sickness or injury. Mr Deputy Speaker, I can tell you that, if I were to require hospital treatment, I would hope I was close to the Lyell McEwin because, while we have outstanding public hospitals in South Australia, I believe the Lyell McEwin Hospital is one of the best.

It is very relevant to talk about health as part of this debate as it consumes a significant amount of the state budget. As far as health is concerned, I am going to talk specifically about vertical fiscal imbalance, health services and mental health and suicide. I mention vertical fiscal imbalance because it is well known that a significant amount of funding for health comes from the federal government, as they have a greater ability to raise revenue. Therefore, the cuts that the federal government have made to health and education over the last few years—the savings from which they are now passing on to big businesses as corporate tax cuts—are very regrettable as are some of the decisions that this new government is making regarding health.

I call on the state government to ensure that, while they are investing in the Repat, Modbury and The QEH, they continue to increase funding and services at the Lyell McEwin and Gawler hospitals as demand increases at these hospitals. I also hope to see appropriate resources provided for services to assist South Australians with mental health concerns who are experiencing suicidal thoughts. Many members have spoken in the last few weeks, particularly members representing rural electorates, about residents experiencing concerns with mental health and suicide. I am afraid, Deputy Speaker, I will have to close down my presentation.

Time expired.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (12:37):** I rise of course to support this very important bill. As we heard from other members, it is asking of the parliament that the government appropriates \$6.6 billion. As far as I am aware—and I have been listening to the speakers on the other side—we have not really been given a clue about exactly what it will be spent on.

**Mr Pederick:** That's how it works.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Is that right?

**Mr Pederick:** You did it for 16 years. Have a look; you were there.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Continue, member for Elizabeth. No interjections please.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Thank you, I appreciate your protection, sir. He is getting extremely boisterous. You should be on the front bench, mate; I can barely hear you. That being the case, there was not even the courtesy of briefing the shadow treasurer, as I understand.

**An honourable member:** Shame!

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Shame indeed. I might start by making a few suggestions about how these funds might be spent by talking a little about my own electorate and my own experience in it. Road safety, as members may know, is a genuine passion of mine. It is one of those issues which I think just bubbles away under the surface for all of us in our electorates. As we doorknock, we talk to people about the larger issues around health, the economy and jobs, of course, but road safety is always bubbling away underneath.

I listened with interest to the member for King's speech, her Address In Reply or it could have been her contribution to this debate. She talked about Skyline Drive in Hillbank, one of the areas where she concentrated, concerning road safety. Hillbank is an area that I know very well, as the member for King will know. It brought to mind a time very early in my first term. One of the first things I did was to change some of the traffic conditions around Skyline Drive because, as the member for King said, it is a notorious blackspot area.

One of the very first things I did as an MP was write to the then minister, the former member for Newland, who was very quick off the mark and was able to very effectively fix the problem, which was that large trucks coming down from the quarry would speed past Skyline Drive before settling down to a more pleasant speed of 60 close to Main North Road. We were able to slow those trucks down further up Black Top Drive. I give credit where credit is due: if the member for King is making that intersection even safer through her relationship with the Minister for Transport, then good luck to her, and I support her on that.

My interest and passion in road safety come out of my experience as a police officer. When I first started at the academy, my dream, as is the case for a lot of young people going into the police force, was to be a major crime detective, someone who dealt with proper crooks.

**Ms Cook:** And you are.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Indeed, I am dealing with proper crooks every day, as the member for Hurtle Vale rightly observes. I very quickly came to the realisation that the much maligned traffic police do an excellent job in keeping our community safe. I have seen them firsthand and I would not do their job for quids, to be honest.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr ODENWALDER:** That is right; indeed, some of the other police have it easy, in retrospect, in the sense that they do not, as a matter of course, attend awful accident scenes. That experience turned my head around in terms of road safety and I now recognise that it is a very important issue. As I said, in all our electorates it is one of those issues the bubbles away under the surface. With that in mind, there have been some initiatives in my electorate. There has been some spending on some road safety initiatives.

In one of my newer areas of Craigmore, following representations from the former member for Napier, now member for Taylor, a roundabout is being installed as we speak on the corner of Blair Park Drive and Yorktown Road. It is not without its controversy, as a lot of people were discussing the fact that it slows down traffic and that sort of thing. It is immediately adjacent to a shopping centre. It is immediately next to a large and rapidly growing Christian school. However, on balance, I think the residents there recognise the need for it. There is a lot of congestion around there, particularly around school time, which I will get to later. I think it is a welcome thing. Roundabouts generally—and this is a personal view, but I think it is borne out by the research—keep traffic flowing better than traffic lights, which some people prefer.

Following on from that and following on from public meetings about this particular roundabout, a second roundabout is on the wish list, further down Yorktown Road, on the corner of Adams Road and Yorktown Road. Anyone who knows Craigmore at all knows that that is a very important arterial route out of Blakeview and Craigmore. It is in desperate need of some sort of traffic control measure.

Again, people are suggesting traffic lights. I would moot that a roundabout is a much more sensible approach. It is immediately adjacent to Eastern Park Football Club as well. I do not think traffic lights would be a good solution. The traffic banks up very quickly and sometimes unpredictably. I think a roundabout would be much more self-regulating. That is something that I was beginning to

pursue with the previous government and it is something that I will start pursuing with the current government. We will see how far we get.

Similarly, there was a need for a roundabout at the corner of Harvey Road and Ridley Road in Elizabeth Grove. This is the very area where I learnt to drive. It is an area of very long straight roads which intersect and, for that very reason, it is very dangerous. Cars routinely go through these intersections at great speeds. Harvey Road is essentially a racetrack running through Elizabeth Grove from the Vale to Elizabeth City Centre, crossing Ridley Road. I am glad that in the last year of our government we received some funding to put in a roundabout there.

Following that and following community meetings, there have been some representations from local residents, including a former mayor, who is insistent that we put the roundabout in the wrong place and that it should have been further down the road, on the corner of Harvey and Judd roads. I think she is right, and I think the other residents are right, in that that is also a particularly dangerous area. That is something else I will be pursuing with the Minister for Transport.

I mentioned schools earlier. Parking and road safety around schools are of major concern for us all. In the old days when I was going to school, most kids would walk to school. Nowadays, that is no longer the case, sometimes for very good reasons—for safety reasons or people are more time poor. Traffic congestion around our schools has grown exponentially over the last 20 years. We as a legislature need to confront this as a big problem when we are planning schools or when we are retrofitting developments around schools.

The previous government did recognise this. Some election commitments, which my electorate was lucky enough to be part of, were made around road safety around schools, particularly schools in Blakeview and Craigmore. There are two conglomerates of schools in Blakeview and Craigmore. There is the Playford Primary School and Catherine McAuley School joint campus—a Catholic school and a private school—and there is also Park Lake Boulevard, which has three schools including two high schools and a childcare centre all within a space of a couple of hundred metres. We made a commitment, if re-elected, of a share of \$2 million to resolve the parking issues around the Playford Primary and Catherine McAuley conglomeration.

Adams Road, which bounds the schools on the western side, is a car park in the morning. As I said before in relation to the roundabout, it is a major artery out of Craigmore and Blakeview and it comes to a standstill every morning. People are double parked, sometimes triple parked across that road. People even park in the kiss and drop zone. In the afternoon, similarly, parents arrive generally up to an hour or 1½ hours before the end of school simply to get a park so their kids can find them.

I held a public meeting with representatives of the school council and others in relation to trying to resolve this issue and I stupidly scheduled the meeting for 2 o'clock in the afternoon. I was quickly told that it was impossible because no-one would make it to the meeting at 2 o'clock in the afternoon because they would all be parked outside the school. Somerset Grove, which bounds it on the eastern side, is similarly congested. In that case, it is more of a problem for residents. It is less of an arterial road but a major problem for residents.

So the schools got involved: Playford Primary School and Catherine McCauley School both got involved. Students started school projects about how we could spend our share of this \$2 million in terms of ameliorating some of these traffic problems. As part of what I would be doing anyway during an election campaign, I was calling everybody in the local area and doorknocking, looking for solutions. We were some way towards finding a solution in terms of a car park on Somerset Grove, which would have taken some of the traffic off it; however, the Labor government was not re-elected. I will, of course, be making representations to the current transport minister, who I know is an honourable man and will recognise the great need for some solutions to the traffic problems around those schools.

Similarly, on Park Lake Boulevard in Craigmore, there is a major traffic problem around schools. Craigmore High School is there, along with Trinity College Blakeview and Blakeview Primary School. There are major problems. That stretch of road has always been a problem. It is a single-lane road with some pedestrian crossings basically servicing two large high schools, a fairly large

primary school and a childcare centre as well. For a while, it has been recognised that it needs to be a larger solution to that problem. We have been attacking it incrementally.

Blakeview Primary School, as part of the Fund My Neighbourhood program last year, entered a proposal to extend their car park. I am glad to say that that was one of the successful Fund My Neighbourhood projects, along with some other pedestrian and cycle paths around those schools. In the process of doorknocking around there, getting to know the residents, parents and the school community better, since they are in my new areas, it has become pretty apparent that this is an area that needs to be looked at.

There needs to be a major traffic study. I know that council have looked at it in the past. I know that the office for the member for Wakefield have looked at it. I think this needs to be pursued with some more vigour, particularly as those schools grow and as fewer and fewer parents allow their kids to walk to school. The school fence around Craigmore High School, too, has had an unexpected effect of channelling children out through one gate.

In the old days, of course—I do not know if other members will remember—the school fences were very low and children would scatter in all directions. Now children are channelled across Park Lake Boulevard and so, as an unintended consequence, it has actually made the traffic problems along there worse, so that does need attention. Similarly, Elizabeth Vale Primary School approach the council on a regular basis attempting to get traffic control solutions on their council roads surrounding their school. So far they have been knocked back, but they will continue to pursue that.

I have talked to the primary school many times about this. From memory, I believe they also had a Fund My Neighbourhood project around this, which unfortunately was not successful, but we will keep trying. Finally, on the issue of traffic lights, there is a traffic situation on John Rice Avenue, immediately adjacent to my office and the Lyell McEwin Hospital, where for a long time there have been two roads that intersect—John Rice Avenue and Haydown Road. They are very busy roads and it is also a bus route. Obviously, there are ambulances coming in and out. It has needed fixing for a long time and I am sorry that I have not been able to fix it so far.

It has been perennially listed on the blackspot funding list, always to be pushed out of the top 10, pipped at the post every time at the last minute. We keep trying. We eventually arrived at a kind of solution, which is a pedestrian crossing a bit further up, but I think that is something we still need to look at, particularly in terms of the growth of the Lyell McEwin Hospital, as the member for Taylor alluded to. It is much busier than it used to be. Of course, there are ambulances in and out at all hours of the day. One of the unintended consequences of the demise of Holden is that John Rice Avenue is less congested, so perhaps the argument for traffic lights has lessened a little. I might have to look at the accident stats, but I will certainly be pursuing that in the near future.

In regard to sports clubs in my electorate, I suggest that the current government could do worse than funding female change facilities in some of the sports clubs in my electorate. There are some very large sports clubs, including Central District Football Club, which some of you might have heard of. Before the election, I got a commitment from the government for half a million dollars for female change facilities. I went out there and announced it, but, sadly, we were not elected. I need to begin discussions with Central District about how we pursue this now. They are insistent on their need for female change facilities. They want to be a part of growing women's footy, particularly in light of the success of the women's AFL and—

*Ms Cook interjecting:*

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Indeed. I will be supporting them in that in any way that I can. Similarly, there is the Elizabeth Football Club. While it is a smaller club, I also gained a commitment that, if re-elected, we would provide half a million dollars for female change facilities at the Elizabeth Football Club, which may seem extreme until you realise that the Elizabeth Football Club is on a site that also hosts the Elizabeth Downs Soccer Club, which I understand is one of the biggest amateur soccer clubs in the metropolitan area, and also the Craigmore Cricket Club. The discussions I had with the Elizabeth Football Club were that the Craigmore Cricket Club and the Elizabeth Downs Soccer Club would also have use of these facilities. I know that the Elizabeth Downs Soccer Club are very keen to expand their women's and girls' participation.

I would talk about the promises the Liberals made in my seat, but unfortunately—I am not playing politics here—they just did not make any. They preselected, as far as I am aware anyway, after the writs were issued and, as far as I am aware, made no promises at all. This is despite what I alluded to in my Address in Reply speech about Elizabeth hitting some pretty hard times in recent years with the closure of Holden, which the previous government did respond to. Holden, to their credit, responded to it, too. We responded with an Automotive Transformation Taskforce and money for the restructuring of subsidiary industries.

Unfortunately, we could not stop the closure of Holden. That was a fait accompli before the election rolled around, but we looked at restructuring existing industries. We also looked at giving the Industry Advocate more powers and restructuring the way tenders are conducted in relation to large infrastructure projects. Again, I recognise Industry Advocate Ian Nightingale's role in this to ensure that so many of the people on these large infrastructure projects, including the Northern Connector project that I was involved with in a peripheral way, were from local areas.

I think, at the last count, more than 90 per cent of the workers on the Northern Connector project were South Australian workers. Well over 50 per cent, which was the target, were from the northern suburbs, and that included former auto workers. It was really satisfying to be involved in that project, to promote it in my electorate and to tell people that this was a project where people from the northern suburbs could get jobs.

There were targets. You could log on to the NorthHub website, and you were already ahead of the game if you lived in the northern suburbs. This is a turnaround from years ago, when there was some criticism of some projects that did not have the same amount of local content. This was a perceived problem and something we addressed, particularly in light of the demise of Holden. Similarly, the Lyell McEwin was the subject of heavy investment by the previous government, as the member for Taylor alluded to.

Just last year, we announced a further \$50 million to expand the emergency department and, importantly, as part of that, to separate children into separate areas from adults and drug-affected patients. It will be really interesting to see how that progresses. I sincerely hope the current government will continue to invest in the Lyell McEwin. The northern suburbs are growing and they need the best health care.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Wortley.

*Personal Explanation*

**SUPPLY BILL 2018**

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (12:57):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**Mr BOYER:** During my contribution to the Supply Bill, I commented that the new government had committed to increasing the number of car parking spaces at the Golden Grove park-and-ride by 400. In fact, it is increasing it to 400.

*Sitting suspended from 12:57 to 14:00.*

*Question Time*

**POLICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUMS**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:01):** Mr Speaker, you will be shocked to know that my question is to the Minister for Police.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** For absolute clarity, are there notes taken by the minister's senior staff member from 16 April at the southern suburbs community forum? Very simple.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Fair question. The minister has the call. Members on my right will be quiet.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:01):** Yes.

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

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:01):** Supplementary: were the notes taken on the night of 16 April?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:02):** Yes.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### **EMPLOYMENT FIGURES**

**Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (14:02):** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the house on news that the number of South Australians employed increased last month, and what action is the government taking to create jobs for the future?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:02):** I thank the member for Kavel for his question. Employment is a very important issue. It was the number one issue at the most recent election. It was one that we fought very hard on. We took some excellent policies, as you would be aware, sir, to the election, and we are very pleased today with the employment figures that came out. I would like to update the house that we learn today that the number of South Australians employed increased by 1,330 in April in trend terms. This is very good news for the people of South Australia. If we look at it in terms of seasonally adjusted figures, there were an additional 2,700 South Australians who were employed.

*Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** We are absolutely delighted. I did try to have a look at the number of people employed during the last month of the previous Labor government because they are often beating their chest. Actually, it went backwards by 5,640 in seasonally adjusted figures, so it's quite a large turnaround. Nevertheless, sir, as you would be aware, these numbers do—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** We hear the Leader of the Opposition always just jumping in, peppering—

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier will not respond to interjections. Premier, please continue without responding to interjections. Thank you.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** We often hear in the parliament, as you would be aware, sir, members of the opposition trying to create some sort of spurious connection between figures. The reality is that the unemployment rate is a function between the number of people who are employed and the participation rate, so they do move around quite a lot.

A very good metric to look at is the actual number of people employed in South Australia. I just make the point that it went up in April with the new Liberal government. It actually went down in the last month of the previous Labor government. But are we satisfied? The answer to that is no. We want to create more jobs in South Australia. We want to grow our economy. Most importantly, we've got strategies in place to do exactly that. What we need is a parliament that is actually going to work together in the interests of the next generation to grow our economy and to create more jobs in South Australia.

As you would be aware, sir, we plan to pass through cost-of-living reductions for the people of South Australia on 1 July. We are going to be introducing a cut to the emergency services levy, imposed by the previous government, of \$90 million—\$90 million coming on 1 July this year. On 1 January next year, we are going to be removing payroll tax for all small businesses in South Australia, so anybody who has a payroll, anybody who has a—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I'm just clarifying that right now. Any business in South Australia which has—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —a payroll of up to \$1.5 million will not be paying a cent—will not be paying a cent in payroll tax. That is our commitment. We took it to the election. We are very proud of it.

The other thing that we will be doing to create more jobs in South Australia is to deregulate shop trading hours in South Australia. Those opposite actually want to deny people who would like to have a job that job here in South Australia. Well, we are not going to do that because our position is very clear: we want to create jobs in South Australia, and that's what we are doing. That's one of the reasons why the Minister for Industry and Skills is working very diligently to create almost 20,000 additional apprenticeships and traineeships in South Australia. That's what we are going to be doing, and we can't wait for that opportunity.

Trend labour force numbers in South Australia are now the highest on record. There are 893,000 South Australians in work. Are we satisfied? No. We want more jobs, and that's what we're going to be doing.

#### MINISTER FOR POLICE

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:06):** My question is to the Premier. Given the Premier's commitment before the election for open, accountable, transparent government, will the Premier now direct the Minister for Police to release the notes publicly that were made on 16 April at the southern suburbs community forum?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:07):** No.

*Members interjecting:*

*Parliamentary Procedure*

#### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the next question, I call the leader to order. All audible exclamations are out of order if the member is not on his feet. I welcome to parliament today the former federal member for Adelaide, Mr Michael Pratt, as well as the former member for Bragg, the Hon. Graham Ingerson. The leader.

*Question Time*

#### POLICE PROTECTION VESTS

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:07):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Why has the minister reversed the previous government's decision to purchase stab-resistant vests for every front-line SAPOL officer, in place of a trial?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:07):** I thank the member for his question. We went to the election and we made it abundantly clear what our policy was. Our policy was to trial the vests, and we will be following through with that commitment.



**POLICE PROTECTION VESTS**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:07):** Supplementary.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Supplementary from the leader. The leader will be heard in silence.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** A supplementary question, Mr Speaker.

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

**The SPEAKER:** The Deputy Premier is called to order.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** We did.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier is called to order. Copious notes are allowed. Leader.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** Why does the government see the need for a trial, when in New South Wales the police vests are already functioning perfectly well? Why waste time with a trial?

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:08):** Thank you, sir, and I thank the member for his question. We went to the election with a policy to trial these vests, and that's what we are going to do.

**POLICE PROTECTION VESTS**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:08):** Further supplementary: how many police officers will go without vests as a result of your decision to conduct a trial, rather than apply the policy of all their vests going out there?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Order! Members on my right will allow the minister to answer in silence. Minister.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:08):** Thank you very much. As I said to the member before, we are going to trial these vests, we are going to do exactly what we are committed to doing—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —and we look forward to delivering on that commitment.

**Mr Malinauskas:** You bought the vests.

**The SPEAKER:** I did not buy the vests, leader. The member for MacKillop has a question.

**The Hon. T.J. Whetstone:** Hear, hear!

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Chaffey will be quiet.

**EMPLOYMENT FIGURES**

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:09):** My question is to the Minister for Industry and Skills. Will the minister update the house on the labour force participation rate in South Australia that was released today?

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Industry and Skills) (14:09):** It is terrific to get a question about jobs from one tradesman to another here in this house. Since the election of

the Marshall Liberal government in March, business confidence has increased markedly here in South Australia. The latest labour force statistics confirm a new confidence. The number of employed people in South Australia in April was the highest on record, surpassing 840,000 for the first time in the state's history, to reach 840,700 in trend terms. The number of full-time employed in South Australia in April was the highest in almost seven years, at 545,000. The trend unemployment rate in South Australia in April was the lowest in five years, at 5.9 per cent. The trend participation rate in April was the highest in five years, at 62.9 per cent.

What that means is that more people are feeling confident to put themselves forward to apply for a job because they know that they have a better chance of getting a job under this government than they had previously under the rabble over the aisle. The statistics tell the story. Under Labor, the state's unemployment reached a peak of 7.8 per cent, in trend terms in July 2015, to a peak of 8.2 per cent, seasonally adjusted in June 2015. South Australia had the highest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for 26 of 48 months under the mob opposite.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: the minister is debating the question and not answering the substance of it.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen carefully. Minister, please direct your answer to the substance of the question.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your guidance. These are statistics, You can't debate these figures: these are from the ABS. There's no debate here. South Australia recorded the highest trend unemployment rate of all the states for 31 of 48 months, or around two-thirds of that period under that mob over there. South Australia recorded the highest or the second highest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of all the states for 37 of the last 48 months, or three-quarters of the time under that mob over there.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: the minister is engaging in debate. The question was looking prospectively, not backwards.

**The SPEAKER:** I will continue to listen carefully, but I do believe that this answer is quite germane to the question. Minister.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In order to know where you are going, you have to know where you have been. Where we have been has been a terrible experience for South Australian workers—

**The SPEAKER:** Please continue with your answer, minister.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI:** —in this state under this government. What the figures today show is that the light at the end of the tunnel is on and employers are now prepared to grow their businesses

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI:** —and we know when they grow their businesses they employ staff.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the next member, I call to order the members for Mawson, Cheltenham and Badcoe.

#### AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:13):** My question is to the Premier. Is the government still committed to engaging Victorian-based Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute to order the state's current housing assets and map future demand within his first 100 days as Premier?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:13):** I am very happy to take that question on notice and speak to the minister responsible and come back to the house with an answer.

#### AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:13):** My question is to the Premier. Has the government begun the process of engaging the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:13):** If this is a question as to whether or not we are working through every single one of the commitments that we have made in the lead-up to the election, the answer to that is yes. As to specifically whether somebody has been engaged or not engaged, that's a detailed question which I think is really the responsibility of somebody who is not in this house at the moment. I will take that question up and I will report back to the house at the earliest opportunity.

#### **AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:14):** My question is to the Premier. Given the Premier personally committed to engaging Victorian-based Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, why did he do so without a formal process?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:14):** I have answered this. I am happy to answer it again because I know it's the end of a week and the parliament has been sitting until midnight the last two nights because it is a hardworking parliament under a new government. We made a huge number of commitments in the lead-up to the election.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** We made, I think, almost 300 commitments. Every single one of those will be delivered, sir. As you know, the new government in this chamber is committed to creating more jobs and lowering costs and improving services. We stand by every single one of the commitments that we have made. But, again, I say to the member opposite: I think it's reasonable for me to get the detail that he requires and come back to the house.

*Dr Close interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Port Adelaide is also called to order. The member for West Torrens.

#### **AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:15):** My question is to the Premier. While he is receiving advice, could he please inform the house why the procurement services of the Victorian-based Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute will not follow state procurement policies and guidelines?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:15):** Mr Speaker, as you would be aware, that's not what I said. I will get a detailed response and come back to the house.

#### **ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL CAR PARK**

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:15):** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the house on the recent reductions in long-term car parking at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and how this is making it more affordable for families and carers to access our state's hospitals?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:15):** Sir, I would be delighted to update the house on this commitment. We made it in the lead-up to the election, as you would be aware. We want to lower costs of living for people who are struggling. They are struggling because, under the previous regime, we had very large increases in costs of living, whether it be energy, whether it be water, or whether it be parking your car when you were going to visit somebody at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In fact, when those opposite left the treasury bench, the weekly car park pass at the Royal Adelaide Hospital was costing \$65. This is a real imposition on people while they were there visiting their loved ones.

We have already taken action. We are committed to lowering the cost of living in South Australia, and that's exactly and precisely what we are going to be doing. I have great pleasure updating the house today that the weekly car park pass has now been reduced from \$65 per week to \$38. This will be news to those opposite, who always liked to see taxes, fees, charges, fines going up. Now there's a new government in town, we like to see those things coming down and put more money in people's pocket. Do you know what they do when they have got more money in their

pocket? They go out and spend it in the economy. When they spend it in the economy, what happens? More jobs, and that's exactly and precisely what we stand for in this government: lower costs, more jobs, and that's exactly what we will be doing.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** There's a lot of bleating over there, sir, but the reality is there is a new game in town, and that is about lowering costs for families, creating more jobs, growing our economy and keeping our young people in South Australia.

We have listened to the concerns of patients and their families about the cost of regularly visiting our state's major hospital, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and we have taken action. We want to ensure long-stay parking costs are similar across all our hospitals, no matter if you're visiting in the south or the north or in the city, and that's what we have been implementing.

We have also asked SA Health to conduct a review of the existing exemption scheme across other hospitals and to look at providing extra support to a range of consumers, not just the families of long-stay patients. I look forward to being able to come back to this parliament sometime in the future and being able to give the results of that review. The review will also examine potential subsidies for patients with frequent outpatient appointments, parents or carers of young patients, relatives or carers of long-stay patients and the family and friends of palliative care patients.

*Mr Bignell interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for West Torrens, I call to order the member for Mawson for making a ticking noise between the questions and the answers. This is not *60 Minutes*. The member for West Torrens.

#### AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:18):** While the Premier was developing his 100-day plan and his policy to implement the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute to conduct an audit, did he meet with its chairman, Mr Tony De Domenico?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:18):** No.

#### DE DOMENICO, MR TONY

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:18):** It's good to see his memory has improved. My question is to the Premier.

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

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes. Is the Premier concerned that there is an ongoing independent investigation into Mr Tony De Domenico for his promotion of alleged mafia figures in prominent business boards in Victoria?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:19):** I think that if the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** —member for West Torrens has information in respect of a person who, apparently, according to him, is under some kind of investigation, then I would invite him to provide that material to the government. He is welcome to come to my office and provide that information. If he thinks there has been any criminal conduct, then, of course, it is a matter of his obligation to refer that to the police.

If he considers that there has been some other inappropriate conduct and it is relevant to any public administration in this state, either under the government of which he served or presently, then I would invite him to refer it to the appropriate integrity body.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens.

*The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:*

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

**AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:20):** Did the Victorian leader of the opposition, Mr Matthew Guy, introduce the then leader of the opposition, the current Premier, or any member of his government to any representatives of the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute?

**The SPEAKER:** Premier.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:20):** Not that I am aware of.

**AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:20):** Mr Speaker, what is the cost of awarding the Australian Housing and Urban—

**Mr Pederick:** Who are you asking?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my right!

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Mr Speaker, what is the cost—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** My question is to the Premier, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** To the Premier. The question is to the Premier.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my right, settle down.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Settle down.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my right! The member will be heard in silence, just like the members on my right will be heard in silence when they answer a question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. What is the cost of the contract awarded, without tender, to the Australian institute for urban research.

**An honourable member:** Your policy.

**The SPEAKER:** It's not my policy. The Premier.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:21):** I think that question was to me but, as per my previous answers, I will be getting a detailed answer on that. I am not familiar with that particular contract. I do not think that any reasonable person would think that the Premier would be aware of that contract.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I will bring an answer back to the house. We are not trying to be difficult. We are moving away from the situation—

**Mr Koutsantonis:** Are you?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —that was stock in trade in this place for a long period of time under those opposite when they were on the treasury bench where they tried to avoid answering reasonable questions.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** We're not doing that. All we're trying to do—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order! Members on my left are called to order.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —is to make it very, very clear that we will get an answer and we will bring it back to the house.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Elder, I warn the member for West Torrens, the member for Port Adelaide and the leader. Member for Elder.

### ENERGY PRICES

**Ms HABIB (Elder) (14:23):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Will the minister update the house on new energy projects in South Australia and how they will help reduce energy prices?

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:23):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you very much to the member for Elder. This is actually the fourth time that one of my newly elected colleagues in this place has asked a question about energy and energy prices and cost of living. It is a fantastic question. It is a very important question and interesting to note that, in over 100 questions from the opposition, they have not asked about electricity or cost of living once.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** That is how little they care—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —about the people they are elected to represent.

**The SPEAKER:** Point of order.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Sir, I realise the member's obsession with me, but the question was from the member for Elder, and I would ask him to return to the substance of the question.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen carefully, but, in the minister's defence, there is a wall of noise through members on my left, and my right. All members will remain silent while the minister addresses the substance of the question. Please continue, minister.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I say again: the very important question—much better than the former attorney-general asking for advice about how to put in an FOI.

Now, Mr Speaker, you have heard in all of the answers to all of the questions how we will deliver on our election promises. Before the last election, under the former government for 16 years cost of living rose up and up and up. People could not sustain their households and their lives in many cases. Businesses could not sustain their employees in many cases, and we are going to

change that. We are going to change that. From the smallest household through to the largest employer, they will benefit from more affordable and more reliable electricity under this government.

Some of the ways that we are going to deal with this, specifically with regard to the question from the member for Elder, is with new projects that in themselves will deliver employment during the construction and delivery phase, but also will deliver more employment as they contribute to lower electricity prices after they are up and running.

There is the SolarReserve project at Port Augusta, the solar thermal project with SolarReserve as its proponent, which, as everybody in this house would know, our side of politics has supported for many years. In fact, I thanked the member for West Torrens several years ago for agreeing on behalf of the government to my proposal that this house deliver a select committee to look into exactly this. This project is moving forward, so much so that they have actually put in a request for extra photovoltaic as part of their project. In fact, it is an extra 70 megawatts of PV to supplement the project that they had already sought approval for.

The Goat Hill pumped hydro project has been given authority to proceed under the Marshall Liberal government—a very positive renewable energy project that will deliver storage, the much-needed grid-scale storage, which members opposite just completely forgot about and completely denied. Our government gave permission for this project to proceed. The Bungala Solar Farm has started generating electricity very recently.

Our government is pursuing these significant projects. We are enabling them to happen, come online and expand because we will deliver more affordable and more reliable electricity for the people of South Australia in many, many ways. That will deliver upon our highest priority, which is to increase employment across South Australia so that our young people do not need to leave the state to seek employment in other places. They can stay here with a wide range of employment opportunities, whether it be through the Minister for Industry and Skills' 20,800 trainees and apprenticeships or with any other employer in the state.

*Mr Hughes interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Giles is called to order. The leader.

#### **AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:26):** My question is to the Premier. I am hoping he doesn't need to take this on notice. When the Premier was developing his own 100-day policy plan and committed to an audit of the state's current housing assets, why did the Premier specifically commit to engaging the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute to undertake that work?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:27):** As I have said previously, we will bring a detailed answer back to the house.

#### **PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:27):** My question—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** My question is to the Premier. Did the Premier, or any member of his staff, advise any chief executive, senior executive or public sector employee that another public sector employee, not employed as a chief executive, was no longer supported or had the trust or confidence of the government, the Premier or ministers?

**The SPEAKER:** That is quite a broad question. Premier.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:28):** No.

## ENERGY PRICES

**Dr HARVEY (Newland) (14:28):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Will the minister update the house on how the government's plans to modernise the electricity grid will help reduce energy prices?

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:28):** I thank another new Liberal member of parliament for focusing on what is incredibly important to his electorate, as others already have. It is another question about what we will do to make electricity more affordable and more reliable for the people in his electorate. Thank you, member for Newland.

There are many things we are doing. Our policy has been very clearly articulated over many months. What the member for Newland is asking about is that part of our policy that we put forward back in October last year, which the previous government completely neglected, and that was with regard to technology improvements and demand-side solutions. The government previously was very keen on owning its own dirty diesel generators. The government was very keen on the 'go it alone, put up the barriers, put up the walls, don't talk to any state, don't help them, don't get any help from them' approach. Our approach is very different and our approach will work.

We are very focused on delivering improvements not only on the supply side but on the demand side. On the supply side, we have \$10 million dedicated towards technology improvement trials for supply integration. One of the great faults of the previous government was that they just thought, 'There's some generation and there's some generation and there's some generation, and they all add up to a lot of generation, so I guess that will be good.' Guess what? It wasn't good. It gave us a state with more expensive and less reliable electricity.

What we are going to do is integrate all those types of supply and new supply which is coming on stream as well. We are going to integrate it with partners, with industry, with academics, with a wide range of expert partners to inform us about the best way to integrate supply so that all those different generators can work productively together so that they can be there to deliver electricity to the people of South Australia when they need it.

We also have \$20 million set aside to look on the demand side. I said before that this is something that the previous government just did not ever consider. We are going to put \$10 million towards demand aggregation technology improvements. That's very much about companies voluntarily having the opportunity to bundle up their demand to do deals in bulk, essentially, with suppliers, which are to the advantage of both the suppliers and, more importantly, the consumers.

That might be a minigrid of households, it might be a group of companies getting together, it might well be as simple as a group saying, 'Our peak demand is at this time. It wouldn't hurt us at all if we shifted our peak demand to another time at which an electricity supplier could deliver cheaper electricity at that point in time.' So everybody is a winner. Of course, it could be much more complicated than that, and that's why, again, we will engage with expert partners to help us develop these models, which will then be available to be rolled out to consumers.

There is another \$10 million specifically to demand management trials so that individual consumers, whether they be small, whether they be big, can access the technology and other opportunities that are available now but are emerging and improving and becoming more and more available so that individual consumers can actually manage their own demand to their own advantage.

What is so important about all of this is that when we get this right with the advice of our partners it will not only support those organisations that aggregate the demand, or those individual suppliers which manage their demand better it will support all electricity consumers across the state because by taking some of the peak off the highest demand times for electricity, all other consumers will benefit from lower prices as well.



**PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:32):** My question is for the Premier. Did the Premier or any member of his staff instruct any chief executive, senior executive or public sector employee to terminate the employment or contract of any other public sector employee, excluding chief executives?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:32):** No, not that I am aware of.

**PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:32):** My question is for the Premier. Did the Premier or any member of his staff request or instruct any chief executive, senior executive or public sector employee to transfer another public sector employee?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:32):** Again, not that I am aware of. It would just be helpful if the former treasurer would get to the point.

**PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:33):** You will find out soon. Did the Premier or any member of his staff compile a list of public sector employees they wanted terminated or transferred, other than chief executives?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:33):** No.

**FUEL PRICE MONITORING**

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:33):** My question is for the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney-General update the house on actions being taken to investigate a real-time fuel price monitoring system in South Australia?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:33):** I thank the member for Colton for this question. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the member when he was the candidate for Colton. One of the joys of working with him was when we were doorknocking and people were raising cost-of-living issues with us. They went from unaffordable electricity, obviously, across to the concern about high council rates. They immediately recognised him as being famous and ignored me, of course. Nevertheless, they were happy to talk to him about sports vouchers and all the important things, whatever the age group in his electorate, that were concerning them. It had a very clear common thread: they were worried about the cost of living, they were worried about future jobs for the children and they loved him.

All the work that was done filtered into part of the presentation for the opposition and the Premier's very strong commitment to ensuring that we relieve those who are under financial pressure in their households. One of these was to look at real-time fuel pricing. I don't know how many members of the parliament have recently gone out and purchased fuel. Many people on this side of the house have country electorates and do tens of thousands of kilometres a year. I would be lucky within Bragg to do tens of thousands of kilometres within a decade.

Nevertheless, I too have responsibility to move in regional areas. Recently, when I was in regional South Australia, it was \$1.71 a litre, and that is quite expensive. I noticed just recently in metropolitan Adelaide it was displayed at \$1.51. Again, that seems quite expensive, but whatever the price it is a significant part of the household budget. It's something which, for whatever reason, whether you buy a bus ticket that uses fuel to drive itself or whether you drive your own vehicle, is a very important part of the household budget. So this commitment was made.

Prior to the election, the fuel price transparency was flagged as a measure to try to put some power back into consumers' hands in respect of where they buy their petrol. As I recently said on country radio, we need to have a situation where, unlike some towns where there might be only one petrol station in regional parts of the state, when people get up in the morning and they need the use of their vehicle—whether that's a tractor, a truck, a motor vehicle or a pushbike with a motorised extra aspect to it—they need to have the chance to identify where they can purchase fuel at the best possible price and minimise the cost to their household budget.

So we committed to investigate how we might best provide this. When looking at it, we of course identified that in New South Wales, Western Australia and Northern Territory, where they have mandated real-time fuel pricing through the use of apps, reports to me have suggested that in some of those jurisdictions there is an indication that prices have actually gone up. I note a recent inquiry conducted by the Victorian parliament into fuel prices in regional Victoria, which resolved not to support mandatory fuel pricing reporting schemes, finding that there was little or no evidence that mandatory fuel pricing would do.

Under these schemes, the situation needs to be clearly looked at. We are doing that. I thank the Commissioner for Consumer and Business Services, who is working with the Motor Trade Association and the RAA, and indeed some smaller operators and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. That investigation is still progressing. I will report to the parliament again when we have a further update.

### **PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:37):** My question is to the Minister for the Environment. Did the minister or any member of his staff request the names of public sector employees from his agencies who had worked in the previous environment minister's ministerial offices over the last five years and who are currently employed in his agency or the public sector?

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:38):** No, not that I am aware of.

### **VOLUNTEER SCREENING CHECKS**

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:38):** My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Can the minister explain how the government is making it faster and less expensive for volunteers to get screening checks in South Australia?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:38):** I thank the member for Hammond for his question and must acknowledge the fine work he does in his constituency up around the Murray Bridge region and beyond and also the fine work he does here in this parliament. As the whip on our side of the house, he really is a very dedicated member of this place and he does, as I said, look after his constituency incredibly well. He is very, very concerned, as we all are on this side, about the high cost-of-living prices that South Australians have had to endure through the previous terms of the Labor government. It really has put South Australia on the back foot.

What I want to talk about here, as the member points out, is the great work that we are doing to reduce the cost of living by helping with the clearance checks for volunteers. We know that especially in the regions volunteering is incredibly important and does really make our state do wonderfully well on so many levels. There are more than 920,000 South Australians who volunteer each year, and many of those are in the sport and recreation industry.

We know that sport and rec is largely driven by the not-for-profit volunteer organisations. Volunteers in the sport and recreation industry do everything from coaching to sitting on boards, preparing food, marshalling for big events, putting on carnivals and the like. I am sure most people in this house would have been involved in that sort of work.

Voluntary work makes an important contribution to the South Australian way of life, and it's very much a big part of our culture. It is a great opportunity to thank all the volunteers who do that outstanding work. It enables many organisations such as sporting clubs to meet the demands for their services. Many sporting clubs could not exist without the support of volunteers, and I think we are all aware of that.

The cost of screening checks for volunteers has been identified as a potential barrier for volunteerism and involvement in sport and the recreation industry. I think we know that, without our volunteers, that would be a major setback for this part of the industry. Completing compulsory background screening checks can get cost prohibitive, with South Australia having, under the former Labor government, the highest application fees in the nation at \$58.30. That's what it cost under the former Labor government.

Four jurisdictions—Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory—don't impose any fee for volunteers seeking a Working With Children Check. Tasmania just charges \$18.60; Western Australia, \$11; and the Northern Territory, \$6. Volunteers provide much-needed care and support in our communities, and we want to remove all barriers to people volunteering. That's why the Marshall Liberal government is removing the fee so that we are more in line with the other states. We don't need to be the highest cost jurisdiction when it comes to volunteering like we have been under the previous Labor government in so many jurisdictions as well.

We will abolish the fees for volunteer screening checks, and that is a great outcome for all South Australia and, in particular, in the member for Hammond's electorate and right throughout the regions, because in the regions we know that volunteering is very, very extensive. This government understands, and we all understand on this side, the importance of involvement in sport, whether it's as an active participant or a volunteer, and that's very important, too. When you get a bit older, your knees blow out and you can't move as well; you can get out and you can be involved.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Okay, that's me.

**An honourable member:** Speak for yourself, Corey.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** That is me, but I do love getting to my local footy club and helping run water or doing whatever I can. The water doesn't get there very quickly, but it does get out and the young people stay hydrated, so that's important.

This commitment to make volunteer screening checks free is just one of a suite of commitments made by the Marshall government to reduce the cost barriers associated with participation in the sport and recreation industry, and we are very proud of it. It will help families, it will reduce the cost burden on families and sporting organisations and it will be good for South Australia.

#### **VOLUNTEER SCREENING CHECKS**

**Ms BETTISON (Ramsay) (14:42):** Supplementary to the minister: how much will it cost to provide the free screening checks for volunteers?

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, how much?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:42):** Across the board and across all the volunteers, I don't have that figure in front of me. I am very happy to release it. It will come—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —in the budget and you will be informed—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —in due course.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER** Order!

#### **CONSERVATION PARK ACCESSIBILITY**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:42):** My question is to the Minister for Environment. Are there any plans for your department to examine ways conservation parks and national parks can be made more accessible, particularly for people with mobility issues?

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:43):** I thank the member for Florey for her question and congratulate her on her re-election to this place as an Independent representative of her community. The member would know, and many members of this house would know, that I have a particular interest and passion for making our outdoor spaces and our natural environment as accessible as possible for those who, for whatever reason—whether that be that they are living with a disability or through age and infirmity—might not be able to access particular parts of our community.

Many people in this room and many people in society would certainly be taking access issues for granted on a day-to-day basis, but from time to time it is worth turning our mind to those places that we love to be able to go to and think about what would happen if for one reason or another we didn't have the physical ability to be able to visit those places. The member would know that I have been heavily involved in beach access, something which is close to my heart and close to my electorate's heart. I am very keen to see the department that I have responsibility for look for opportunities to create access to natural environments and the places that my department has stewardship of.

Under the previous government, a good piece of work was undertaken at Hallett Cove Conservation Park in my electorate to ensure that the first part of the conservation park, from the Boatshed Cafe at Hallett Cove beach through to the first point, the first section, of the conservation park, was wheelchair accessible. That involved removing a gated entry, creating an accessible entry and then laying asphalt through what was previously a very rough path that was not usable for wheelchairs or people with walking aids.

Of course, we know that when we undertake those activities to make areas more accessible for people who are living with a disability, there is actually a great benefit for wider society as well. For people who might be pushing their kids in a pushchair or a pram, it just makes places accessible more generally. Recently, in the last few weeks, my department has undertaken a broader exercise where staff are being asked to suggest ways we can make our national parks, our conservation parks and our recreation parks more accessible.

A call went out to the department, to the people who are working these parks on a day-to-day basis and who have a knowledge and understanding of how they work, looking for opportunities where we might have more accessible places within the parks. I know there is a real interest from Deep Creek Conservation Park, the Yankalilla district council and the friends group down there to invest. That obviously includes part of the Heysen Trail as well. That conservation park is one that we are looking at closely for opportunities down the track to create accessible entry points and accessible parts of that park.

I think that, for people living with a disability, we will not be able to fully create our national parks as being 100 per cent accessible, but I know there is a great deal of appreciation amongst those people who are living with a disability and their families for those small actions and larger actions that make our national parks and conservation parks that bit more accessible.

#### **CONSERVATION PARK ACCESSIBILITY**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:46):** Supplementary: in the interest of fairness, will there be a really concerted effort about looking in the north and north-eastern areas to make sure there is some accessibility in those parks?

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:46):** Absolutely. The minister should be applauded for pointing out—

**An honourable member:** The member.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** The member, yes.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** Well, she would make a very worthy minister, I believe, and was clearly overlooked many times by the previous government. She is to be commended for that advocacy. I know there is work being done on nature play spaces in the north and north-eastern suburbs to look at making particular components of those nature play sites more accessible.

I am going to have the pleasure of heading up to Para Wirra Conservation Park in a couple of weeks' time, near the member for Florey's electorate—I think it is in the member for King's electorate—to look at some upgrades that have occurred there. I will certainly be keen to hear the ideas that are coming out of the department about this, particularly from staff who are on the ground on a day-to-day basis, and I will be particularly asking for opportunities for conservation parks and recreation parks in the north-east.

#### TERMINATION PAYOUTS

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:48):** My question is to the Premier. What is the cost of the termination payouts that have been made since your government coming to office?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:48):** I have already made some public statements about the termination costs of the four chief executives who were terminated. They are a matter of public record. I can look them up for you if you are struggling over there.

**The SPEAKER:** I'm not struggling over here, sir.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** You aren't, sir. Can I just say you are doing an excellent job keeping everybody in line. It is the end of a long week, and it is a very well—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Please continue. The Premier will be heard in silence.

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** It was good to see the parliament working hard last night, and the night before, through to midnight, because this will be a very hardworking parliament under the new government. Can I just say we could have got away earlier if the member for Lee did not go into so much detail in his response to the Supply Bill, but we encourage everybody to have their say, make their contribution, to this parliament. But with regard to all the payments that have been made, I do not have that number with me, but I will be very happy to provide that number to the Leader of the Opposition.

#### POLICE PROTECTION VESTS

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:49):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Has the minister informed the police commissioner that the government will not be proceeding with the purchase of stab-resistant vests for every front-line police officer?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:49):** I thank the member for his question. To repeat the answer that I gave a few moments ago, we have our policy. We put our policy in place; it was an election commitment. We won the election on 17 March, just to remind the member for Elizabeth, and we will be delivering on our commitments.

#### BELAIR PARK GOLF COURSE AND COUNTRY CLUB

**Mr DULUK (Waite) (14:49):** My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members on my left, order! Member for Waite.

**Mr DULUK:** Thank you, sir. My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water. Will the minister inform the house how the government is working with my local community to reactivate the site of the Belair golf course and country club?

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:50):** I thank the member for Waite for his question. Isn't it interesting how the opposition laugh when we are talking about other people's communities? It is disgraceful behaviour.

I appreciate the member for Waite's ongoing advocacy for this matter. Members might be interested to know that this is a bit of a case study of the previous government's disregard for private enterprise and for the preservation of community assets, because Belair golf course, which is obviously part of a broader precinct in Belair National Park, also includes Belair country club. Those

two areas were coupled into one lease. The situation is that they are owned by the Department for Environment and Water, and unfortunately—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left!

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** —they fell into a situation where the previous leaseholder hit some difficulties. The previous government was aware of this, and they let that situation unfold over an extended period of time, and an antibusiness attitude—they didn't provide the appropriate support, and what happened was—

*Mr Picton interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kurna, order!

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** —that business went into liquidation early this year. There was an opportunity to step in beforehand, there was an opportunity to perhaps provide some assistance or look to ease one operator out of that lease and look for creating a situation where it could be handed over to another organisation, but that didn't happen. What happened was that organisation was allowed to fall over, and that golf course has now fallen into a state of disrepair. That's very worrying for the community represented by the member for Waite, and he has been advocating strongly for this to be repaired. We have as a government now entered into an expression of interest process—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** —better late than never—to bring the community on board, to talk to the community because it's a very engaged community and they are very interested to know what's going to happen to that site. It is an opportunity to talk to them about what they would like to see for the future of this site and it is also an opportunity to throw open opportunities for businesses—businesses in the local area, businesses that might adjoin the site, or businesses further afield—to pitch ideas as to what they think could be done with that site.

There is significant potential. We have a country club, which is still in very good order there, and we have a golf course. There could be some future there: whether it's in a curtailed form, or as a full golf course, or for some other open space recreational activity.

*Mr Brown interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** There are lots of options, there are lots of opportunities here, and it's just a shame it took so long under the previous government to get moving on this.

*Ms Cook interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hurtle Vale is called to order.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** If people in the member for Waite's electorate, or anyone in the room who has a particular interest in this site—I expect it will be on this side of the chamber, not the other side of the chamber—

*Mr Brown interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** —they can express their interest online at [www.parks.sa.gov.au/belairoppportunity](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au/belairoppportunity), and I commend this opportunity to the house.

#### **POLICE PROTECTION VESTS**

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:53):** My question is again to the Minister for Police. Has the minister informed the Police Association that the government will not be proceeding with the purchase of stab-resistant vests for every front-line SAPOL officer?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:53):** I thank the member for his question—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will just be seated for one moment. We have eight minutes to go. The opposition is well past the 20 question mark. The minister will be heard in silence. Minister.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for his question again, and I will give him the same answer again. We have put our policies forward. I have had conversations with PASA. I have had conversations with SAPOL. We will be delivering on our commitments.

#### **POLICE PROTECTION VESTS**

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:54):** Supplementary: my question is to the Minister for Police. Has the trial then of stab-resistant vests commenced, considering the government committed to immediately initiating it?

**An honourable member:** Do you want to volunteer?

**The SPEAKER:** No, I do not want to volunteer. Minister.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:54):** Yes, we have begun discussions with SAPOL about implementing the trial.

#### **MITZEVICH, MR NICK**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:55):** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier advise the house of the contribution Nick Mitzevich has made to the art sector in South Australia and in particular, to the Art Gallery of South Australia?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:55):** It is with great pleasure that I rise to answer this question from the new member for Heysen, who is probably one of the most cultured people we have ever had on our side of the parliament. Can I just say that it's with a little bit of regret that I offer my congratulations to Nick Mitzevich on his appointment as the Director of the National Gallery of Australia, because it was, of course, a great gain for the National Gallery of Australia but a loss for us here in South Australia. He served with distinction for almost eight years and I think he was loved by every person who came into his orbit at the Art Gallery.

I think that it goes without saying that the Art Gallery of South Australia thrived under his leadership. His accomplishments while he was in that role will leave a lasting legacy for all people who visit the gallery going forward. Mr Mitzevich oversaw a huge growth in attendance at the gallery, with visitor numbers almost doubling during his time, from around 480,000 people visiting the gallery back in 2010, to almost 800,000 last year—so a massive increase.

He was instrumental in purchasing 4,200 new works for the gallery, or being acquired by the gallery during his time, including a \$4.5 million purchase for the stunning landscape by French impressionist painter Camille Pissarro. All who were associated with that described it as the most incredible purchase or acquisition that the gallery has ever made. In fact, it was made through the generosity of donations to the Art Gallery—not a cent of state government funding went into that. It just shows the leadership and the generosity that he was able to inspire.

He, of course, renovated the Elder Wing. I don't think the Elder Wing has ever looked as stunning as it looks at the moment. Major successes include the implementation of the Tarnanthi Exhibition, which I think everybody agrees was outstanding and has been generously supported by BHP. Of course, if you head down North Terrace at the moment you will see the *Colours of Impressionism* exhibition there, which, again, many people have said—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** This is what we always have—the photo-bombing opposition saying—I don't know—which one did you paint?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** This is incredible. Those opposite want to take responsibility for everything—now the Renaissance, impressionism, there is nothing these guys haven't been responsible for! The reality is, as you would be aware, it was the taxpayers of South Australia who, quite rightly, under the leadership of the former minister for the arts, the current member for Cheltenham, enabled this incredible exhibition to come to South Australia.

I do acknowledge the work of the former minister for the arts in bringing this exhibition. It is the most incredible exhibition we have ever had here: 65 master works from the Musée d'Orsay in Paris. If you haven't seen it, go and see it. Do yourself a favour. To me, it is really the crowning glory of the time that Nick Mitzevich had in our gallery. We do acknowledge his incredible contribution and we wish him all the very best in his very important new role.

#### **AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:59):** My question is to the Premier. Who is the Australian housing and urban institute?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:59):** I'm going to answer this the way I have answered all the previous questions: we will be bringing detailed answers back to the opposition.

#### **AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:59):** Why is an organisation specifically—

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** You have to ask your question through somebody.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS:** My question is to the Premier, Mr Speaker. Why can't the Premier explain who the housing and urban institute is when it is in his own 100-day plan?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:00):** As I said, we will be bringing detailed information back to the parliament on this important question.

*Members interjecting:*

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

#### **POLICE CONSTABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (15:00):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Can the minister update the house on the South Australia Police Constable Development Program?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:00):** I would like to thank the member for Flinders for his wonderful and tireless effort on the West Coast. He really is an outstanding regional member. Again, when he is in town, he does marvellous work as well in this place. I do thank him for all his efforts. It is just an absolute pleasure to work with him.

Very recently, it was an absolute privilege of mine to witness 43 new police recruit graduates at the Police Academy at Fort Largs graduate. It was a great course. They were courses 27 and 26 respectively. To be there and be a part of it was absolutely outstanding. There was a very special moment for me because a young lad I had a bit to do within the local community, a volunteer, was one of the graduates at this academy course. To see all the graduates come through in front of their families and friends was absolutely outstanding, but this one young person in particular was absolutely over the moon.



He actually came to me a few years ago after applying to go to the academy. He didn't get in. He got knocked back the first time, and he was a little bit jaded by that probably. It dented his confidence a little bit, but with great admiration and respect he took it on the chin. Part of the advice he was given was to get into the community and give back, give back to the community, show some leadership there. He came to me—and I was coaching a sports team at the time—and he said, 'Can I be involved? Can I help out? I want to give something back to the community.' And he did, and, I tell you what, he did not miss a beat.

He was fantastic with the lads we were coaching at the time. It was an under 14 team. He was a few years older, and he really engaged with them wonderfully well. He put his heart and soul into the footy club. Right through the club, it was noticed the leadership role this young lad took on. He would come to games, he would come to training, he was never late. Rain, hail or shine, he would be there. He went and joined the Army Reserves as well and, again, showed great leadership there.

He was determined and focused to get accepted into the academy and, to his credit, he did. To be there as the minister for my first ceremony—I know those on the other side have been there and I know these are great ceremonies, and previous ministers for police have been there, and I have been there in opposition as well—and to see them pass and to see them graduate was absolutely wonderful. This young lad in particular was just, as I said, over the moon. His name is David Angley. I do want to put his name on the record here in this place because to do what he did I think shows great leadership and great determination. He is really an example to our community—me specifically because he lives in my local area—but to all young people right across this state.

We have a great state. We have great people in this state. Unfortunately, they have been let down over the last 16 years by a very poor government. We have the plans in place to turn South Australia around. Attitudes and young people like this, and keeping them here in South Australia, are the key. Keeping young people in our state with this sort of get up and go is exactly what we need.

To David Angley and all the other graduates of the Police Academy course, I commend them and I thank them for their service. They are putting themselves on the line to keep our state safe, as all the emergency services do. I take great responsibility in that and do all I can to make sure that we keep them safe because they do an outstanding job. Day in and day out, they go to work and, on a lot of occasions, they put their lives on the line. So I do want to commend David on this occasion for graduating from the Police Academy and all the graduates who got through. It is outstanding, and we thank them for their service on behalf of South Australia.

*Ministerial Statement*

**NYRSTAR**

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:04):** I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to the Nyrstar Port Pirie Redevelopment Project financing arrangement made earlier today in another place by the Treasurer.

*Grievance Debate*

**AUSTRALIAN HOUSING AND URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (15:04):** I am very concerned, and the people of South Australia should be very concerned, about what has unfolded today. The Premier announced that, without tender and without process, his government in its first 100 days, and I quote, 'would engage the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute to audit the state's current housing assets and map future demand'.

That organisation is headed by a man called Tony De Domenico. This man has promoted men with links to organised crime bodies in Victoria, the man who quite famously was the mobster who had the lobster with the Victorian Leader of the Opposition, a close personal friend of the Premier—a close personal friend of the Premier. The Premier said on many occasions that he and Matthew Guy are very, very close confidants, and what we found out today is that the Premier is claiming that he did not even know what this organisation was that he included in his 100-day plan.

**Mr Brown:** His own plan.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** His own plan. Not a plan that he has developed since coming to government; this is from opposition. The questions are these: what did the Premier know and when did he know it? Who has he met? Why did he meet them? Who is it within the government who arranged to have this institute given a government contract without tender, without process, without procurement, without following Treasurer's Instructions? This organisation is headed by a man who is under an independent investigation, I understand, by the Victorian government for promoting a mafia figure.

When this mafia figure was promoted to an organisation in Victoria, the Italian government intervened. I have to say that the stench of this is beginning to rise. I do not want to make any assumptions about what may or may not have occurred, about what conversations may or may not have occurred, but I just do point out to the house that this is what we do know: the Liberal Party before the election published its 100-day action plan.

**Dr Close:** And they're very proud of it.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** And they're very proud of it, they promoted it, they put it online. The Premier told the house that he is personally monitoring the implementation of his government's 100-day plan. It is his plan. Within that plan, he has told the people of South Australia that he is appointing this organisation, as I said, without tender.

What we know about this organisation, from reports in Victoria through the *Herald Sun* and *The Age*, is that the gentleman who is chair of this organisation is a very prominent Liberal Party member, a man who was a former deputy chief minister of the ACT and who headed up a private sector organisation called the Urban Development Institute of Australia. What we do know about this man is that he and Matthew Guy were very closely linked. Mr De Domenico was linked to this Calabrian mafia figure, Mr Tony Madafferi, as a chamber member. When that promotion occurred to that prominent business body, we understand that there was an intervention from the Italian Embassy.

This is the chain of events here: a mobster has lobster with prominent Liberal figures; this prominent mobster is promoted by a prominent Liberal figure to a chamber; and the head of the institute who promoted this figure has now been awarded a contract by the government, without a contract, tender or procurement. What part am I missing about this? What is it that I am missing? And the Premier when asked acted like he did not know anything about his plan. I will paraphrase what the Premier said. He said, 'Don't ask me, I just work here.'

**Mr Brown:** 'Just my plan. Don't ask me about my plan.'

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** 'Don't ask me about my 100-day plan. I'm just the Premier.' I have to say that I am very concerned about this, and I think that many South Australians would be concerned to hear that the Premier has awarded this contract to this organisation without process given the links that this man has to prominent organised-crime figures in Victoria, and given that this man, from some media reports, is under independent investigation by the Victorian government. I do not have the details of that independent investigation, but these are very concerning allegations.

#### GLENELG ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:09):** I would like to use this opportunity today to acknowledge the Plympton Glenelg RSL sub-branch for their staging of the annual ANZAC Day dawn service at Moseley Square, Glenelg. The dawn service is held in Glenelg at the ANZAC Beach Memorial, which is situated at the western end of—

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: there is no minister in the house.

**The SPEAKER:** There is no minister in the house. I am informed that it is not a requirement at this stage; it is a practice.

**Mr PATTERSON:** The memorial is only a relatively recent addition to Moseley Square, being built in 2015, with the Plympton Glenelg RSL playing a significant role in its arrival. The memorial is 1.8 metres wide by 1.4 metres high, made of black granite memorial and has the words inscribed, 'At the going down of the sun'. Being so close to the beach, the backdrop to the memorial is at its most poignant when the sun sets on the horizon.

The ANZAC Day dawn service has been held at Moseley Square, Glenelg, since 2014 and sees the number of people attending increasing each year, with unofficial estimates being in the vicinity of 4,000. This year's service was a dignified and solemn occasion and started at 6am, still cloaked in darkness. Prior to the commencement, the crowd slowly builds when the community of Glenelg and the surrounding suburbs make their way along the quiet streets to congregate en masse around the memorial, waiting in hushed tones.

The silence is broken at 5.50am by the South Australian Pipes and Drums band, who preceded a group of 40 veterans who marched in step to the beat of the drums, first down Colley Terrace before turning right into Moseley Square, to march through the crowd to the memorial. The respectful claps from the crowd carried the veterans on to their positions to begin the service. Soldiers of the 9<sup>th</sup> Combat Service Support Battalion then marched in the catafalque party to take their positions standing guard. Mrs Regina Crook sung the hymn *In Flanders Fields* before the chaplain, Franc Ahlin, gave a prayer of remembrance.

This ANZAC Day was particularly significant because it marked the centenary of the end of World War I, specifically ANZAC Day marked the centenary of the battle of Villers-Bretonneux. The Plympton Glenelg RSL gave me the privilege of delivering the ANZAC Day address, and I thank them for that. I spoke of how, on 25 April 1918, Australian soldiers found themselves facing the advancing German army at the French village of Villers-Bretonneux. Some of these Australian soldiers were veterans of the Gallipoli landings in 1915. By 26 April, the battle was over and would mark the end of the German offensive on the Somme.

Dignitaries, including myself, were then able to lay wreaths on behalf of the communities that they represent. The Plympton Glenelg RSL then gave community groups and individuals the opportunity to lay a tribute. Younger leaders, such as Cormac Sammut from the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club, are particularly encouraged to honour the service men and women. It was pleasing to observe schoolchildren participate from the local schools, such as Immanuel College, Glenelg Primary, St Leonards Primary, St Peter's Woodlands and Sacred Heart, along with families such as the Chabrel family.

Following the laying of wreaths, the Plympton Glenelg RSL president, Will Smith, recited the ode after which a lone bugler, who stood on the balcony of the nearby Stamford Grand above and behind the crowd, played the *Last Post* followed by a minute's silence. The minute's silence was haunting and occurred just as dawn was starting to break. The crashing of waves was the only sound to focus people's thoughts, taking them back to Anzac Cove 103 years previously. Chaplain Franc Ahlin then gave a benediction to bring the service to a close.

Many people remarked to me afterwards how moving and well organised the ceremony was, and it is worth making the point that it was run solely by volunteers from the Plympton Glenelg RSL. I therefore would like to thank the many volunteers from the Plympton Glenelg RSL, including their president, Will Smith, and secretary, Greg Blyth, for their dedication to remembering the sacrifice made by all of our service men and women of the armed services.

The president, Will Smith, remarked to me that many members of his sub-branch remarked how all the young people were very respectful and that he would like to make known his thanks to the public for their support, as well as to the local Holdfast Bay council, police and local businesses for their fantastic assistance. He also asked me to mention that there will be a service held on Sunday 11 November at 11am when the RSL will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the signing of the armistice and the cessation of the Great War.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:14):** Today, I would like to just briefly touch on an issue that is dear to my heart but also, I am sure, dear to the heart of every member in this chamber. It is about transparency and accountability in government. Today, I wish to talk about not so much transparency and accountability in the state government, because I will leave that up to my colleagues, but certainly transparency and accountability in local government.

In my view the government would best serve the interests of the community by actually improving the transparency and accountability of council decisions, because those things are the

things that most irritate and annoy the community. I would think that any move to improve provisions in the Local Government Act to improve transparency and accountability would be well received by the community. I would just like to provide a few examples from one of the councils in my electorate, which actually just highlights how local government could be improved and how we could put our resources, time and effort into improving those sorts of things and how those sorts of reforms would actually deliver much more effective local government for the people of South Australia.

One of the areas I would like to touch upon is community engagement. I would like to give three examples of community engagement undertaken by one of my local councils, that is, the Town of Gawler. The first one I would like to refer to is the community engagement the Town of Gawler undertook to respond to the government's initiative to build the Gawler Eastern Link Road. It is interesting to note that the council, after its extensive community engagement process, picked the alignment that very few people in the community wanted. It also picked the alignment that is most expensive. And it also ended up picking the alignment which actually was unaffordable.

After two years of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars of ratepayers' money to get other independent consultants' views, the council ended up picking the original route which was suggested by the Department of Transport. During that consultation time, one of the things I received the most from people in the electorate was that they just did not understand what the council was doing and why they were doing it. Clearly, it was not supported by the community; clearly, it was the most expensive option, yet they did it; clearly, the community do not understand what this council has done in that decision.

The next decision relates to a proposal by the Gawler Landowners Group. The Gawler Landowners Group represents landowners in the areas of Kudla—I declare I live in Kudla myself—Hillier and also Evanston South; basically the southern rural area parts of the Town of Gawler. This group has over a number of years tried to engage with the council to develop a planning development to rezone that area and to explore what is possible.

Despite this group's willingness to actually negotiate with the council and engage the council, the Gawler council has not done so. In fact, the Gawler council, I understand, has actually made a number of decisions regarding this whole process in secret. In fact, the council has refused to release to the community one of the reports prepared by an independent consultant. I understand this report actually outlines various options for rezoning or proposals to develop the site. Aggrieved by this lack of information, I have actually lodged a freedom of information request with the council, which internal review rejected, and it now sits with the Ombudsman.

The point I am trying to make is that here we have a group in the community wishing to engage with the government council and have a mature discussion and dialogue about an important issue affecting that part of the community. What does the council do? It shuts the door on them to the point that nobody seems to know what the council is doing in this area. Given that the new planning laws talk about charters of engagement and how to engage with the community, the council's actions are quite inappropriate. Again, I get questions about transparency and accountability of this council's decision.

The last issue I would like to touch upon in the few moments I have left is that council is redeveloping its civic centre, which is a good project. Unfortunately, I understand that has gone astray and that the budget has blown out. Again, all those decisions have been made behind closed doors. People do not know what decisions council is making and how these impact on them. These sorts of decisions are things that actually turn people against council.

#### **NARUNGGA ELECTORATE**

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:19):** I rise today to speak about the valuable role volunteers play in all communities, and I was pleased to hear the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing touch in question time upon the importance of volunteers, especially in the regional communities. Within the electorate of Narungga we are lucky to have quite a few volunteer organisations. The importance of these was plainly highlighted to me on 6 May at the official opening of the new Ardrossan tourism information outlet, which is now located next to the Ardrossan National Trust Museum. I had the privilege and honour of delivering an address to mark the occasion and officially declare the new information outlet open.

The new tourism information outlet was the result of initiative, drive and hard work from the volunteers of both the Ardrossan Progress Association, under the excellent leadership of president Richard Carruthers and executive officer Margie Gaisford, and the National Trust and its president, Rob Nicholls. They saw a need in their community and made it happen. It is no small feat to undertake to embark on a new building project and to band together two separate community organisations for a common cause. This project is another great example of what can be achieved by working together.

I commend the Yorke Peninsula Council—it was pleasing to see hard-working Deputy Mayor Scott Hoyle in attendance on that day—and their tourism development staff for their support of this project. I highlight the value of the ongoing partnership this council and the Copper Coast and Barunga West councils have with the Yorke Peninsula Tourism marketing committee and the SA Tourism Commission. All three tiers of government are working together to realise the huge potential our electorate of Narungga has for significant tourism growth and development.

So much has been achieved in recent years with Walk the Yorke, the Coastal Way touring route, rebranding, a local produce guide, new tourism operators and many infrastructure improvements to caravan parks. Statistics tell us that visitation to Yorke Peninsula is rising, with day trips, nights stayed and money spent all up. It feels as if we have hardly started, and with new government there is a feeling of new opportunity. New businesses are having a go, and we need to encourage more of them and continue to encourage them to invest more money.

There are ideas on the table around cruise ships, more ferry services, the Moonta Mines heritage area with its National Heritage listing, the department of environment's rewilding project for Innes and the new Marshall government's specific plans to boost ecotourism opportunities within Innes itself. The SA Tourism Commission's business development and marketing teams continue to work on specific projects for the YP, including digital marketing and social media campaigns that all drive brand recognition. There is more to do through product packaging and development and driving export opportunities.

More people are coming, and just as important as the work of the tiers of government is the work of local operators and volunteers, whom we depend on for providing the visitors with a quality, enjoyable experience when they get here, to ensure that when they go home they take away and spread a positive message. The official opening of the new Ardrossan tourism information outlet was about these local people who are our tourism ambassadors and who give their time to market our patch as the beautiful place it is and to share their love of the YP. They care about its future and have seen firsthand the value of tourism for local businesses and our local economy as a whole.

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to publicly thank these people for all they do in support of their town and its current businesses, and, in the case of the Ardrossan Museum, for the work they do together to ensure that history is not lost, that past achievements can be long remembered through the important collections on display—and there are quite a few of them. I would encourage everyone in this house to visit the Ardrossan Museum, if they get a chance. It really is a remarkable collection of farm machinery and assorted artefacts, especially associated with whale beachings and that sort of thing.

It is truly a worthwhile visit to see the important collections they have on display, where bygone days and past struggles are preserved and serve to foster important community camaraderie. Can I just add, in concluding, that the official opening was an event wonderfully catered for by the Ardrossan Angels, the lovely group there in Ardrossan that raises a lot of money for charitable benefits. Not only was the food they prepared wonderful and plentiful but the proceeds also went to a good cause.

I would like to place on the record my appreciation to the Ardrossan Angels for all the good charitable work they do. Well done to all these Ardrossan volunteers across a number of groups and to all volunteers across Narungga communities who do so much vital work for their towns; your community certainly appreciates you.

#### **GRANDPARENTS FOR GRANDCHILDREN SA**

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (15:24):** I rise today to draw the house's attention to the plight of Grandparents for Grandchildren. This is an organisation that advocates for and supports

grandparents who are looking after their grandchildren for a range of different reasons. Obviously, their parents are unable to care for them, so of course grandparents have stepped in to try to care for those children and bring them up in the absence of their parents, sometimes permanently and sometimes temporarily.

On Tuesday, this organisation, Grandparents for Grandchildren, was told it will not get any more funding. It has been funded by the Labor government for about the last 10 years, sometimes on a three-year basis and sometimes on an annual basis. Make no mistake: what this decision means is that this organisation has to close. They have about 18 volunteer staff plus one paid CEO. The money that they were getting from the then Labor government each year (about \$117,500) pays for the rent, pays for keeping the lights and pays for the phone bills. Unfortunately, one of the first acts of the new Minister for Child Protection has been to cut their funding and basically sign the end of this organisation.

Of course, the strange thing is that it is a very small amount of money that could actually keep this organisation afloat. Like I said, it is only about \$117,000, which is not very much in the scheme of the much broader child protection budget and, of course, the overall budget. We were all here late last night and will continue today talking about the \$6.6 billion Supply Bill. Surely about \$120,000 could be found for Grandparents for Grandchildren and the great work they do. Not only is it a small amount but it is a small amount that generates huge savings and huge results for the community.

Think about investing \$120,000, but then think about what it means to have about 12,000 of their clients (grandparents and grandchildren) going back into the state system and relying on the state system. If those children had to go into state care or if those grandparents had to seek advice from the government, there would be a lot more budgetary pressure than just \$120,000-odd. I would say that this organisation delivers huge savings to the Department for Child Protection and the government overall, and it deserves that \$120,000; it is very good value for money.

It also means much better outcomes for children. Obviously, children who are cared for by family members will have better results than those who are in and out of state care. Even the very best state care is not the same as having your family there. Obviously, I am speaking from my past experience a little here as well. As a reporter, I spent a lot of time covering child protection issues. The best part of the 15 years of my career as a reporter was spent with victims of crime, victims of child sex abuse and children who were and still are in state care, so the experiences that people go through in that system are very real to me.

Of course, I am also drawing on the experience I have had in the last few weeks since becoming the shadow minister for child protection, meeting with scores of NGOs in this space. I thank all of them for meeting with me and discussing very honestly the concerns that they have. But I am also speaking from personal experience. Members may or may not have heard my maiden speech earlier in the week. I talked in that speech about my experience of being brought up for a period by my grandparents.

I count myself really, really lucky that I had grandparents to be able to look after me. My parents were not in a position to look after me and two of my sisters for a little while and we went right across the nation to go and live with my grandparents. I owe them a huge debt of gratitude for looking after me and my sisters and, without them, I certainly would not be standing here. I know that not every child grows up in comfort and security, and the lucky ones like me have grandparents who can look after them. Others, obviously, have a much tougher time in the state care system.

Several of my colleagues also had a difficult time when they were kids, and they have benefited from the love and care of their grandparents. So I know the value that Grandparents for Grandchildren provides, the support they provide to grandparents, whether that is legal advice or accompanying them to court when there are court cases on, helping them to navigate a complex system. That advice is incredibly valuable for those grandparents but also for our state as a whole for the smooth running of our justice system and the smooth running of our child protection system. I urge the minister to meet with Grandparents for Grandchildren and, of course, to find the funding for this very worthy organisation.

### POORAKA CRICKET CLUB

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:30):** It may not be well known, but cricket is one of the sports I most admire, in that I know a little of how difficult it is to play it or any other sport well. Modestly, I must admit being reminded only on Tuesday night of the day Bedford and Redford opened the batting for the Parliamentary XI in 1998. Unfortunately for all, the cricket bag, which is only opened once a year, no longer holds the ancient record of such great moments. It is gone for all time—lost. No longer are we able to look back at the past glories of the Parliamentary XI.

Not so, though, the amazing history of the Pooraka Cricket Club. Along with Makin MP, Tony Zappia, and Tea Tree Gully councillor Paul Barbaro—himself a highly decorated player at Pooraka—I attended the annual Pooraka Cricket Club presentation dinner on Friday 13 April at the Para Hills Community Club. Keith Whales and Bill Kirkwood along with the legendary club treasurer, Jan Jarrett, made us welcome. Pooraka has a legendary history, having this past year seen its cricket team win a third consecutive senior grand final in the Adelaide Turf Cricket Association's A1 division.

I believe it was also the association's team of the year, with Jye Bailey and Mark Hanson mentioned in dispatches. I also noted on my notes from that night that Mark, who is known as 'Don' around the club, won the A1 batting trophy for the fourth year, with in excess of 3,000 runs to his name. In 2018, Pooraka celebrates its golden year, its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many players will celebrate by marking their 300<sup>th</sup>, 350<sup>th</sup>, 400<sup>th</sup> or 450<sup>th</sup> game for the club, an outstanding achievement.

Pooraka Cricket Club has an enviable record. The senior side has lost only one game in the past three seasons and won four of the past six grand finals. The amazing bond between players, committee and supporters is evident, many having been with the club as families from their earliest playing days. I imagine, though, it is the leadership at all levels that underpins the ethos of success and always doing your very best for the club. Last year, Pooraka also took out the A, B and C senior grade premierships and other individual association-wide awards. With the club's commitment to junior cricket, this fine tradition looks set to stay the course and is well placed to continue in the same vein for many years to come.

The annual presentation dinner is part of the club's tradition, too. One of its featured highlights is Kel's poems. They are always amazing and pretty well cover the whole year in the life of the club. This year, there was also a heartfelt tribute to Kenny the scorer, a man who is always there rain, hail or shine. Believe me, there is a great deal at stake in accurately recording the amazing data Kenny gathers every week, rain, hail or shine. The club cricketer of the year was Mark Hanson.

The club's success can also be attributed to the leadership provided by the office bearers: then chairman, Bill Kirkwood; Sam Kelly; treasurer, Jan Jarrett; senior coach, Craig Pocock, a 25-year veteran; and club captain, Matt Rogers. This leadership has been well supported by a loyal playing group, a hardy band of supporters and a loyal group of sponsors. This year saw a special effort by the club to maintain its financial viability. I know they are grateful to their sponsors of the past and look forward to strong relationships with their sponsors of the future.

The year 2018-19 will be a challenging time for the club, with challenges on the horizon. Despite that, in the upcoming season the club will field senior teams in the Adelaide Turf Cricket Association's A1, A2, B3 and C2 divisions and is likely to field seven junior teams, ranging from the Milo T20 Blast through to the under 15s. In recognising the success of the Pooraka Cricket Club, it would be remiss of me not to mention that I am now involved with them because of the radical changes of the boundaries of state seats, which came into effect at the recent state election.

It presents me with a great dilemma, in that I have been a proud supporter of the Modbury Cricket Club for many years, am now a proud supporter of the Pooraka Cricket Club and will foster a relationship with the Ingle Farm District Cricket Club, now also in Florey. If I can successfully support my constituents who support either the Crows or Port Power, then I know I can successfully support three cricket clubs in Florey, and I look forward to seeing women's cricket thrive in our area as well in the year to come.

*Bills***SUPPLY BILL 2018***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (15:35):** I rise to make remarks on the Supply Bill, which we will be supporting. The bill before us seeks to appropriate \$6.6 billion. The purpose of the bill is to supply the government with sufficient funds to carry on the business of government in the lead-up to the budget to be delivered in September. How these dollars will be spent and where they will end up will be in the hands of the government, of those sitting opposite. We have no information and no detail, just an A4 sheet of paper.

I can stand here and proudly say that in government we delivered the biggest ever investment in public transport, upgraded every major hospital and developed a state-of-the-art health and biomedical precinct, with the iconic SAHMRI and world-class new Royal Adelaide Hospital at its centre. We delivered record investment in infrastructure for the revitalisation of our CBD, with the redevelopment of Adelaide Oval, the new Adelaide Botanic High School, the Riverbank Precinct, the footbridge over the Torrens, which on home game days sees thousands of Port Power supporters cross it, the Adelaide Convention Centre, Festival Plaza, laneways and small bars.

We delivered major infrastructure projects, including the Southern Expressway, the Goodwood junction rail project, the train extensions, the Seaford railway electrification and extension, the Northern Expressway project and the extension of the O-Bahn into the Adelaide CBD, with improved travel times and reliability for thousands of public transport users reducing traffic congestion and delays for motorists on the inner-ring route. I add that I have heard nothing but praise from commuters about the upgrade of the O-Bahn infrastructure.

In government, we invested in local sporting clubs and facilities, including \$24 million for women's sporting change facilities. We increased the Regional Development Fund to \$15 million a year and invested \$341 million in the regions for road maintenance and safety measures, doubled the number of nurses and doctors, put more police on the beat than ever before and, since 2002, more than doubled the investment in public schools. There are some opposite who may not know that it was the Labor government that brought Modbury Hospital back into public hands, investing millions of dollars in it after it was put into private hands by the Liberals when they were last in government.

The member for West Torrens last night made some significant points, and I hope those opposite have taken them on board. We are being asked in this place to support the new government Supply Bill without any detail. Since the March election, residents in my electorate have been speaking to me about how they feel, about the uncertainty they have about things that affect them: the recently announced delay in the rollout of the NDIS, the uncertainty about the Building Better Schools program, the uncertainty about ongoing funding for community organisations, questions over the delivery of the Fund My Neighbourhood projects and environmental issues, including the talk about South Australia losing its GM status. It is fair to say there is a feeling of trepidation by many in the community about many of the things that this government has either announced or is alluding to.

The Labor government made an election commitment to deliver road safety zones around our schools. Klemzig Primary School, in my electorate of Torrens, was one of those schools in the state that was to benefit. This was a commitment based on need and the safety of students, highlighted by the fact that the school is a centre for hearing impaired, a CHI school. With new housing development in the area, there is increased traffic around the school and along with the school community, I am concerned about the safety of the children, particularly those who are hard of hearing. I hope that soon one of the important topics I get to speak to the new education minister about is matching Labor's funding.

In addition, I have spoken in this place of the great importance to the local community of the timely opening of Avenues College, the amalgamation of two schools, Windsor Gardens Secondary College and Gilles Plains Primary School. The importance of this amalgamation and the timely opening of the school for 2019 cannot be stressed enough. It is imperative that the new government



meet the former Labor government's commitment of \$15 million for the infrastructure upgrade of Avenues College so that the amalgamation process and the opening of the school can be completed by the beginning of the school year. This needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency to give certainty to Avenues College's growing school community. The timing is important for the two campuses to come together on the McKay Avenue campus, and I understand for this to occur the additional funding is crucial.

Labor committed to another state school with a growing school community in Torrens, that is, Hillcrest Primary School. That commitment was to deliver a multipurpose school hall. With record enrolments for the 2019 school year, the school is now considering having to remove the upstairs boys' toilets and turning the area into classroom space. Students at the school do not have their own hall and have an agreement with the neighbouring Hillcrest Community Centre, through the Port Adelaide Enfield council, to use their hall for indoor sports, drama and for school assemblies, but there is limited access.

The school hall that Labor committed to was intended to serve a number of purposes: from indoor sports, drama and assemblies through to out-of-hours school care and also freeing up the existing library and art space. With significant growth in numbers and being near capacity, the school has requested zoning, but the reality is that only additional infrastructure in a school hall that results in freeing up this additional classroom space will resolve the issue.

Another commitment by the Labor government was to Vale Park Primary School. Prior to the election, the school had been in the electorate of Dunstan, the Premier's electorate. I only became aware of the issue regarding this school in the lead-up to the election following the electoral boundary redistribution, with the suburb of Vale Park coming into my electorate. On discovering this position, I went to the minister and spoke to her about the issues confronting the school.

The Labor government then committed to providing two transportable buildings to improve the accommodation options for the school's 519 students. The growing number of students has created the need for extra classroom space. They have already converted half the library to a classroom and have lost the computer suite to accommodate extra space. It is imperative that the government match this commitment and that those buildings are delivered as soon as practicable.

Continuing with my electorate of Torrens, while there are a number of infrastructure needs I have raised today, there was significant investment by the former Labor government in infrastructure relevant and within Torrens, including the multimillion-dollar Modbury Hospital and Lyell McEwin Hospital upgrades; the installation of the koala crossing on Fosters Road, near Cedar College; the partnership with Port Adelaide Enfield council with the Lights Community and Sports hub and multi-use sports centre; the synthetic soccer pitch and lighting upgrade at Adelaide City and North Eastern Metro Stars football clubs; the 24/7 Oakden ambulance station; the new STEM facilities for Hampstead Primary School, Hillcrest Primary School and Wandana Primary School; and ongoing funding for North East Community House and Wandana Community Centre. It also includes major roadworks; the installation of a pedestrian refuge in North East Road, near the Gaza Football Club; the jointly funded upgrade to the entrance of Dernancourt Shopping Centre on Lower North-East Road; and the infrastructure build for the 250 new car parks and upgrade of the Klemzig O-Bahn interchange.

The Supply Bill, which we are being asked to support today without any detail of the \$6.6 billion, has raised some issues. I have raised some issues of urgency that need to be addressed in my electorate of Torrens. I feel it is not unrealistic that a small fraction of the \$6.6 billion be allocated to these important projects. I have been listening to speeches by the government on the other side. They have been saying that projects in their areas are being funded, so I think it is a reasonable request. I will always stand up for my electorate, as I have said in this place before. These are important projects and there is a real need for them. The former government saw a need for them and they made those commitments. I will be going to the relevant ministers—I have already written to some of them—with regard to this and to request meetings.

The former Labor government also committed to additional car parks at the Paradise O-Bahn interchange, as did the Liberal opposition. Labor's commitment included increasing the number of car parks by 350 spaces at the Paradise park-and-ride and also upgrading the intersection at Darley

Road. I know that nearby residents and commuters are looking forward to the completion of all the additional car parks at Tea Tree Plaza, at the Klemzig O-Bahn interchange and also at Paradise. I know that my residents in Klemzig are particularly keen for these works to progress because their streets are congested at times—before or throughout the working day—with the cars of people who are parking there. The former Labor government's commitment to increase the number of these car parks will see that congestion on the roads removed.

Another Labor commitment was to the upgrade of Fosters Road, which is a road that runs between Grand Junction Road and North East Road in the suburbs of Oakden, Northgate, Lightsview, Hillcrest and Greenacres. With the major Lightsview development and older houses in some of the other areas being demolished and new houses being placed on those blocks—sometimes two or three houses being placed on them—it means that we have a lot more traffic in the area, so Fosters Road has become very busy.

It is an issue about which I have consulted widely with the community, including holding a very well-attended public meeting, following which the department delivered a draft management plan. When the residents responded to that draft management plan, a further plan was delivered and resulted in a number of changes. Labor committed a \$7.3 million costed solution for Fosters Road. In comparison, the Liberal commitment was \$1.3 million for some lights at the North East Road and Fosters Road junction.

The Labor government commitment included road resurfacing; upgrade to signage and line marking; upgrade to pedestrian facilities, including new pedestrian refuges; improved lighting at the intersection; and, importantly, the installation of a new signalised intersection at the North East Road-Fosters Road junction, including fully controlled right-hand turns from Fosters Road.

As part of the road management plan, the resurfacing of Fosters Road between North East Road and Redward Avenue is scheduled to begin in the next couple of months. I was out there on Monday of this week. I want to say that, when I was there on Monday, I went out there because I had concerns raised by the Hillcrest School community and also by other residents, that the department had removed a crossing on Fosters Road. It was a pedestrian crossing that had been used by Hillcrest Primary School and other residents from a nearby retirement village to cross the very busy Fosters Road.

While one of the options that was considered was the removal of that particular crossing as part of the draft management plan, it was not agreed on, it was not appropriately consulted on and many residents did not even know that it was going to be removed. The school was told that this was something that was going to be happening and then, out of the blue, it was removed. What happened following that was that I wrote to the minister because I was really concerned that no pedestrian refuge was put in place at this crossing by the school where kids cross. There was no replacement for it.

One would have thought that the department would be working through these things and know that you do not remove a crossing before you have something else in place for those kids to cross the road. I am really concerned that I was not notified with any time frame, and I understand now that there was a communication breakdown somewhere. It is really important that, when they are making these decisions, these departments actually do properly consult with the community.

On Monday, when I went out there to have a look at it, I found that the beginnings of a pedestrian refuge were being laid but that it is not in the best place. The school community is unhappy about where it is. It is on a corner and traffic will be coming from all different directions. I am not sure how it has ended up there, but it is a concern. I really urge those ministers sitting opposite to acknowledge that the local members do actually have good knowledge of their community, and keeping them informed about what is going on, especially about issues of safety, is really important, as is keeping local residents, community groups and schools informed. I am really concerned that did not happen; hopefully, it will happen in the future.

Throughout this week, over the last few days, we have been listening to speakers on the Supply Bill. We have had a number of very valuable contributions from members on this side, and one of those was the comprehensive contribution made by the member for Lee. I think it went over

one night and then extended on into the following day, and he made some really significant points. For the benefit of those who missed it, I will finish today with his words. He said:

I am pleased to say that the groundwork has been laid out in what the former Labor government have left this new government. They inherit a budget surplus...the foundation is there for this government to step off further into the future and continue to do well.

I hope that they are listening to that.

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (15:53):** I rise also to speak on the Supply Bill. I was so proud to be part of the previous Labor government and proud of all that we achieved for our state and for every South Australian. Under the leadership of the member for Cheltenham, we transformed the state's economy during what could have been some of our most challenging times, and we did so in a way that ensured that South Australians were not left behind.

The member for Cheltenham is innovative, focused and confident. Through his leadership and statespersonship, together with our team, with industry and with our community he made South Australia a leader in renewable energy. He attracted businesses to move here to create jobs and he fought for our shipbuilding industry. It is clear that those opposite lack this vision for our state and lack the ability to stand up and fight for our state. I fear for our state's economy and our community because of it. Already, rather alarmingly, they have taken the surplus we handed them and declared that the budget will be in deficit.

During the election campaign, Steven Marshall, the now Premier, signalled that a government he leads would cut Public Service jobs. During my time as a minister, I was so impressed by and grateful to the incredibly hardworking staff in the Public Service, and I know that, without them, no government could effectively function. The Premier must outline now where these cuts will be made and why. Will it be to police, staff in our schools or hardworking hospital personnel? Thousands of people who have dedicated themselves to our state and to the wellbeing of people in our community do not deserve this uncertainty.

We have also seen the Liberal Marshall government fudge the figures to make themselves look good, but to leave our state worse off. We were told to expect enormous spends in the federal budget by those opposite, who claimed their mates in Canberra would deliver big with an additional \$1.8 billion promised for road and rail projects in South Australia, but the federal budget papers show just \$162 million was allocated and that the sum total of zero dollars of the expected \$1.2 billion for the next section of South Road was allocated.

The budget did not contain any detail about when South Australia will receive funding for each project, raising concerns about whether the money will be delivered at all. Concerns from this side of the house were shared. In a written statement, the SA Chamber of Mines and Energy, the SA Freight Council, the RAA and the Civil Contractors Federation of South Australia joined forces to attack a lack of detail over funding commitments.

The federal budget also included Malcolm Turnbull's confirmation of his plan to increase Australia's pension age to 70 and cuts to schools, TAFE and hospitals, all the while handing \$17 billion to the big banks, banks that he repeatedly refused to have subject to a royal commission and a royal commission that, when it finally happened, repeatedly showed how Australian people had been inappropriately treated by those big banks.

This is all on top of the federal Liberal government's decision to support the doing away with penalty rates, leaving around 700,000 Australians worse off. Workers who look after us, keep us safe, serve us food and drink and provide service in shops on weekends and on public holidays and who, in doing so, spend time away from their families, deserve every single cent of their penalty rates, penalty rates that they rely on to put food on their tables and to pay their rent or mortgages. The retention of penalty rates is just one of many reasons why I wholeheartedly support the Change The Rules campaign being run by Australian Unions.

Workers not only deserve but need more secure jobs, decent jobs and better pay. We need to address the growing gap between wage increases and cost-of-living increases. Currently, the largest corporations call all the shots with many not paying tax and with working Australians paying the price. According to Australian Unions, 40 per cent of Australians are now in insecure work. This,

combined with low to no wage growth, makes things incredibly difficult for people trying to make ends meet.

I am blessed to have so many conversations on people's doorsteps and in their homes in my electorate of Reynell. There is a deep and growing frustration with this inequity and it is something that I will stand up with them against because, overall, the federal Liberal budget has failed the fairness test. It has failed millions of Australians and it has failed in the extreme and it has failed the women of Australia. Amongst many issues with the federal budget, I was disappointed to see that their ridiculous tampon tax remained, to the ongoing disappointment of women around the country.

For the people of South Australia, and particularly those in my community, I dearly hope that those opposite do not follow the lead of their mates in Canberra. The decisions those opposite make will have a real impact on members of our South Australian community, particularly on young people, on women and on those who are more vulnerable, a fact that should be in the front of the minds of those opposite every time they consider and make a budgetary decision.

Sadly, we are hearing more and more reports about growing homelessness, with Launch Housing's Australian Homelessness Monitor 2018 recently finding that, from 2011 to 2016, rough sleeping has increased by 20 per cent, homelessness in Australia has increased by 14 per cent, people living in overcrowded accommodation has increased by 23 per cent and the demand for homelessness services nationwide has increased by 22 per cent. We know that there are more and more South Australians deeply frustrated with the speed of their transition to the NDIS and of review processes, that many people with serious mental illness are currently working through whether or not they can access the NDIS and that more and more families are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

In this house, I know that we are all deeply concerned about how we can ensure that every South Australian child is safe, healthy, active, learning and nurtured. We must work together towards this in partnership with the many groups and organisations who are compassionately focused on the wellbeing of our youngest children and particularly those who are in care. Having witnessed the work they do towards this shared goal, I was deeply disturbed yesterday to hear of the plight of the Grandparents for Grandchildren group and the uncertain future they face.

Again, I urge those opposite in the lead-up to the delivery of their budget to think carefully about how the South Australians who most need funding decisions to be decisions that are compassionate and focused on the wellbeing of our most vulnerable community members will be impacted by their budget. We are measured as a state by how we treat our most vulnerable community members, and the government's budget will certainly be judged through this lens.

As is the case in every corner of South Australia, in our southern community, sport and recreation facilities are crucially important to the fabric of community life, providing a place for people to be active, to belong and to connect with one another. Together with the member for Kaurua, I fought for and secured \$14 million towards a new multipurpose recreation centre that will become a hub for sport to be located next to the South Adelaide Football Club. This hub will create more facility and more ability in the south for people to connect around healthy activity, particularly our young people. That is why it will be so important for us to ensure that this project, fully funded by our previous government, is not in any way delayed by the new government or, worse, cut altogether.

Labor committed, if re-elected, to provide \$3.2 million towards the Morton Road sport and community hub in Christie Downs. In partnership with the City of Onkaparinga and the Roger Rasheed Sports Foundation, we intended to create a vibrant sporting and community hub complete with skate park, facilities, equipment and mentors available to our young people so that they are engaged through sport in positive ways. Transforming this reserve and engaging young people in Christie Downs was a priority for Labor, and I hope that it will be a priority for this government. I hope that this Liberal government chooses to make a difference to the lives of young people and families in the south.

It was a pleasure to hear the member for Black speak today about the importance of open spaces and particularly about accessible tracks along our magnificent coastlines. As I have said in this place before, I also hope that in this budget funds are allocated for the completion of the Witton Bluff base track, an important completion for our local community and visitors to our beautiful

Mid Coast. Thousands of community members signed a petition for its completion—community members who will continue to stand up until the gap in this track is completed.

Labor proudly invested in sport, recreation and racing when in government, and the previous minister was a big driver of that. We know how important it is for people to come together with a shared passion or interest which unites them and which occasionally divides them just a little in the spirit of friendly sporting competition. Labor assisted so many clubs with upgrades, equipment and programs through the Active Club and other grants programs and through our upgrading of playing surfaces. On that note, I am thrilled that finally the soil has been turned and work begun on an artificial pitch at the home of the mighty Panthers and Pink Panthers, the South Adelaide soccer club in O'Sullivan's Beach. We had record investment in sporting grants and infrastructure, with \$146 million in additional funding.

Our Labor government also proudly invested \$24.5 million into the female facilities program, which enabled clubs to build or modify female change room facilities. Ensuring girls and women have a place to change and get together as a team pre-game sends a very clear message that they are welcome to equally and actively participate in the life of their club and of their sport. The female participation grants were another way in which we were able to support clubs to become more inclusive by providing money to help them establish new female teams, competitions and programs.

The momentum around the upgrading of sporting facilities must continue to be supported. Our communities thrive when their sports clubs are empowered and well funded so that they can include and engage people in their community so that they can grow and be those excellent community hubs that they are. As a parliament, we must commit to helping them in any way we can, and I hope that this budget backs them in.

Our multicultural communities were also supported to flourish under the Labor government. We provided millions and millions of dollars, rightly, in grants so that communities could be supported to develop culturally diverse community projects, activities and festivals and to help address social issues. These grants helped to create strong, safe, caring communities, and they strengthened the fabric of our state. I hope those opposite will continue supporting those communities.

As I have previously spoken about, Labor also provided a boost to racing in South Australia with its investment of \$6 million over two years in racing prize money. This was unprecedented. I have spoken with various people in the racing industry who have articulated what this means for attracting world-class riders, horses and trainers to our state. We also supported our state's recreational fishers. We invested \$3.25 million over the past three years to boost recreational fishing and tourism opportunities and allocated \$9.3 million in the last budget, rightly, to upgrade five jetties across South Australia, including the Port Noarlunga jetty in my electorate. Again, I trust that these commitments will continue.

During the election, Steven Marshall and the Liberal Party made a number of commitments in the domestic violence space. I will work relentlessly to hold them to these promises and to deliver them effectively and in a timely manner, and I will be asking them to do more. There are many organisations that do incredible work and protect the lives of those in need, and I hope that they are funded for this work. I, along with many others here, have long been an advocate for survivors and, sadly, victims of domestic violence in our community, and I have worked with domestic violence services in a number of ways for many years.

We all wish that this work did not have to continue, but we are all aware of the terrible statistics around domestic violence, and we all know that this work must continue until we see an end to domestic violence. It is work I will fervently continue as shadow minister for the status of women. As everyone in this house knows, domestic violence can take many forms, including emotional, psychological, physical, financial and verbal. A big component in the cause of any kind of abuse is a lack of awareness and education about what constitutes a respectful relationship. Unfortunately, there is something our society teaches some of our young men and women that leads them to believe that it is okay to control with violence a person whom they are with, or have been in a relationship with.

My main concern with the Marshall Liberal government's domestic violence policy is that there is little about prevention and education. The word 'education' does not feature, not even once.

This is a very worrying gap in their policy, in my view. Of course, it is crucial to provide services to support, empower and protect people currently experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic violence. However, to eradicate domestic violence we must focus our attention on prevention, and a major part of prevention is, of course, education.

Education about gender inequality, respectful relationships and appropriate behaviour must be funded if we are to ever eradicate domestic violence. We must fund a comprehensive plan for prevention. I look forward to seeing what is in the budget in this regard and continuing to work collaboratively with all in this house to progress all the strategies that must be undertaken to finally end this terrible scourge in our community.

Bill read a second time.

#### *Supply Grievances*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:09):** I move:

That the house note grievances.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** It is with pleasure that I speak in a grievance to this debate and remind members of the importance of the passage of the Supply Bill. Obviously, the funds are necessary to provide the continued services of the public sector, including contractual services. As a member of the new Marshall government, we are committed to act responsibly and to earn the respect of the people of South Australia.

In opposition, we watched in disgust the conduct of the previous Labor government in their delivery of commercial projects for our state, which were laced with dodgy deals that lacked transparency, broke the rules, wasted taxpayers' money and risked investment in our state. I name the Gillman land deal and the plaza development deal, both of which resulted in scathing reports from the Auditor-General in this state and, in the former, a very comprehensive smashing from Mr Lander in his report.

Now we have the Land Services deal. The member for West Torrens has been a key player in all these events, along with his sidekicks, the members for Enfield and Cheltenham. They all feature as the Three Stooges of financial mismanagement in this state. Yesterday, the Treasurer (Hon. Rob Lucas) announced that the \$1.6 billion contract to sell the Lands Titles Office services and other valuation and mapping services had a secret side deal. Yes, members, an \$80 million payment was made to secure an option for future state registry sales or commercialisation by a government, which was disclosed but deliberately kept secret until after the election when the contract was able to be viewed and this despicable secret was exposed.

When the member for Torrens was asked to explain publicly, he is reported to have said yesterday—and I will read the direct quotes:

The consortium asked that we keep it confidential. We took advice and we agreed with them...

Mr Lucas knows full well he doesn't have to go through with the deal. He can pocket the \$80 million and just add seven years to the contract of the Lands Titles Office.

That is the standard of the member for Torrens' conduct. He knows full well the money has already been received and spent—

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: it is West Torrens.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** The member for West Torrens. I will get used to it because you will never have another position in this government, that is for sure.

**Mr Koutsantonis:** I don't want to be in your government.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Of this state. He knew that the money had already been received and he spent it. He just adds 'just add seven years to the contract'. On the raw data, \$1.6 billion divided by 40 years is \$40 million a year; that is worth then another \$280 million. How dare he sell another seven years' penalty for \$80 million, blow the money and then say, 'Just don't go ahead with it. Just give them another seven years to their 40-year deal.'

As to the Land Services commercialisation, when announced as an opportunity to invest, the government issued a Land Services commercialisation information flyer in October 2016. There is not one mention of the proposed sell-off of other registries. On 10 August 2017, when he came into the parliament to make a ministerial statement, he described it as 'the private sector taking over the processing of transactions for the next 40 years', full stop. He does not mention the option of a possible another seven years. There is an absolute misrepresentation by omission in relation to that material.

He identified the features of the contract and, near the end of this ministerial statement, talked about 'Land Services SA receiving exclusive rights to commercialise related data, subject to government approval'. Presumably, that is the envelope in which we are supposed to understand that there is some other opportunity. How the motor vehicle registry, marriage registration in this state or anything else is related data to lands titles is absolutely beyond me, and I think it is gross misrepresentation. This is what he said in parliament on 10 August when asked questions about the contract, which he obviously refused to disclose at that point. When asked:

Does the government have any further plans for privatisation of South Australian government services or assets?

Answer:

No, we absolutely rule out the privatisation of SA Water and its associated assets, something the opposition have yet to do—

That was his answer then. He did not mention, 'Well, we have signed up with an option.' There was no mention of that whatsoever. Then, when asked questions by the Premier, he again was asked to explain his position as to the terms of the contract. On another occasion, this time later, on 27 September, in response to a question I asked as to why the \$1.6 billion contract for the sale of Land Services was not made available, he said:

All the aspects in terms of the cost structure will be public.

He then went on to talk about the lands titles aspects. Later, he said in respect of the consortium:

...have said that they want some of their financing and some of the agreements under the contract kept private, or their competitors may get line of sight into the way they bid while they are bidding for other lands titles.

But any aspect that interacts with South Australians or the public has been made public—of course, we insisted on that.

He then went on to accuse me, as usual, for trying to suggest that there is some kind of quarrel in relation to the non-disclosure of this information. Well, now we know the truth. Now we know the absolute truth. The former treasurer, now the member for West Torrens—who, if I have anything to do with it, will never have any other political office in government in this state—treats the property and purse of the people of South Australia with such disrespect, with such a disgusting approach to his mismanagement of money.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** He stands—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of order, member for West Torrens.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Standing order 127: personal reflection on members. The member is taking her entire grievance by making personal reflections on me and my character. It is not part of the supply debate at all.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Attorney, I will ask you to keep it to the supply grievance.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I am happy to do that. Within the envelope of the billions of dollars we are approving in the Supply Bill, we are demanding a circumstance where our government will be of a higher standard than we have seen in this state for 16 years—for 16 years.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** A disgusting waste of money. Of course we are having to allocate more money in relation to the Supply Bill. Of course we are obviously having to look carefully at the management of the finances of this state because of the wanton disregard of not only the process but any respect for the people of South Australia, of their property and of their money, which has been squandered under the former government. They have deceitfully kept this secret from the people of South Australia until after the state election. Well, never again. Never again should the people of South Australia have such incompetence as these Three Stooges of finance have imposed on the people of South Australia. Never again.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members on my left! Member for West Torrens.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (16:18):** Sir, the minister is finished, I understand.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I understand you are the lead speaker. You have the call.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, I am. I will take my 30 minutes. Thank you for the opportunity to reply. I think that the offensive remarks of the Deputy Premier are quite shocking and unbecoming of a person who holds such a position. She comes into this place and uses a grievance debate for an appropriation of \$6.6 billion to talk about financial management and, within that \$6.6 billion, she cannot tell us how any of the money is going to be spent—without a budget.

She is appropriating \$6.6 billion, attacks us about financial management but will not tell us how much of that \$6.6 billion is to be spent on health, on education, on road and rail infrastructure or on our schools. We do not know any of it, but what we have found out today is that part of that \$6.6 billion will be spent on a contract that has not gone out to tender but has gone to an organisation that has what the opposition has learned are some very nefarious links to some members who have nefarious links to members of the underworld.

These members have such dubious credentials that the Victorian government has been forced to conduct an independent inquiry into a gentleman who proposed the membership of an organisation, who is the chair of an organisation, the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute. I hope I have that right so that I do not defame any other organisation. The government expects us to take a lecture on due process and probity when today the Premier in this house could not even tell us what this organisation is, despite it being on his 100-day plan.

So excuse me if I do not take a lecture from the Attorney-General in a government that is handling a contract in its 100-day plan but does not even know who it is going to. I will not be lectured by the Deputy Premier on probity. Talk about hypocrisy! If I were the Deputy Premier right now, I would be doing some serious investigations into what has occurred.

What minister Lensink said today in the other place I thought was shocking. She had no idea that the organisation was being awarded a government contract without tender, without process, without procurement guidelines being followed. It is an election commitment. I am advised that the minister said that she had met with this organisation, and I will just double-check that from the *Hansard* to make sure I have that correct so that I do not misrepresent what she said. She was completely unaware of these accusations, which goes to the point of probity.

Perhaps if there were a process where there was a tender conducted to do this mapping here in South Australia, as the government has committed to do, these allegations would have surfaced and a probity officer, or the Procurement Board, or perhaps the Treasury might have said, 'Slow down. There's a problem here. The chair of this organisation has links that might not be in keeping with the decorum and credibility of the South Australian government.'

But, instead, the Attorney-General comes in here to attack me about getting an exceptional deal for the Lands Titles Office while at the same time she is asking this house to pass a procurement of \$6.6 billion, with no spending allocated to that money, simply an IOU: 'Trust us. We'll tell you in September.' So do not lecture us, Mr Deputy Speaker—I know you have not, but the members opposite have. Do not let members come in here and lecture us about probity.

As I was saying yesterday in my remarks during the debate on supply, I have always thought that when governments want to borrow money on behalf of the taxpayer—and make no mistake,



these notes will be issued at five, 10, 15 years, maybe even 20 years—a lot of this debt will not be paid back while some members are still in this parliament, yet we are here borrowing that money in those people's names. As I said yesterday, no member who spoke on that bill, unless the cabinet meeting has occurred to deliberate on the budget, can tell this house how that money is being spent. No matter how much the Deputy Premier looks down pretending to read her notes—

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

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Here we go. That is an interesting interjection because it makes a point. Perhaps you should read the debate of the then leader of the opposition who criticised the government for introducing a supply bill without a budget. Shake your head all you like, Deputy Premier. See the hypocrisy? So here we are again. The more things change, the more things stay the same.

I have no problem with the new government coming in and saying, 'We are going to change things. We are going to do things differently. We've got a mandate of 38 per cent of the population of South Australia and we can do no wrong.' Fair enough. The government is entitled to do that with their 38 per cent of the vote. Congratulations. We only got 32, so we do not have much to brag about either, and we are the opposition. But when the government pretend that there is some overwhelming landslide mandate that swept them into office and brought them here on 38 per cent of the vote and then they start lecturing us about financial mismanagement—well, let me tell you about financial mismanagement and a story called Catch Tim.

Shall we talk about Catch Tim? Who was President of the Liberal Party when donations were being funnelled through an organisation called Catch Tim? It was our current Attorney-General. But the Liberal Party, and given the lecture we have just received on who is fit to hold high office, has made the first law officer of this state the former president who was embroiled in a controversy over money laundering—

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** I beg your pardon? Now that is offensive, and you know it.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Okay then, I will withdraw that.

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** I should damn well think so.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** —who was involved in trying to disguise where donations were coming from, from organisations, trying to disguise the nature and origin of where those donations were coming from. I have to say, for the first law officer of the state to be involved in those types of donations and to then lecture me about my financial management, I think is a bit rich.

Perhaps if someone else had come in they would have come in with clean hands. Perhaps if one of the newer members had said something, I would have let it pass, but not with the member for Bragg and her history as a fundraiser for the Liberal Party, not with her history of all the things that she did to raise money for the Liberal Party. I will not be lectured by the first law officer of the state who has that reputation.

Back to the financial mismanagement or secrecy of this government and the attempt to cover up the fact that they are giving a contract to an organisation they know nothing about, the Premier told the parliament that he was personally overseeing the implementation of his 100-day plan. The opposition deliberately asked that question because we wanted to be sure that the Premier was focused on what his ministers were doing. It is very important, as head of the cabinet and head of the government, that he is personally involved in the implementation of the policies he promised the people of South Australia.

I have to say that I think South Australians, by and large, always give a lot of latitude to new governments; they give a lot of latitude, as they should. New governments are learning, new governments often make errors and those errors are often forgiven, as they should be, because you are new. The opposition deliberately went through a process of asking the government whether the Premier was personally monitoring the implementation of these policies. Why? Because the Premier promised the people of South Australia he would implement a productivity commission and Infrastructure SA and that within 30 days we would know the membership of those organisations.

No-one is expecting those organisations to be up and running. We understand that you cannot do that in 30 days. But the government, before the election, promised the people of South Australia that they would do this within 30 days. The Premier then came in and said, 'Look, we can't do it in 30 days.' He made a ministerial statement saying, 'I'm going to need more time.' There is no press release from the opposition, to my memory, complaining about this. We asked the question. We understood that it could not be done within 30 days. Fair enough. They need a bit longer.

But what I will not forgive is that we have a minister in one house and the Premier in another saying that they do not know what is going on, with full knowledge of what is occurring. If the Premier released and is personally monitoring his 100-day plan and he is personally overseeing it, what do members think about the Premier saying in question time today that he knows nothing or knows very little about this organisation that has been awarded a contract by the government without process? But he does know he has not met with them, and he does know, he has told the house, that Matthew Guy, the leader of the opposition in Victoria, has not introduced him to the chair of this organisation. It is all on the record as never having occurred, yet the Liberal Party saw fit to put this in the 100-day plan.

I note that the Deputy Premier, in her remarks, did not address that. Instead, what she attempted to do was throw mud—throw mud to distract and to divert. The truth is that the government has won the election and people want them to govern, and our job is to hold you to account. That is our job. That is the role of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and we will conduct it fearlessly. Does anyone really believe that it is inappropriate to ask a question of the Premier about whether or not he knows who this contract is with and why it has not gone out to tender? Yet, surprise, surprise, the Deputy Premier walks in, uses a 10-minute griever to throw mud. What does that tell you? It tells you that they are worried about something, it tells you that they are trying to distract and it tells you they are trying to cover up.

Well, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition will not be thrown off the scent. We want answers. We want to know why this company has been given this contract. Why were they given an assurance before the election that within 100 days they would be given this contract without tender? If they were given that assurance, why did the Leader of the Opposition not meet with them before the election, given that he was making a commitment to do it within 100 days? These are very, very simple and obvious questions for any opposition to ask.

Let's imagine that we had been successful in the election and that the opposition had lost. I suspect that what would have occurred is that the Deputy Premier might have been leader of the opposition, perhaps, and she probably would have been a very good choice. Imagine that we had let a contract to someone who had been a former Labor Party politician—without tender, without contract—and that that Labor Party politician was under investigation by another government for links to organised crime. What would the Deputy Premier be saying now as leader of the opposition? There would be screams of ICAC now. There would be screams of OPI, select committees, inquiries and relentless questions going through the head of the government. What is coming over the next few weeks with his contract?

What do you do when you are on the back foot? You attack. How do you attack? You come out and you make personal attacks. My father always used to say to me that it is no good looking backwards, that nothing good comes of it. However, I understand the government want to make a few points, and they will go through a few contracts and try to find a few points to score on. I think the Lands Titles Office was a good deal. I think \$80 million for an option to do nothing or extend the contract for seven years, when the now Treasurer will be over I think 100 years old, is not an insignificant benefit for the state, which we can spend now in hospitals, schools and roads.

The government are not compelled to do anything. They do not have to, if they do not want to, sell the motor registry, but I think what is occurring is that the government do want to sell the motor registry. They do want to privatise it, but what they are attempting to do is blame us. So, we shall see. On radio today, when I was with the Treasurer, the Hon. Rob Lucas, he was asked by Mr Leon Byner if he would rule out privatising the motor registry. The Treasurer refused to answer. He said he cannot say. Well, let's be very clear about this: there is no obligation to privatise this organisation at all—none. You can pocket the \$80 million, add seven years to the contract—

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** You spent it.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** The Deputy Premier says, 'You spent it.' I will not rise on a matter of privilege on this because, in the Mid-Year Budget Review, the budget papers clearly show an additional \$855 million from the sale of the LTO that is swishing around the coffers for members opposite to spend.

For members who might not be aware because the Treasurer might not have told them, this is the strategy for what they are doing with this appropriation. Budgets are done through financial years. What the Treasury would be attempting to do is to make the surpluses for the spending the opposition has committed to—and most of the spending that the opposition has committed to is operational.

There is operational spending, there is net lending and there is net debt. They are three columns, as it were, of the budget papers, which you will be shown. There are the operating numbers, which everyone gets very excited about: are we in surplus or are we in deficit? There is a net lending number, which is what the rating agencies really look at. What they are really interested in is whether net lending is positive or negative. Then there are the projected debt levels over the forward estimates. The government and the Treasurer will propose what those numbers are over the following four years.

The government and the Treasurer are attempting to do as much procurement and spending this financial year as possible. Why? Firstly, it is political because they want to make sure they can plunge the state into deficit and try to blame me and, secondly, because all the spending commitments the Liberal Party have made are operational. From memory, the only debt spending or net lending impact that the opposition have made is to dig up an intersection outside, here on North Terrace, and put in a right-hand turn. All the other spending the members opposite are making is operational: tax cuts, land tax cuts payroll tax cuts, ESL tax cuts.

*Mr Pederick interjecting:*

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, I am not talking about the merits or otherwise of them; I am just telling you how they are considered for budget purposes. They are operational spending. The Treasurer needs to find as much operating money as he possibly can; hence, as much spending as possible this year. He wants to bring money forward so revenues that are coming in next financial year bump up the surpluses and make him look like a great financial operator, because the one tragedy of the 44-year history of the Hon. Rob Lucas is not having had a single surplus in his life. He even had the distinction that the member for Lee raised, and that is that, when he sold ETSA after promising not to, he increased debt. Now, that takes skill, a special skill. He actually borrowed a billion dollars more after paying down debt. There you go! Because, again, he cannot control spending.

What I suspect we are going to see is that members are going to be forced to go out and sell it as their decision, despite having no role in the decision-making of what is going to be the budget. They will be forced to go out, talk about and defend public sector cuts, redundancies, reprofiling of infrastructure spending and reprofiling of other spending that will impact communities.

We have had a taste of it, a very small taste of it, with the organisation Grandparents for Grandchildren—\$120,000 out of a budget of nearly \$18 billion. Remember this: the Treasurer and the Attorney-General cannot find \$120,000 of the \$6.6 billion they are procuring. Just remember that. There will be lots of these little things that occur, and in my experience as Treasurer and as a member of parliament in this place for 20 years, it is never the big things that hurt you, it is the little ones. It is the small things. It is the \$50,000 grant to a local community that has been cut that no-one notices, that Treasury does not tell you it is doing.

You will be out there defending it, despite having made no decision to cut or implement that policy, other than clapping at the Treasurer as he delivers his budget in your party room. There will be a very nice slide presentation, I imagine. You will be given a few hours' warning of it, then it will be released into the public and you will have no say, and you will be expected to go out and sell it.

While this is all going on the cabinet is furiously thinking about, 'Well, how is it now that we are able to implement all this operating spending'—which the Liberal Party has traditionally always said it is always opposed to—and pay down debt and deliver surpluses while offering tax cuts?'

A very famous conservative, a man called George Herbert Walker Bush, was President of the United States from 1989 to 1993. He was also Ronald Reagan's vice president. He said that this type of economics was 'voodoo economics', where somehow you can slash revenues, increase spending, pay down debt and grow surpluses, because, through the power of the personality of the Premier and his cabinet, he will grow the economy, revenues will start flowing from lower tax rates because more people will be employed and members can then spend money on their electorates on the little wish lists that they have. All of this, of course, will not occur.

When the government cuts revenue, you cut revenue. You get less. Any uptick in revenue that might come from tax cuts, trust me, is way out there—four, five, six, seven years from now. I also warn the government on its payroll tax cuts. We are supporting them. We think they are a good idea, but I have a concern that I think many members of this house and the other house have, as do Business SA and other organisational groups.

Australia is a very equitable country, and we have also always had progressive tax scales, other than one very famous example, the goods and services tax, but that has exemptions. By and large, progressive tax scales are very efficient because they are able to avoid perverse outcomes. What do I mean by that? The one thing you do not want to do with your tax laws is to disincentivise activity. You do not want your activity to change because of things you have done. You only want activity to be influenced by the decisions of boards and businesses on the basis of what is best for their business.

The government should, as much as it possibly can, be neutral in its decision-making. That is a good foundation. I agree with that, which is why we abolished transactional taxes through stamp duty. We do not want people thinking about paying stamp duty in business—go out and transact. Pay the efficient taxes, like payroll tax and land tax, which do not distort the economy and do not really affect decision-making. But what the government has done is that it says that it wants to raise the payroll tax-free threshold for payroll tax to \$1.5 million.

It sounds great on the outside, but there is one problem. They are not doing it for everyone. What does that mean? That means that, if your payroll is above \$1.5 million, your payroll tax-free threshold will still be \$600,000. Is everyone following me here? So because your payroll tax-free threshold is \$600,000 and the scale goes up to \$1.5 million, once you get to \$1.5 million and you are not over it, you pay no payroll tax.

If your business has a payroll of \$1.55 million, you are paying payroll tax from \$600,000 to \$1.55 million. So what has the government just said to you to do? Has it told you to go out and grow? What has the government just told you as a big, massive signboard? What has it said for you to do? Shrink. If you shrink and sack employees, you can avoid nearly \$50,000 a year in tax. That is why we have progressive tax scales and that is why we do not have these carve-outs.

But I do not think the government thought of that. That is why the Treasurer is now talking about adjustments, scaling and all sorts of alternatives, because what the Treasury is advising them is what they advised me, which is that, actually, it could do a lot of harm and could cost jobs. While it would be great for everyone below \$1.5 million, what is the incentive to grow? Not very much, so the government is going to deal with it on some sort of progression.

But think about the cohort of businesses that are between \$1.5 million and \$1.7 million. Plus the government have not factored in wages growth. People's wages go up and so your payroll goes up. You might not have hired anyone new, but, just through what is called bracket creep, even though, all of a sudden, you have saved all of this money from not paying payroll tax, you pay a 1.25 or 2.5 per cent increase and your payroll goes above that threshold. So what do you do? You get rid of someone and go back down underneath the payroll tax-free threshold. That is why Business SA is arguing to the government that they need to increase the payroll tax-free threshold for everybody, which means BHP, Woolworths, Coles and multinationals, which will not cost \$45 million a year: it will cost hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

These are things that I am sure the Treasurer has explained in detail to the opposition backbenchers in his deliberations in caucus about the causation and effects of his planned tax cuts. They are going to set a fire underneath South Australian businesses. They are going to make them

go out and employ hundreds of thousands of people. That is why that type of reform can be dangerous.

We support these tax cuts. We are going to back you. You are a new government. You have a mandate to do what you claim. Alright, off you go; let's see what happens. What I do not understand though, which I am very concerned about, is that unemployment rose today. I have to say that, yes, it is good that there is a record number of South Australians in work—that is great—as there were the month before and the month before that and consecutively, I think, for 18 months.

What concerns me though is that, as unemployment went up, we are told that these tax cuts are the panacea for all the problems that we have in terms of growth. So the question then is: what are you waiting for? Why are you waiting until 1 January? Are you happy to see the unemployment rate go up? Of course members opposite are not. They do not want to see unemployment go up. They are just like us. All of us have different political views, but none of us want to hurt the economy or South Australia. We all want the best for it.

So what is the intellectual argument from the government to South Australians as to why these tax cuts are the solution to all of our ills, but you just have to wait? Why? Why do we have to wait? Why is it that we cannot have them now and create jobs? If the Liberal theory on economics is right, if you cut taxes, revenue will grow and more people will be employed, then what are you waiting for? It is because the Treasurer has been told by the Treasury that, when you cut revenue, you cut revenue—that is it. That is the outcome.

**Dr Close:** It's gone.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** It is gone and there could be a displacement effect from what the government is going to do. While I am talking about displacement effects, I want to talk about the government's idea of offering a \$200 million gift to a monopoly provider, without tender, called ElectraNet to build an interconnector between South Australia and New South Wales.

The question is: why not put that out to tender? One of the great things I admired about Jeff Kennett and Alan Stockdale is that when they privatised their electricity assets they did something different from Rob Lucas and John Olsen. They brought in contestability. So when we hear about gold plating of grids, what that means is that a monopoly has grown its grid and is able to charge us for the cost of financing out, the tax liability for that, the maintenance of that, a rate of return; and they get paid.

What Stockdale did in Victoria was say, 'Yes, you can build new transmission lines, but if you build a new transmission line it's contestable to third parties; that is, one of your competitors can bid to build it cheaper than you and charge a lower tariff than you for that power running through those lines. Since the privatisation in Victoria and South Australia, do you know how many new kilometres of transmission line has been built in Victoria? None. Can we say the same here in South Australia? No, we cannot, because Rob Lucas gifted a monopoly: this wonderful gift of incontestability. And why did he do that? To inflate the sale price of the transmission assets. And he got, I think, \$2 ½ billion for it.

Importantly, I do not believe that the interconnector into New South Wales will have only positive effects. I think it could have some negative effects. These are what they are. It is called displacement. We saw for a long time the most efficient gas-fired turbine in the country, Pelican Point, mothballed. Why? Because we saw coal-fired power stations in Victoria doing all they could to destroy the Port Augusta power station and mothball Pelican, and they did. When Port Augusta removed itself from the market, you saw Pelican Point immediately start ramping up and turn both units on. They even spent, I think, about \$40 million redoing their turbines.

If you build an interconnector into New South Wales, power will not flow from South Australia to New South Wales all the time. It will be the other way round, and then you will be completely reliant on the New South Wales grid for your power. The government's policy is an extension cord. That is not good energy policy. Good energy policy is generation of electrons in your own jurisdiction that you control. To use the words of John Howard, we will control the electrons we produce and the manner in which they are produced. That is the best policy for energy: more electrons here in South Australia.

Since our energy plan has been put in place we have been exporting electrons from South Australia to Victoria. If you build another interconnector without dealing with the displacement effect, you could see Pelican Point close. You could see Torrens Island have units mothballed because they will not be able to compete. We might all think, 'That means cheaper prices.' Maybe for a while—until we are completely reliant on them. Once we are completely reliant on them, they will set the price. Trust me, when your CEO is headquartered in New South Wales, setting the price in South Australia is very, very easy.

So I would say to the government and its backbenchers: be cautious of the sorts of stunts we just saw now because there is always more behind it. But I know that as Liberals you think for yourselves. You are all individuals. You will go about researching the budget yourselves and make your own decisions, and you will all, of course, exercise your God-given liberties to be individuals and exercise your own rights, unlike us, the Labor Party, who will work for the collective good.

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:48):** Thank you for that stirring speech in favour of solidarity.

**Mr Pederick:** Onward, comrades.

**Dr CLOSE:** Onward, comrades, indeed, member for Hammond. I am glad you are joining us!

I would like to address my speech to one of the areas on which I think the government and the opposition are in accord, if I can use that word advisedly, that is, the relationship with France. There are two strategic international relationships that the previous government identified and invested in—with China and France—and I am pleased to see that both of those appear to be taken similarly seriously by the present government. I not only wish the Premier well in his trip to China and hope that he brings back some useful agreements and work with Chinese companies and organisations but also of course particularly wish my team very well in the game for which he is making the trip.

I would like to talk more about the French relationship because it is one that in some ways is in its infancy and in other ways is based on a very deep history between our nations—between our state, our country and some of the provinces in France. Of course, we could have had the Canadian experience. We could have been the French state amidst a sea of English-speaking provinces, had Baudin landed, claimed and started establishing a colony here. That was not to be, but we commemorate in Encounter Bay the very old experience of encountering a different culture in a place far away from home.

What we have built on since then—the historical relationship with France—has been particularly marked through the experience of war, particularly the First World War and the Second World War. The First World War was when so many South Australian men lost their lives on the battlefields of northern France and Belgium. The way in which the French continue to commemorate and honour that relationship, born of that time, is inspiring to me. If anyone has a chance to look on YouTube at the speech given by the French prime minister recently on ANZAC Day, you will see the depth of emotion that still exists and the depth of feeling between our two countries as a result of that incredible sacrifice by our forebears.

The relationship has more recently become one with far more pleasure involved—a relationship on the basis of tourism, cultural exchange, trade and a sharing of a love of food and art. It is also a sporting relationship, and for some time has been a relationship based on industry and education institutions. That has all come into sharp focus with the submarine contract. I must say, one of the greatest achievements of the former premier Jay Weatherill, the member for Cheltenham—the fights that he had with Canberra on behalf of this state—was to secure the political demand from across the country, but particularly from this state, that the federal Liberal government build the submarines here and not allow them to be built overseas, despite the appalling comments that were made by federal members of the Liberal Party and the National Party about this state and our capacity to build.

Nonetheless, the political requirements were such that they had to bow down, and they awarded it to South Australia and, in this instance, to France, to the French company that was DCNS and is now Naval Group. It is an opportunity to be at the very beginning of a very long-term contract

in a very long-term industry—an industry that starts with our making something that has been designed overseas and finishes with our capacity to design and build our own. We have a sovereign capacity to be able not only to make our own submarines but to design them. That is a truly important industry that is just starting to gear up in South Australia.

Because the company that is behind this is a French company, we have suddenly turned our heads again towards France and want to embrace that relationship. A bit over a year ago, I went to France as the then minister for education and had a series of meetings that I wish to share with this chamber now. I believe that the new Minister for Education in the new government will want to pick up on that relationship and has expressed not only his gratitude for the work that has been done but also his commitment to furthering and improving on that relationship.

I went over there to have a conversation with the organisation that runs bilingual French national schools overseas. I wanted to know what we had to do to make sure that the bilingual offerings we were going to have in our schools would be recognised by France. The number of students now studying at Highgate Primary in the French bilingual program is, I believe, at 100. If there were more room, there would be more demand for more students to be in that program.

It is not just people who are French nationals who happen to be living in Australia; it is also people who are not French themselves and not of a French background who recognise what a child can get out of a bilingual education and have decided that French is the language they wish to do that in. That was an important meeting and discussion and an ongoing relationship about getting the certification ultimately from France to say that the way you are teaching French and incorporating French curriculum, particularly at the high school level, into the Australian curriculum, will be recognised and valued by French people coming here.

I went up to Cherbourg to go and see a submarine being built—a nuclear submarine in that case, although the nuclear bit was missing when I went around it. The thing that DCNS, the mayor of Cherbourg and all the high-level officials I was meeting with at that time were most preoccupied by how they could best welcome the 50 Australian families who have now relocated to Cherbourg in the early stages of people from Australia going to France to start to learn how to design these submarines, to be involved in that very early stage. What they wanted to know most from me was how they could make those people welcome. I think that is a mark of the warmth of the friendship that they are displaying towards us.

I also met with a number of universities in Brittany. I sat for a day in a room at a university in Brittany, meeting with university after university on how they wanted to work with ours. We are starting to see that pay off. Already in Paris when I was there, Flinders University signed an agreement with four of the *grande écoles*, which is the level of university that we do not have. We do not distinguish between universities. They have these very high level, very sophisticated universities. Four of them partnered to join with Flinders University on research associated with submarines.

Today, again, at Adelaide University, at another signing ceremony, one of the engineering universities was talking about not only shared research but shared students with Adelaide University, students coming here from France and our students being able to spend time in France. France is now offering teaching and research degrees in English in order to make it easier for those of us from English speaking backgrounds to go to France and study. The possibilities that we now see between our university sectors in France and in Australia, in Brittany, Normandy and South Australia, are going to be enormously important to our economy in the future.

The meetings I had in France not only were a pleasure because people were so accommodating and desirous of strengthening our relationship but they also gave me an opportunity to use the French that I had learnt many years ago, to resurrect my French. I went to the Alliance Française here in Adelaide before I went over so that I could try to refresh my French before I arrived, so that I carried with honour the name of South Australia to Paris and beyond.

What I would like to say, as I am free to talk on almost anything in this grievance, is: please encourage any child you know to learn a language. It is very easy when we are English speakers to assume that that is sufficient, that to be able to speak English is all you will ever need to conduct business and even to travel across the world. It is not the case. Not only does speaking another language help you develop your brain and help you develop your own language in understanding

the construction of grammar but it helps you to have a relationship with countries where they look at you differently because you have bothered to try to speak their language.

In one week in Adelaide last year, I spoke all three languages that I have attempted to learn over my life. I spoke French with the French ambassador. I spoke Italian with the mayor of Reggio Emilia, who came over here and speaks almost no English, and at an ALP fundraiser I had a German of reasonable note in this state who was giving me a bit of a hard time as the member for Port Adelaide, so I unleashed some German on him that I had learnt in high school, and he was much nicer to me after that. Can I urge members not only to support our education system in offering languages but to individually support our young people to take on that challenge.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** To follow the multilingual deputy leader, the member for Ramsay.

**Ms BETTISON (Ramsay) (16:58):** Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. I rise today to talk about the excellent work being undertaken by the Salisbury Business Association in my electorate of Ramsay. It is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the businesses in the Salisbury City Centre. It is funded by a small stipend via council rates and the Salisbury Business Association, through its own elected board of volunteers. Its chief executive works tirelessly year-round to improve economic and social activity in the Salisbury City Centre.

In collaboration with association members, local service organisations, schools and sporting clubs, it successfully organises a number of events locally in Salisbury. These include the annual Christmas parade, the annual Salisbury Business Awards, the Salisbury Motorcycle Showcase, the Aussie Era Salisbury Car Show and, this year, the inaugural Superhero Saturday event and the Salisbury Food and Cultural Festival. The larger events are well publicised locally and attract 2,500 to 8,000 people. This is a significant achievement for our area.

All these fantastic events are organised to shine a spotlight on the Salisbury city centre, to create an energetic community vibe and to make it a family-friendly space for our community to meet and, of course, shop. The association works collaboratively with a range of local organisations and the City of Salisbury, and it provides lots of useful information for local businesses via a fortnightly e-newsletter and regular board reports.

Just some of their recent activities include: working on a new John Street PA system; working with council on streetscape works, including new paving, street furniture, rubbish recycling and smokers' butt bins to improve the amenity of the area; the creation of the 'Moving Salisbury Forward' policy document on behalf of local businesses to outline priorities for government; support and contribution of ideas towards the new Salisbury Hub; and support and grants to improve lighting and CCTV in the area.

My electorate office of Ramsay is not just hashtag #5108andproud—our dear postcode—but is proud to be a supporter of the work of the Salisbury Business Association. It contributes by being involved as a member of the board and by participating in a non-partisan way in local events. A highlight for my son Hugo has been to be an elf in the Salisbury Christmas parade for many years. He is looking forward to again donning the costume this year. Last year's Christmas parade broke several records, with more than 86 different groups and 1,800 people participating. I think we might even have beaten the Christie Downs Christmas—

**Mr Picton:** Christies Beach.

**Ms BETTISON:** The Christies Beach Christmas parade. I have some fun facts about the parade to share. There were 45 parade vehicles, 50 bicycles and two horse-drawn vehicles; three horses plus camels, goats, ponies and sheep; a beautiful Nativity scene; Christmas carollers; six event sponsors and, more importantly, to show the diversity and the care of this event, more than 50 event volunteers from the Rotary Club of Salisbury, Global Care, Salisbury City Rotaract Club and the Salisbury Business Association. Twenty market stalls were held on the day with lots of free children's activities and live entertainment.

Apart from being an incredible amount of work to organise and coordinate, there are tangible economic and social benefits derived from this fantastic work. One thing we see is a full occupancy rate of the retail spaces in our John Street mall, one of the few traditional high streets left in South Australia. There is a strong retail occupancy at Parabanks Shopping Centre. Car parks are at



capacity from Wednesday to Saturday, with traders reporting increased patronage. There is a significant positive relationship between traders and the police in reporting and managing criminal and antisocial behaviours, resulting in a safer and more community-friendly shopping precinct.

A new resident to the area recently told me that she loved the community spirit of the Salisbury area. She shared that it was fantastic that there always seemed to be something happening in the Salisbury city centre. That is because there is always something happening that is affordable, family friendly and fun. For a long time, I have had my own personal tagline for Salisbury: 'Come to Salisbury and see the world.' This is no exaggeration. When we hosted a small business round table with then assistant treasurer, Chris Picton, in John Street, many of the speakers travelling from outside the area for the event were impressed with the diversity of food and goods available in John Street.

There was Coffee Amigo, for a taste of El Salvador and nationally award-winning coffee; Qadir's Afghan supermarket and butchery; Abdul in the African Supermarket, facing Wiltshire Street; the Pacific Big Butcher, with its European feel; Nepalese condiments and jewels; the Bhutanese supermarket, Namaste; we enjoy the spices of India, at Tandoori Temptations and the Best Indian Supermarket. Recently, a new addition is the Chin supermarket, on Park Terrace; and of course there is the significant influence of Vietnam, with iPho noodles; the bakery; and of course our fabulous Japanese restaurant, Mobara.

These businesses receive fantastic support and encouragement from the Salisbury Business Association, in particular from the Executive Officer, Mr David Waylen. David has become an integral part of our Salisbury community. Early in the morning, you will see David grabbing a coffee at one of the many cafes. During the day he is out and about talking with traders, organising meetings and always on the lookout for information that will benefit members of the association, and the area in general.

David attends council meetings and subcommittee meetings and reports back to his members. He writes the action items for the agenda and writes the minutes, produces newsletters and manages the Facebook page. He genuinely works tirelessly for the association, its members but, more importantly, our community. Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge David and all the board members and volunteers who assist this excellent work being carried out by the Salisbury Business Association.

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (17:06):** I rise to speak to this grievance debate. I thank the member for Ramsay for her discussion, which reminded me of the excellent meeting that we had in her electorate with local businesses in her area when I was the assistant minister to the Treasurer. We discussed how we, the then government, could help them in terms of addressing a lot of the barriers they were facing as small businesses in the northern suburbs.

It highlights one of the really important things that I was undertaking in that role. I call upon the government to match their rhetoric with action in this regard, which is to actually work one on one with those businesses, to go out and listen to those businesses across the whole state, to talk about what are those barriers and how we as a parliament and they as a government can take action to address them. That is what I did in that role. It is not glamorous work. It is quite difficult, complex and time consuming to go through and try to address what can be a number of anomalies in the law, or in different regulations that might be affecting people.

We brought a number of deals to this parliament to remove that red tape. We had a number of Simplify Days to remove red tape affecting businesses, and I hope that is continued. There was certainly a lot of rhetoric from those opposite that they would be doing this. I hope that they actually take the time to invest in resources to make that happen. One important thing connected to that as well and was certainly present at that meeting, as well as another meeting with the member for Light in his electorate, was a representative of the Office of the Industry Advocate.

This is a very important role for our government in South Australia, to have somebody who represents businesses in South Australia to make sure they are getting a fair go in contracting for both big and small government works, and to make sure that we are getting the biggest economic benefit that we can out of the work that we are investing in infrastructure, but also in service contracts

across the state. I am very glad that we legislated for that position because I am not quite sure whether that would still be in existence now if it was not legislated and protected by law.

Unfortunately, we never had support for that legislation from those opposite, but we did manage to get it through the parliament. I hope that we do not see a diminishing of the position or importance of the Industry Advocate under this government, and, most importantly, the policy that sits behind the Industry Advocate in terms of what the industry participation plan is for South Australia. I hope that for each of those contracts there are criteria and, importantly, percentages sitting behind that waiting to see what the economic benefit for South Australia will be both in terms of jobs and capital output. I hope we do not see diminishing of that. That is something that we will be watching very closely on this side because we know that this has very wide support across the business community in South Australia, and we would not want to see that diminished.

There are a few things I would like to mention in this grievance debate. I ran out of time to mention a couple of things in my Address in Reply speech, so it is great to have this extra opportunity to do so. In particular, I was going through thank-yous, but I ran out of time for what I was going to do last, but not least, that is, to thank the most important people, my family, for their hard work and support during my campaign and during my term in parliament so far—in particular, my wife, Connie, and my daughter, Anna, whom I was not able to thank in my maiden speech because she did not exist at that point in time.

I am sure that everybody who is a parent will agree that becoming a parent is a life-changing moment. I am very glad to be in state parliament where, even if we have a late-night sitting, we are able to get home to bed at night and wake up in the morning and see our children. You do not have that if you are flying to Canberra and away most of the time travelling around the country. I am doing my best to try to be the best dad that I can be with this busy job, but I rely hugely on my wife's support, as I am sure other people in this parliament rely on their partner. So I thank her for her support, as I do my parents, siblings and in-laws as well, who gave me huge support during the election campaign.

I would also like to thank the Labor Party campaign headquarters in South Australia. I think that they did an excellent job in what was a difficult campaign. It is pretty remarkable to be in government for 16 years, and I have been contemplating how long a period of time that is, and I have to say that it must have been a very long time for those people who were in opposition for 16 years. I think that we did an excellent job in demonstrating that we were still a party of ideas and a party that was still passionate about progressing South Australia.

As well as to the former premier, a huge amount of thanks goes to our campaign team, led by Reggie Martin, our state secretary, of course assisted ably by Aemon Bourke, one of our lead campaign organisers, who marshalled a very professional campaign and who was able to communicate expertly with the people of South Australia. We see some of the results in terms of the success in seats like Mawson in our ability to get out on the ground and connect with people. We will certainly continue to do that, particularly in those seats where we lost narrowly this time, but hopefully we will be successful next time.

I spoke in my Address in Reply speech as well about the privilege I had to serve in the portfolios I did as a minister and the thanks I give to all those emergency service workers and police, who serve day in, day out, keeping our state safe. When it comes to the police, we absolutely need to keep our police safe. They have a very dangerous job. Day in, day out they are responding to very dangerous situations across our state. They are putting themselves and their lives at risk in each one of those situations. When they turn up to a call-out, they are never quite sure what to expect. It is incumbent upon us, as a parliament and a government, to ensure that they have the best possible resources available to defend themselves and to protect themselves in those situations.

One of the things that I was very proud of during my time as police minister was to get a commitment, not just a commitment but a decision, made by the cabinet at that time that we were going to procure stab-proof and ballistic-proof vests for all our police officers on active duties in South Australia, as well as ensuring that all our patrolling police had access to a taser—not to have a trial, not to dip our toe in the water, but to ensure that all police, when they go out on the job, have access to a ballistic-proof vest and have access to a taser.

This was a commitment that was agreed to by the cabinet. The police had the spending authority and they were in the process of procuring these items. This is similar to what New South Wales has done in terms of the ballistic-proof vests that they are rolling out across the state. To be honest, I am very disappointed about what we heard in question time today, when the Minister for Police outlined that he is only going to commit to a trial of these vests—eventually; we are not quite sure when. So he is cutting what was previously agreed by the government as a full rollout of these vests across the state.

We have no information as to whether police will be able to get these tasers. In fact, he said to the TV news last night that he would look at it if people put it on the agenda. Well, it is on the agenda. The police have been calling for this, the Police Association has been calling for this. Our officers need this protection. Currently, there is one taser per patrol. We need to ensure that all patrolling members have access to a taser and, potentially, these life-protecting vests as well.

I call upon the government to make sure they take action and keep to the commitment that we made in government, the decision that we made as a cabinet, to invest in this. It is a commitment that both the police force and the Police Association were very supportive and appreciative of. There is no need to have a trial. A trial would create a delay. It would be a waste of time and money. It would put officers' lives at risk because many police officers in the state will not have access to this equipment when they need it because we may be going through the farce of a trial when we could instead be investing in our police officers and getting these vests across the state right now. I hope this government change their mind and make sure they reverse this cut and invest in our police.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (17:16):** I welcome the opportunity to make a short contribution to this grievance debate. I was going to talk about the police, but perhaps now I will regale you again, Deputy Speaker, with more examinations of roundabouts in the northern suburbs, or perhaps repeat my praise of the member for King, who has taken up the fight to make Skyline Drive safer. I was saying before, member for King, that it was one of my first focuses early on. I am pleased you are continuing that work. We changed some speed limits along Black Top Road to make it safer, but obviously you are continuing that.

I want to talk a little bit about the police portfolio. I want to put on the record my thanks to the member for Kurna and the leader (member for Croydon) for helping me settle into that role. Both were very good ministers, both very focused on essentially giving the police what they needed to do their job rather than, for want of a better word, directing or instructing the police on how to do their job. They simply listened to people like the police commissioner, and the previous police commissioner, both obviously very experienced police officers. They had a very good management team around them, all experienced police officers.

There has been the member for Kurna and the member for Croydon, and a whole suite of previous ministers—we were trying to count the number of police ministers over the last 16 years; the member for Wright springs to mind, of course, and the former member for Elder, I think, was the first, and then there was a whole suite of very good police ministers, all of whom understood their roles and responsibility under the Police Act and all of whom contributed to what we have now, which is one of the most respected and well-resourced, if not the most well-resourced, police force in Australia.

I was very proud to be a serving member of South Australia Police. I am very proud to now be a member of the party which until recently were in government and played such a strong role in making the police stronger and better able to do their job. This is something about which we all should be immensely proud. These things do not happen by accident, as I alluded to. The members for Playford and Kurna have already outlined some of the achievements. These things do not happen by accident. They come from having a government which is true to its values and believes in a strongly resourced and independent police force.

On this side, we have respect for the office of the police commissioner, respect for the police and respect for that office. As I said, that is why we have a police force that is the most trusted and among the well-resourced in the country. It has been stated many times that by the end of this financial year we will have 4,713 sworn police officers in this state. Again, this does not happen by accident. These things come from a government that believes in having a well-resourced and

independent police force. I was proud to serve as a police officer in this state and I am also proud to now be the shadow minister for police and able to hold the government to account in these areas.

I do have a couple of areas of concern and the first, of course, is about resourcing. After years of steady investment and increasing police numbers against attrition, the previous government announced in September 2016—I believe the member for Kaurana was the minister at the time, or perhaps the member for Croydon—an acceleration of our Recruit 313 program requiring, as I said, the reaching of 4,713 by the middle of this year. I do fear that this number will not last, that once Treasury and the Treasurer get their hands on a budget they will be tempted to let police attrition take place and that we will see this going in the wrong direction. I very much hope I am wrong about that.

Other than resourcing, the other area I am concerned about is this seeming lack of understanding of the role of the commissioner and the role of the minister under the Police Act. I say this for the benefit of, perhaps, the backbenchers who are watching the minister and the Premier in question time answering questions around their election commitments, around their responsibilities under the act and their authority to make certain decisions that they promised the people of South Australia, who rightly expect them to keep their promises.

This is not just question time posturing by the opposition to be laughed away with glib answers—indeed, often the same answer to different questions. This goes to the heart of our system of government, the heart of the Westminster system. There are those on the other side who claim to have a great deal of interest in personal freedoms, and this goes to the heart of our freedoms—having an independent police force directed by an independent police commissioner. The Police Act is structured in a very specific and deliberate way to give the police minister independence from the executive except under very extraordinary circumstances, and it has been stated in this place how rare those circumstances are and how controversial they are when they do take place.

Section 6 of the act outlines the commissioner's responsibility, and his or her responsibility is to control and manage the police:

Subject to this act and any written directions of the minister, the commissioner is responsible for the control and management of SA Police.

Section 7 outlines a specific direction that the minister has no influence over remuneration, over appointments, over transfers, over discipline of members of the police. Section 8, which is probably the most pertinent, is about directions to the commissioner:

8—Directions to commissioner to be gazetted and laid before parliament

The minister must cause a copy of any direction given to the commissioner to be—

- (a) published in the *Gazette* within eight days of the date of the direction; and
- (b) laid before each house of parliament within six sitting days of the date of the direction if parliament is then in session, or, if not, within six sitting days after the commencement of the next session of parliament.

We have seen some extraordinary scenes in the parliament and the media where the police minister and, on occasion, the Premier seemed confused about their powers and authorities under this act; and not just confusion but an inability to defend their decisions, an inability to work through them and explain how they arrived at seemingly contradictory positions where they claim to be able to direct the commissioner to perform certain functions or change certain policies in relation to resourcing, particularly of police stations, and of course the deployment of STAR Group officers to break up teenage parties (which was pretty roundly and quickly cut off by someone in about 12 hours).

We have seen confusion, we have seen a seeming inability to understand the act, and now an inability to reconcile the election promises they made to the people of South Australia, which the people of South Australia are fully entitled to expect them to keep, as well as their responsibilities under the act and the explicit wishes of the police and the police commissioner. Those things are in conflict in several areas now, and it is up to the minister and the Premier to sort these things out quickly, come clean with the house about how they are going to manage this going forward and how they are going to manage to keep their election promises and keep their responsibilities under the act.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (17:25):** I am going to continue the remarks I was making in my speech to the Supply Bill, as I had run out of time, but I am going to return to some of those remarks. I started to touch upon electricity supply in remote communities, but before I touch on that, I found question time interesting today. I am one of those relatively old-fashioned people who believe that credit should be given where credit is due.

Over the term of this government I am sure you are going to do some things we are totally going to disagree with, but you will also do some things that I am sure will get my tick of approval. There are already one or two things you intend to do that I think are quite good. I am not going to say what they are at this stage but they are not bad. If you deliver on it, I will be there saying, 'Good on you. That is a good policy and it deserves a slap on the back.'

We should all, on this side and on your side, give credit where it is due, and that is why I was a little disappointed with the Minister for Energy and Mining today in his response to a Dorothy Dixier on the energy system in South Australia. I will preface my remarks with the comment that I have a fair amount of respect for the Minister for Energy and Mining. Given that he has the electorate that neighbours my electorate, my perception before coming into this place was that he is a very good local member—an effective and good grassroots local member.

He is moderate and he is pragmatic, so he has a lot of things going for him, so I was a little bit disappointed when he did not give credit where credit was due. In response to the Dorothy Dixier about the energy mix in South Australia, he almost badged it as an initiative of the current government that has been here for just a few weeks.

**Mr Pederick:** Great work, isn't it?

**Mr HUGHES:** Yes, very great work, very quick work indeed. He mentioned a few projects and, unfortunately for the minister, I know quite a bit about these projects and I know the history of these projects. He mentioned the Goat Hill project, which is between Whyalla and Port Augusta, a lot closer to Port Augusta than it is to Whyalla. Goat Hill is a pumped hydro project. I recall that the proponents for Goat Hill came to see me about a year and a half ago to talk about this project at Goat Hill. I was quite impressed because I had already been exposed to a number of pumped hydro projects, and this was a group of companies that had some experience in delivering pumped hydro overseas.

So, they went through the technical aspects, and it seemed like a fairly simple project in comparison to some of the other pumped hydro projects that had been talked about in Upper Spencer Gulf. It was during the term of the last government that they put in their application for planning approval for this project, which has now been badged as a Liberal Party project. I do not think there will be any problem with the planning approval; in fact, they might have already got financial closure for that particular project. It was a bit strange to say that this is an example of what this Liberal government is doing when it is something that came out of a very positive approach to renewables that we have in this state.

He went on to mention the Bungala project, a big solar project just outside Port Augusta, and badge that as another example of the Liberal Party getting in there and getting these projects up and running. This had gone way past the development approval stage. It was actually physically under construction during the period of the Labor government. Indeed, the first stage of that project either has been, or is about to be, connected to the grid.

That is going to be a good project for Port Augusta, and certainly during construction generated a lot of jobs. These projects, like the solar PV project, which is the Bungala project, once they are up and running, do not generate a lot of jobs, but the good thing about them, because the marginal cost of operating is so low, is that over time it is going to reduce the wholesale cost of electricity in South Australia. He mentioned another project, and that was the concentrating solar thermal project north of Port Augusta, the SolarReserve project, which I have to say, if it gets constructed, will be in my electorate.

I will acknowledge that, as the local member, he was very supportive of that project. I am someone who is very keen to see that project go ahead, given that I had involvement with concentrating solar thermal dating all the way back to 1998 because Whyalla did come close to

having the first of the major concentrating solar thermal projects in South Australia and, in fact, Australia. As far back as the Howard government, when Malcolm Turnbull was still a supporter of renewables, they provided \$8 million to us towards a small pilot project.

We went on, under a Labor government, to secure the lion share of the renewable energy demonstration program money, so we had \$60 million of federal money on the table for a \$230 million project using Australian-initiated technology with the private sector consortia, including the Australian National University. These things are often complicated. It is often difficult bringing emerging technologies to the market and it did end in tears, but none of the \$60 million that the federal government had put on the table was lost.

I had a lot of involvement in that particular project, so I was very happy to see us, as a state government, enter into a power purchase agreement with SolarReserve to help underpin the potential financial viability of that project. The minister indicated that he, in this house, set up a select committee to have a look at this project, and good on him for doing that, but there were a number of other people involved way before then. Beyond Zero Emissions must be an organisation that drives a lot of Liberals around the bend because it is committed nationally to a 100 per cent renewable energy target, and has laid out how we might move in that direction and how we might transition into that particular space.

Of course, credit also needs to go to Repower Port Augusta. The minister was a strong backer of Repower Port Augusta, so it is really interesting to see that these projects are in some way claimed by this Liberal government that has been here for a mere few weeks. I am just waiting for the Liberals to claim credit for all the other renewable energy projects that have been developed in this state as well. I think it is important that, when we are ascribing credit, credit should go to where it belongs. Obviously, the private sector proponents of a whole range of these projects should get credit, but the former state government, in establishing a framework to actively facilitate renewables in this state, should also get credit when we are talking about these projects that are being delivered.

There is over \$7 billion of investment in renewables in South Australia and a large share of that investment has happened in regional South Australia. It has generated jobs during project development, it generates ongoing jobs and the energy mix that it is going to create will, over time, drive down wholesale electricity costs in South Australia. Once again, I have run out of time. Thank you.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (17:35):** I would like to raise a couple of points in this grievance debate. I would like to highlight some things that were not covered in the original Governor's speech in terms of outlining the plan—if you can call it that—by the Liberal Party for this term of government. One area that I found was missing from the document, except for a passing half a sentence, was to deal with issues around inequality in our community and the impact of inequality in our community. Not only that, but it was also hard to find the word 'community' mentioned anywhere. A number of speakers mentioned the word, but I am not sure they know what it actually means because it is not reflected in their policies.

In terms of inequality, I am talking about how we can close the gap between the poorest people in our community and the wealthiest. It is no secret: even the most conservative commentators in the area of economics these days talk about the impact of globalisation. Yes, it has increased wealth, but that improvement in wealth across the world has not been shared proportionally across communities.

Particularly in the Western world, the impact of inequality ended up with Trump being elected as President of America; inequality in Europe and particularly in the UK has led to the increase in influence of extreme right-wing parties—and I hope none of us this in place would endorse their policies. We see those sorts of reactions by people who feel most vulnerable, people who feel like they have been left behind by society and they now are voting for extreme parties, which is a worry in terms of our democracy.

Another element missing from the Governor's speech was any reference to a whole range of issues that I think are really core to what governments are about. The government should intervene not only in the economy as required but also in society more generally to make sure they provide an appropriate framework to create a fair and just society. As I have heard a number of times over the

last few weeks in maiden speeches, we are human beings who are at our best when we look after each other rather than ourselves. A lot of the policies I have heard so far from the other side are not about helping those who are least fortunate in our community.

Another thing not mentioned in the Governor's speech, which I thought needed to be addressed, was anything to do with home affordability. In other words, what are we going to do to make sure that people can afford a home of their own and particularly for young people to be able to afford a home of their own? A lot of young people are just not able to raise the sort of finance they need to buy a home. For those who are lucky enough to go to university and graduate, they often have a huge HECS debt to pay off, which makes it very hard for them to get into the homebuyers' market.

Home affordability manifests itself in a whole range of ways in the community. It generally delays people coupling up and having children. There is a whole range of other changes in society as a result of home affordability. However, putting aside that important issue, there is also the issue of homeless people in our society. Often people who are homeless are stereotyped, certainly by some councillors in the City of Adelaide. What some councillors have said about some homeless people in the city is quite disgraceful. These people lack compassion for people who are homeless—there but for the grace of God go I.

People always say that people are homeless because they want to be homeless or they are basically lazy, etc. That is just nonsense. When you look at the case studies and you meet people who are homeless, you realise that we are all one or two steps away from being homeless ourselves. In my previous role, when I was minister for social inclusion, I met people who had been successful business people who had ended up on the street. They go through a whole range of steps: the business goes bad, the marriage goes bad, and literally they are on the street with alcohol and other things.

There is a whole range of factors that lead people to be homeless, such as young people escaping violence at home or people with mental health issues. For people in positions of influence to then literally try to benefit from people's homelessness was just disgraceful. Those councillors should be ashamed of themselves. There was nothing in the document about homelessness. I could not find it. I am happy to stand corrected and am happy to correct that if there is anything in there about homelessness and how we can deal with that social issue.

The other issue that was dear to my heart—and this is perhaps less a state matter these days than federal—is supporting the NDIS to make sure we have a scheme that is truly supportive of people living with disability. Under the current Liberal federal government, disability has become a bit of a political football. That government has used it to wedge the most vulnerable in our society. I recall very clearly that, in not the last budget but the budget before, they basically said, 'We're going to have to trade off the NDIS to improve payments for people with Newstart and other payments.' It is disgraceful that a government would say that and would wedge people who are the poorest in our community against those people who live with a disability. The federal government certainly does not deserve to be re-elected at the next election, and I do not think it will be.

Another thing about inequality and its impact on community is a growing sense of isolation in our communities. I think this is one of those sleeper issues. It goes right across a whole range of ages and groups. Particularly older people suffer from isolation. As a whole range of government programs are cut back and withdrawn, people are isolated in their homes. We are fortunate to still have community organisations like Meals on Wheels, which often are the only social contact some older people have with the outside world, the world outside their homes. Those volunteers deliver not only meals but importantly that people contact. So inequality has an impact on community and also increases isolation.

The other group of people is obviously people in poor health. I am pleased to say that people who have kidney issues or cancers now have greater access to services in our town under both federal and state government programs. We introduced chemotherapy services and also dialysis services in Gawler so that people who have those sorts of health issues to deal with are not disrupted more than they have to be, because it can be quite a strain on families. Certainly the Gawler Health Service provides a whole range of services to people with those health issues.

There can be no greater contribution to inequality than keeping wages down for working-class people. It is interesting that, once you mention executive salaries and how they have grown over the last 10 to 15 years, you are accused of entering into class warfare. They shut the debate down. The Liberals love to shut the debate about inequality down as soon as you talk about people at the top end of the market whose pay has gone through the roof. Yet even conservative commentators are now talking about how the lack of wage growth for working-class people is having a negative impact on our economy as well.

When you have people like John Howard saying that the number of people receiving Newstart should be increased, you know this federal government has got it wrong. When people like John Howard are saying, 'Yes, Newstart payments should be increased to make sure that people have a reasonable quality of life,' again that is reflecting inequality in our society. So what did this Liberal government do in South Australia, and what do federal Liberal governments do? They gave the big banks tax handouts—\$65 billion going to corporates. Most of those do not pay tax here; they pay tax overseas, and they are going to get an additional benefit. The Liberal Party opposed our big bank tax—I was going to say the big, bad banks; well, they are actually big and bad these days, and the royal commission has proven that—and they saw that as a victory.

**Mr Pederick:** Pull your money out.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Well, the member for Hammond clearly supports—

**Mr Pederick:** I said pull your money out of the bank if you don't like them.

Time expired.

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (17:45):** I am delighted to rise this evening to speak in this grievance debate as the member for Reynell and from the perspective of shadow minister for multicultural affairs. Cultural diversity is one of our state's greatest assets, and I am so grateful to the many people who have chosen to call Australia home and brought richness, vitality and strength to the fabric of South Australian life.

Our state is better and stronger for the people who have made that choice to make a life here for themselves and their families. In that regard, it was absolutely wonderful to listen to a legislative councillor, Irene Pnevmatikos, speak today about the journey of her family here to South Australia. They were beautiful words that she gave and it was really inspiring to hear her talk about her family's journey and also to hear her talk about the way that education has been a key for her in her journey to this place.

I wanted to speak this evening about a few of the communities I have had the great pleasure of getting to know better in recent times. I have had many opportunities to get to know the growing Ahmadiyya Muslim community in the south over recent times, particularly as they have searched for premises in our southern community. On 3 March, I was absolutely thrilled to help them celebrate the finding of those premises at the opening of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community's first ever mosque in our southern community.

The mosque is situated on Hillier Road in Morphett Vale in my electorate, in a building that previously housed the Uniting Church, which for decades brought that faith community together. It was wonderful to see members of the Uniting Church community at the opening, wishing them well and articulating their hope that as two churches they can continue to work together in support of others and with a unity of purpose around the advancement of peace and togetherness.

The opening of this mosque means that the growing number of Ahmadiyya Muslim community members in the south will thankfully no longer have to travel 30 kilometres to their next nearest mosque at Beverley. It means that this community finally has a mosque where they can pray and have gatherings close to homes and, most importantly, from where they can undertake the significant work they do to support the efforts of others in our broader southern community.

'Love for all, hatred for none' is the ethos of this Ahmadiyya Muslim community, and it is this ethos that they bring to life in many different ways and in the service of others. I thank them for their values and their commitment to peace and thoughtful discussion, for their advocacy on human rights, both locally and across the globe, and for the genuine way they do all that they do with love and a genuine desire to advance the interests of others.



Their mosque in Morphett Vale has been named Masjid Noor, which means 'the mosque of light', and light to our community they certainly bring. I have had the opportunity to also attend their women's bazaars, their peace symposiums and to witness their very important work for the Cancer Council and for Clean Up Australia Day, amongst a variety of other causes. Just two weeks ago today, I had the opportunity to present Sadiqqa Khalid from the Ahmadiyya community with an award to recognise her selfless voluntary work for our community. Sadiqqa has led a team of other women to cook for gatherings of up to 200 people, whilst at the same time dealing with some pressing caring and family responsibilities.

Last week the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Bhutanese Conference was held here at the Festival Theatre, and what a conference it was. The enthusiasm and energy of attendees was palpable, and I felt very lucky to be able to join them. This month the Bhutanese community is celebrating 10 years since the first group of people arrived in Australia, when the Rudd Labor government agreed to take refugees from Bhutan. Over the last decade the Bhutanese community has settled in every state across the country and become a wonderful part of our broader Australian community. I was very pleased at the event to read a letter to the community from former Prime Minister Rudd wishing the community very well.

While the Bhutanese community were celebrating last week, they were also taking the opportunity of all being in the one place to share their experiences, examine challenges and to plan for their future. Thank you very much to everyone who made me feel very welcome at the event, and particular thanks go to Kamal Dahal and Sushil Niroula from the Bhutanese Australian Association of South Australia and your team for organising this fantastic event. I wish your community all the best and look forward to meeting with you again and to supporting the vision and the plan that you developed together.

On Saturday, I was very pleased to have the honour of attending and representing our Leader of the Opposition at the Pakistani Australian Connections of SA (PACSA) welcome dinner. I thank Nasir Hussain, President of the Pakistani Australian Connections of SA and his team for their very, very warm welcome and for putting together such a wonderful event. PACSA holds a dinner every six months to welcome new members of the local Pakistani community and to connect new members of our community with various supports and services that are available. I can only imagine how daunting and overwhelming such a big move would be for people making such a journey, and I hope that events like these dinners help to reassure them that they are absolutely never alone.

Thank you to PACSA for all that you do for the Pakistani community in South Australia. Your volunteers selflessly and positively assist people through the transition to living in Australia with so much practical support, from airport pick-ups, accommodation and shopping for food, to helping to set up mobile phones and bank accounts, the list goes on. What is even more special about your organisation is that you continue to support people after the initial transition. You help people newly arriving every day through your deep commitment to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment that supports and empowers your fellow community members to achieve their goals.

At the dinner, I emphasised rightly that there are many in the South Australian community willing to assist these new arrivals in whatever way we can and that I and others in this house and the other place are a great resource and I encourage them to contact their state or federal members of parliament for any assistance they need. I want everyone to have access to everything they need to equally and actively participate in every aspect of community life here in South Australia, and I am very happy and willing to help people to do so.

South Australia is such a beautiful place to live, and I hope that those who were at the dinner grow to love this place as much as we all do. We have such a long coastline of magnificent beaches, rolling hills, an ever-growing restaurant and bar scene, many exciting festivals and, most importantly in my mind, we have a strong sense of community. We are a community here in South Australia, where we reach out to one another when times are tough, where we walk alongside each other and where we celebrate the successes of one another. It was an absolute privilege to be there to welcome and to celebrate these new members of our community.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.A.W. Gardner.

At 17:54 the house adjourned until Tuesday 29 May 2018 at 11:00.