

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 26 November 2019

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

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

*Matter of Privilege*

### MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE, SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

**The SPEAKER (11:01):** Before I call Mr Clerk, I wish to rise on a couple of privilege matters in no particular order. On the first one, regarding the Minister for Innovation and Skills, I make the following statement with regard to the matter of privilege raised by the member for West Torrens in this house on 14 November. However, before addressing that matter, I wish to outline the significance of privilege as it relates to the house and its members.

It is not a device by which members or any other person can seek to pursue matters that can be addressed by debate or settled by the vote of the house on a substantive motion. McGee in *Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand* in my view makes the test for whether or not a matter is a matter of privilege by defining it as a matter that can 'genuinely be regarded as tending to impede or obstruct the House in the discharge of its duties'.

Generally speaking, any act or omission which obstructs or impedes the house in the performance of its functions, or which obstructs or impedes any member or officer of such house in the discharge of his or her duty, or which has a tendency, directly or indirectly, to produce such a result, may be treated as a contempt and therefore be considered a matter of privilege, even though there is no precedent of the offence.

I refer to the matter raised by the member for West Torrens in relation to an answer given by the Minister for Innovation and Skills to a question in the house on 14 November 2019, more specifically, in response to the question asked by the member for West Torrens:

Given the Premier's previous answer, can he explain to the house why he vetoed a visit by the Leader of the Opposition to Stone and Chalk?

The Minister for Innovation and Skills' response to the question, which was peppered with interjections, was as follows:

There was no veto for the...I personally wanted to be there so I could give...the Leader of the Opposition the full treatment. I am a very hospitable man. There has been no cancellation...My office has said that I wasn't available at that particular time, and I wanted to be there...to take the Leader of the Opposition on the tour of the Startup Hub and, as far as I understand, our officers are working with each other to find out a mutually agreeable time.

The member for West Torrens has advised the house:

I have checked with the Leader of the Opposition's office and his electorate office. There has been no communication from the minister's office to arrange an alternative time. A time was scheduled for the Leader of the Opposition to visit with Stone and Chalk. That was cancelled at the request of the minister.

The member for West Torrens alleges that the Minister for Innovation and Skills has deliberately and intentionally misled the house as his answer to a question on 14 November is inconsistent with the information he acquired as a result of his inquiries to the leader's offices. I refer to the minister's answer and, more specifically, to the following words:

...as far as I understand, our officers are working with each other to find out a mutually agreeable time.

What can be inferred from the minister's response is that his understanding, and I emphasise 'understanding', is that communications were underway between the minister's staff and the leader's staff. Further, there is nothing that has been brought to my attention to suggest that the information provided to the house was anything other than the minister's true and honest understanding of the situation. While the minister's understanding does not accord with what the member for West Torrens

found out on making his inquiries, this does not equate to the minister deliberately and intentionally misleading the house.

Therefore, in the Chair's opinion, this is not a matter of privilege, for the reason I set out above. In my view, the matter could not genuinely be regarded as tending to impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties. Therefore, I decline to give that matter the precedence that would allow the member for West Torrens to immediately pursue the matter. However, my opinion does not prevent any member from pursuing the matter by way of a substantive motion.

On the second matter, regarding the member for Kurna and the alleged sacking of Ms Kaminski, I make the following statement with regard to the matter of privilege raised by the Deputy Premier in the house on 14 November. I provide the usual preamble to this. I refer to the matter raised by the Deputy Premier in relation to a grievance debate made by the member for Kurna in the house on 14 November. More specifically, the member for Kurna, in his grievance debate on 14 November, stated:

One of the first things that this Premier did when he came into office was to sack Vickie Kaminski, who was the head of SA Health, and put in his own hand-picked chief executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan.

The Deputy Premier advised the house:

On or about 25 May 2018, Ms Kaminski is reported in ABC News announcing that she would be leaving her position in respect of the head of SA Health and returning to Canada.

The Deputy Premier then went on to refer to a response to a question asked in another place by the Hon. Kyam Maher of the Minister for Health, the Hon. Mr Wade, which was published in *Hansard* on 25 July 2018. The Deputy Premier, in referring to the early end of Ms Kaminski's contract, quoted the following from the minister's reply:

The terms of Ms Kaminski's early resignation are subject to a confidentiality deed between her and the government.

The Deputy Premier alleges that the member for Kurna's reference to Ms Kaminski being sacked from her position is incorrect and false. I have been provided with a copy of the ABC News article she referred to, titled 'SA's health system one of the most expensive in Australia, outgoing boss says', updated Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 7.23pm, together with a copy of the minister's reply to a question with notice, titled 'Re: SA Chief Executive Appointment'. I now quote the ABC News article where it says, referring to Ms Kaminski, 'She now plans to leave at the end of November, after a meeting with Premier Steven Marshall where she said he told her he wanted her out of the top job.'

The article then goes on to quote Ms Kaminski as follows: 'Clearly the Premier wants new leadership at SA Health in the top job,' and goes on to say, 'Ms Kaminski said, adding that Mr Marshall asked if she would consider staying and doing', then quoting Ms Kaminski again, 'some other things' and ending with 'inside health'.

I have now had the opportunity to consider the limited information that has been provided to me. What I can infer is that the Premier may not have wanted Ms Kaminski in the top job. I assert this by reference to the news article, where it is reported, 'After a meeting with Premier Steven Marshall she [Ms Kaminski] said he told her he wanted her out of the top job.' The article then quotes Ms Kaminski as saying, 'Clearly the Premier wants new leadership at SA Health in the top job.'

On reading the article, while the Premier may not have wanted Ms Kaminski in the top job—and I emphasise 'may'—the news article does not provide any clear information on the circumstances surrounding Ms Kaminski's departure from her position. In support of the proposition that Ms Kaminski resigned from her position and was not sacked, the Deputy Premier refers to the minister's response, which states:

The terms of Ms Kaminski's early resignation are subject to a confidentiality deed between her and the government.

While it is possible to infer from the minister's response that Ms Kaminski resigned, not being privy to the exact terms of the confidentiality deed it is difficult to ascertain those terms. I am not satisfied that a prima facie case of privilege has been made out.

In reaching this conclusion, I am not confirming or denying the accuracy or otherwise of the member for Kaurna's statement. In the Chair's opinion, this is not a matter of privilege, for the reason I set out above, and in my view the matter could not genuinely be regarded as tending to impede or obstruct the house in the discharge of its duties. Therefore, I also decline to give this matter the precedence that would allow the Deputy Premier to immediately pursue the matter. However, my opinion does not prevent any member from pursuing the matter by way of a substantive motion.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION**

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (11:08):** I move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me move a motion without notice forthwith.

**The SPEAKER:** I have counted the house and, as there is an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the house, I accept the motion. Is it seconded?

**An honourable member:** Yes, sir.

Motion carried.

*Motions*

**BUSHFIRES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (11:09):** I move:

That the house expresses its sincere thanks to South Australia's emergency services personnel and the community organisations which support our emergency services for their efforts to protect life, property and the environment on 20 November 2019 and subsequent days when much of the state was facing catastrophic fire conditions.

In anticipation of the forecasted conditions for Wednesday 20 November, the CFS Chief Officer took the unusual step of establishing a statewide fire ban to deter unsafe acts and behaviours. All the state's 15 fire ban districts had total fire bans already declared. Seven of the 15 districts had the highest level of fire danger rating applied: catastrophic. Catastrophic means that they had a fire danger index of greater than 100, effectively going off the charts.

Sixty-nine fires started on the day, which were responded to by the CFS and MFS, along with significantly more responses to other callouts, including everything from trees being knocked down to car crashes. At the peak of activity on Wednesday 20 November, the CFS had 600 personnel and 150 fire trucks committed across our state. Significant fires started on the day: Beaufort, near Port Wakefield; Price; Appila; Angaston; Finnis; and, of course, Yorketown. There were also two urban fires on the day, which were attended by the MFS: a wine distribution centre at Hilton and a large rubbish/waste fire at Wingfield.

At 3.20pm on 20 November 2019, the first crews were dispatched to the Yorketown fire. Given the conditions, crews were unable to halt the forward rate of spread of the fire under the prevailing conditions, and the flanks of the fire continued to expand. Strike teams were progressively called in from other parts of the state to assist the local crews. The fire burnt its way south to the ocean near Troubridge Point, where it could burn no further.

The CFS knew that a wind change was expected and that what was the eastern flank of the fire could become the new head of the fire. It worked to put in an eight-metre containment line and extinguish any hotspots near that edge of the fire before the wind change was expected. Unfortunately, in the early hours of the 21<sup>st</sup>, the wind change came and was much stronger than expected. The worst happened: an ember jumped the containment line and a new fire started in the worst possible location, starting a fire which was heading straight for Edithburgh.

Crews were tasked with asset protection and asked to work in horrendous conditions. Seventy kilometres away in Adelaide, everyone will remember the strong smell of smoke when they woke up that morning. Just imagine how bad it was being right there. The wind pushed the smoke right into the town, and CFS crews were left with almost zero visibility as they fought this fire. Through

their efforts, many of the houses and sheds in the town and just out of it were saved, a testament to the professionalism of many of our volunteers.

In total, the fire burnt 5,000 hectares of land—much of it agricultural—destroyed 11 houses and left 33 people with minor injuries. I visited Yorketown the following day, on 22 November, with the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Together, we visited the Yorketown CFS brigade and were briefed by the incident management team at the Southern Yorke incident control centre. We met with many of the local community who were providing catering to community members impacted by the fires. We met up with the head of SA Ambulance Service. We visited the emergency assistance centre in Stansbury, where people can go to apply for financial assistance.

So far, a total of \$13,440 has been granted through 18 personal hardship emergency grants to the community, jointly funded through the commonwealth-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The grants of up to \$700 per family are for immediate temporary relief for South Australians directly affected by the Yorketown fire and are intended to pay for essential items, such as food, toiletries and clothing. A local recovery coordinator has been appointed to assist those affected by the Yorketown fire. We also visited the fire ground south of Yorketown and on the outskirts of Edithburgh, where we met with many locals and fire crews.

This house owes our emergency services volunteers and staff our thanks. All the agencies in South Australia can be proud of their actions over those days. To the CFS, the MFS, the SES, SAPOL, the SA Ambulance Service and National Parks South Australia, I say thank you. They have demonstrated professionalism and managed to protect life, property and the environment in the most trying of circumstances. To the support agencies, including the Salvation Army, which provided catering support, and St John, which provided medical support, I also say thank you.

It was an incredible situation. For the first time in the history of this state, seven districts in South Australia were given catastrophic fire ratings, and 69 fires were burning. Although there were reported injuries, it is a miracle that there was no loss of life. The only reason for this was because of the incredible bravery and preparedness of South Australian firefighters and emergency service workers.

I sincerely want to thank every single volunteer who assisted in this effort. Volunteers do not just turn up when a fire occurs; in fact, they have to put in a huge number of hours to make sure that they are prepared for a situation such as this. Many volunteers attend their local brigade weekly to ensure that their equipment is in good condition, to undergo professional development and to understand exactly and precisely the types of conditions they will encounter should they be needed.

In South Australia, it was not only the local brigades that engaged with the firefighting efforts. As I said, brigades from right across the state were activated on the Wednesday, and then on the Thursday a huge number were on Yorke Peninsula to support the efforts of the CFS, SES, SAPOL and the South Australian Ambulance Service. In fact, when I was driving over there that morning, it was wonderful to see utility after utility heading back to Adelaide. We saw the names on the sides of the vehicles that were returning and could see that they came from right across the state.

Fires do not know state boundaries. In fact, South Australian volunteer and professional firefighters also recently attended fires in New South Wales. More than 200 firefighters headed over to support our friends in New South Wales during the incredible bushfires that have been burning for many weeks.

We were fortunate; yes, there was an incredible loss of property, crops, livestock and sheds, but there was no loss of life. This is an important reminder of the difficult conditions in which we live, especially with the drought conditions across much of our state at the moment. My strong message to the people of South Australia is: please be aware and alert at all times, please make sure that your bushfire preparation is in place and please make sure that your evacuation plan is in place.

We were fortunate on this day that there was no loss of life, but that does not mean we will be fortunate in the future. When I spoke to the CFS chief, he told me how amazed he was at the great level of preparation of so many people across the state. When I spoke with other officers who have been in the CFS for many years, they told me that there had been a significant increase in the

preparedness right across the state. I can only presume that this has come as a response to the very significant fires that we have had in South Australia in recent times.

One of the other things that really hit me as part of my visit was, in talking to the various groups, they all reflected upon how coordinated the approach to this fire was. This does not always occur in every jurisdiction, but I think that it is something we can be very proud of in South Australia. SAPOL, CFS, MFS, members of the Department for Environment and Water in South Australia, the South Australian Ambulance Service and many, many community organisations all work together, not trying to elbow each other out of the way but in a coordinated approach, and I think this is something that we can be very proud of.

I would like to thank the Minister for Emergency Services, who travelled over there on the evening of the day of the Yorketown fire. He met with all the groups there and for that I am very grateful. It is still pretty raw over there. It is fair to say that many people are still in shock at the situation that unfolded. Of course, they are all very grateful that there was no loss of life, but many people confronted a situation that they were never expecting to confront.

I am very grateful to the local member for Narungga for hosting me on my visit and for introducing me to groups, including the local school. Even the local school played their part by writing out cards and thanks to the volunteers who supported our firefighters. This was a great moment of an entire community coming together, and we often see this at times of great tragedy.

It provides a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate what is so good about living in a country like Australia, what is so good about living in a state like South Australia, when community comes to the fore and people put their own interests aside to act in the best interests of all people in the community. That is exactly and precisely what we saw with the Yorketown fire and the fires across the state. Again, a very grateful thanks to our volunteers. We will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Yorke Peninsula community and, of course, with our CFS volunteers.

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (11:22):** I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier and thank the Premier for his articulate description of the events on and around 20 November, early to mid last week. Often in this place, we each in our own way reflect upon how proud we are to represent our respective local communities. I think every member in this place would probably profess that they represent the best local community in the state.

But I think it is true to say—and I say this as someone who is a boy from the burbs, who grew up in the suburbs—that when you travel around regional South Australia you get a sense of a higher calling towards community amongst those people in our state who reside in the more isolated locations outside metropolitan Adelaide. It is not a sense of community that occurs only during the course of a tragedy or a would-be significant event. It is a sense of community that is all pervasive throughout the entirety of regional South Australia in a way that uplifts people and makes us all incredibly proud.

But we do see it come to the fore and we do see it being put on show during the course of a difficult set of circumstances when people voluntarily elect to put themselves in harm's way in the service of other people. In these jobs, it is also true to say that we all get to meet a lot of people, and I can say with a very high degree of confidence that, more often than not, the happiest people I meet are volunteers—people who decide to go out of their way to live up to the creed of looking after others more than they look after themselves. They always strike me as the happiest people I meet.

I think there is a reason for that: as a nation, we pride ourselves on being a country with an egalitarian ideal that always tries to rise to the occasion and care for others. But our volunteers and our emergency services take that virtue and put it into practice. They do not do it for any remuneration. They do not do it for any particular accolade or award. They do it because they believe it is the right thing to do, because they care about others more than they care about themselves, and we saw that on show only last week in a way that we suspect—we do not hope—will continue to be necessary throughout the course of this summer.

As the Premier said, there were 5,000 hectares burnt, 11 properties severely damaged and 69 fires across the state in catastrophic conditions. This is as real and as dangerous as it gets. Our volunteers lived up to that creed but, most importantly, with some of the best equipment that money

can buy they put their exquisite training and skills to good use to protect life and property, and they succeeded exceedingly well. They did us all proud and the very least that this parliament can do is pass on our gratitude and our thanks.

The reason why volunteers are the happiest people I meet is that not only are they looking after the property and lives under their immediate care but they are also living up to making this country a better place. We are all better for their service. We thank them on this occasion and we will thank them throughout the entirety of this summer. After a very dry winter, we are bracing ourselves for some of the most challenging conditions that we have seen, not just here in South Australia but throughout the nation. We know that we are in good hands with our emergency services, and we wish them all the very best throughout the course of a dangerous summer.

I echo the Premier's remarks in encouraging people to be ready, be prepared, have their bushfire action plans in place and follow the warnings that are given by their appropriate representatives and our emergency services. We commend the work of our volunteers not just in the CFS but also in the SES. We commend them working with our professional services—SAPOL, SA Ambulance and the MFS—but we do thank our volunteers because they are called to a higher order, they do us all proud and we certainly could not do it without them.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (11:27):** I also rise to echo the sentiments of the Premier and to give:

...sincere thanks to South Australia's emergency services personnel and the community organisations which support our emergency services for their efforts to protect life, property and the environment on 20 November 2019 and subsequent days when much of the state was facing catastrophic fire conditions.

It is a great opportunity to give thanks, gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful work that these people do.

We know that between 19 and 24 November firefighters responded to 219 separate incidents across the state. It is still being finalised and the records are being accumulated, but our state volunteers delivered in excess of 33,000 hours of service across this period. It truly is commendable and all South Australians should be very proud. As we know, on 20 November there were catastrophic conditions in five districts across the state. When the fires came, more than 600 personnel stepped up into action and thousands more were on stand-by preparing to protect their communities. Across the state, 150 fire trucks were called into action and, as we heard the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition say, the results were absolutely outstanding.

The strong northerly winds had a big impact on the conditions of the day, with temperatures up around 40°. Even if you are not a firefighter, if you are just a novice, you would understand that those sorts of conditions with persistent strong winds and high temperatures are always going to make it incredibly difficult. We know that in the lead-up, in preparation, the CFS Chief Officer took an important step in establishing a statewide fire ban to deter unsafe acts and behaviours the day before this catastrophic day—something I am advised has only been enacted a couple of times over the past decade.

As we saw on the day, 69 fires burnt across South Australia. In particular, three of those fires stand out: the one in Angaston, in the member for Schubert's electorate, and two in the member for Narungga's electorate, at Port Wakefield and Yorketown. Initially, the Yorketown fire burnt south towards Troubridge Point on Yorke Peninsula. I am told that this fire was travelling at breakneck speeds. The people in the field told me that it got to the coast in about two hours, which is incredibly fast and a similar sort of speed as we saw with the Pinery fires some four years ago.

The thing about the coast that is advantageous is that it is a natural firebreak because the fire cannot go any further. As the Premier outlined, the fire had run towards the coast for a couple of hours and then, when the wind changed, it gave it a substantial fire front. To the credit of the people on the ground, they put a grader track in place—two grader widths, about eight metres wide—to create a firebreak so that when the wind changed they had a firebreak and crews were there to prevent the fire breaking that line.

Unfortunately, in the early hours of the following morning, the fire jumped that line and, again, the winds were very strong. I was told by people on the ground that the winds were up and high for

some 19 hours straight, which is quite unprecedented, and that made it very difficult for them to contain the fire. When fire jumps the lines, the terminology used is that it is a 'finger' of fire. As you look at the map, you can see why that is. A finger of fire jumped the line and was heading towards Edithburgh, which of course was very dangerous.

A number of crews did some outstanding work. They realised they could not catch the fire, so they literally got to the back fences of houses in Edithburgh and fought the fire there, preventing it from hitting houses, properties and the township of Edithburgh. As we know, the people of Edithburgh were ushered to the shore so they would be in a safe place. The police and all the emergency crews did a great job to get those people to the safe zone.

The firefighters also did an outstanding job. I went to the site with the Premier and the member for Narungga, and to see where the fire licked against the corrugated iron fences and the backs of houses was amazing. Tribute must be paid to the firefighters who stopped the fire at that point and prevented Edithburgh from being burnt to the ground.

Whilst the full impact is still being calculated, we hear that 5,000 hectares of land, much of it agricultural, was burnt. Tragically, 11 houses were destroyed and 33 people were left with minor injuries. As has already been said, it is remarkable that no human lives were lost. Our hearts go out to the people who lost their homes. They are in the recovery phase and more work needs to be done. Again, I commend the member for Narungga for the work he has done, along with the agencies, to support the local community in the next steps forward.

In total, 350 volunteers responded to the Yorketown fire. At least 55 brigades came from across South Australia to respond to this fire. As the Premier pointed out, he spoke to the mayor and went to Yorketown Oval, where everyone was set up. It was quite phenomenal to see the oval so well set up. The Salvation Army parked their truck in front of the grandstand and churned out meal after meal and kept the troops fed, kept their tummies full, which is a great thing in a time of crisis, when people are coming to help the local community. It was a great job by the Salvation Army.

The staging operation set up was run exceptionally. The CFS was working with the SES on the gate to make sure that people were getting T carded as they came in and went out. They knew exactly where everyone was. The people working there did a sensational job. Inside the sporting clubrooms, SAAS and St John had set up so that fireys coming off the fire front were having their eyes washed, getting a face wipe to freshen up and getting checked over to make sure they were going okay. So they were getting great support there as well. It was great to have all the agencies working so wonderfully well—SAPOL, the Department for Environment and Water, and I have mentioned St John's, SAAS and the Salvation Army—and then the community all coming together. The MFS as well played their role. It was phenomenal to see.

As the Premier said, I had to go down on the Thursday night because I wanted to say thank you whilst a lot of the crews were there. I mentioned before that, when I was speaking to the mayor, he was fascinated with the trucks, as they were lined up around the oval in a wonderful set-up. It was as though a grand final was being played. There were so many trucks parked around the edge of the oval. The Salvation Army were doing their thing.

The mayor said, 'As I looked around at all these trucks, I saw names on the sides of the trucks from parts of South Australia I did not know existed and they have come here to help our community.' I think that rings true as to how special and great it is in South Australia that we will go out of our way to help one another, and it was depicted here on Yorketown Oval. I know the mayor was truly appreciative and pretty much in awe of what he saw.

As I said, these people were being fed after they had gone out to help in the community; they were coming through in shifts and waves. The CFS volunteers were doing about a 12-hour shift and then they were heading home. The vehicles had been driven over. Extra crews came through to set up strike teams. They were bussed in and then they would do their shift and turn around and be bussed out.

I was speaking to the guys from the Salvation Army who were feeding the troops. From the top of their van, they were seeing smiles on faces as they were handing over the food and it was being devoured. But they would look up into the grandstand and see a grandstand full of yellow—

and charcoal, I suppose, because they were covered in soot. They were there in their yellow CFS outfits, sitting in the grandstand and it was chock-a-block. It was great to see how everyone came together to help out in this community.

I will mention a couple of the brigades, but I know I will miss some. The names on the sides of the trucks included Aldinga Beach, Burnside, Dalkeith, Happy Valley, Milang, Bridgewater, Morphett Vale, Stirling, Strathalbyn, Paracombe, Tea Tree Gully. They were all so happy to be there and, even the day after when I went back to the footy oval, Burra had arrived and were lending a helping hand as well. People had come from literally everywhere just to do their bit. When you asked how they had got there, where they had come from, what their story was, they said, 'We know that when it is our time of need, people will help us, so we need to pay it forward and get runs on the board early.'

I mention again all the services and stress again how wonderful they were for the great support they gave. To drive home a point that perhaps the opposition leader was trying to make as well, and I know the Premier loved meeting these people, in the kitchen of the football club we had the organised groups and they did a great job. They are prepared and organised and they know what they are doing.

But what really warmed my heart, and it was great to share that moment with the member for Narrunga as well, was when we went into the footy clubrooms and some ladies had just arrived in the kitchen to help out. I was chatting with them and said, 'How did you guys organise yourselves? How did you get here? Are you a CWA group? Are you a member of a club or a group or an organisation?' They said, 'No, we just heard the trucks, word went around town what was happening and we wondered how we could help.' They just came to the football club.

They knew that was the staging area, they went into the kitchen and they just came together and started preparing sandwiches, organising someone to make some cakes, getting people to get food together for dinner, going to the local store and getting produce and products. A lot of stuff was donated by the local community. It was fantastic. Karen was a part of that, as were Pat, Jill and Cindy. It is probably wrong of me to name those four because there were plenty more.

They did note my timing: I rocked up to the kitchen just as the dishes were being finished and asked if I could help. They said there was one plate to go. I said it would be wrong of me just to wash that one plate and say that I had helped. They were all over everything. One lady piped up and said that the oven needed a clean; she thought maybe I could do that. I do not think they had used the oven at that stage, but they thought that I could clean it anyway. They were fantastic. They were great, spirited people and it was a real sign of what that community was about. The call went out: people were needed. They rocked up and they just helped out. Again, that community should be so incredibly proud.

Late that evening, I ducked down to the pub and got a pizza for dinner, which was very nice. A few of the fireys were there and I shared a beer with them as well and thanked them for what they did. I say this and I say it often about our volunteers: one of the great parts of my role, and I am very honoured to be in this position, is meeting our volunteers. We have so many wonderful volunteers across our state who do so much for South Australia. You cannot pay volunteers for the time that they give, but you can say thank you. It was a privilege to be there to thank those volunteers and those people who helped out. The way that that community rallied really is to be commended.

The next day, the Premier came to Yorketown. Together with the member for Narungga, who had been at a couple of community meetings that afternoon and was very much ensconced in his community, it was a pleasure to take the Premier through. The incident management team took him through the role there. Ann Letcher did great job of explaining to the Premier how it all unfolded, what happened and how everyone came together. I want to reiterate the point the Premier made: we have all these different organisations—the MFS, the CFS, the CES and SAAS; SAPOL, of course, plays a really important part—that are structured differently, but, when there is an emergency, everyone comes together like no other state.

I refer back to early on in my time in this job when I went to the Gold Coast when they were hosting the Commonwealth Games. I talked to them about how they came together for a big operation like that. They said that one of the biggest things they had to do was get all their



organisations to work together better, because they were not working together as well as they would like. It was such a contrast to the way that all our organisations here in South Australia work so wonderfully well together, so I do commend them all.

We went out and had a look at where the fire travelled and saw the houses that had been destroyed. As we said, there were 11 of them. Again, our hearts go out to those families. As they move into the recovery phase, work is being done to help people through that. It moves out of the emergency service area and into the human service area. PIRSA and the Minister for Primary Industries are heavily involved in making sure we help the farming communities as well as they work their way through this situation.

As we went out and saw where the fire had travelled, it was just so eye-opening for someone who now lives in the city. You see and you hear it. When we woke up here in Adelaide the morning after the fire and saw the smoke and the haze coming across the city, it really drove home the message of what these people were going through and what was happening. I relayed that message to a number of the volunteers who had been out there in the field, working so tirelessly hard fighting the fire and focusing on what was in front of them.

I relayed the message that South Australia, and in the city in particular, was very aware of what they were going through, very aware of the difficulties they were confronting and very thankful for what they were doing. What we do know and what we do see with the CFS when you meet them on the ground is that they are wonderful people. They are wonderful people who give so much of themselves, so much of their time, without any fanfare, without any accolades.

As I said, they truck themselves in, they do a shift and they truck themselves home. They do not ask for too much other than a small thankyou. That is the least that we can do. They do it without looking for pats on the back, accolades and those sorts of things, but it is important that we take the time to thank them for what they do because it is such important work. As I have said many times in this place, we cannot pay them for what they do, but we can thank them.

When we see the CFS logo, the CFS brand, the red and yellow chequered pattern—and I am talking about CFS specifically here, but this fits with all the other emergency services—we know them and we trust them. There is potentially an element that within the city we do take them for granted when there is an emergency or something happens. The CFS just turns up. How does it keep happening? Arguably, people in the city do not really know and appreciate it, but the way that it happens is by having great people—great people helping out in their communities, making sure they do not let their communities down.

In any volunteer organisation, some people do more than others; we understand that, but anyone who puts on the uniform, anyone who goes to training, anyone who is willing to play a role when it comes to fighting fires needs to be truly commended for what they do. To all the CFS volunteers out there, I want them to know that they are not taken for granted. We thoroughly appreciate what they do.

It is at times like these, when it comes to the forefront, that we understand how valuable a resource it is to have emergency services workers like the CFS, SES and St John as well. The paid operators, SAPOL and the MFS, have that same in-built caring, nurturing nature about them. Invariably, many of the MFS people volunteer in a CFS brigade somewhere or a surf lifesaving club, or they coach in a local sporting group. We know that many SAPOL and MFS people have that in-built nature of giving back to their communities, and we must be forever grateful.

As I mentioned, we now move into recovery mode and we know that that is a harder time. Again, the member for Narungga will be dealing with this within his community for weeks, months and, in some cases, potentially years because it takes a long time to work through that process. Our thoughts, concerns and cares are with those people as they go through that with the appropriate agencies.

I would like to take these final moments to make sure that we drive home this point because we are early in the season: this happened on 20 November and we are not yet into the heart of our bushfire season. We know that things get even tougher in January and February. Hopefully, we can

take some learnings from this and make sure that we are even better prepared as we go forward. That said, I remind everyone to make sure that they are prepared.

If you live in the regions, you know the threat of bushfire, and I implore you to make sure that you have your bushfire survival action plan ready and that you know what you are going to do on a catastrophic day. Whether you are going to leave or whether you are going to defend, make sure that you have cleared around your house and that you have all the resources and utensils ready to go. You do not want to leave it too late to evacuate, if that is what you decide to do. It is best to get out early, if that is what you are going to do, but make sure that you are prepared.

For people in the city, it is important to note this as well. You might think, 'I don't live in a bushfire area, so it doesn't impact me.' Well, it does. You must be conscious of bushfire areas and aware if you are travelling into such areas. Make sure that you follow the media, the social media and the websites. Listen to the radio. Make sure that you understand where you are going, where you are travelling, what the conditions are like and what they could be like. Make sure that you have your own plan ready to go so that you can be as prepared as possible to keep yourself and your family as safe as possible. You might just be travelling through, but you might get caught in a situation where you also need to implement your action plan. It is vitally important.

In closing, I would like to again thank all the emergency service workers involved in this operation. They did an outstanding job. They did South Australia proud. South Australia should be incredibly proud of what these people do. They are our unsung heroes, but they must be acknowledged. To the community, our hearts are with you. We know that you will bounce back. We know that you are resilient like all country communities, and we look forward to working with you through that process.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:47):** I rise to support the motion brought here by the Premier and spoken to so ably by the Leader of the Opposition and, indeed, by the Minister for Emergency Services. I will be brief in my comments. Most of what needs to be said has been said. We all know the volunteers in our own community. As the minister said, one of the things about this job is that you have access to volunteers. You learn things from them and you learn about their values.

In a previous life, I had occasion to work with some of the volunteers we are talking about. In the peri-urban areas around Gawler, Hillbank and Sampson Flat—all those places that were then part of the Elizabeth Police LSA—as the minister and other speakers have mentioned, there is a lot of crossover between the paid services (SAPOL and the MFS) and the CFS. It is the volunteers who are not paid. They are not at the station or on patrol. They get up out of bed and really do the hard yards. They do it for nothing other than the satisfaction of serving their community—and it is about service.

As terrible as last Wednesday was, it could have been much worse. Previous speakers have made the observation about the preparedness of the emergency services. It was an excellent idea to declare the Tuesday before a total fire ban day and to limit those types of activities that would cause fires. That was an excellent move. As has been said, that is a move not often made, but it has been made several times in the last decade, and I want to commend the leadership of the CFS for that excellent initiative. Who knows how much more damage could have been done and who knows what lives were saved by that simple move?

Sadly, of course, conditions are going to get worse; I do not think there is any doubt about that. We have always had fires in Australia, particularly in South Australia, but at certain points we notice that things are getting worse. The Ash Wednesday bushfires back in 1983 of course were a significant wake-up, as were fires around the same time across Australia. They should have been a significant wake-up to climate change. They were certainly a significant wake-up to emergency services and the way they responded to fires and natural disasters.

In more recent times, another change we saw in the Pinery and Sampson Flat fires is the changing nature of fire, which I contend is largely to do with climate change and our lack of action on climate change. Just this morning, in fact, the United Nations World Meteorological Organization released another report saying that CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouse gas levels are at a new high, that we have

reached new record highs. Perhaps more concerning is that they say there is no sign of a slowdown let alone a decline despite moves, in some nations at least, towards the Paris Agreement.

Despite the views of some—and it is concerning that some of those people occupy high office in the federal government particularly—we know that climate change is having a significant effect on the conditions which create fires and the conditions which face our volunteers and the people we are celebrating in this motion, the people we are talking about. They are at ground zero of the climate emergency. They are the ones who have to face these conditions, and they will have to face worse and worse conditions. I will not repeat all the stats from Yorketown, but I think it is a sign of things to come.

As the minister said, in January and February we can expect more and more and worse and worse conditions, and year upon year, as the climate emergency rolls on largely unaddressed by certain sections of the community, we are going to see worse and worse conditions. While our firefighters, our volunteers, deserve our respect and our thanks and our admiration—and no-one respects and admires them more than I do—they also deserve to be well resourced and to have a more coherent application of measures to mitigate climate change. We need to see this reversed; we need to see it reversed, certainly in my lifetime. The UN this morning says we see no sign of that happening, and all the time we are putting our volunteers and firefighters at risk.

I do thank our volunteers and I admire all the work they did, particularly in the member for Narungga's electorate. I have a bit of a history in Stansbury. I have stayed a lot in Stansbury. My parents had a caravan in Stansbury, so I know that community quite well, and Edithburgh and Yorketown as well. I do not pretend to know it as well as the member for Narungga, and I cannot imagine what those communities are going through right now. While I do thank them and admire them, they also need our support, our resourcing, and they also need the challenges of climate change to be adequately addressed, as they will only make the conditions they face worse.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (11:52):** I rise to indicate my support for the motion and thank the Premier for bringing this matter to the parliament so that we may place on the record our concerns about and appreciation for what occurred in the events of 20 November. I also acknowledge all other speakers in relation to their contributions.

This is not the first major fire South Australia has had this season and it will not be the last. However, the events of 20 November, whether they were at Angaston or Port Wakefield, or the Yorketown fire, as it is being described, which culminated in significant distress and damage at Edithburgh, are a sobering reminder to us of what will occur and what we need to do about it. I also thank the Premier and the Minister for Emergency Services for attending the area in Yorketown and Edithburgh particularly on this occasion. That is not to diminish the suffering and loss in other parts of the state, where I think close to 70 fires progressed on that day, with varying levels of damage. It is a lightning bolt spot that gives us these reminders.

It is important that the Premier and the minister visited not only to indicate their appreciation directly but also to view the damage, listen to the people of the area and understand and learn from it, as we must. It is also a good opportunity when anyone who has the privilege of a leadership position leaves the city to see other areas that are in need in our country, and I am sure that they travelled on some roads that need some improvement. These are aspects that are always good to learn from.

The acknowledgement has been made today of the work of the volunteers in our emergency services—unsurprisingly, that is the Country Fire Service and police, particularly, who are obviously at the front of the fire—making a contribution that places themselves in danger so that they might protect persons and assets across the state. The losses in this area, of course, were massive in respect of livestock and the general extent of the fire damage across agricultural land. It is important to recognise those who were protecting these assets via the CFS volunteers and the general volunteers in the community who assisted—people who are neighbours, friends and relatives who come out on these occasions to assist.

The extra support was given by other CFS brigades across the state. I would like to acknowledge those who attended from Burnside, in my own electorate, led by David Wilson and supported by his son, Tim Wilson; Rory Martin; Paul Stickland; Sophia Sadri; Cameron Langley; and

Andrew Hughes, who were there over this period to provide their direct assistance in the fire. I am advised that Andrew Bray also travelled up there to drive back the new truck from Burnside, which was six days old and had its baptism by fire, literally. It obviously has not only assisted in the fires that we are referring to today but is now back at Burnside, dusted off and ready to go for the rest of the fire season.

I especially acknowledge and thank the Minister for Emergency Services for ensuring that our brigade had that truck before we deal with what will inevitably be significant events over the forthcoming season, and that will be well into February, March and April. We have to recognise that this is only the warm-up and that we have a lot of work to do. These brave persons not only protect our own areas but travel across the state. I know many of our people from Burnside have travelled interstate and provided support when asked.

I would also like to acknowledge the extra support from other ministers who are involved in the recovery, such as the Hon. Michelle Lensink. Our ministers for health, transport, education and environment obviously play a role on the ground, to the extent that they are leading the people who are going the extra mile. That might be nurses who are working in the Yorketown hospital to deal with those who might be injured or it might be ambulance service providers.

It might be teachers in schools who need to assist with the supervision of children, particularly where attendance at school continues but even if they are to be kept at home and schools are closed. Often on catastrophic days, which have occurred across the board, they need to be involved. The environment workers are frequently not only members who work for parks, etc. and who have a clean-up role but they are also members of our own CFS brigades, and so they have a dual role.

Can I acknowledge the Minister for Energy, who has a role in terms of energy and electricity being transmitted as significant parts of the West Coast were closed down during this catastrophic period. His agency needs to work. I also recognise the Minister for Primary Industries, whose department is very much involved in advice and support to regional areas to ensure that there is much preparation done, which has been acknowledged today, but also in the recovery and clean-up.

Fences need to be rebuilt, damaged property needs to be removed, livestock carcasses need to be disposed of. These are the ugly consequences of fire. It is expensive and traumatic, and it needs to be understood that it will take a long time. Our message, and our care, to the people who have been most severely affected is that we understand this and that we are with you to support you during this period. It will be expensive, it will be exhausting, it will be time consuming and it will go on for a very long time, but we understand that and we will support you.

Finally, I wish to echo the sentiments of being prepared and of having a plan, as the minister has outlined. I am proud of my own family ensuring that we have a newly updated bushfire plan for interests we have on Kangaroo Island. I expect my family to know how to change a car tyre, to know where they need to go, what to pack, what to do, and to have the firefighting equipment ready to deal with an emergency. The older members of the family will need to lead that, but knowing where to go and what to do is important, and everyone has a role in that.

If a circumstance is identified where someone is going to be at risk, if there is a fire in the district, they need to be alert to that. If you are visiting those areas—even if it is for a holiday in our regional areas—please make sure that you have an understanding of where your local police station is, what numbers are available for the local CFS and the like and that you have some understanding of what the fire plan is to vacate a property in the event that you need to evacuate. Frequently, this is not done because people go for a holiday and it is the last thing they think about. They think about unpacking the towels and getting the kids to the beach, rather than actually just checking what the fire plan arrangements are in those circumstances.

It is a very real and pressing danger in regional communities and it is incumbent on us as either infrequent visitors or holiday-makers to parts of our state to ensure that we minimise the risk to our local CFS people and emergency people on the ground by being incumbent, as in a burden in those circumstances, in not knowing what to do. I urge everyone to really be prepared, whether you are in a peri-urban or a regional part of South Australia. If you are visiting those areas, make sure that you understand what the plan is and get the hell out of there if you are not prepared.

**Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (12:02):** I rise to join those in this parliament in praising the incredible work of our volunteer and paid workforce who have been working on fires both here and interstate and, of course, to sincerely thank them. I would like to thank the Country Fire Service, the Metropolitan Fire Service, the South Australian Ambulance Service and National Parks SA through the Department for Environment and Water, as well as those in the health system and everyone who supports them.

Over recent weeks, when the news came across the radio of fires breaking out near Port Lincoln and then in Yorketown and around the Edithburgh area, certainly lots of memories of my time reporting on fires flooded back to me. Every time, every fire season, those memories come back to me of different fire fields that I have worked in. There have been some pretty big ones over the years in South Australia. I do consider it a privilege, actually, to be able to cover those natural disasters.

As difficult as it is—and it is some of the most testing work that reporters can do, and some of the most dangerous work that they can do as well—it is a privilege to be in those communities, to meet people and to see the human spirit that really does triumph in times of tragedy. Certainly, some memories came flooding back while hearing over the media about the recent fires across South Australia.

Having worked in those fire fields, I know just how furious and fast the flames can be, particularly in places like Port Lincoln, where it just rips across the earth. It can happen so incredibly quickly, and journalists and others have to be incredibly well trained and alert the whole time they are reporting on these matters, which can be really hard because often the one reporter or crew is reporting on these fires for extended periods of time.

It is hard to stay alert and it is a dangerous situation, but they do a remarkable job out there bringing the news to us about what is happening with our friends and family away from where we might live. I pass on my sincere thanks to all the emergency services workers who have been working on the 69 fires we have seen right across South Australia. They have been doing a remarkable job, as they always do, and they deserve our praise.

I would like to spend some time talking about a very intensely personal experience I had this month in relation to the fires, and that is of course the New South Wales fires that have been burning for quite some time now. As many in this place would probably know, from when I was about eight or nine years old until I was 17 I lived in Port Macquarie and in different places on the midnorth coast of New South Wales. It was incredibly shocking to go back there to spend time with friends and family and to see that basically the place that I grew up in was on fire.

I really want to thank the South Australian contingent who went to help in New South Wales: they are nothing short of heroes in my view. They have given up weeks and sometimes months away from their own families to protect other families, families of people they have never even met, and that includes families like mine. They were working in the vicinity of Port Macquarie and Thrumster, where a lot of my friends have recently bought homes, as well as around the Crowdy Bay National Park, Lake Innes Nature Reserve and many areas surrounding there.

There is also a large expanse of land further inland from the mid north coast that even now is on fire. It was around the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month that I flew into Port Macquarie. I came from Brisbane and we were flying down. As we got closer to Port Macquarie, looking out the window of this small plane we could see the sky filling up with smoke, and it was getting thicker and thicker and darker and darker, and we could not tell how far away we were from landing. You really have no sense of where you are in that environment. We flew in and, just as we were about to hit the tarmac, we could see the lines of the fire front sweeping towards the back of the airport.

You are in this thick smoke and suddenly the realisation hits you that this is an active fire ground and that this commercial plane is landing right into an airport surrounded by fire. If that was not enough, looking out the window we saw bombers come in right next to us and drop that red fire retardant right next to the plane as we were landing on the fire front. That particular fire front has been burning for quite some time—about two months—and it is a peat fire, so it is burning slowly and with a lot of smoke, and that has been going on for ages.

Friends and family had told me that the fires were bad there and that they had been going for quite some time, but when you are landing in it with bombers dumping retardant right next to you and you can see the lines of fire as you sweep into the airport, it is quite frightening and a rush of fear went right across all of us who were flying into what is usually a really picturesque, beautiful and quite serene place on the coast of New South Wales.

My grandad picked me up and, as we were driving into Port Macquarie, there was a violent, orangey-red sky all around. It was incredibly ominous and the wind was still and hot. As we drove into Port Macquarie, closer into the main part of town, the streets were swarming with volunteers, particularly the Country Fire Service. We went past the CWA, and we could see that it was a hive of activity as everyone was getting together and trying to make preparations to support the firefighters, who had been out there already for quite some time. Little did we know that this Friday and the following day, the Saturday, would really be the peak of the fires for that part of New South Wales.

I was there to see my grandparents, my mother and my friends and for what was meant to be a school reunion, which was a little bit derailed by the whole emergency. I grew up in places like Byabarra, which is right out the back of Kendall, and Lake Cathie, with my grandparents—that was when my grandparents were looking after my sisters and me and bringing us up. I went to primary school at Kendall. Later, we lived in the timber mill town of Herons Creek and, finally, I went to Port Macquarie high school. My grandparents on my dad's side lived at Johns River and Passionfruit Creek, so I spent a lot of time particularly around Johns River.

My grandfather and I decided to go and have a look around and see what was happening in some of those places where I used to live—a bit of a trip down memory lane. As we drove around, being safe, of course, not crossing any boundaries, we saw the signs thanking the CFS. There were big, illuminated signs that people had put up, or others they had just scrawled on cardboard and put out the front of their properties, thanking the volunteers for saving their homes.

The bush was absolutely blackened, particularly between Port Macquarie, Lake Cathie and Bonny Hills, and there was this red sky. It was only about midday, and it was an absolutely frightening scene. It really felt like about 6 o'clock in the evening, even though it was the middle of the day. We went to the home at Lake Cathie, and the bush had burnt right up to the back fence. Really scarily, there was this huge gum tree that was completely burnt out that was actually leaning over my grandparents' home, but somehow the fireys had managed to save it. Some of those fireys would have been people from South Australia who were in that area at the time.

So we had our school reunion, although the numbers were rather depleted because of course lots of people were defending their own properties and evacuating their own properties, including their little children. They were trying to pack up their things and go to a safer place. They ended up in hotels and with friends and family, mostly in Port Macquarie or Wauchope. Also, people could not get to the reunion because the roads were just impassable that night, including the highway, which is the main thoroughfare for people along the mid north coast.

We did have a good night, but we of course had ABC radio on all the time, listening for alerts, and it did cast a shadow over the celebrations. But I hope the night provided for people a moment of relief amidst the tension they had been experiencing the last few days. The next day, many of us again went out to assist our friends and families at their properties, helping them to evacuate or prepare properties, to douse down roofs. While you were up on the roof, you could actually see from my friend's property the fire front coming towards you. To be right in the midst of it is to understand just the extent, the threat and what ended up being the horror of those fires.

It is certainly one thing to report on these things, but it is a very different thing to be there. No matter if you have covered the Cherryville fires or the Sampson Flat fires or the fires across Port Lincoln, or even when I started out covering some quite bad fires that were out the back of Coffs Harbour at the time, which was 15, almost 20, years ago, it was really nothing compared with these fires. They are just so expansive and take up so much land on that mid north coast that it is hard to describe until you are actually over there.

The things that I found really helped us included the Fires Near Me app, which I have on my phone even now (I was just checking it out a moment ago) because you really can see where the fires are and zoom in on maps and see where all the fire warnings are. I look forward to this delay

being overcome in the app that South Australia will have. I understand that the Fires Near Me app is the one the state government is now looking at. I hope that it is implemented as soon as possible because it really is incredibly helpful when you are trying to get around in your community—you can figure out what the safest way is—and also when you are keeping an eye on loved ones who may live several kilometres away from you.

ABC radio was the other thing that was really, really useful. As I mentioned, the media are absolutely critical, but I think the ABC has a special place in people's hearts, particularly in emergencies. I know that Ita Buttrose was here in South Australia only a few days ago, and she was talking about the huge expense that the ABC have incurred in covering the fires. We are so glad that they do, and we hope they get all the funding they need so that they can continue to communicate with communities that so desperately need that information to keep themselves safe and to have some peace of mind about their relatives.

It was pretty stressful to see places I grew up in burnt to cinders. It was a weird experience, as well, to be at the RSL—where I had my school formal—and see it transformed into a fire evacuation centre. It was pretty stressful worrying about my grandparents, who are now in their 80s and who live right on the edge of bushland. However, it was heartbreaking to hear about the deaths at Johns River and Kempsey, where 63-year-old Julie Fletcher lost her life.

She lived not far from my grandparents at their farm at Passionfruit Creek. Neighbours described her as a quality person who would help anyone in need, and she certainly was. She was found in her own home. She did not manage to get away, just like 58-year-old Barry Parsons from Kempsey, who was found in his shed. Incredibly sadly, he posted on Facebook not long before he died that outside it was 'apocalyptic' and that he did not know how close the fires were.

To lose those two people from your own community is absolutely devastating. For me, it really brings home how important those volunteers and the paid staff are who went over from South Australia, and from all parts of Australia, who gave up their time to help other people so that those losses were not much greater and to try to protect people's lives, not to mention property and the environment.

After all that, I have to say it was pretty distressing to arrive back here late at night and come back into parliament, to be sitting here in these seats for question time, and hear the Minister for Emergency Services state that this side of the house may not care about the fires. Clearly, I do care. Clearly, it is my family and my friends who are over there in those fires, as well as many more South Australians who have had to withstand this in our own state.

I know it is the minister's usual practice to be flippant and to start almost every speech by saying, 'Oh, well, the opposition doesn't care about this,' but I hope he does reflect on those comments and maybe changes that speaking style because I do feel offended by that. I did feel really hurt that someone would say, 'Oh, you don't care,' when you have been through that experience and you have seen your loved ones struggle, and when you are still really worried about their safety. I hope that he does reflect on that and that he retracts those statements and offers an apology.

I would also like to thank my colleagues for their support over the last little while in asking after the safety of my friends and family. That has meant a lot to me. There have been a lot of uplifting moments, certainly seeing my aunty and my cousin who I could not reach when I was over there. I ran into them at the shops at Port Central, and it was awesome to be able to see them in person and know that they were okay. It was pretty good to be able to be there and help my friends and family at a time when they needed all the support they could get.

I have to say that I was more nervous when I left, especially when we flew out straight into that thick smoke again. Apart from just the very top of Bulahdelah Mountain as we were flying down to Sydney, we did not see land again, due to the thickness of the smoke, until we actually landed in Sydney. That gives an idea of just how huge these fires were in New South Wales—that the sky over basically all New South Wales was completely thick with smoke and you could barely see the land.

The emergency over there continues, and experts are saying that it will not be over until there is serious rain right across New South Wales. We have gone from 150 to 200 fire fronts down to 80 active fires now, and there are still 50 that are out of control as of this morning. Five of those

are around Port Macquarie at Lindfield Park, Crestwood Road (which is pretty suburban), Bills Crossing at Crowdy, Gum Scrub and Upper Rollands Plains. Also today, Coffs Harbour has an alert on the air quality, which is at a dangerous level.

I want to express my deep gratitude for the emergency services workers across New South Wales and, in particular, the 200-odd emergency services personnel who went over from South Australia. About 40 of them are in the vicinity of Port Macquarie. As I said, they really are lifesavers. They are absolute heroes to the communities over there, just as they are heroes to us here in South Australia. There is absolutely no doubt that they helped save the lives of my family, my oldest friends and their families and children, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (12:20):** I rise to support the motion from the Premier that rightly and justifiably acknowledges the incredible efforts of the firefighters who took on the catastrophic blazes across the state and particularly on my patch on Yorke Peninsula last Wednesday. As we know, they had to control quite a considerable number of fires on the day. In doing so, they managed to prevent any loss of life, as we have already heard in the chamber today. It was a particularly amazing effort at Yorketown. We congratulate them and thank them sincerely for that.

As I said, I would like to pay particular respect to the firefighters who fought blazes in the electorate of Narungga on Wednesday. The largest was at Yorketown and eventually ended up on the doorstep of Edithburgh, with its 61-kilometre perimeter. It is also worth acknowledging that there were considerable fires near Price, just north of Ardrossan, and also at Port Wakefield, which I think has been termed the Beaufort fire.

The fire near Yorketown and Edithburgh destroyed 11 homes, injured 33 people and burnt out in excess of 5,000 hectares of land, mainly crops. Contrary to how it is going in the rest of the country and in some parts of this state, they were bumper crops. It was an exceptional year down at the southern end of Yorke Peninsula. There were some wonderful crops just waiting to be reaped but, unfortunately, that was not meant to be. The fire ripped through quite a considerable amount. There was also an extensive loss of livestock, machinery, sheds and vehicles, the full extent of which will only be realised in the coming days and weeks as the full stocktake of what has been lost is undertaken.

Having been in the fire area on Thursday, again on Friday with the Premier and the minister and again yesterday, I know that it remains absolutely incredible that nobody was killed, such was the ferocity and speed of the fire, particularly at Edithburgh. It erupted when the wind change came through late on Wednesday or early on Thursday morning. There are incredible stories of families jumping into vehicles and driving through the flames to escape, residents evacuating to the town tidal pool in the dead of night to shelter from the smoke and heat and property owners recalling how the fire lapped at their home yard fence only for the CFS or farmers with water units managing to stop the fire's passage just in time.

At one of the sites I visited with the minister and the Premier, it was extraordinary to see how the paddock immediately adjacent to the house had been completely burnt out, with only the charred remains of the wheat crop left on the ground. The fence itself was tinged with darkness from the burning of the fire that had approached. Somehow, in some way, the CFS volunteers had managed to stop the passage of that fire literally at the fence of the property. It was absolutely incredible to see, such is the amazing work they do in preventing those fires.

There were also stories of flames jumping roads. We have already heard about how it jumped the containment line in the dead of night and in the early hours of the morning when the wind shifted. I have mentioned that it killed livestock, and we saw tractors engulfed in flames. There is a wonderful story and wonderful footage of the community and the collective cheer that went up when a massive Boeing 737 traversed overhead and dropped 15,000 litres of fire retardant to protect the Yorketown township. It is a huge plane, and it did two runs: it dropped half the 15,000 litres going one way then came back and did another run with the rest of its load, and the community was literally cheering as it went over.

On Thursday, I drove through the area where the Boeing had dropped its load. You can still see where the crops are stained with the pink or red retardant. There is a house they saved that is covered with pink or red retardant. The crop on the other side of the road is completely burnt out, but



that house was saved and I suspect it was thanks to the Boeing plane that came all the way from New South Wales. It did its job and it was wonderful to see, really uplifting for the community in a tough time. One Edithburgh resident is quoted as saying:

They came from all over to help save our little town. At 5.30 in the morning, I'm standing on the jetty and I'm watching flames licking the top and I'm getting rained on by ash and I'm thinking, 'What's going to happen to our dear town.'

Such was the threat posed by the fire. As I said, crews from all over the region had fought fires all day and must have been exhausted and well ready for respite when the cool change came through with the change of wind direction. Of course, that was when the fire flared up, jumped the containment lines and became its worst, with the wind change sweeping through and swinging the fire towards Edithburgh. The CFS crews and farmers, who literally risked life and limb to help others, are genuine heroes, in my view—genuine heroes.

No words can fully convey how grateful and inspired multiple communities are across Yorke Peninsula, so amazing was the effort and skill on display by them. A number of firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion and other injuries. It is really impressive when these people volunteer—and most of them are volunteers; I acknowledge that some are professionals who came down to help, but the vast majority who helped out in Yorketown were volunteers—to put themselves in harm's way to fight dangerous fires and keep people and property safe.

Residents were evacuated at Yorketown, Edithburgh and Wool Bay, as well as Coobowie and Price, and headed for the coastline. At Port Wakefield, at one point 150 workers at Primo were in shutdown and forced to wait for the path to clear before being able to head home to assist their families and friends. Soon, relief centres were opened at Stansbury Bowling Club and Edithburgh RSL and Bowling Club, where more volunteers gathered to help those in need, feed the fireys and offer clothing and emergency supplies for the hundreds in the area who had fled their homes with just the clothes on their back and their pets.

It was really pleasing to stop by Yorketown Oval. It has already been mentioned in the minister's speech, but the level of community support there was outstanding. There were CFS volunteers having a break and Salvos from Kadina who had come up with a truckload full of food and water. There was every other charitable organisation you could think of, as well as the laypersons, as the minister said, who had, of their own accord and of their own volition, just come along to help. They were there, cooking, feeding and doing their best. There were also the ambos, who were washing out the eyes of the fireys who had come back from the front line, so to speak. They had their stations set up and were treating people to make sure that they could have a well-earned break, have a rest and then get back out there to help.

Yesterday, a local recovery coordinator was appointed: Ms Deb Richardson. She was tasked with working with the Yorketown community to identify what assistance is needed where, moving forward. The relief centre that has until now been at Stansbury will today move to the Yorketown Town Hall and is open from 8am to 6pm for people seeking information about immediate support that has been made available.

So far, a total of \$13½ thousand has been granted to the community through 18 Personal Hardship Emergency Grants, jointly funded through the Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. As many people continue to sift through layers of black soot in their once homes, in regions of charred trees and fence posts and where farmers face machinery losses that alone are set to run into millions of dollars, the community remains supportive and ready to rebuild.

There is help from groups such as BlazeAid, which was present at a community meeting held yesterday morning; PIRSA, which is assisting with livestock recovery; rapid response teams; Rural Financial Counselling Service; Lions Australia, which is accepting donations for the cause; and members of the Weavers Ag bureau. There are also locals who have, of their own volition, commenced fundraising again, among them Wendy Ault—I stopped in and saw her yesterday morning—who has set up the Yorketown Fire Relief Fund and coordinated with the Yorketown branch of the Police Credit Union bank for people to make donations and run the tally up on that account. Hopefully, they will get a sizeable amount to contribute where it is needed.

I also want to make special mention of a seven-year-old girl, who is the neighbour of my parents, who saw the terrible happenings on the news and became really emotionally invested and was driven to do something. With the help of her parents, she has set up a GoFundMe page. It has been really pleasing to see the community come together. I have made a donation to Amahli Ziersch's fundraising page and I look forward to helping her direct that money to where it is needed to go. Hopefully, she can also contribute a sizeable amount. Congratulations to seven-year-old Amahli Ziersch for her efforts in fundraising to help the recovery.

As I said, there is the Police Credit Union, and there have also been farm machinery dealers—I think Vater Machinery have offered a tractor for short-term loan. Rosewanes Kadina have offered a couple of utes to people who have lost their cars in the fire. So there is plenty of community spirit going on there and plenty of support for those people who need it right at this very moment.

I would also like to touch briefly on the Pinery fire. Monday was the four-year anniversary of the Pinery fire that tore through some 85,000 hectares, had some 1,700 firefighters, 90 injuries with two lives lost, \$40 million worth of unharvested crop that was burnt and insurance losses in the area of some \$75 million. That was a fire amongst conditions that have not been seen since until perhaps what we saw on Wednesday. It does not seem like four years ago, but it is. On Sunday, we joined the minister at the opening of the memorial near the Grace Plains church, which is no longer in use, that will immortalise the memories of that fire and the terrible tragedy that it was and that resulted in two losses of life.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the organising committee of Peter March, Derek Tiller and Roger Davies, who did a wonderful job getting all the photos and information organised and converting what was a burnt-out tennis shed into a memorial or museum of all the happenings that went on during the Pinery fire. Some harrowing stories were told by the speakers. Belinda Cay, who lost her family home, gave a talk at the memorial opening, and John Lush gave a talk about the difficult circumstances they faced.

Representatives of the families of the two people who lost their lives in that fire also spoke. That was incredibly emotional. There was a crowd of what I estimated to be about 500 people in attendance, such is the community support and nostalgia that linger for that particular tragedy. They heard incredible stories from the families who lost loved ones in that fire. Hearing those stories drove quite a few people to tears.

It was pleasing to see such a wonderful turnout to express strong community support for those still suffering the side-effects of that fire four years on. The fire burned down some 91 homes, and it has taken quite some time to rebuild, but the community is starting to rally together. It was pleasing to see that that event went off with such aplomb, and it was a terrific event to be a part of. I am pleased that they saw fit to invite me, and I look forward to visiting that community and that memorial when it is not so busy so I can have a proper interrogation of the memorial panels.

Yesterday morning we had a meeting organised in Yorketown by the Weavers Ag Bureau, when representatives from the Pinery community, near Owen and Hamley Bridge, came to share their experiences of the fire with local farmers so that they know what to expect going forward. They are not flying blind; they have some people with lived experience, who have lived through fires in this situation before, who can come down and give them a bit of a plan, put their priorities in order and help them understand what they will need to do, what they should be doing first and what they should be prioritising.

I thank Adrian McCabe and Ben Marshman for coming to Yorketown yesterday morning. They are in the middle of their harvest and they had to stop harvesting and give up their time to come down. Again, it was a packed room; there was standing room only, such is the ongoing community support for those people who are suffering at Yorketown. Thank you to Adrian and Ben for coming and sharing your experiences with fire; it is really appreciated. I talked to quite a number of farmers on the way out who found it an invaluable experience.

Also, well done to the Weavers Ag Bureau, who with their chair, Marty Collins, are doing a mountain of work in organising and facilitating sponsorship, charity and donations. There will be a lot of work for them to do in the future, trying to support farmers who have lost their crops and face

losing their topsoil with sand drift and that sort of stuff. They are in a good position. They are a wonderful community. Well done to Adrian, Ben and also Marty for organising all of that.

I would like to convey, on behalf of the Narungga constituents, a massive thankyou to all our volunteer firefighters and State Emergency Service workers, our SAPOL officers, council personnel and everybody in the community who helped out and who is continuing to help out as we move forward. Reportedly, last week some 600 CFS volunteers fought 65 fires across the state, including 350 locally on Yorke Peninsula, during the catastrophic conditions. If it were not for all of you, the devastation last Wednesday would have been far worse for so many more people. Thank you on behalf of all the people in Narungga. I commend the motion to the house.

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (12:33):** I wish to contribute to the motion moved by the Premier and offer my support and sympathies to the people who have been affected by the recent fires on Yorke Peninsula, and broadening that to the Port Lincoln area in your own electorate, Mr Deputy Speaker, and also to people interstate who have been recently very much affected by a whole range of dreadful bushfires.

When I was watching some of the vision of the fires, it took my mind back to Pinery, which has been mentioned today. On the day of the Pinery bushfires, the Parliamentary Committee on Occupational Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation was heading to the Riverland. We were advised that we would need to find an alternative route because of the Pinery fires, as we could not head through the northern region. It was for that reason that the member for Schubert could not attend those committee hearings, as he was quite rightly supporting his community.

Within hours, the smoke was so thick over the Riverland that we were thinking about how close the fires must be. However, watching the vision on satellite, we could see it was hundreds of kilometres away from where we were. With those winds pushing the smoke so far to the east, it was quite unnerving, so I can only imagine what it must have been like for farmers and people living in small regional communities to experience that and to see the glow on the horizon.

I was watching with interest what was happening last week and thinking about how traumatic and stressful that must be for families and vulnerable people in their homes. I commend the volunteers, the community services, the emergency services and health services in the region, the local councils that came out in force, and generally decent people. In the main, emergencies such as this bring out the best in everybody, and we as a community stand together to thank those people.

I also want to refer to staff within the emergency recovery unit of the Department of Human Services, who have responded, under the guidance of their management team and the minister, to provide grants to families and individuals who need immediate and urgent support and also on-the-ground support. I have seen this support firsthand during times of flood in my electorate, and I thank them for their responsive action and for the support and care that they offer.

Some volunteer groups also responded on the ground. I know the Salvation Army was activated, as was St John. If I try to name everybody, I am sure I will miss some out, not knowing the local area, so I will commend the volunteer services. They look after not just people but also the animals, livestock, fences, the buildings and the repairs that will go on for many months after the incident. I thank all those people in the community—those who are registered and also the off-the-cuff, decent people who put up their hand to help their neighbours and people in neighbouring towns.

I offer my hand if people need support or a callout for any assistance. I am very happy to assist in that regard. Many locals have contacted me and offered to donate and collect a range of items. I am offering the same advice to everyone: it is a wonderful thought to collect various things in distant locations in an emergency, but often the cost of freight and sorting becomes a bigger problem than the initial show of goodwill. I recommend that people head to [redcross.org.au](http://redcross.org.au) and support them through donations. They will then divvy the money to areas of need with some degree of governance and triage. So that is where I recommend people go.

In summing up, my electorate of Hurtle Vale lies partly within the Mount Lofty fire district, so we are always on edge during periods of bushfire risk. We also lie within the Mawson catchment area, and I would like to thank the Mawson CFS for helping to coordinate the operations around these volunteer firefighting teams.

I know there have been many crews and members who have headed off from our electorate, specifically from Happy Valley and Morphett Vale, and also from Clarendon and Cherry Gardens, which are not far away. Other units within Mawson, such as Blewitt Springs, Kangarilla, McLaren Flat and Seaford, have also provided help, so I wish to thank all those people. In fact, Cherry Gardens lies just outside Mawson, but I am well connected with them as they were in the seat of Fisher before Hurtle Vale and I have maintained that relationship.

I look forward to seeing my brigades very soon as I do my annual visits to all our CFS brigades. Thank you to everybody in the community for joining together. Thank you to all those across this house who have and will speak on the motion. It is very important and I commend it.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (12:40):** I, too, rise to support this motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition, and I do so on behalf of the people of Stuart. The people of Stuart have been, I suggest, affected by more fires in the last 9½ years that I have been an MP than any other single electorate, but the reality is that the impact of any one fire on any one family or one farm or one home or one business is as great for that home, farm, family, business, etc. as it is for anyone anywhere else, and one is more than enough for anybody.

The people in Yorketown were in a terrible situation but, as we know from previous speakers, they were not the only ones under great threat that day. Since first looking at the map when the fire was going, I have thought fairly constantly of the positive of the fact that it was heading towards the gulf and that, without a late wind change, it was going to hit the coast and burn out. That was a plus but, on the negative side, it was going straight at the town of Edithburgh. Essentially, the people there were fighting this fire that was going to come to them and pass them by, but they needed to save as much as they possibly could in the way. That is the perspective of the people in the town, of course.

The people on the farms in the open country were doing everything they could to protect their homes, stock and other assets, whether it was sheds, hay, crops, etc., but they were not doing it alone. As we know from all other speakers here today, they were not doing it alone. They were doing it with the extraordinarily important volunteer service and a paid section of the Country Fire Service. Overwhelmingly, it was the volunteer CFS service and of course the unsung brigade of farm firefighting units, which in recent years have become more and more organised and more and more important. They deserve as much praise as anyone else.

I want to talk very briefly about the impact of fire. I am not talking about the homes lost or, as in Pinery, the two deaths that occurred, or, as in the fire at Southern Flinders, Wirrabara Forest, a few years ago, the six or eight houses that were lost. One of the things that struck me as a CFS member—although I was far more active a few years ago than I am at the moment—and also as an MP, is the impact that fire has on people decades afterwards. I have had a lot of contact with people who were near a fire in recent years, but they were also very dangerously exposed to fire in some cases 20 or 25 years previously.

The second occasion when they were not really in any great danger but fire was a danger to their district brought back memories, feelings, fear and anxiety from decades earlier, and this was not something I was aware of or exposed to until about six years ago. It is real. It is palpable. It is very genuine how terrified people are, in large part because the feelings of a couple of decades ago, when they were actually in danger, had come back to them. What really struck me was what can we do to try to help people who have very recently been at risk due to fire so that they do not have this locked up or bottled up inside them for the next 10, 20 or 30 years and how we can try to avoid that.

After thanking everybody who has worked so hard in South Australia and outside South Australia—I suspect we all know CFS volunteers who have volunteered in recent weeks and who in previous times have gone interstate to help others, putting themselves in very grave danger—my desire in this speech is to call on this house, through our collective capacity and presumably mostly through our government's capacity, to see what we can do now, shortly after the Artherton/Edithburgh fire, and perhaps more effectively at the end of this fire season, to help people who have this year and maybe last year been affected by fire.

I know from my experience over the last five, six or seven years that the less obvious trauma and the less obvious impacts exist, so what can we do to try to lessen that impact for people so that

as much as possible we can contain the impact of the fire on the community to the more physical, and that extends through to loss of crops and stock that are very emotionally confronting? How can we try to contain it to those things and try to remove or diminish the impact that lingers for decades? If we can do that work as well as the immediate firefighting work, which of course on any day is more pressing, then we will take a massive step forward in what we broadly call fighting bushfires.

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (12:46):** I rise to support the Premier's motion, supported by the opposition leader and I think everyone in this chamber, to thank those who did such an amazing job last week not only on Yorke Peninsula, where so much was lost, but also in other parts of the state that were also under threat. Everyone will remember that last Wednesday, following on from all the warnings we had had over the previous days, we awoke to one of those really nasty days we occasionally get in South Australia, with high temperatures above 40° and those fierce northerlies.

I think that all of us, whether in a metropolitan or a rural seat, were bracing ourselves for what could have been truly catastrophic results on a catastrophic fire day. As the day progressed, we followed media reports of what was happening. We knew that the fire was burning fiercely on Yorke Peninsula, and there were some very hazy reports of what had been lost. We also had fires threatening around the Port Wakefield area, the Barossa and other parts of the state.

I want to thank all those emergency service volunteers and staff, who did an incredible job on that day. To see people from my part of the woods on the Fleurieu Peninsula getting in their firefighting vehicles and heading off to help their fellow South Australians was a tremendous thing. It is something we have seen over the past few decades, with South Australians chipping in to help each other out and, of course, also going interstate to help those unfortunate people battling fires in other parts of Australia.

I want to go back to the Wangary Black Tuesday fire of January 2005, obviously something very dear to you, Deputy Speaker. Your dad, Brian Treloar, was the then chairman of the Lower Eyre Peninsula council. I want to extend this thanks out to the broader community if I could and to leaders like your father. Yorke Peninsula mayor, Darren Braund, was on radio last week in a leadership role providing advice to the people in the area, as well as working with the government of the day to ensure that things that need to get fixed get fixed as quickly as possible.

Once the fire goes through, we quickly move into recovery mode. That is when community leaders step up again. We always see hundreds and hundreds of public servants get to work to try to make a difference for those people on the ground. With the Wangary fires, we fixed things like this in no time at all. Mike Rann was the premier at the time. I was put over there for six weeks, basically as the chief of staff to whichever visiting minister was in town.

Every day for six weeks, we had a minister on the ground in Port Lincoln and they had the power of cabinet. They did not have to take things back to cabinet to get things resolved. At that time, there were trees still standing, but the roots were burnt out, and John Hill, the environment minister at the time, said that the most important thing was human life, not trees, so get the trees chopped down. It is funny how a bushfire brings everyone together, but it also helps us to see things much more clearly and to do things in a much quicker way.

The Pinery fires, four years ago this week, were also devastating. Again, we saw people across all areas of the Public Service come together to work with local people. As the minister for agriculture, we had 12 primary industry teams out there putting down animals that had suffered injuries during the fire and helping bury stock that were killed. It is a team effort, but one that we do not ever like to see because it means that it has followed on from a devastating bushfire. So many South Australians—our firefighters, our emergency service responders, the police and ambulance officers—do such an incredible job, and we also see the fabric of the region come together with the support of the whole state, by and large.

For people who have lost stock and lost their homes and for others who have suffered the anguish of having to survive a deadly bushfire, the trauma that follows on from that is real and goes on for months, years and, in some cases, never leaves them. So one really important thing we need to do now that the fire has passed is to be around those people, not only in a governmental sense

but also in terms of mental health delivery, and also for family and friends to be aware to keep an eye out for people.

After the Pinery fire, the minister for energy and I attended a barbecue in a big shed at the Schusters. It was about three weeks after the fire and it was a barbecue to bring the community out. The mental health teams had already been out there organising community meetings in bowls clubs and town halls around the fireground, and a large percentage of women tended to come to them and the men would stay at home.

I come from a farm and had a dad who was practically dead before he went to the doctor because he did not look after his own health, so I know that we need to look after everyone in our community, but particularly the men who may not be so good at talking about it. That barbecue that the minister for energy and I went to was a barbecue, it was a get-together, but there were people in the room wandering around looking for signs from people who might not have been travelling so well.

After the Wangary fire, there was at least one suicide. It is a real thing and quite often people do not want to talk about mental health. In 2019, I think we are much more mature than we were even a decade ago and so people are talking about it. We just need to keep an eye out because, long after the fire has gone through a town or a region, the damage is still real.

Once again, I commend all the emergency services volunteers and personnel from Yorke Peninsula and all those from other parts of the state who went to their aid on their efforts last week. I thank them and everyone else who is going to be involved in the recovery to get these people back on their feet as soon as possible.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:54):** It is my privilege to stand to make some brief remarks in support of the Premier's motion to the parliament today and I do so as the member for Heysen representing an area that is smack bang in the middle of the Mount Lofty Ranges district. It is an area that is usually looked to as a primary point of danger, and indeed, on 20 November last Wednesday, the Mount Lofty district was one of those seven districts that was rated in the catastrophic category.

Notwithstanding that, I could not be more proud than to report that brigades from all corners of Heysen, and indeed throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges, attended at Yorketown. I am advised that those brigades included Bridgewater, Kangarilla, Stirling and Strathalbyn—as I have said, brigades from all corners of Heysen and throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges. I stress that these brigades came from one area of catastrophic conditions to go to assist at another area of catastrophic conditions, that being the fire at Yorketown and surrounds. It was a day, as we know, during which many of the schools throughout the state were closed, and they included many schools in Heysen.

So, in recognising those volunteers who responded to those emergency conditions, I particularly single them out. That is also against a background—and reference has been made to the circumstances nationally that have been experienced over recent weeks—where, as I am further advised, over those recent weeks, brigades including Bridgewater, Clarendon, Macclesfield, Strathalbyn, Upper Sturt and Woodchester within Heysen have volunteered to assist in New South Wales in those horrendous conditions that we have all heard a great deal about. I want to particularly recognise that extraordinary commitment to volunteer for community assistance that has been so well demonstrated by those brigades in particular from my area.

I will take the chance as well to note that, if there is a benefit that may have come from this particularly difficult time in this last week, it is that I can report a very strong interest in the community more broadly to be prepared as we commence this fire season ahead. We know that it is likely to be a particularly challenging one and we do all we can to encourage the community to be prepared and ready.

As recently as last Friday evening, Jackie Horton, who is a community engagement officer with the CFS, wrote to me to report that workshops that she is planning for the Strathalbyn area have had a very strong expression of interest. For a session that she says might attract a dozen people, she is having to find another venue in order to accommodate expressions of interest in the many tens. She is reporting that it is very encouraging to see this uptake of interest. It is something that the minister raises with me on a regular basis at this time to ensure that we do all we can to be prepared. With those remarks, I commend the motion.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Pederick.

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

*Bills*

**FLINDERS UNIVERSITY (REMUNERATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

**LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA BILL**

*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (YOUTH TREATMENT ORDERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**ANSWERS TABLED**

**The SPEAKER:** I direct that the written answers to questions be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Auditor-General—Country Health Property Maintenance Report 10 of 2019 [Ordered to be published]

Parliament of South Australia—Joint Parliamentary Service, The Administration of—  
Annual Report 2018-19

Local Government Annual Reports 2018-19—

District Council of Cleve

District Council of Franklin Harbour

District Council of Tumby Bay

Tatiara District Council

By the Attorney-General (Hon. V.A. Chapman)—

Rules made under the following Act—

Magistrates Court—Civil—Amendment No. 27

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

Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia (trading as Vinehealth Australia)—  
Annual Report 2018-2019

By the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government (Hon. S.K. Knoll)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Motor Vehicles—Vehicle Inspections

Road Traffic—Vehicle Inspections

*Question Time***PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:05):** My question is to the Premier. Are chief executives expected to answer truthfully to all parliamentary committees?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:05):** Yes, I am sure that is the case.

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:05):** My question is to the Premier. What are the consequences of a chief executive not answering truthfully to a parliamentary committee?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:05):** There would obviously be a code which would govern any statements that those chief executives have made. Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition could cut to the chase and tell us what merry dance he is taking us on at the moment.

*Ms Stinson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Badcoe is called to order. The Leader of the Opposition.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:06):** My question is to the Premier. Did your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, tell the truth when he told the Budget and Finance Committee on 29 October that he did not 'involve [himself] in anything in that area of business' in relation to his former company Silver Chain?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:06):** I'm not familiar with the statement that was made or what the Leader of the Opposition is alleging. Perhaps he could provide further details.

**The SPEAKER:** I am prepared to allow one more question, given that we are only one minute in. The member for Kaurna, and then we will switch to those on my right. Member for Kaurna.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:07):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, did your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, have a telephone conversation with Ms Lyn Jones, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Silver Chain, regarding Silver Chain's Integrum program on 26 June 2018, as she says in a letter to him dated the same day?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:07):** I don't have those details, no.

*The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson is called to order. We will move to the member for Narungga and then the member for Kaurna. Member for Narungga.

**PORT WAKEFIELD OVERPASS**

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:07):** My question is to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall government is delivering productive infrastructure, such as the Port Wakefield overpass and duplication?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:07):** I thank the member for Narungga for his question and note his dogged commitment to the Movember cause, achieving something that I will never be able to achieve. I can only look on with amazement.

This project is one that we took to the election and to the people of South Australia back in March 2018—the strong plan for real change that we put on the table to help improve road safety in regional areas. What we promised the people of South Australia is an overpass at crash corner. This



intersection, for those who aren't familiar with it, is one of the most notorious in South Australia. In fact, unfortunately, what we saw was a double fatality at the intersection only a few weeks ago.

It serves as a very real reminder about why this project should have happened before now, but it is happening now, and one that we need to get on with and we need to deliver. What we took to the election was to deliver an overpass, but what we are now actually going to deliver to the South Australian people is so much more than that. Instead of just a single-lane overpass for southbound traffic over crash corner, we are now going to deliver a dual-lane bridge.

That means that, for those people heading south on the Augusta Highway who want to go across to the Copper Coast Highway, instead of having to turn right across one of South Australia's major highways, they will actually be able to loop around and go up over on a bridge, getting rid of that right-hand turn movement. We know that the reason that crash corner is notorious in the first place is the fact that there are dangerous right-hand turn movements where vehicles need to pass oncoming traffic.

As part of the consultation which was undertaken, and very much with the member for Narungga's community, council gathers a whole heap of feedback about what this project should look like. Instead of just the overpass, we are now going to deliver the duplication through the town. But also, based on feedback, we knew that we needed to deal with the entry and exit points, especially around the Balaklava Road intersection, and what we have decided on is a dual-lane carriageway in both directions that's going to, for southbound traffic, bypass half the town.

This means that we can provide a safer upgrade and we can provide an upgrade that is going to hopefully save lives into the future. This will cost more money—\$122 million on the table from the state and federal governments to get this done—but the real issue that we faced was one where we either do the job properly the first time or suffer the consequences later on of not doing the job properly. It's why we didn't hesitate to put the extra money on the table to make sure that this notorious intersection is dealt with properly.

This means that we can get rid of all the hazardous at-grade movements. It also means that we can deal with a realigned intersection at Balaklava. It means that we can realign the dual carriageway, as I said, and make sure there are safe U-turn movements throughout. These things might seem basic, but I think that what we have shown is that we have undertaken a consultation process with the community. We have listened. We have redesigned the project.

Can I say that this is an intersection that holiday-makers have nightmares about when they have to get across to Yorke Peninsula, especially in beautiful summertime when the shack season is upon us. Works will begin on this project early next year. We are in the process of tendering for the construction of these projects right now. The land acquisition process is already underway. For all those people who live on Yorke Peninsula or who are heading north to Port Augusta and Spencer Gulf, for all those people who holiday to Yorke Peninsula and those areas around, they have a government that has listened and is going to deliver the best upgrade that the South Australian people deserve.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

#### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Kaurna, I welcome to parliament today Crawford and Marie Smith and Chris Goodwin, who are Knights of the Southern Cross, who I believe are guests of the member for Elder. I also welcome to parliament Joshua Matolcsy, a year 12 student who is a guest of the Minister for Innovation and Skills. As well as that, I welcome DPTI graduates, who are hosted by the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Welcome to parliament.

#### *Question Time*

#### **MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:12):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, did your chief executive, Dr Chris McGowan of SA Health, agree by text message in the days leading up to

5 July 2018 to meet with representatives from Silver Chain to discuss potential partnerships between Silver Chain and SA Health, as noted in an email to him on the same day?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:12):** I don't have any details of the matters that you're alleging here in the parliament. Can I make this very clear: if you think there is something which is inappropriate that has occurred, then I think that you should—in fact, I think you've got an obligation to—report that to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. That would be the most appropriate course of action to take, and I suggest—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —that's precisely what you do.

*Mr Szakacs interjecting:*

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

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:12):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, did your SA Health chief executive, Dr Chris McGowan, travel to Perth and meet with his former company Silver Chain at their offices for an hour and a half on 15 February 2019?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:13):** Again, I just reiterate that I don't—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I don't have details on the travel plans or the meeting agenda for every member of the Public Service or even just the chief executives who report directly to me, but if the member has an issue, well, I suggest he takes it up as per my previous answer. But his insinuation is that there's something untoward, that Silver Chain, for example, is a company that is new to SA Health.

The former government had a long and lengthy relationship with Silver Chain. They have been supplying services to the people of South Australia for an extended period of time. As the member would be more than aware, they own the company, the RDNS, which has been providing excellent services to the people of South Australia for an extended period of time. And rather than come in here and sort of make insinuations, what—

*The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Lee!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —if those opposite have—

*Mr Odenwalder interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Elizabeth!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** If they believe something untoward has happened—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —why don't they give it to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment? That would be the logical way to go—

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Leader!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —and we would just encourage the opposition to do precisely that.

*Ms Stinson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Badcoe!

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:14):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, did your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, undertake a site visit for the Silver Chain Integrum program when he met with Silver Chain at their offices in Perth at 193 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont, for an hour and a half on 15 February 2019?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:15):** I refer the member to my previous answer.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:15):** My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water. Can the minister inform the house about how the Marshall Liberal government is delivering a new way for natural resources to be managed in this state?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, be seated for one moment. The member for West Torrens—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens is now warned. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:15):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you to the member for Heysen for his question about a very, very important series of reforms that the Marshall Liberal government has brought into legislation here in South Australia. From opposition, we said that we had picked up on very significant dissatisfaction with the natural resources management system here in South Australia and that, if we formed government, as we did in March 2018, we would undertake—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** —a very substantial reform to natural resources management, and that is exactly what we did. We came to—

*Mr Brown interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Playford!

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** —power in March 2018, and we undertook very significant consultation all around the state, getting out into regional communities and asking them what they wanted from their natural resources management system in this state.

What we heard was that the South Australian community wanted a system which was closer to them, more embedded in communities, more informed and shaped by local communities, which they would have a direct input into and in which they had confidence was delivering back to basics environmental management across the state so that we could get environmental sustainability and economic development, because, of course, the natural resources management system is largely focused on the private landscape, our farmscape, ensuring that it is managed in such a way that agricultural productivity is sustained but also that our fauna and flora that are native to South Australia are able to survive and thrive in that landscape as well.

That is a tricky balance to get at times. We know that, historically in this state since European colonisation, we have not done very well with that, but with integrated resources management this can be achieved, and this is exactly what we are focusing on through our new Landscape South Australia reform—reform that has now passed through both houses of parliament here. It has been heavily shaped by South Australian communities and, in particular, peak bodies: the Local Government Association, Primary Producers South Australia, the Conservation Council of South

Australia and a range of other not-for-profit organisations putting their views forward to help us shape this.

So we will have a system in place in the coming months that will be informed by local people. It will get those basics right. It will manage our water resources effectively. It will focus on sustainable agricultural programs to make sure that agriculture is able to be productive in this state but do so in a way that is sensitive to our natural environment. It will also focus on ensuring that the resilience of our natural environment—

*Mr Brown interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Playford!

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS:** —in the face of a changing climate is sustained through dealing with pest plants and animals, because those things in our landscape weaken the natural environment and as a consequence enhance and lift up the effects of a changing climate.

We have in place a new system. Over the coming months we will see boards be appointed. We will see the creation of Green Adelaide looking at the science of how to green a city and make an urban environment as healthy, as vibrant and as climate resilient as possible. It is great reform. It is back to basics. It is connecting our communities to our environment and putting them at the heart of both economic productivity across the landscape and of course, and importantly, environmental sustainability.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:19):** My question is to the Premier. Why is Dr McGowan's visit to Perth on 15 February, including his meeting with his former company Silver Chain, not mentioned on the chief executive's proactive disclosure of domestic travel for the report January to March 2019?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:19):** I am not aware, but I'm happy to take a look into the matter for you.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:20):** My question is to the Premier. Was your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, accompanied by any other staff or probity advisers when he visited his former company Silver Chain in Perth for an hour and half on 15 February?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:20):** I am not aware, but I'm happy to look into that matter.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens has been warned. Member for Kaurna.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:20):** My question is to the Premier. Did Dr McGowan have any discussions with the minister or public servants in SA Health about his visit to Silver Chain in Perth on 15 February 2019, or did he write any report for the minister or other public servants on the outcome of his visit?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:20):** As I have previously outlined to the house, I have no knowledge regarding this visit. I again draw to the attention of the member—

**The Hon. Z.L. Bettison:** It doesn't seem like anyone did.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Ramsay!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** —his obligation: if he's got some information that he would like to provide to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, I suggest that he does precisely that.

*The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson is warned. The member for Finniss. I will come back to the member for Kaurna.

**REGIONAL GROWTH FUND**

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (14:21):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister update the house on how the state government is delivering a stronger economy through the Regional Growth Fund?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:21):** I thank the member for Finniss for his important question. He knows too well, like many of the regional members, how important the Regional Growth Fund is to building and driving an economy. Local regional economies are the backbone of South Australia. I am pleased to announce that recently I announced recipients that will be a part of the \$5 million competitive grants stream in the Regional Growth Fund.

There are 10 projects that have been funded, and those projects will unlock about \$14.6 million of investment and create about 160 or more jobs in the regions. These projects are part of industry and the regions. The funding will give a stimulus to those regional centres from as far south as Mount Gambier, all the way up to the Far North at the junction of the Birdsville and Oodnadatta Track, and, of course, the great wine-growing regions of South Australia: the Barossa, McLaren Vale and, of course, Langhorne Creek.

As the member for Finniss has asked this question, we should just note that he is a recipient in the lovely electorate of Finniss down at Fleurieu Peninsula, where the historic Chart Room—

**Mr HUGHES:** Point of order: this information is all publicly available.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Giles.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Minister for Education.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Were the minister quoting from a publicly available document, that would be a point of order. The very fact that the minister is talking about an issue that is in the public domain is relevant to almost every question and answer in this house. That is a bogus point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** I have the point of order. I think I know what the member for Giles is alluding to. I will listen to the minister and ensure that, apart from publicly available information, he also provides information in addition to that. I anticipate that he will, but I will be listening very carefully. Minister.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** I certainly will, sir. It's ironic that the spokesperson for regional development is not interested in hearing about good news for the regions of South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Isn't it ironic? But what I will say is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left will cease interjecting. I ask the minister to come back to the substance of the question.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** —that it is great news for the Fleurieu and down at Goolwa. Some of that funding will go to the historic Chart Room in Goolwa. It is going to provide a new lease of life for that building, which is an historic, beautiful two-storey building that has significant foot traffic and visitation. It was once a pop-up business that brought the shipbuilding industry to life down at Goolwa. What we will see now is that the capacity for the Chart Room will give the ability for start-ups and those pop-up businesses to be a part of that precinct. As I have said, it will attract high levels of visitation and foot traffic that will expand on the capacity for start-ups down at that precinct.

I must say that the member for Finniss has been over the moon to think that an historic piece of history will be rejuvenated and it will have a new lease of life. This funding is critically important to the ability to attract people down to the foreshore at Goolwa, but it's also giving, as I said, the ability

for new start-up businesses to be part of that precinct. It also removes the burden of start-up costs for businesses, and it will allow new enterprises to grow into larger shopfronts or office space with time.

The Chart Room will provide an avenue for these ventures to attract existing and new small businesses. It gives them the ability to further connect with that passing visitation. It also provides an opportunity for new enterprise to capitalise on that visitation. The project will create work for the local skilled workforce. The member for Finniss would know that there is a large amount of very ornate stonework that will need high levels of tradesmen's expertise down there. The carpentry and the woodwork, as part of this beautiful building, will need to be brought out. As a local content into the rebuild of the Chart Room, I think it's a great initiative, a great investment, and gives the ability for a regional pop-up.

We see many pop-ups here in metropolitan Adelaide, and the ability for pop-ups to pop up in our regions is a great initiative. It's taxpayers' money well spent because we know #RegionsMatter.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:26):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, did your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, have a meeting on 12 June 2019 with the CEO of Wellbeing SA, Ms Lyn Dean, regarding Silver Chain's Integrum program?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:26):** I refer the member to my previous answers.

**The Hon. Z.L. Bettison:** Wow, okay.

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

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** Haven't you got any other questions?

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

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:26):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, is it correct that, two weeks after Dr McGowan met with Lyn Dean about Silver Chain's Integrum program, SA Health and Lyn Dean herself signed a contract on 24 June 2019 with Silver Chain Group Limited to deliver the Integrum program at a cost to taxpayers of \$2.9 million?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:27):** I have no knowledge of that transaction.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens was warned. He continued to interject during the Premier's answer, and now he is warned for a second and final time. The member for Kaurna.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:27):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, do you still have confidence that your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, accurately stated to the Budget and Finance Committee that he did not involve himself in any area of that business in relation to his former company, Silver Chain?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:27):** I have not been provided with any information today which would suggest otherwise, but, again, I would just reiterate—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL:** I would just reiterate to the laughing opposition that if they have any information that they believe needs to come into the focus of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, that's exactly and precisely what they should do with that information.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The deputy leader is called to order. The member for Kurna and then the member for MacKillop.

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:27):** My question is to the Premier. Premier, who is the independent investigator who has been appointed by the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment to investigate the conduct of your Chief Executive of SA Health, Dr Chris McGowan, and what are the terms of reference?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:28):** My understanding is that the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment is looking into this matter and that there may be an appointment made, but I don't have any details of that. When I do have details, I am happy to bring that information back to the house.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Cheltenham!

*Mr Brown interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Playford is updated to two warnings. The member for MacKillop.

**GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS MORATORIUM**

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:28):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister update the house on how lifting the GM moratorium will deliver a stronger state economy?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:28):** I thank the member for MacKillop, because he would understand—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** —as well as anybody in this place the advantages of having the moratorium on GM lifted here in South Australia. As the only mainland state to have that handbrake on our primary production economy, engaged by the former Labor government, the now opposition, it denies the ability and the capacity of our primary sector to use that advantage of GM technology.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: that is debate.

**The SPEAKER:** The point of order is for debate. I will listen assiduously to the minister's answer to ensure he is sticking to the substance of the question and not debating the matter.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** As we know, coming into government it was a commitment that we gave the primary sector: that we would do a full economic review of what the GM moratorium meant to South Australia. Emeritus Professor Kym Anderson AC came out and did the full review. It was compelling, the review, that there was no economic advantage here in South Australia—

*The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson is on two warnings.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** —living underneath a GM moratorium. What we saw was that there was significant concern that farmers had borne the cost of that moratorium. The facts are that over \$30 million was a burden to our grain growing sector, and that burden continues while this moratorium continues to weigh heavily on our grain producers. What I would say is that this reform is long overdue. It has been 15 years that South Australia has had the handbrake on it. I would also say that we have introduced through regulation the ability to lift the moratorium on mainland South Australia, while that moratorium remains on Kangaroo Island.

Through the consultation period, and through our statutory obligation, we did that by means of listening to the farming sector, listening to the experts, listening to the people, the researchers—

those people who are having their hands tied behind their back because, whenever there are licks of money through R&D programs into our universities, into our research stations, South Australia continually is overlooked, and enough is enough. It has to stop.

The lifting of the moratorium is about giving our farmers the choice. Not every farmer wants to be a GM farmer, not every farmer wants to be a non-GM farmer, but it's giving our primary sector the ability to out there and be more competitive. If those opposite are supporting climate change—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: that is debate, sir. Questioning our views is debate, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not uphold the point of order, but I am listening to the minister's answer. I am making notes as he answers, and if I feel the need to pull him up I will. Minister.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Thank you, sir. And if we are talking climate change, these are exactly the sorts of tools that help address climate change. If we are going to put less chemicals on our soils—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** —if we are going to put less chemicals over our crops—

*Mr Hughes interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Giles!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** —if we are going to reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, if we are going to have productivity gains, then lift the GM moratorium. Listen to those who grow our food. Those who are the deniers are not listening because I know that the opposition have been out listening. They have been doing their Labor Listens posts and they haven't been listening because overwhelmingly they have been asked to lift the moratorium.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** The point of order is for debate. I uphold the point of order. I ask the minister to come back to the substance of the question.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Lifting the moratorium is about giving our farmers, our primary producers, the tools to produce more with less—less inputs and more outputs. We know that South Australia is going through a drought at the moment. We know there is severe dry and hardship upon our farmers, yet to be able to utilise that GM technology—planting grain in the dry, being able to deal with the drier and more adverse weather conditions, being able to deal with frost, too. Frost was one of the greatest scourges in the grain growing sector this year, and that is exactly what GM technology can help with.

#### **MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:33):** My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier have complete confidence that Dr Chris McGowan, your Chief Executive of SA Health, has not done anything that would constitute a breach of the Public Sector Code of Ethics and, if so, why?

**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:33):** Well, I seem to have answered this multiple times. Those opposite seem to think that they have information that would suggest that there has been a breach. My understanding is that there is an investigation which is pending. If the opposition have specific information, I suggest they make the commissioner aware of it.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hurtle Vale is called to order. I remind the member for Playford he is on two warnings. The member for Kurna.

#### **MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:34):** My question is to the Premier. Should Dr McGowan stand down pending the outcome of the independent investigation into his conduct and, if not, why not?



**The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:34):** No, I think that Dr McGowan referred this matter himself to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment. She has not provided me with any advice to suggest that he should stand down pending this investigation.

#### YAMBA QUARANTINE STATION

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (14:34):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries. Does the minister stand by his statement on ABC radio on Monday 18 November that no fruit or vegetables were left rotting in bins for more than a week at Yamba quarantine station?

*Mr Duluk interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Waite is not assisting.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:34):** It is ironic that the primary industries spokesperson doesn't get the question, but what I would say is that—

*Mr Szakacs interjecting:*

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

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

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

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** I'm sure the member refers to the Yamba quarantine station. The Yamba quarantine station has been operating since 1954. Since 1954, fruit that has been collected gets put into bins. It then gets put into pits. Once it's been put into pits, it is then dusted with an antibacterial dusting powder that seals that collection of fruit. Over time, there have been different collection methods. Under all styles of government, we have seen that the law has been that people will not bring fruit and vegetables into South Australia past that quarantine station.

Once upon a time, those bins were collected and put into rubbish bins, into those Sulo bins, and then they were transported off site into deep burial pits. That continued to happen. Up until 4 January this year, as an emergency response we saw that fruit, now under the zero tolerance approach, had to be declared at the temporary bins at the Bede Road drop-off station, which is about five kilometres to the east of Yamba.

They were two very large drop-off bins and, as I understand it, those bins were monitored regularly. We did have some initial problems with other waste material being put into those declaration bins, but I think that over time we sorted that out. While there were temporary bins in place, as I said, biosecurity officers went down there and inspected those bins. When those bins were deemed at a level, they were then transported back into New South Wales to Buronga. Buronga is over the river from Mildura.

The reason we emptied those bins at Buronga was so that we didn't introduce any risk of fruit fly host material into the fruit fly free area in the Riverland. That was carefully considered. When that fruit was taken back to Buronga, it was disposed of in an appropriate way and it was done in a timely manner. As I said, the biosecurity officers deemed the emptying of those temporary bins in a timely fashion. What we see today is that we now have permanent bins, and they are permanent, concrete, underground structures—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: the minister was asked if he stands by his remarks on radio. He has not yet answered that. He is debating.

**The SPEAKER:** I have the point of order. I believe that the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I believe the minister is responding to matters that are pertinent to the question, but I will continue to listen. Minister.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Thank you, sir. As I was saying, these new permanent declaration bins that are underground concrete bunkers are large concrete bunkers that have sealed tops on them with swing doors. Again, those bins are monitored regularly. Once those bins are

deemed appropriately having an amount of fruit in them, contractors are called in to empty those bins. When those contractors take away the lids and use excavation equipment to empty the bins, it is put into the transportation vessels and it is then taken back to Buronga. It is taken back to Buronga to be disposed of properly. As I said, the same with the temporary bins, the same with all the bins: it's done in a manner that is biosecurity safe.

#### YAMBA QUARANTINE STATION

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (14:39):** Again, my question is to the Minister for Primary Industries. On what date were the temporary fruit and vegetable disposal bins located near Yamba quarantine station first emptied after the commencement of the zero tolerance policy?

**The SPEAKER:** A very specific question. Minister.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:39):** I thank the member for his question, but I think we need to point out that they're not near: they are five kilometres up the highway.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** As I've said—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, be seated for one moment. The member for Playford can leave for the remainder of question time under 137A.

*The honourable member for Playford having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** Somewhere near the 'Maree river', maybe.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Education is warned—

**Mr Pederick:** Or 'Malala'.

**The SPEAKER:** —as is the member for Hammond. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Thank you, sir. As I have said a number of times, when the certified biosecurity officer goes down to the bins, and whether it was the temporary bins at Bede Road or whether it is now the permanent bins at Bede Road, they determine if the bin has a level of fruit that needs to be removed. As I said, they will call in the contractors to take away the temporary bin and take it to Buronga. If it's the permanent bin, they remove the top, they use the excavator and they decant the fruit from the excavator into a vessel, which is then taken to Buronga.

I think it needs to be noted that the bins are there for a reason, and that reason is for people to voluntarily declare the fruit that they would otherwise have brought into South Australia and put a \$1.28 billion industry at risk. For a long period of time, if we take a step back to 2012, when the then government was going to remove the full-time inspection station—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** The point of order is for debate?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Debate, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** With respect to the minister, I have listened to your former answer. I've let you monopolise the entirety of your time. This particular question was even more specific. I'm willing to allow the minister to have some relevant preamble; you are starting to absorb that. Minister.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Thank you, sir. What I would say is that the appropriate officer deems when the bin needs to be empty, it is empty, so—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Elizabeth, we have the question. The minister has the call.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Again, the certified biosecurity officer will go down and inspect the bin, and if he sees that the bin has plenty more capacity, then the bin will continue to be used and filled until it reaches a level that the biosecurity officer deems it needs to be emptied. When it's emptied, the contractors will be called in, the excavator will come along and take out that material, it will be decanted into a vessel—

**Ms COOK:** Point of order, sir: the debate continues.

**The SPEAKER:** I believe that the minister is coming back to the substance of the question. Minister?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** As I've said—

**The SPEAKER:** If not, the minister will conclude his answer.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** If those opposite don't agree with the regime of zero tolerance, then maybe they can shed some light. But what I would say is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Minister for Transport, be quiet.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** What I would say is that the certified officer—the biosecurity officer—deems the level of the bin. If it's satisfactory, he will call in the contractors to empty that bin and have that fruit removed and disposed of.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** There is a point of order. Has the minister finished his answer?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Yes.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister has concluded his answer. I will take another one on my left and then we will move to one on my right. The member for Wright.

#### **YAMBA QUARANTINE STATION**

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (14:43):** My question is again to the Minister for Primary Industries. How does the minister explain an email sent by Mr Wayne Marshall on Monday 4 February that states, 'The bins that have been placed prior to the Yamba quarantine station—

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order, sir: questions may not introduce facts except by leave of the house. Leave has not been sought.

**Dr Close:** He has to finish answering the question first.

**The SPEAKER:** Deputy leader, I don't accept interjections, but you might be right here. I have asked for the point of order to be made at the end of the answer. I think I have the point of order: it is for the insertion of fact. The member for Wright knows that that is contrary to standing orders without leave of the house, so he can either rephrase or seek leave. If not, we will move to those on my right. Member for Wright.

**Mr BOYER:** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries. Did the minister ever receive advice that the temporary bins placed prior to the Yamba quarantine station had not been emptied for over five weeks?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:44):** I thank the member for his question. It's ironic that, through this process of zero tolerance, I have had to fight the Labor Party. I have had to fight the unions the whole way to protect a \$1.28 billion industry.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, please be seated. The point of order—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** For debate.

**The SPEAKER:** —is for debate.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The union movement and the Labor Party do not administer fruit fly bans.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I am wanting to allow the minister some preamble, if it's relevant. If not, I ask him to come back to the substance of the question.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Yes, I will, thank you, sir. What I should say is the opposition here in South Australia and the union movement, I have had to fight them the whole way.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** There is a point of order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Innovation might have a bit to say about the union movement; however, he has not got the call. Minister, I ask you to come back to the substance of the question. If you continue in the fashion that you are, could I suggest that it may lead to quarrels and I may need to intercept.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** What is of paramount importance here is that the zero tolerance approach is there to protect—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister is answering.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** —a \$1.28 billion horticulture industry. If those opposite want to play games with that protection—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Torrens, I imagine this is for debate.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** I am allowing the minister, like I try to from time to time, some compare and contrast to a point. Minister, I ask you to come back to the substance of the question.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Certainly. The substance of the question is about biosecurity, and the substance is about protecting—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members on my left, be quiet.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** —a \$1.28 billion horticulture industry. If those opposite don't want to support those industries—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: we are not the issue here. It is debate.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister has the call. Member for West Torrens, be seated. I have the question. I am listening. I ask for interjections to cease or members on my left will be leaving.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Yes, there were some running diaries that had concerns about the congestion on the highway, about the number of cars that were banked up and the impost that it was putting on those motorists having to be stopped at the border and having lengthy waits. That has happened since 1954.

What I would say is that, with the latest upgrade of the biosecurity measures at Yamba, we have seen a \$1½ million upgrade so that we can speed up the process. We have seen an extra 14 staff employed as biosecurity officers at the Yamba roadblock. Again, that is to speed up the process so that the fruit can be deposited at the declaration bins at Bede Road and then, if people are doing the wrong thing, they have had ample signage, ample opportunity, ample education programs to be a part of the solution.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: the opposition has sat quietly and listened to the minister speak. He refuses to sit down when a point of order is moved. He will not answer the question. He is deliberately—

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens, you can leave for the remainder of question time under 137A.

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

*The Hon. A. Piccolo interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Light, you can follow him.

*The honourable member for Light having withdrawn from the chamber:*

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister has the call. Come back to bins.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** I will continue to acknowledge the great work that our biosecurity officers are undertaking.

**Mr Hughes:** Just answer the questions.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Giles is on two warnings.

*Members interjecting:*

**Ms COOK:** Point of order: 97, debate.

**The SPEAKER:** Debate is 98 not 97. I do not uphold the point of order.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Waite! Members, honestly. I ask the decorum of the house to lift for just the remaining 17 minutes, please. Minister, get on with it.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Again, I reiterate: the process of the zero tolerance approach has had some members of biosecurity with concerns with the long waiting times. Again, we continue to deal with history.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members on my left, I am trying to listen to the minister's answer. If these interjections continue, I won't be taking points of order for debate because if I can't hear the minister I can't adjudicate on them. Minister.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Thank you, sir. Again, yes, the biosecurity officers raise concerns about the long line-ups of cars. That's why the speeding up of the process has occurred; the investment in the slip lane at Yamba—

**Mr Malinauskas:** Answer the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** The increase in staff at Yamba is dealing with the zero tolerance approach. The member asked the question about correspondence from staff. There has been a daily diary where staff, if they have had concerns, enter them into that diary. As I said, the concerns about some of the procedures at Yamba have been happening since 1954.

*Mr Malinauskas interjecting:*

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** We have seen line-ups of up to two hours at Yamba. Today, we are seeing line-ups of a maximum of 40 minutes. So I think we are seeing a better process, we are seeing better border security and we are protecting our farmers, our horticulturalists—a \$1.28 billion industry.

**The SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition is warned. The member for Florey has the call and then the member for Flinders.

### MICROGRID ENERGY SYSTEM

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:51):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Why is the launch of the hybrid microgrid system and work of Angelo Demasi and the team at SA Produce Market so important in the establishment and management of self-sufficient energy systems?

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:51):** I thank the member for Florey for this question—a project which I know is dear to her heart in her electorate at the SA Produce Market. We had the pleasure to be there together last week for the official launch of this microgrid program, and I have to say that SA Produce Market, through their CEO, Angelo Demasi, their board and their grower members have really nailed it with this project. It is an industrial scale of exactly what we would like to see at smaller, similar and larger sizes all over the state.

They have used their massive rooftop capacity to install solar panels. They have battery storage on site. They have diesel capacity on site. They are still connected to the grid and, through the work of AZZO, Mr John Azzollini's company, and Schneider Electrical, a very well-known international firm—which in fact has a very strong presence here in South Australia—and other partners, they have a tremendous integration system which means that they can completely optimise what they are doing on site.

If there is cheap electricity to be had in the grid at the wholesale market, they will put their solar energy into their storage on site and they will draw electricity out of the grid. If there is very expensive electricity in the grid, they will use their own solar generation and/or what they've got stored on site. They even have the capacity to access their diesel as a backup option if ever there are blackouts or some fault on site, which means their electricity supply isn't interrupted.

Also—and this is not recommended in many ways but, from a commercial perspective, for them it is very smart—when there are extraordinarily high prices for electricity, they can actually turn on their generator and export into the grid and earn a very good income for their shareholders. That would only happen perhaps once or twice a year, but they are so finely tuned to their needs that they even have that capacity.

Let's just say that generally what they are going to do is take an enormous amount of electricity off the grid. In fact, this site alone, through their forecast operation of all those various combinations, will actually take about 3.8 megawatt hours of electricity per year off the grid—a very significant reduction in the overall consumption on our grid. That of course not only benefits the grower members at the Produce Market but also benefits every other electricity consumer in South Australia by taking demand off just a little bit, easing things up just a little bit, putting a little bit more of a downward price on the wholesale price of electricity, which then flows through to benefit all other electricity consumers.

I really can't congratulate the South Australian Produce Market enough on what they have done. They have had financial help from the state government. They have brought in the very best and brightest locally and from overseas to make this project work. They have scaled it exactly to their needs. They will save approximately \$400,000 per year on their standard electricity consumption, which then gets spread across all of their members. It is a tremendous project, and it was a pleasure to be there with the member for Florey last week.

### SKILLS TRAINING

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (14:55):** My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Skills. Can the minister update the house on how the state government is delivering an improved training system in remote regions?

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Innovation and Skills) (14:55):** I thank the member for Flinders for his interest and his commitment to skilled jobs in his electorate. As we all know, because I have spoken about it in this place before, there is \$200 million extra in skills funding over the next four years. There is \$100 million from the state government and \$100 million from our friends in Canberra to remove barriers for skilling in South Australia, for companies to bring enablers in.

The latest announcement we launched in partnership with Iluka Resources just last week. Iluka Resources will upskill their staff at the Jacinth-Ambrosia site, which is the world's largest zircon mine. It is approximately 800 kilometres north-west of Adelaide. You don't get much more remote than that. The project is part of Iluka Resources' workforce plan to improve performance and retention rates.

The Skilling South Australia program is delivering a Certificate III in Resource Processing for 35 participants. We are using TAFE, the staff at Regency Park, and the group training organisation MEGT, who will be the employers of the 35 staff who will be hosted at the Iluka mine. They will be employed on the site on the Far West Coast of South Australia. Around half the participants are identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

I was very pleased when I visited TAFE SA at Regency last week to meet a young Aboriginal woman, Jessica Berry, who is very excited about the opportunity to gain additional skills in this growing industry, this tremendous opportunity that is happening in her region. She is a Ceduna woman who is very excited about the prospects of her career now taking off by getting additional qualifications.

It will enable the company to provide professional development opportunities to employees from remote communities in another great example of the government and industry working together to deliver training that is required to fix South Australia's skills shortage, to align South Australians to learn the skills that industry needs for their industries to grow and, of course, generate more jobs in South Australia. This project is one of 90 Skilling South Australia projects, all bespoke designed. There is no such thing as one size fits all under the Skilling South Australia program. We have spent \$17 million so far on bespoke projects. This one was \$102,000 and, of course, we are getting results.

In the first year of the national partnership with the federal government, there have been 13,000 new training commencements. Of course, our change in direction since the election was vindicated by the latest NCVER figures released just a couple of weeks ago, with a 28.8 per cent increase in the number of apprentices and trainees in South Australia for the first six months of this year compared to the same period last year—the legacy that was left by those opposite.

Of course, we are ensuring that South Australians have access to the right training now so they are ready to step into the jobs for today and enjoy rewarding careers into the future, just like Jessica Berry.

*Mr Patterson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morphett is called to order. The member for Wright.

#### **YAMBA QUARANTINE STATION**

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (14:59):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries. Did SafeWork SA issue any breach notices at the Yamba quarantine station following the implementation of the zero tolerance policy?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:59):** I thank the member for his question. As I said, there were concerns that were recorded in a daily diary by the biosecurity officers. There were concerns about public safety and, when that public safety is addressed and the biosecurity officers deem that there is a bank-up of traffic that is deemed publicly unacceptable—that is, if the traffic on those busy days banks up for too long—in the best public interest and in the interests of public safety they would have inspected the cars or the vehicles, confiscated the fruit and pushed them through without a fine. That happened a number of times.

**Ms COOK:** Point of order: standing order 98.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not uphold the point of order because I believe that the minister is speaking about procedure and I believe that is relevant to the substance of the question, but I will listen assiduously to the minister's answer. Minister.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** Thank you, sir. It is an important question because public safety is of paramount importance, particularly when people are travelling on open highways and

they do have to line up for extended periods of time. When public safety was deemed that it needed to be addressed—that is, when the zero tolerance was pushed through—we saw that those travelling motorists would have their fruit confiscated and then they would be pushed through back onto the road without incurring an on-the-spot fine. That was enacted prior to 6 July.

Prior to 6 July, we hadn't finished the upgrades, the slip lanes and the extra skilled 14 staff. What I would say is that the biosecurity stations always have a priority for public safety, and when they enacted that regime people sped up the process. However, as I said, once upon a time people were banked up there for two hours; nowadays, it's 40 minutes, and so we are addressing the concerns. Public safety is of paramount importance to this government.

Again, that's why we have put the investment into Yamba, that's why we have employed the extra staff and that's why we've got the zero tolerance—so that we can address public safety, we can address the biosecurity concerns and we can keep our horticulture industry fruit fly free.

**Ms Stinson:** Were there any SafeWork notices?

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Badcoe!

**Ms Stinson:** You didn't answer the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Badcoe is on two warnings. She can leave for the remainder of question time, and when she does the member for Wright will get another question.

*The honourable member for Badcoe having withdrawn from the chamber:*

#### FRUIT FLY

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (15:02):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries. Did the former executive director of Biosecurity SA, Mr Will Zacharin, ever warn the minister that more time was needed prior to commencing the zero tolerance policy?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (15:02):** I thank the member for his question. The zero tolerance approach was an emergency measure. There's no doubt about that. That measure was implemented—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members for Elizabeth, Mawson and Wright! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** That was implemented as an emergency response to another fruit fly outbreak at Loxton. We had seen a number of detections, a build-up of detections, over a two-year period, and coming into government the alarm bells were ringing. Those detections were increasing and so we acted, and we acted accordingly. An emergency response was to implement a zero tolerance approach to protect our horticulture sector.

If we continue to kick the can down the road as the previous government did, we would continue to have those Queensland fruit fly outbreaks. We would continue to see millions and millions of dollars at taxpayers' expense to clean up the mess. The zero tolerance approach is seeing less fruit at the borders. We are seeing reduced detections of Queensland fruit fly. The zero tolerance approach is working.

*Dr Close interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Deputy leader, cease interjecting.

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** If the opposition don't like that it's working, why is it that you don't support our \$1.28 billion horticulture industry?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** On this side of the house, we are looking to grow horticulture, we are looking to support our farmers, we are looking to keep South Australia fruit fly free. I am not ashamed to say that—



*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE:** —and you can argue all you want. It is working.

### **PINERY BUSHFIRES**

**Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (15:04):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Can the minister inform the house how the community is remembering the tragic 2015 Pinery bushfires?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:04):** I thank the member for Kavel for his question. We note that the fires we had on Yorke Peninsula just recently have really brought everyone's attention to the upcoming bushfire season or, in fact, the season that is in front of us so incredibly early. I know the member for Kavel is very conscious in his community to make sure that his community is as prepared and as safe as possible.

It was an honour to be in the member for Narungga's electorate on the weekend. It was a very emotional time to be in the location where the Pinery fires first started and to be there with that community as they remembered four years since that very fateful day. Of course, we know we lost two lives in the fire, and family representatives of those two families were there to speak. Allan Tiller and Janet Hughes will always be remembered, and they were the two people who did pass away in the Pinery fires. As I said, people speak very glowingly about them. They are members of the community who will not be forgotten.

To see that community rally around those families and all the people who have had to take their time to mend the scars—people's lives were lost, property was lost, stock was lost, crops were lost, homes were lost, but I think, as the member for Narungga will attest, the resilience in that community, the strength in that community, really shone through on Sunday at the memorial service. What we saw were people who had fought adversity and come through at the other end and it was truly commendable.

Across from the main stage was a very symbolic row of CFS units, tankers, farm firefighting units as well, all lined up. People in uniform were there representing their local communities, showing their support for the Pinery region that had suffered so greatly during those fires. We can go back over the history of it and we know what a devastating fire it was, what a fast-moving fire it was. We heard a couple of the stories that were told, and one in particular was about the Hamley Bridge retirement village, where a number of people were cornered. When the emergency warning came, they could not move those people.

The preparation that was done by that group of people, the resilience they showed, the intestinal fortitude they showed to prepare themselves and get themselves ready and withstand that—bearing in mind, there were infirm people, there were a number of pregnant women, young kids and older people, as well visiting friends who were caught in that location—and the way they got around to each other and combatted what would have been a terrifying moment was truly inspirational. Those stories and others from around the community of how they withstood what came but then bounced back in the end were truly admirable.

Anyone who has been through that process or been through a situation like that will know the resilience within our communities right across the regions, and I stand here very proudly. I know that everyone in this chamber would endorse the sentiment that the people in our regions have great resilience, but I think even more so in South Australia we are incredibly proud of the way they operate. We think of the people on Yorke Peninsula who are going to go through that. It takes time. It doesn't heal overnight, and we are here to work with them through the process.

Our emergency services did a marvellous job and the community did an absolutely brilliant job and, to see them four years on in the position they are in, I really dip my lid to them. Again, it was an honour and a privilege to be there representing the Premier and speaking to that community, but it was an even greater honour and privilege to see the way they have responded to the tragedy they had to endure.

*Grievance Debate***MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:08):** When it comes to the state's largest department, the largest portfolio, the second highest paid chief executive, on \$560,000 a year, the people of South Australia deserve somebody in that job who is going to have integrity, somebody they can trust, somebody there are not questions about. But there has been question after question over the past couple of weeks in terms of the conduct of Dr Chris McGowan, the Premier's hand-picked Chief Executive of SA Health.

Two weeks ago, we had revelations come out that, for the first two months that he was appointed Dr McGowan not only was the Chief Executive of SA Health and the department but also wore a hat as a private company sole director for Silver Chain Corporate Services Pty Ltd. He resigned from that role, backdated the resignation—a highly suspicious activity—and did not tell anybody about it. Apparently, not the Premier and not even the minister, let alone the public, knew about that happening.

We know that, while he was in that position, there were discussions with Silver Chain. There were discussions that he was involved in directly with the company. We know that there were minutes that went through his desk while he was the director, recommending a funding package worth \$13 million. We asked for an independent investigation, and the Premier scoffed at that. He said that it had not reached a threshold and that the public sector commissioner would look into it. Well, it turns out that the public sector commissioner did think it had reached a threshold because she has now referred it to an independent investigator to look into, and we welcome that.

However, we have heard a lot more today. There is a lot more that has come out today in regard to the conduct of Dr Chris McGowan and Silver Chain. Earlier this year, in regard to Silver Chain, he told the Budget and Finance Committee, 'I do not involve myself in anything in that area of business.' He also said, 'Our posture is that I don't get involved in anything in that area of the business because of the perception.' Now we know what a lie that was because we know of a series of events that he has been involved in, in negotiations, in discussions with this company, that have led to a \$2.9 million contract.

First of all, there was a phone call early on in his time when he was appointed chief executive on 26 June. We know this because there is a letter from the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Silver Chain to him that referenced, 'I confirm our telephone conversation today.' This letter referred to the Integrum Aged Care pilot program, which is something that Dr McGowan was involved in setting up when he was chief executive at Silver Chain. We also know that there was an email that was sent to Dr McGowan from somebody—apparently at Deloitte—that referenced text messages that Dr McGowan had, with either Deloitte or Silver Chain, about setting up a meeting to discuss opportunities between Silver Chain and SA Health. That was all while he was a director of Silver Chain at the same time.

Not only this, but now we have learned that he actually went to Perth this year—he flew to Perth on 15 February—and went out to 193 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont, which is the Silver Chain offices in that area. They have a big Silver Chain logo. You can look it up on Google Earth. His diary notes, 'Integrum Aged Care visit and meeting with [redacted]. Lunch will be provided.' He was there for 1½ hours, meeting with Silver Chain and hearing about their program—very cosy. That did not appear in his declaration that he made under proactive disclosure. There is no record of a trip to Perth that has been proactively disclosed, which is very suspicious as well.

We know that when he returned to Adelaide on 11 June he put a note on his diary on that date, saying, 'Reminder: ask Integrum for Evaluation results.' We know that Integrum is the Silver Chain program that he was involved in setting up, and let's remember that he said, 'I have nothing to do with that area of the business.' Then, on the next day, on 12 June at 8am, he had a meeting: '1:1 meeting Chief Executive DHW & CEO Wellbeing SA (no papers) Talk to Lyn about Integrum,' Integrum being the Silver Chain program. Funnily enough, two weeks after that meeting, Lyn Dean signed a contract with Silver Chain worth \$2.9 million of taxpayers' money to go to that company, and the chief executive said that he had no involvement.

Here, we have the Premier defending his conduct today and saying that there was no reason for him to stand down. Dr McGowan reports directly to the Premier. People expect the Premier to take action in regard to this. There is now a cloud hanging over the biggest department in our government. At the same time, they have denied an ICAC investigation into this matter. He needs to stand down immediately and explain his conduct and his lying to the parliament.

### COLTON ELECTORATE

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:14):** I rise today to provide an update on the many happenings in the local area. As everybody knows, leading into summer is a fantastic time to be in the western suburbs of Adelaide, and I would like to take an opportunity to highlight many of the constituents, clubs and schools that have been doing such great work over recent times.

To start off with, as we are coming to the end of the school year, I would like to recognise winners of the Mary Colton Award. This has been awarded by the member for Colton for a number of years, and I was very happy to continue that tradition when I came into the role. We have had the graduation ceremonies for our senior schools at St Michael's College and also at Henley High School. Aleesha Stone took out the Mary Colton Award for St Michael's and Tayla De Beer won the Mary Colton Award at Henley High School. I was also able to sponsor an award, and Ella Sheffield was awarded that at the Henley High School graduation.

We also had the Henley High School sport award, where Alex Haydon was named as Henley High School sportsperson of the year. She had a pretty terrific week last week. She also took away the school sport award at the SA Sport Awards last Friday. I want to give Alex a very special shout-out as a year 12 having just finished her studies and done some pretty incredible things, to be completely frank, in the world of squash. She is a rising star with seven national titles. She captained the Oceania team and won the under 19 girls title at the Youth Olympics. She is an incredible athlete.

I had the privilege of meeting Alex four or five years ago now. One of the great privileges I have had since leaving the swimming world was to manage the Commonwealth Youth Games team in Samoa and the Bahamas and I was lucky enough to meet her. She was one of the young squash athletes competing in the games in Samoa and she made an impression on me, that is for sure. She was a diligent athlete, and even then I certainly knew she was destined to do great things in the squash world, so a huge congratulations to her.

Also recently, the Henley South Tennis Club held a men's mental health awareness day when they raised funds for *beyondblue*. Mental health is a huge issue within our society and something that the Henley South Tennis Club has taken a leading step in, acknowledging that we need to bring mental health to the fore. Roger Rasheed came along and did a great job in talking very directly about the issue and some of his broader experiences with mental health through elite sport and more broadly within the community itself. Ben Ward, the treasurer at Henley South Tennis Club, and his team did a fantastic job in organising that event.

We also had the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Henley and Grange Historical Society, a great occasion at the Henley Town Hall. A great number of their members—40 to 50—came out to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to cut the cake. What a great job they do in recording the stories and the history of the local area, and some were very pertinent that day. We touched on Dawn Fraser a number of times, and her time at the Henley baths training for the Olympics, and everybody is very proud of the role the historical society plays within our local area. We have a few local legends including young Audrey, who has been a member there for a very long time.

Last week, the member for Morphett and I held our joint seniors forum for the year, where we talked on the topic of advance care directives, and a huge thanks to Margaret Brown for coming out and presenting that. Well over 200 locals came out to hear about advance care directives and a range of issues and tips and tricks involved with that. We are very thankful to those who attended. Each person who comes along from time to time donates a gold coin, and we were able to raise some much-needed funds for Operation Flinders, a charity that does amazing work with at-risk youth.

In the time I have remaining, I want to highlight that this Saturday will be the first beach day for the Henley Snippers program. The Henley Surf Life Saving Club was recognised for this program at the Surf Life Saving SA awards last year, and it really does a fantastic job in ensuring that surf

lifesaving is available for absolutely all members of our community. I look forward to getting down to the beach and seeing everybody on Saturday.

### **PATIENT ASSISTANCE TRANSPORT SCHEME**

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:19):** I rise today to talk about the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme, a scheme that those of us from country South Australia, especially members and patients, are more than familiar with. I am sure that many country members, just like me, get multiple visits from a variety of people expressing some dissatisfaction with the scheme.

I note that the minister recently announced a reform to the scheme, especially in relation to people with terminal illnesses. That is welcome, but it goes nowhere near far enough when it comes to improving the scheme. When we were in government, we allocated an increase in funding by about one-third and introduced a degree of flexibility, but it is my belief that that did not go far enough then and that the changes made now do not go far enough either.

I want to illustrate what I am talking about when it comes to the difficulty of the scheme. Back in October a constituent approached me. I wrote to the current minister and said:

I am writing in regard to a constituent—

We will call the constituent Mr Smith—

...who is facing an extremely dire medical situation, having recently been diagnosed with inoperable cancer.

In June 2018, [Mr Smith] was admitted to Whyalla Hospital with extreme stomach pain. He advised the treating specialist that he had a minor hernia for 20 years and it had not caused any problems.

Indeed, he did not believe it was the cause of the pain. The letter continues:

However, the specialist went ahead and operated on the hernia.

Four months later he went back to Whyalla Hospital with the same stomach pain. He was admitted and after a series of tests diagnosed with pancreatic cancer with liver involvement.

To undergo treatment [Mr Smith] had to attend Adelaide on various occasions. As a result, he applied for the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) funding in order to cover the costs of his transport and accommodation.

He was knocked back on three separate occasions. In the letter, I described that as a cruel and heartless thing to do. My letter continues:

In a letter dated 29 August 2019 [from PATS, Mr Smith] was asked to provide additional clinical information to determine whether the services he requires could be provided 'closer to home'. This is despite the treating specialist already indicating the complexity of this case and as a result the need to have some of his treatment in Adelaide. Not to mention a more co-ordinated approach to his treatment.

[Mr Smith] was more than happy to have a significant part of his chemotherapy treatment in Whyalla—which he has done.

The chemotherapy section of Whyalla Hospital does a really good job and it does provide that opportunity for people not to go to Adelaide for that part of their treatment. He went ahead and had some treatment there. The letter goes on:

But in conjunction with that [treatment], he also needed to attend Adelaide.

[Mr Smith] was told that it was not only the pancreatic cancer, but he has heart complications. As a result, [Mr Smith] and his family have undergone enormous suffering—from misdiagnosis, delayed diagnosis, poor communication and having to deal with a revolving door of specialists at the Whyalla Hospital.

Although, it should be pointed out, not at the chemotherapy unit. The letter continues:

After enduring such a battle and facing stage 4, incurable cancer, the last thing [Mr Smith] needs is to have to deal with unnecessary and cruel bureaucracy.

The lack of flexibility is the disturbing thing that we experience with PATS. In some ways, this story illustrates some of the things that go on in country hospitals. We do want specialists, either a resident (a few of those) or visiting. However, when you get visiting specialists, it is often revolving door specialists and people see different people at different times and there is the opportunity for miscommunication and having to start the story all over again.

My criticism today is about the inflexibility of PATS and the need to have a serious look at it in order to fully reform the system. I have asked the minister for a full-scale review of the system so that country people end up getting better treatment and fairer treatment.

### **REAL ESTATE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA CENTENARY**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:24):** I rise today to congratulate the Real Estate Institute of South Australia on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and thank them for the opportunity to attend their celebration at Adelaide Oval last week. The display around the room proudly showed a great deal of historic ephemera and provided me with the chance to be involved with people in the real estate sector, none more important to me than Mr Robin Matters, Director of the Real Estate Institute of South Australia and also the current President of the Muriel Matters Society.

South Australia's unique model of colonisation has meant landbrokers and real estate agents have been at the heart of our state's social and economic history. It was the ideas of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, who argued for the concentration of settlement through the orderly disposal of land at a set price, that set the frame for the early development of our state.

At the heart of Wakefield's plan was the notion that revenue raised from land sales would fund the emigration of workers to the nascent colony, with no cost burden to the British government—no need for real estate agents here. But of course things are always more complex. Light surveyed the new city of Adelaide and, necessarily, there was a need for professionals to facilitate the process of sale and conveyance of the new town acres. After surveying the city, Light himself went into the business of landbroking, but the stand-out agent of his time was a young John Morphett—a man whose name graces many an Adelaide locality.

The first sale of city land went to Dr Charles Everard, who chose two acres facing Victoria Square between Franklin Street and Grote Street. Within a few decades, the city had entered a boom period and agents and auctioneers were an integral part of the business community, so much so that in 1839 a group of agents and businessmen first got together to start a peak body. The later Depression saw this new chamber fail, and it went through a period of revival and collapse for another half century until a stable organisation emerged.

In the meantime, it was clear the system of land surveying and title was holding up development, pushing up rents and leading to aggressive property speculation. Enter Sir Robert Torrens, known today as one of South Australia's early innovators, with his revolutionary system of land titles: the Torrens Title scheme. In 1856, when Torrens first proposed this reform, there were some 40,000 titles to land in the colony, with three-quarters of the original deeds alleged to have been lost, a third owned by absentees who could not be traced and at least 5,000 either seriously complicated or possibly defective.

The bill did not have an easy passage. The legal profession in particular opposed it, unsurprising given the lucrative fees they were used to at the time. While it took some years to bed down—and a new Real Property Act had to be passed less than three decades later to clean up the legislative accretions that had arisen in the interim—it has been an outstanding gift to South Australia. And, in due season, the landbroking and real estate agent community coalesced into an enduring association.

From 32 licensed landbrokers in the 1870s, within a decade there were 87 and, barring the boom and bust of the early colonial economy, the profession has steadily grown ever since. Among those early land agents were various names familiar to South Australians even today: people like Charles Hextall Treloar, Theodore Bruce and Charles Matters, who was of course Muriel's uncle and followed on from his mother in acquiring land, eventually establishing Matters and Company.

The consolidation of growth, and a royal commission into surveying errors that had caused a public scandal, led the emerging sector in 1919 to establish an industry association, the Association of Licensed Auctioneers and Licensed Landbrokers, which endures today as the Real Estate Institute of South Australia (REISA). It was 80 years since South Australia's first property sold but, as history has shown, there was plenty left to do. As the state and Adelaide continued to grow, so did the institute. By 1968, the institute had a full-time secretariat in its own tenanted premises.

Membership of the institute trebled during the 1960s, rising to 573 individual and 105 corporate members in 1969, and no wonder. By the late 1960s, Australia was devoting up to 5 per cent of its gross national product to building houses and flats, and South Australia was no exception. During its long history, REISA has played a pivotal role in representing the industry to governments and delivering education, training and other initiatives that have supported the industry's development. The institute first lobbied the government in 1948 for the removal of wartime controls on housing sales.

Over time, the policy focus of the institute came to include licensing standards, weeding out unscrupulous land agents, franchising and other emerging competitive pressures, dealing with new discrimination laws, supporting new urban development, and the education and training of new realtors. From starting out representing local firms, the consolidation of the real estate market in the 1980s nationally has transformed REISA's role, and by 1989 nearly 30 per cent of firms in South Australia belonged to national franchising or marketing groups. This caused a fundamental shift in the institute's role, with many head franchise and marketing offices wanting to train and instil their own points of difference.

Like much of life, accepting change is an essential component of survival. From a humble, unregulated beginning, REISA now works hand in glove with governments of all stripes and has renewed and strengthened its role in South Australia's civil society. I congratulate and thank the Real Estate Institute of South Australia for its dedicated work.

#### **YAMBA QUARANTINE STATION**

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (15:29):** Today, we witnessed a minister who was painfully out of his depth, a minister not across the detail of his portfolio, who has got away so far in this place by reciting what are now some very, very tired slogans. But you need more than a catchphrase to make it in this place.

As the member for Chaffey's signature policy—indeed, his brainchild—his zero tolerance policy on fruit fly, has slowly unravelled over the last few weeks, we have seen that at every stage his own personal insistence on commencing this policy before it was safe to do so put at risk not only the staff working at that quarantine station, not only the motorists travelling through the quarantine station, but also our very fruit fly free status.

How do we know this? We know because after waiting almost three months the department finally released hundreds of freedom of information documents that show in excruciating detail the train wreck that was the rushed implementation of this policy. These FOI documents contained the daily logs from the Yamba quarantine station, as written by the staff themselves at the station. These logs recorded every instance between the commencement of the zero tolerance policy, on 4 January, and July of this year, when that policy was suspended.

Under questioning in parliament earlier this year, the minister said that the zero tolerance policy was only suspended for 'a small period of time'—they are his own words. These documents show that between January and July it was actually suspended a staggering 477 times. That is 477 times that the so-called zero tolerance policy was not a zero tolerance policy at all. The most obvious question that arises now from this is: was the minister aware? These FOI documents tell us pretty clearly that he was.

In fact, his office had requested copies of these daily logs. Emails show his own staff asking to make sure that copies of these daily logs from the Yamba quarantine station were forwarded to the minister's office. It is becoming increasingly clear that the answer to the question about how many times the zero tolerance policy was actually suspended and why the minister told us it was only suspended for 'a short period of time' is that the minister just hoped this issue was going to go away.

The minister thought he could bat these questions away with his usual bluster, #RegionsMatter, and that these incendiary logbook entries would never actually see the light of day. I will give him a little bit of credit. The minister's agency and the minister's office have done everything in their power to stop these FOI documents from being released. In fact, the minister has still not released the FOI documents we requested from his own office. It is almost four months and they are still sitting on the minister's desk.

Let me tell you that we have had every single conceivable excuse. We have been told, 'The responsible staffer was unexpectedly called out of the office,' and, 'There were new clauses in the FOI Act that the responsible staff member had never had to use before,' and, 'We are personally driving the documents to your electorate office tomorrow'—that was three weeks ago, or, 'We will bring documents to your parliament office in the next couple of days'—that was two weeks ago, or, 'The documents are now with the chief of staff'—that was six days ago.

But what I know for certain is that the consistent theme through all the hundreds of documents we do have now is that the minister's own personal insistence that the zero tolerance policy commence before his own agency said it was safe to do so has put things at risk. It exposed motorists to risks—motorists who were stuck for almost an hour waiting in their cars in 40° heat.

It exposed staff to risk—staff who were dealing for hours on end with irate motorists who were unaware that they were going to be fined for having fruit and vegetables that in many, many cases they fully intended to declare, as they had done at that Yamba quarantine station for years and years. And it exposed our state to fruit fly infestation because the minister ignored the advice of Biosecurity SA to wait for all the necessary EPA approvals to be received so that all the fruit that was seized at that station could be disposed of safely.

As we have seen today, the minister still cannot tell this house or the South Australian public for how long bins full of rotting fruit were sitting around and when the bins were first emptied. I am not questioning the need for a response to a potential fruit fly outbreak, but the minister pushed blindly ahead, ignored advice from his department, ignored experts in Biosecurity SA and, in doing so, he actually put at risk our \$1.28 billion industry.

### NEWLAND ELECTORATE SCHOOLS

**Dr HARVEY (Newland) (15:34):** As a local member, one of my most favourite things to do is visit the schools in my electorate and engage with students. Certainly, this time of year is full of many school events, as we have a number of graduations and end-of-year assemblies, and I have attended a number so far.

A couple of weeks ago, Modbury High School had their year 12 valedictory assembly. This is a highly community-engaged school and, as always, it was a wonderful event where they recognised the extracurricular contributions of all students to the school community as well as acknowledged those students with a great record of attendance. In particular, I would like to commend the school band for their wonderful performances and all the award winners. I was certainly honoured to be able to sponsor and present the best all-rounder award to a very talented young woman who excelled both in her own education and as a contributor to the broader school community.

Last week, I attended Banksia Park International High School valedictory night, which is a great evening held at the Convention Centre here in the city. The year 12s share this wonderful night with their friends and family. I was honoured to present the Newland electorate award, as well as the global citizens award medals to those students who participated in those programs. That is a program that I have spoken about in here before. I certainly congratulate all those award winners.

I would also like to acknowledge Liz Heidenreich, who was the guest speaker and a former student of Banksia Park International High School. She talked about her time at the school, as well as her career in nursing and then winemaking. She now has her own label. This year followed on from the also very impressive speech last year given by Tony Clark, Managing Director of Rising Sun Pictures. Both are former students of Banksia Park International High School and really provide an example of what is possible following on from your education at that school. It was also fantastic to have the Premier there at the valedictory night to congratulate the graduates on their efforts and successes and to wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

At the end of last week, I attended the graduation at Modbury Special School. This is a very important graduation for the year 12 and year 7 students. There were about 10 year 12 students, and five of them were able to come along on the night. I was honoured to present a community service award to a very worthy recipient who had consistently gone above and beyond in supporting

his school community. This particular graduation is a truly wonderful event and certainly one of the highlights of the year.

We heard from the principal, Cam Wright, the story of how this graduation night had come to be. It had started in 2012, driven in particular by a parent who had consistently made the point that many of the parents of children at Modbury Special School do not get to do a lot of the things that parents of many other children do, in particular the graduation, which had been the case. The event had started to become quite popular amongst the school community, including staff, students and parents.

The true vindication of this graduation came when a particular student—a young man who had been quite unwell during his school years—had graduated and then not long afterwards had very sadly passed away. A number of the staff from the school attended his funeral, and at the funeral his graduation photo was on display. This was a very clear indication of how incredibly special a night this graduation is for those parents, students and staff, and their parents are incredibly proud. Certainly, last Friday night was no exception, and all the parents and teachers and caregivers were immensely proud of the young people graduating.

In the coming weeks, I will certainly have the honour of attending many more end-of-year assemblies and graduations for year 7 students. I would like to congratulate all the year 12 students and year 7 students on their efforts this year. I wish them all the very best for their future, whether it be entering high school, graduating from year 12 and going to university, vocational educational training, apprenticeships, traineeships or other employment. We certainly have a large number of very impressive young people in our state and our world will certainly be in safe hands.

#### *Bills*

### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (LEGALISATION OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 October 2019.)

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (15:40):** I rise today to speak to the Statutes Amendment (Legalisation of Same Sex Marriage Consequential Amendments) Bill and to indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition on the bill. Labor will be supporting this bill; we are proud to do so. The changes contained within this bill are required following the federal parliament's legalisation of same-sex marriage, which was preceded by an extraordinary debate and campaign undertaken for equality by a huge number of people in our Australian community.

They are also changes that speak directly to the step forward towards equality that we have taken as an Australian community, a step of which we can all be proud, a step which speaks to who we are and to what our nation values—inclusivity, equality, acceptance and diversity. It is a step that speaks to what binds us and to what we in unity can achieve.

All of us in this house could recollect the sometimes utterly moving and inspiring and yet, devastatingly, sometimes unkind, sometimes heartbreaking public discourse and debates on same-sex marriage. It was a very long process—far too long—but thankfully it culminated in a victory for common sense, for love and for equality despite some awful scaremongering, absolutely not driven by love and acceptance, by some sections of our community and, indeed, by some sections of politics.

It was a victory that was made possible by the courage and relentless campaigning of individual community members and groups who believed in equality, in love and acceptance and in marriage equality, who were prepared to speak up about those beliefs. In doing so, they generously gave of themselves, sometimes at personal cost. A number of activists had campaigned for this with resilience and determination for literally decades. I pay tribute to all of them and in doing so I particularly highlight a local southern group, Pride of the South, who had repeated conversations with community members about what marriage equality meant to them and why, for our local community, supporting equality was so important.



Thank you to Shayne Glasgow, Llewellyn Jones, Marc Roberts, William Rattley, Rex Moulds and Michael Tomas and all members who took to Christies Beach Coles, other shopping centres, local parks and telephones to talk with local people about their views and to encourage them to return their vote. They are local people talking with local people about the kind of community we want to be, about why love should always triumph over hate, about the need for acceptance.

I commend these courageous, lovely people for their voices, for their endurance, for their care for one another and for their determination to engage our local community in this debate. Their work was outstanding and their ongoing work significantly contributes to our local community being a kind, inclusive and accepting place where LGBTIQ+ people are celebrated and where their rights are advocated for and advanced.

In the south, we were very proud of the vote in the federal seat of Kingston: 68.1 per cent, the third highest affirmative vote of any electorate in South Australia and 6 per cent above the national results. South Australia has a strong and proud history of progressive and groundbreaking legislation. South Australia became the first place in the British Empire to legalise trade unions in 1876. In 1894, South Australia became the first state in Australia where women successfully fought for the right to vote, and became the first place in the world to also grant women the right to stand for parliament.

Don Dunstan, South Australian premier through the 1970s, brought about social reform by introducing consumer legislation, anti-race and sex discrimination legislation, lowering the voting age, decriminalising homosexuality and supporting the Women's Liberation Movement. We have a lot to be proud of.

This bill is non-controversial and largely technical in nature, replacing gendered language in 19 acts with gender-neutral language. When two people, regardless of gender or how they identify, love each other they should be able to make a publicly and legally recognised declaration of that love. Because equality triumphed, same-sex couples across Australia now can, and because same-sex marriage has been legalised South Australia must also modernise its legislation to reflect that change, for example, by changing the words 'husband' or 'wife' to 'spouse'. I do not think any person could have significant or indeed any concerns about that.

It is also worth noting that, in the ordinary course of events, where state and federal legislation is inconsistent the federal provisions would succeed over the state provisions. I understand that would likely be the case in this instance also. These changes really are inevitable and irresistible.

I conclude my contribution simply by saying, again, that Labor is proud to support this bill and I commend it to the house.

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (15:46):** In this opposition I am the shadow minister with portfolio responsibility for LGBTIQ+ inclusion, and I am really proud to hold that position and advocate on behalf of this community in policy matters on this side of the house. While Labor has a proud record on LGBTIQ+ rights, we do recognise that also many people from the other side of the chamber—the Liberal Party—and many people from other parties have made significant contributions to advancing equality, and this bill is just another example.

It has been more than a decade since the parliament last considered an omnibus bill that affected same-sex couples of the scale that this bill presents—the Statutes Amendment (Domestic Partners) Bill 2006. This, of course, was prior to my joining the chamber, but in reading *Hansard* and hearing from those involved it seems to have been a debate that was tortuous in its twists and turns, a debate characterised by many sneaky tricks as opponents vainly sought to place obstacles in the way of change.

It took three bills, two rounds of public inquiry and an intervening election to finally see the parliament embrace South Australia's same-sex couples and afford them equal standing as domestic partners for the purposes of state laws. Indeed, so protracted and prolonged was the debate that South Australia ended up being the last state to recognise same-sex couples. We were quite literally the 'wooden spoon' state as the Let's Get Equal campaign at that time called us—an extraordinary

position for a state which so proudly led the way in decriminalisation of homosexuality over 40 years ago, an anniversary which this chamber acknowledged only a few years ago.

I would like to acknowledge former and current MPs in both chambers from all parties who led the way in that tumultuous and tortuous debate. Of course, there is Steph Key, Frances Bedford, Isobel Redmond, Mark Brindal, Michelle Lensink, Ian Hunter, Kate Reynolds, and I am sure I have missed some names there, too. Most particularly I would like to acknowledge the LGBTIQ+ community leaders past and present who brought passion, energy and urgency into the business of this parliament.

This omnibus bill, while perhaps not as long as the Statutes Amendment (Domestic Partners) Act 2006 with its 228 amendments, I think will have much plainer sailing through this parliament. Perhaps that in itself is a metaphor for the social change that the last decade has seen for LGBTIQ+ South Australians. Capped by the enactment of same-sex marriage after a long and gruelling national debate, this has been a proud decade that has seen much achievement: equality for same-sex de facto partners, national anti-discrimination laws, a national LGBTIQ+ health strategy, recognition of same-sex parenting and reforms to support transgender Australians in affirming their gender identity, to name a few.

Of course, we have also added to our state's repertoire of protections for LGBTIQ+ South Australians through a range of government and private members' bills that have passed with bipartisan support. For so many LGBTIQ+ Australians, life will be better as a result of these and other changes to law and government policy. At no other time in our nation's history have LGBTIQ+ Australians had the level of acceptance that they now enjoy.

On the weekend, I attended the Feast picnic at Pinky Flat with thousands of South Australians, not just from the LGBTIQ+ community but from the mainstream community. All sorts of South Australians—some with disabilities and others with a variety of vulnerabilities—brought their own personal journeys to that picnic. Everyone was together having a great time. There was no sign of trouble. There were lots of signs of learning, and in fact the most enjoyable time that I had with friends was doing an Auslan class using gay and lesbian sign language. That was very informative, very interesting and a lot of fun. I thank all the display hosts who were there and all the people who attended and congratulate the organisers.

It is so painfully clear that there is much left to do. There is a self-evident reaction at play within the conservative commentariat and political class. The ill-conceived and poorly drafted Religious Discrimination Bill that is being hawked around currently by the Morrison government is one example. It is a bill that, if enacted in its current form, would see rights wound back in defiance of the clear majority of the Australian voting public.

Transgender people have become the most recent lightning rod for the conservative reaction and, sadly, we have seen populist politicians cynically exploiting this sentiment with dog whistles that rival those of the Howard era. What possesses anyone to think that it is their right to belittle, victimise or mock another person on the basis of who they love or how they identify themselves to the world is beyond me.

Despite this decade of achievement, there is really still so much to do. There are laws and policies to be changed and there are hearts and minds to be won over. I want to send a clear message to LGBTIQ+ South Australians that I and many other people within this parliament will always stand with you in your call for equality and acceptance. This bill is yet one more step in the journey that our community has been on together to make your lives better and the lives of future generations of LGBTIQ+ South Australians. I commend the bill to the house and hope it has a speedy passage.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:52):** I wish to acknowledge the two speakers who have contributed to this debate and the indication of the opposition's support for the bill. I also appreciate the indications of support for the primarily nationally significant reforms that have resulted in our having the responsibility to now make our legislation consistent with that.

By virtue of this bill, we are not only replacing 'husband' and/or 'wife' with appropriate words such as 'spouse' and 'surviving spouse' instead of 'widow' or 'widower' and the like but also dealing

with modern-day circumstances—for example, dealing with what we call modern-day bigamy, where somebody might be married once under the usual arrangements of marriage but then also be on the register for cohabitation relationships. We need to deal with these issues. They are new, modern, publicly recognised and supported relationships and, accordingly, this legislation is important.

If I have not already indicated, consultation on this matter was quite significant for obvious reasons. Other than the usual suspects or those who are directly affected by each of the acts of parliament that we are amending, the most significant one here, of course, is the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, who is not frequently called upon as the most significant stakeholder in these matters. However, it is the registrar's responsibility to make sure that we have the model of record to ensure that these things can be implemented.

It is also important, in our own use of all the legislation that is being considered, whether that deals with superannuation entitlements of a solicitor-general, whether it involves matters under the Evidence Act for the proper administration of the receiving of evidence in courts or whether it relates to matters such as the Settled Estates Act of 1880. So it crosses a number of areas. We need to contemporise these, and that is exactly what this bill is doing. Whilst it is narrow in its purpose, it is expansive across all sorts of laws that we use here in South Australia. I thank members for their support.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clause 1.

**Ms HILDYARD:** Attorney, which stakeholders did you consult on this bill and in what form?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I will answer the second part first. I understand it was by letter, which I think was conveyed by email. Together with a copy of the draft bill, it went to the following parties: the South Australian Bar Association; the Law Society of South Australia; the Judge of the Youth Court; the Chief Magistrate; the Chief Judge of the District Court; the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government; the Solicitor-General; the Minister for Child Protection; the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity; the Commissioner of Police; the Electoral Commissioner of South Australia; the Treasurer; the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions; the Registrar-General (that is, in relation to lands titles); and the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

**Ms HILDYARD:** Could you advise the position of each of those stakeholders in regard to the content and the amendments contained within the bill?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I assume the following information is up to date. The bill went out for consultation on 17 July. Before the commencement of the debate in this house, the position was as follows: the South Australian Bar Association gave no response. The Law Society responded on 7 August 2019 with specific comment; they supported the bill. There was no response from the Judge of the Youth Court. The Chief Justice's response on 29 July 2019 was no specific comment and noted that the bill had no operational impact on the court—that is, her court. The Chief Judge of the District Court gave no response. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court gave no specific comment in his response of 12 August 2019.

The Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government gave no specific comment in his response on 31 July 2019. The Solicitor-General had not formally responded but had provided informal approval in person to the legal officer. The Minister for Child Protection had no specific comment in her response of 8 August 2019. I will check on what the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity said in her response of 5 August 2019. The Commissioner of Police responded on 6 August 2019, and I will check what he said. The Electoral Commissioner of South Australia gave no response. The Treasurer responded on 11 August 2019: I do not know what his response was, but if it was something important I am sure I would have a note of it.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Exactly, he probably just wanted to know how much it cost. The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions responded on 5 August 2019 with no specific comment. The Registrar-General of the lands titles office supported changes to the Real Property Act 1886 in his response of 1 August 2019. The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, as I indicated in reply, provided feedback to the legal officer at a meeting on 5 August 2019.

I am just going to go to Dr Vincent. Not only did she support the bill but she provided some helpful information in relation to the requirement for cohabitation in respect of four acts that related to superannuation. We will see what the Commissioner of Police said in a minute. I am advised that that was general support as well.

**Ms HILDYARD:** Attorney, will you provide any of those submissions made by stakeholders?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** As repeatedly advised in committee on bills in this matter, in relation to all internal agencies, most of which were those, the answer is no. But, as the Bar Association did not provide an answer, I refer the member to the Law Society's response that will be online.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (2 to 40) and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:02):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

### **MARRIED PERSONS (SEPARATE LEGAL STATUS) BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 31 October 2019.)

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (16:02):** I rise today to speak briefly to the Married Persons (Separate Legal Status) Amendment Bill and indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition on this bill. Labor will be supporting the bill. We were proud to support the Statutes Amendment (Legalisation of Same Sex Marriage Consequential Amendments) Bill a few moments ago and we are equally proud to support this bill.

This is the second tranche of legislation required, both as a result of the legalisation of same-sex marriage, of the achievement of marriage equality, and also following the work undertaken by the South Australian Law Reform Institute to audit instances of gender discrimination in South Australian legislation. As mentioned, the first tranche of legislation was the Statutes Amendment (Legalisation of Same Sex Marriage Consequential Amendments) Bill 2019, which was introduced into the house by the Attorney-General on 17 October 2019 and with which we have just dealt.

In broad terms, this Married Persons (Separate Legal Status) Bill 2019 deletes the outdated provisions in the Law of Property Act 1936, rightly modernising them in broad, gender-neutral terms and transferring them to create a standalone act that expresses that married persons are separate legally and equal to non-married persons in terms of their legal capacity.

This modernisation speaks to the steps that we continue to take towards gender equality and, indeed, towards equality in all aspects of life. For example, the clause provisions in the Law of Property Act 1936, which outlined that a husband is not liable for his wife's debts, is being repealed and modernised into a new gender-neutral provision in this Married Persons (Separate Legal Status) Bill that says a married person is not liable for the debts of their spouse before marriage.

As the Attorney-General mentioned in her second reading explanation, two other jurisdictions already have comparable acts: the Married Persons (Equality of Status) Act 1996 operates in New South Wales and the Married Persons (Equality of Status) Act 1989 operates in the Northern

Territory. So we are not doing anything new or controversial here, but we are doing something very important because legislating equal status, advancing towards equality, is important and always and absolutely the right thing to do.

Labor has been advised that consultation on the bill occurred with the heads of jurisdiction, the Law Society and Bar Association, as well as with the Crown Solicitor's Office and the Registrar-General. We have also been advised, pleasingly, that feedback from the consultation was supportive and that no changes were needed to be made to the bill. In closing, I once again indicate Labor's support of the bill and commend it to the house.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:05):** I indicate my appreciation to the opposition for an indication of their support. In the year that we celebrate 125 years of women having the right to vote and also, historically, in this parliament having had the right to stand for parliament, it is particularly important that I make some mention of the significance of what we are doing in this legislation.

Unlike the previous bill, as important as it was in changing the descriptor of persons, this bill actually rids, for all purposes, the circumstance where to be married changed a woman's status in many different ways. It is certainly the case that the women of this colony 125 years ago were in a circumstance where if they were single they were under the control of their father, particularly in relation to property matters, and if they married they were under the control of their husband. This may seem shockingly inappropriate for today's young women, but that was the reality 125 years ago.

Whilst South Australia has been pioneering in many areas of reform in respect of women, not just the right to vote and the right to stand for parliament but, as is reflected in the tapestries here in this chamber, we were pioneering in 1949 in giving women rights in respect of the guardianship of infants—this was, again, quite historical legislation—and the legislation to allow for arbitration processes in relation to industrial matters. These were pioneering pieces of reform because women were inextricably restricted in their own rights, and we ought not forget that, especially in this year.

So, to have a clause that specifically now says that married persons have a separate legal status to one another in all circumstances—that is, to give them a legal capacity as if they were not married—is quite monumental, and we need to appreciate the significance of that. For all purposes, it provides that married persons are entitled to criminal and civil redress in respect of property. Furthermore, a married person has no authority to act as agent for a spouse. Also importantly, it provides for a married person not being liable for the debts incurred by their spouse prior to entering into their marriage.

Finally, it provides that, where a married person provides money to their spouse for the purpose of paying joint household expenses, anything purchased with that money or any money not spent will be taken to be the joint property of the person and the person's spouse, unless an agreement between the person and spouse states otherwise. These are golden rules of equality and golden rules of recognition. In this legislation, we are making sure that we protect that.

It is important that the institution of marriage—now in a broader definition by its application under the federal Marriage Act—is a status acquired by the parties at their behest. That is, they want to be recognised as a couple under the Marriage Act and they want that status to be recognised for the purposes of the public to respect that relationship. That is important to them and they voluntarily enter into that for that purpose.

I went to a wedding recently—in fact, it involved a family member of the Minister for Primary Industries—and it was interesting to hear the changes in the reading of the obligations in relation to compliance with the Marriage Act and the definition of 'marriage'. It was the first time I had actually heard this read out at a marriage ceremony since the passage of the commonwealth legislation, which now reflects the modern definition.

Having moved from 'the union between a man and a woman voluntarily entered into for life', it is now, of course 'two persons' with the similar descriptor. It brought a smile to my face to think of the contemporary advance we have made in this regard. I also place on the record that it was due to the significant event in the commonwealth parliament, under prime minister Turnbull, that we have made this advance.

It is fair to say that South Australia has had quite a significant number of same-sex marriages recognised since that time. We have, of course, recently passed surrogacy laws that allow for the safe and reliable application of surrogacy rules for all couples, including same-sex couples, and individuals. I think we are passing momentous legislation here today. Our children, whether they are boys or girls, or whether they change their gender during their lifetime and gain legal recognition, will be treated equally and, as far as the law is concerned, will not be diminished within marriage.

I again thank the opposition for their indication of support. I note that the opposition have acknowledged consultation on this matter, but I am happy to follow up any other issues in committee, should there be any.

Bill read a second time.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:13):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

*Personal Explanation*

**MCGOWAN, DR C.**

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (16:14):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**Mr PICTON:** In my grievance debate today, I said, 'they have denied an ICAC investigation into this matter'. Instead of 'matter', I meant to say 'department'.

*Bills*

**LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (FOREIGN LAWYERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 14 November 2019.)

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (16:14):** I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition on this bill. I rise to speak briefly to the Legal Practitioners (Foreign Lawyers) Amendment Bill 2019. I have to indicate that Labor will be reserving our position on the bill until it reaches the other place. We are minded to support the legislation, but we will be conducting further consultation on the bill. Our support will be subject to the outcome of that consultation.

The intention of this bill is to create a regulatory regime for foreign lawyers practising foreign law in South Australia. We have not been able to identify exactly how many such foreign lawyers are practising foreign law in South Australia or, indeed, whether there are any at all who are doing that work in South Australia. Hence, we do wonder why this legislation is needed and whether it is merely a matter of trying to fill up the relatively slight legislative agenda of the government.

Are there numbers of roaming foreign lawyers providing foreign legal advice on the streets of Adelaide or regional centres that we are not aware of? Are they acting without care or principle? Or possibly more seriously, are they causing havoc in the community? The bill seems like a bureaucratic fix to a problem we may not have. It feels like the sort of bill you introduce when you have run out of ideas and are looking for the filler to get to the end of the year and soak up a bit of parliamentary time.

We had a briefing from the Attorney-General's Department. They were unable to answer a number of questions that we had in that briefing session. The questions included what the rationale was behind the push to regulate foreign lawyers, which is a pretty essential question really; what the application fee for registration as a foreign lawyer would be; and under what circumstances would the Law Society exempt a foreign lawyer from provisions under this bill.

A meeting has been sought with the Law Society to clarify these and other matters. We understand from the word from the Attorney-General's office and her department that the Law Society is supportive of this and received some correspondence to date on that. However, we are of the understanding that previously the Law Society was against going down this road and against this sort of regulation when legislation was previously discussed in both houses of parliament in regard to the registration of lawyers. I think, therefore, a responsible opposition would go through the process of trying to find out the rationale behind that.

The bill also makes amendments relating to trustee companies. As the Attorney-General outlined in her second reading, an issue has been identified that means that trustee companies are regulated under both the Legal Practitioners Act 1981 and the commonwealth Corporations Act. These amendments remove trustee companies from the Legal Practitioners Act 1981 so that they are only regulated under the commonwealth act.

We sought assurances, which we were provided in our briefing, that this would ensure that there would be no gap in terms of the regulation of these practitioners or these workers and that they would definitely fall under the regulations of the Corporations Act. In fact, the advice that we have been provided is that these provisions may already be overruled under the constitution by the commonwealth covering the field in relation to the Corporations Act.

The government has filed a late amendment, unfortunately. Unfortunately, this is par for the course regarding how this government has conducted its business in this house—late amendments, incomplete briefings, the usual mess that we have become accustomed to. I am advised that the effect of the amendment is to allow the Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner to claim the costs of costs assessment in an overcharging complaint from the legal practitioner who is the subject of the complaint in cases where the complaint is upheld.

We are consulting on this amendment. This is not something that we had a prior copy of until it was given to us. There was some mention that something would be coming, but it was given to us very late. Therefore, we need to consult on it. We need to go through our caucus and shadow cabinet consideration of it and, therefore, we will have to as well defer our consideration of that until the other place.

With those words, I again indicate that Labor will be reserving our position on the bill. We are inclined to support it; however, that will be subject to the ongoing consultation we will be conducting in the coming days and weeks in relation to this bill.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (16:20):** I thank the member for Kaurua for indicating his position on this matter on behalf of the opposition. Whilst he gives an indication that they will be supportive and that they will be reserving their position on the matter on the basis that they seek to undertake further consultation, it is concerning to note the assertion that the government has failed to provide information on this matter.

Perhaps in committee the member might like to identify areas in which there has been a failure to provide that information, and we will certainly attempt to close the gap on any matters about which he feels there has been either no or inadequate information provided. If it is a new request, then of course we may need to take it on notice. I urge the member to have a good look at what the Law Society has said about this matter. He asserts that on his understanding the Law Society had previously opposed such a move.

I think what is clear from the Law Society's submission is that not only are they supportive of it but they outline the reasons why it is appropriate and important that we bring to account, and bring within the tent, persons who are practising as lawyers—even if it is of a foreign legal system—here in South Australia to ensure that there is compliance with the standard and protection afforded to the consumers, who of course are South Australians.

In the consultations that have taken place, again I have indicated to the parliament on previous occasions that, whilst there has been a practice of not disclosing correspondence or submissions received from in-house parties—that is, government and/or related stakeholders—I have been pleased to receive not only an indication of support but, importantly, a list of helpful recommendations from the Chief Justice to ensure that our regulatory regime is as best as it can be

to enable that to be implemented. To the best of my knowledge, those recommendations have been incorporated in our consideration of the final draft which came to the parliament.

I place on record my appreciation to both the Law Society and the Chief Justice. The reason I particularly identify those two is not only because of their standing but because those two parties are the most significant in relation to the approval, admission and removal of legal practitioners in the state, together with all the regulatory obligations on a legal practitioner while they are in practice to comply under the supervision of the Law Society of South Australia.

The Supreme Court of South Australia and the Law Society of South Australia are the two groups in charge of ensuring that lawyers have a ticket to practise, that they are removed if they are not up to standard and that they comply with a regulatory regime that is designed to protect the consumer clients and maintain a status in the community of the profession generally to ensure that their advice is reliably given and of benefit to their clients. It is pleasing to have received that.

Can I just add one other matter, which I think is important, to be clear in this debate. South Australia is about to embark on one of its most significant eras of economic reform. I have no doubt about that because as a state we already are the beneficiaries of the opportunity to have the largest defence contract in history to undertake work for the commonwealth government. That contract has already been negotiated in respect of overseas parties in this venture. Many have heard of the Naval Group, a French consortium, that is very much a part of the ambitious contracts that we are about to fill as a state. The opportunity is enormous.

There are also significant British companies, for example. I will use one example, namely, the building of the submarines under the Australian Submarine Corporation, as they were then known, I think nearly 25 or 30 years ago now. I remember that Mr Hans Ohff from Germany was the head of the corporation that was very much involved in the design and early production to fulfil the contract. As complex and as huge as it seemed to be at the time, we now have a situation that makes that contract look like just a minor part of our history in relation to defence contracts.

In fact, I had the pleasure on the weekend of flying over Osborne to see the big new sheds being constructed with a view to developing these contracts. Having this opportunity in the new regime of work to be undertaken is extremely exciting. Part of that means that, if we are going to join with other international companies that are based in other countries and have all the complexity that goes with the implementation of those contracts, one of the things we need to do is have the legal world sit side by side to work on these projects—whether it be subcontractors, whether it be the government, whether it be other parties who are involved in this area—and make sure that the parties are able to do that immediately.

It is one thing to have them sitting on the other side of the world. It is another thing to be able to bring them here and say, 'Well, we want you to work side by side here in Adelaide with our legal teams to make sure that we have immediate understanding and transfer of information about what is going on so that everyone understands what the issues are, so that as the tasks come in, as the questions arise, as the challenges are raised, we can immediately deal with them.'

It can be done electronically. One can of course send emails to Paris, and it can be done with videoconferencing, etc., but we want to have a highly responsive, 21<sup>st</sup> century legal capacity in dealing with these contracts. That is just one. I think it is fair to say that even the opposition, those who have been in government, would appreciate that in so many other areas of our working operations now we are dealing with international companies.

Water, for example, really for the last 30 or 40 years has been very much undertaken by, again, French, English and other international companies that have been contracted by many governments around the country to clean, plumb and maintain water supply in urban areas. This has just been transformational, and we need to continue to maintain a high standard. It is going to continue to mean interaction with technology advancement and innovation from those other countries that are world leaders in this area, and we need to be ahead of the game. Our new state government wants to make sure that we are able to provide all the legal and other services that go with it.

The question of other disciplines, how we might introduce a 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to the provision of economic advice and accounting advice and whether we have multidisciplinary capacity in our state are all questions we need to ask. Why? Because that is what is required for a 21<sup>st</sup> century



commercial operation. We need to be able to have competent, responsive, comprehensive advice in all manner of areas, and the days of being able to just move along at a snail's pace and get a report on this and then get another report on that are just not competitive anymore.

We need to get up to strength. Other states have done this. This is not some unique push by having a regulation regime being proposed for foreign lawyers operating in our midst. Other states have already done this, and we need to be up to speed. It is the intention of this government that we must prepare in every way a skilled workforce for future opportunities for our children, with competent resource and infrastructure to support these ventures to ensure not only that they continue but also that we sign them up again and again and create an ongoing pipeline of work for the future.

Cybersecurity and space are whole new areas. In fact, at the end of this week I will be signing with other attorneys-general around the country an intergovernmental agreement to deal with the maritime position of our laws, which accommodate, as best I can see at this stage, a change of boundary in relation to the Timor-Leste position of its boundaries, and that relates to some gas agreements, etc., and the laws that are to apply within these jurisdictions.

That whole issue of if you are in certain waters whose jurisdiction you are in is important at an international level. It is important that we have an understanding at a national level about how that applies, and we are all signing to it. It made me think of the significance of what we need to do when it comes to the jurisdictional question of where a crime is committed and who should make the decision on it if it occurs on a space station in our atmosphere.

People already live out there. They live out there for six months at a time and crime is committed. It is just one other area we have to keep thinking about how we are going to address and how we are going to accommodate the challenges of today. However, there are more coming, and we cannot just sit here with our head in the sand in South Australia and coast along as we have and think that everything is going to be rosy. It is not. We do need to address these issues, and I for one am proud to be part of a government that is prepared to do that.

I should say that at this point I suppose I am optimistic that the opposition will see the benefit of South Australia being able to be part of this structure that other states enjoy within the national structure. We, too, want to participate in that, and we understand the significance of making sure that if other legal people from around the world are here we need to make sure they are in a position of being scrutinised—not in exactly the same way as lawyers are in South Australia; it is a slightly different set of circumstances—that they are up to a certain standard, that there is a capacity to deal with them if they fail South Australians and that some action can be taken.

That is why it is important that we do this, and it is important that we do it before we have a legacy of failings in this area. There will be a local registration proposal under this scheme, and I am happy to go into the details of that in committee. Otherwise, I seek that the bill be now put to be read a second time.

Bill read second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clause 1.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I move:

Amendment No 1 [AG-1]—

Page 3, line 4—After '*Foreign Lawyers*' insert:

and Other Matters

This is an amendment to the short title of the bill. Parliamentary counsel advised that, as there are several miscellaneous amendments included in this bill alongside the foreign lawyer provisions, the short title should be amended to better reflect the contents of the bill. Unlike our three-day debate on clause 1 on the land tax bill, where there had been the scripture of miscellaneous, you will note that I am not seeking to add in the word 'miscellaneous'. I use 'miscellaneous' in a general way to say

that these are other smaller matters and not things that need to be treated at the same status as the basis upon which you would have 'miscellaneous' in the title. I hope that is clear.

**Mr PICTON:** I was not going to comment but, now provoked, I will. I am happy to support this. I know a lot more now about the naming conventions of bills than I used to. It is interesting that this now is not referred to as a 'miscellaneous' bill, but it covers a whole range of things, but is other things as well as the main thing it is. Dare I say it, that would have been a more appropriate way of dealing with another bill we have debated recently.

Amendment carried.

**Mr PICTON:** Can the Attorney-General give the house a thorough and accurate description of the views of the Supreme Court Chief Justice in relation to this legislation and any recommendations he gave in relation to this legislation.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I would hope that I always give an accurate response to any request to identify what a stakeholder had said. Whilst I do not propose to breach the convention by making provision of the material from the Chief Justice, I would like to indicate that there are a couple of areas where, in his submission back in January 2019, when he had the draft, he took the view that some change needed to be made, which change was not adopted.

I will identify those three items. One was that, in relation to the summary procedure for the delivery up of papers held by foreign lawyers, he said:

First, I accept that there are sound reasons for enacting a summary procedure for the delivery up of papers held by foreign lawyers who provide services to South Australian residents. I therefore see no reason not to extend the reach of section 39 of the LP Act [Legal Practitioners Act] to foreign lawyers.

On the other hand I see no point in extending s 40 of the LP Act which empowers the Court to authorise local legal practitioners to act for clients of unsound mind to foreign lawyers. The very premise of the registration of foreign lawyers is that they are not practicing Australian law. It follows that a foreign lawyer cannot affect his or her client's rights under Australian law. Whether or not a foreign lawyer can act effectively for a client of unsound mind, in accordance with the law of another place, is a matter for the law of that place.

On the advice that we received, it was appropriate to extend section 40 of the LP Act to deal with that matter. Secondly, he says:

I see some difficulty in extending s 50 of the LP Act to Australian-registered foreign lawyers. Whether or not the personal representative is entitled, as a matter of the law of the foreign jurisdiction to conduct the foreign legal practice may be a difficult question. There may be a conflict between an order the Court might make under s 50 of the LP Act and the law of the foreign jurisdiction.

In that case, we did agree and that was taken out, so that was a matter of agreement. In the second matter, we had not agreed. He says:

Item 14 of the proposed Schedule 1A addresses professional indemnity insurance. It seems to me to be totally unsatisfactory. The \$1.5m is presumably based on membership of a Professional Standards Scheme. I understand that there is no current appropriate approved scheme. Further, there is no obvious consequence for non-compliance—or remedy for a client. Whether a foreign lawyer should be able to take out professional indemnity insurance within the legal practitioners' scheme is a matter on which Law Claims and their underwriters should be consulted.

I can say, in relation to that issue, we did consider that matter extensively, took into account all the other states that have a \$1.5 million provision and, to be consistent with those other states, have maintained that position. Those are the two areas in which the Chief Justice provided advice—not the second one that I referred to because, on rereading it, it was only an agreed point. But on those two points, firstly in relation to the application of extending section 40, we think that is valid, and in relation to the provisions for part 14 it was really important on the advice we had to be consistent with the other states in relation to the threshold amount of \$1.5 million.

As I say, we are indebted to both the Law Society of South Australia and the Chief Justice, who are the chief regulators in relation to legal practitioners, if I can put it in that way. There are many other processes to deal with individual defalcation such as Mr May, who is now the Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner. He also provided some helpful advice in amendments to the draft that was given. Others simply made comment as practitioners.

The Legal Service Commission did not have any issue with what was proposed but made the point that they were not really engaged very much with foreign lawyers, other than in child abduction and family law cases, in which I have been involved myself in the past, where we did need to introduce the application of the Hague convention and be able to return Australian children to us where we had reciprocity with other countries and so when dealing with foreign lawyers, dealing with translations of evidence, dealing with marriage certificates, birth certificates—all those things that are in foreign languages that need to be translated into English—we needed the services of legal practitioners in other countries.

Some of these cases are quite easy in other English-speaking countries, such as the United States. I can remember having to take action in relation to a child who had been taken to California. It is easy in a way if it is in the United States or England, for example, but much more complex if it is in a country in which English is not the first language and even more difficult, of course, and not available if they are in a country that is not a signatory to the Hague convention.

We are used to dealing with foreign lawyers in those types of matters, and the Legal Services Commission here indicate to us that that is really the only area in which they touch upon this concerning custody of children. Sometimes it relates to property held overseas on those matters; otherwise, they point out that it is really a matter for the Law Society to determine whether insurance should be held, what scheme they should be in, etc., so that is a matter that they have left to them.

I think apart from the Chief Magistrate, there was no-one else I have already referred to who even responded. I know it is not something you would call a barbecue stopper in relation to what is important to the general population. Probably most of them hope that they never see a lawyer at all, let alone a foreign lawyer; nevertheless, it is important for us in this parliament to ensure that we set a standard and that it is kept.

**Mr PICTON:** I am wondering if the Attorney-General has any estimate of how many foreign lawyers would be captured under this legislation in South Australia.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I think that is part of the problem: we do not have an estimate of who is here. I know of several who are qualified in jurisdictions in other countries but have since sought and obtained qualifications under Australian law to practise Australian law, so they have qualifications in both. There are only a couple I can think of presently. One is a barrister who resides in South Australia and has his chambers in the Inns of Court in London; in fact, I think they are in Keating Chambers, from memory, a name that would be familiar to the opposition. Occasionally, we have that situation.

**Mr Picton:** But he would not be in this.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Yes, he is admitted here already under Australian law and practises here in building disputes or something. In any event, that is the type of situation that we are aware of, but only because they come up against the Australian legal obligations. I have had working with me in practice and at the bar a young practitioner attorney from the United States who wanted to be able to be at the bar here in Australia.

He had to do a year as part of the qualification to be able to practise as an attorney, in his words, but really as a barrister in South Australia. He had to trot around with me for a year, ostensibly learn things and satisfy the Supreme Court that he was able to be admitted for the purpose of doing law here. There are various hybrids of that, but those who simply do other law are hidden from view because they do not fit into our system at all. We do not have any oversight over them; therefore, it will help to redress this if this legislation is passed.

Clause as amended passed.

Clauses 2 to 6 passed.

Clause 7.

**Mr PICTON:** Can the Attorney outline who identified the need for this amendment and what conditions could be imposed?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Clause 7 is incorporated in response to a matter raised by the Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner, Mr May. As I indicated, he had written to indicate a number of helpful additions to this law. This relates to the imposition of conditions on a practising certificate that is then granted to an applicant under this regime, an Australian lawyer. One of the things he raised with us was that at present the imposition of conditions arises out of a determination on whether somebody is a fit and proper person. Presumably, if they are not up to standard, conditions are imposed.

He was of the view that conditions ought to be imposed at the first instance—if I can describe it like that—that is, without making a finding in relation to whether or not they are a fit and proper person. This sets out the refusal, amendment, suspension or cancellation of a practising certificate under the failure to show cause and hence he has recommended this. He points out that this is a bit of a circular situation. You want to make sure there are conditions that apply without having to wait until there is an assessment of whether or not someone is a fit and proper person.

**Mr PICTON:** Just to clarify, my understanding is that this applies to all lawyers, not just foreign lawyers.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** This is one of the 'other matters', which is Australian lawyers.

Clause passed.

Clauses 8 to 12 passed.

Clause 13.

**Mr PICTON:** Can the Attorney outline why the government has made the decision to specify this category of foreign lawyer as requiring Supreme Court approval?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** This provision applies to Australian lawyers and foreign lawyers. The current section 49 already has this regime for Australian lawyers, so when the member views it he will see it proposes to delete subsection (1) and substitute this new provision, which will be for both a legal practitioner, which is us—that is, Australians—or Australia-registered foreign lawyers. It is simply replacing the section that is already there for Australian lawyers and making it applicable for foreign lawyers.

It essentially relates to a circumstance where either an Australian lawyer or an Australian-based foreign lawyer is operating as an incorporated legal practice. Currently, Australian lawyers need to go to the Supreme Court to get permission to continue to practise in a circumstance where they might be being wound up, for example, or they are not supposed to continue to trade. By this amendment, we are saying that that same obligation needs to apply to any Australia-based foreign lawyer. If they do not, then they are subject to the risk of conviction and a penalty of up to \$10,000.

Clause passed.

Clause 14 passed.

New clause 14A.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I move:

Amendment No 2 [AG-1]—

Page 8, after line 24—After clause 14 insert:

14A—Amendment of section 77N—Investigation of allegation of overcharging

Section 77N(10)—after paragraph (b) insert:

and

- (c) the costs of any assessment undertaken by a legal practitioner under subsection (4)(b) for the purposes of investigating the complaint are recoverable from the legal practitioner or former legal practitioner as a debt due to the Commissioner.

This is an amendment that was requested by the Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner at the time the recent Legal Practitioners (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2019 was being debated in this

parliament. There was not an opportunity to include this amendment in that amendment act, so we are taking the opportunity to include it in this bill.

The amendment allows the commissioner to recover the costs of a court assessment undertaken in a successful overcharging complaint from the legal practitioner who is the subject of the complaint. There is already a very similar provision in section 77N to allow the commissioner to recover fees associated with a successful overcharging complaint from a legal practitioner. This amendment extends that liability to the cost assessment, which is not a fee but a disbursement. It is not for work done by the lawyer but for the costs incurred—not the hourly rate, for example, but the photocopying charge, if I can give that as an example. That is its purpose and it is at the request of the commissioner.

New clause inserted.

Clause 15.

**Mr PICTON:** In regard to part 4, proposed clause 20, what form will the application make and what will the fees be?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** The proposal here is:

- (1) An application for grant or renewal of registration as a foreign lawyer must be—
  - (a) made in the approved form; and
  - (b) accompanied by the prescribed fees.

Obviously, no form has been prepared yet because we have not done the regulations to this without presuming what the parliament might decide on the primary act, of course. I think the member is experienced enough in this place to know that there are frequently regulations that follow acts of parliament if they are passed by both houses. Once that has occurred, a set of rules is then promulgated for consideration, and they usually include in that what is to be in a form. It is often made available both electronically and in print so that there can be a universal, consistent set of information in its same format provided for record keeping.

Hopefully, by the time any of this legislation gets through we will have already established the capacity for electronic lodgement of those, which I am hopeful will be available in the civil jurisdiction by early next year and within 12 months in the criminal jurisdiction in our state courts, which will be excellent.

As to the 'accompanied by the prescribed fees', these will be fees that are set not by government but by the Law Society, because they are the regulating body. I am advised that the amount for these cannot exceed the amount of the practising certificate fee. Under proposed clause 20(2), the fees are not to be greater than the maximum fees for a practising certificate. The member might be quite reassured to know that the Law Society cannot just charge whatever it likes in relation to the fees for a practising certificate. In fact, I only learned once I became Attorney-General that I actually have to approve the Law Society changing the practising certificate.

**Mr Picton:** Was there something you didn't know? I am shocked.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Absolutely. I remember a memo coming to me to ask me to approve or not a request by the Law Society to increase practising certificate fees. I thought, 'Why am I doing this?' They said, 'Because under the statute you actually have to approve it.' There you go. I am sure you are reassured by that. This is a restriction that the prescribed fee for an application cannot be higher than the practising fee, but they do not set the practising certificate fees without the Attorney-General's approval, so there is a watchdog on that—that is me.

I have been pretty strict about this so far. I must say that in 18 months I have only been asked to do it once, and I have approved an increase—not as much as the Law Society wanted, I might say, but nevertheless an increase on the advice that I had received. I hope that covers the matter for the member.

**Mr PICTON:** I have another question in relation to part 11, proposed clause 51. Under what circumstances and for what reason would the Law Society exempt a foreign lawyer from compliance?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** The response, I am advised, is that this exemption capacity—that is, for the society to be able to exempt an Australian registered foreign lawyer or a class of them from being exempt—is in the model bill provisions. It has not been introduced as something that anticipates that there would be a particular class or person who might be deserved of exemption. However, in the model bill provisions, which of course apply in other states, this is just a capacity to be able to make that call.

Obviously we do not yet have it in South Australia, but I am advised—I do not personally know of any examples whereby there has been an exemption. I would hazard a guess that it might apply in a situation where a company—say, Naval Group—were to sponsor French lawyers to come to Australia and they would provide an underwriting in relation to any advice, that would obviate the need for them to be in the scheme. In other words, if Naval Group would be taking responsibility for being self-insured, I suppose, like big companies do, then that may be a possibility. I am really just hazarding a guess.

To ensure that it covers a contingency, I think this has been seen to be beneficial in the model bill; therefore, it may apply there. There may also be a situation where an individual says, 'Well, I will place funds in an account to cover any liability,' that satisfies the society and they are not required to be part of an insurance fund.

We do not always know about the terms and conditions of the insurance obligations that lawyers would have in their country of origin. If there was any restriction on them being insured by other parties, or an obligation to first claim to other parties, there may be some complication. In essence, it is there to, I suppose, be a pressure cooker valve to deal with any unforeseen circumstances like that.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (16 to 18) passed.

New schedule 1.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I move:

Amendment No 3 [AG-1]—

Page 33, after line 31—After clause 18 insert:

Schedule 1—Transitional provision

1—Transitional provision

Section 77N of the *Legal Practitioners Act 1981* as amended by this Act applies in relation to a complaint of overcharging received by the Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner after the commencement of the amendment irrespective of whether the final bill to which the complaint relates was delivered to the client before or after that commencement.

This amendment provides for a transitional provision for the amendment to section 77N. We have employed the same policy as the previous Legal Practitioners (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2019, which also amended section 77N, and applied the new provision to all new complaints received after the section commences, irrespective of whether the final bill was received by the client before or after the commencement of the section.

New schedule inserted.

Title passed.

Bill reported with amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (17:10):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

*Motions***BUSHFIRES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. S.S. Marshall (resumed on motion).

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (17:11):** I will not speak for long. I think most members who have spoken to this motion have probably covered the ground quite well. The only comment I would like to add is my personal thanks on behalf of my electorate to the CFS volunteers, SES volunteers and the staff of those two organisations who worked very hard to bring the fire under control and also to an end.

I would also like to acknowledge the important contribution made by farmers in the district through the use of their fire farm units. In fact, the great job that the farmers did with their fire farm units, which contained the fire in many cases, was specifically mentioned on a number of the news reports I heard. They were really the first responders in most cases.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution that the Metropolitan Fire Service make, in terms of supporting their volunteers and the work that they do and in backing up other areas when CFS appliances have gone to the fire itself. They keep peri-urban areas safe particularly, while CFS brigades have moved either interstate or intrastate.

Organisations such as the Red Cross make an important contribution to the wellbeing of these communities, as do other community organisations and service clubs that often provide a lot of support for firefighters, in terms of providing food and other support in those areas. I think it has been mentioned already—and certainly it has been mentioned on the radio—but I would like to acknowledge the contribution that small business and businesspeople have made by allowing their staff and workers to volunteer, because it does disrupt their businesses.

Lastly, I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by local government. I had the opportunity to talk to the Mayor of Yorke Peninsula Council to get a view of what happened on the peninsula, what contribution local government made and also to inquire about any damage to public infrastructure, because with some fires the cost to local communities through local government is quite enormous, in terms of damage done to public infrastructure. It is not the case in this situation, as the mayor mentioned to me. I would also like to acknowledge the mayor and his council and the contribution they have made to the wellbeing of that community.

One of the things I learnt from the Pinery fires of some years back was that, horrific as fire and other disasters are, it is often the post-fire or post-disaster recovery and the contribution we make to that that is just as important. One thing I found in the Pinery fire, which at that time was part of my electorate, was that the damage done to the psychological wellbeing of people in those communities was quite profound. Some people recover quite quickly and some people do not.

I recall going to some forums that had a psychologist. He was a Tasmanian psychologist who was experienced in the area of disaster and trauma. He came along to talk to various groups and individuals. The contribution he made was quite important at the time. He said there is no right time for people to recover from a disaster—in this case, from fire. Everybody deals with that grief and that process differently and so you should not let people tell you that you should be over it by a certain time.

Secondly, the loss is not always obvious. We often look at loss in terms of physical things, but often there is loss of memories. For example, if a house is burnt down, it is the loss of photographs, loss of lived experience with their families and all those experiences that come with that home, which is quite traumatic. Somebody might lose a shed, but that shed may contain some furniture or artefacts which are actually very important to the person and which we do not know about. Anyone from the outside might say that it is only a shed and can be replaced, but what you do not replace are those memories and feelings associated with that shed, which can be quite profound, particularly if it was the furniture of a family member who had passed away, for example.

The message I am trying to get across here is that we have to be very careful as a community not to forget about the people who actually suffered from these losses. Do not assume that one year

later we should say, 'You should be over it by now,' because all of us experience loss in a different way.

The other point he made, which was very important, was that the greatest way to help individual people recover from disaster is not to drag in experts to do the work but to get local people to talk to each other and support each other. He said that lived experience, that shared experience, is much more beneficial to individuals, and they also trust that more than actually flying in a whole range of experts to talk about it.

The experts are useful in terms of providing advice, but in terms of the recovery process—and I certainly found this with the Pinery fires, particularly with men—holding some barbecues with men and talking through it was actually much more beneficial. When men actually talked about their shared war stories or shared experiences with other men in the community, it was much more beneficial than trying to get other health professionals—as important as they are—into the scheme. I think that is very important advice.

Again, I would like to thank all those CFS brigades and all those volunteers who made an excellent contribution to the motion on that fire. I would also like to acknowledge my local brigades. My local brigades help keep our community safe every day. I now have only one brigade in my electorate as a result of boundary redistributions over the years, but when I was first elected I had brigades at Dalkeith, Concordia, Roseworthy, Woolsheds-Wasleys, Gawler River, Freeling, Shea-Oak Log and Greenock. I had quite a few dealings with them; less so with some of them now.

Obviously, I continue to have dealings with my local brigade, which is only a kilometre down the road. The Dalkeith CFS brigade is the most important CFS brigade in the state, from my point of view. I have an ongoing relationship with them, but we still work closely with Concordia, Roseworthy, Woolsheds-Wasleys and Freeling, which I support in some ways from time to time. The Concordia CFS brigade often come in to Gawler and do demonstrations, and I work with them as well. With those few comments, I commend the motion to the chamber.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (17:19):** I rise also to support this very important motion and note how dear to my heart and my community's heart this motion is, given our recent experience with fires. Before I became an MP back in 2013, we were unfortunate enough to have a fire at Eden Valley. Known as the Eden Valley fire, it came hot on the heels of the Krondorf fire, which was a much smaller fire but one which potentially foresaw what was to come at Eden Valley. It was a fire that affected huge swathes of Eden Valley, especially across the ridge line between the flats at Sedan and Cambrai and the Eden Valley proper.

I have a number of friends who live in that area who were directly affected by that fire, some losing their vineyard crop for the year. But people also lost livestock and houses and experienced the ensuing difficulties with getting telecommunications back. It was a very eye-opening experience, especially for someone like me who volunteered with BlazeAid to help people fix their fences and saw firsthand the devastation that was wrought and the very personal experiences that people had in grappling with this awful thing called a bushfire.

Unfortunately, for my community, that is not the half of what has happened. In early 2015, we had the Sampson Flat bushfire, which was quite different. Instead of affecting mostly farmland, it affected scrubland and tree-change communities around Kersbrook, and a whole series of communities between there and what is known as Sampson Flat, a place that people probably did not know about until the fire but one that is very much in the hearts and minds of the southern Barossa and people in my community.

After that fire, I helped again with BlazeAid and was able to find out firsthand what was going on in communities, understanding how people were grappling with the recovery process. Sampson Flat was slow; it burnt for over a week and kept moving and changing. I remember speaking to the Kersbrook CFS guys, who had to deal with not just the fire front but also spot fires for weeks and weeks afterwards, as stumps relit and parts of that heavy and dense wooded area that still needed to be put out. It was a huge imposition upon them, and I want to thank them at this juncture for the work they did, not just during the time of the fire but for long afterwards in helping to rebuild their community.



But then we moved on to late 2015 and what in my experience was a fire that will live long in the memories of my community. Every time there is a hot, fast-moving wind, that fire brings back memories for me and for everybody in the western Barossa, as well as across the Adelaide Plains, memories of the Pinery bushfire in late 2015. The fire broke all the models and records for how quick a fire front can move, a fire that blacked out the sky, a fire that saw traffic diverted off the Sturt Highway through the Barossa creating a veritable car park.

What struck me most during that fire, because it all happened in the one day and was finished by 8 or 9 o'clock that night, was driving down the Sturt Highway in the days after and seeing the burnt-out cars on the side of the Sturt Highway wondering what happened to those people. Quite clearly, they were rescued. Unfortunately, two deceased people came to grief further west. I realise what our CFS crews and police did to save those people. But also, where the fire jumped the Sturt Highway heading towards the Barossa, it was only the good efforts of the CFS and a wind change that stopped the fire from creeping into the Barossa proper.

To this day, I hold real fears about what would have happened if that fire had headed further south towards Gomersal Road, a road that was taking diverted traffic from the Sturt Highway and where a fast-moving fire front could have potentially run into a road with hundreds if not thousands of cars on it and the potential devastation that would have caused. But it was stopped, and you can see where it did jump the Sturt Highway in some of those spots where the CFS quite clearly beat it back. I think that day they saved many lives of the people in my community.

What happens after each of these fires, whether it be Eden Valley, Sampson Flat or Pinery, is to see how the community rebuilds afterwards and to see how people come to grips with the terrible psychological damage that happens when something as uncontrollable as a bushfire comes straight towards you and people have to grapple with the fact that they cannot go back to the way the community was before. You need to accept that there is a new normal and a heightened sense of awareness every time there is a hot wind that blows from the north.

It came into stark relief last week with the 42° day and news of not only the Yorketown fire but also the fire out at Beaufort and the fire that erupted on the McEvoy property, some three to five kilometres from where I live in Angaston. I put on the record my thanks to the 19 CFS vehicles that were fighting the fire and put it out in very quick order just east of Angaston. In fact, had those crews not done that and had the wind changed direction and the fire had blown back towards the township, there could and would have been a serious disaster for the outskirts of the Angaston community and the many businesses that were in the way of that fire.

I had the opportunity to talk to a couple of businesses—a horse stud, as well as a large winery out that way—about the steps they put in place to deal with what could have been a fire front coming towards them, stopped only by the good work of many CFS crews, farm fire units, as well as the aerial bombers deployed at the time. On Saturday afternoon, together with the local Greenock CFS crew, I also had the opportunity to open the project to help renew their fire station.

They are in Greenock and they received about \$50,000 or \$60,000 to refit the inside of their existing shed. They were able to do it on the smell of an oily rag and, through their own fundraising, they were able to actually take that bucket of money and expand it. The project is called Project Renew, which comes out of a bucket of money that I am very proud to have pushed for as the shadow minister in opposition to see us deliver that as an election commitment.

To see that roll out and see the good that it has done in my local community is absolutely fantastic. I talked to some of the deputy group officers who were down at Yorketown dealing with that fire front as it headed towards Edithburgh and heard their stories firsthand. I met Mark Jones, the new CFS chief, there for the first time. The discussions, especially between the group officers and the chief fire officer, were all about the job. They were all about what we can learn, what we could have done better and what were the good things about how the crews responded to this fire.

They were all about how they could deal with this menace—the menace that is bushfires. It really stood out to me that nobody was looking for kudos, nobody was looking for a pat on the back or for thanks. It is a job that they enjoy doing because it gives back to their community. They just get on and do it, and this government has been able to say thank you by putting money into the resources

that these guys need to be able to do their job properly. They take great pride in how they look after their CFS stations, and I think that is a huge credit to them.

I must admit that, having worked with the Angaston CFS to try to get part of their car park resealed or seen the outcome of Project Renew at Greenock or some of the work that the Freeling CFS did post the Pinery fire and the way that they were able to harness community awareness to help gather some funds to upgrade some of the tank infrastructure around the Freeling station, whether it be the old brick Nuri CFS station—a CFS station that is extremely busy; in fact, it takes more calls than many of the retained MFS stations that exist around regional South Australia—my community has a great legacy of volunteering and a great legacy of CFS volunteerism that helps to respond in these very difficult situations.

To finish, I just want to mention a quick anecdote. Every year around this time—in fact, it is on Friday night—in my home town of Angaston we have the Angaston Christmas parade. I live in a town of about 2,000 people, and I would estimate that somewhere between 50 and 75 per cent of the town come out for Angaston Town Night. Most of the time, it is extremely hot and uncomfortable, but I think the weather this Friday night might be a little bit better. We have a parade and, ever since I have been elected, the mayor and I have been lucky enough to lead the parade. Every year we dress up in a stupid costume with the kids, and we all walk down. I hope that maybe this year for the first time both my girls will actually walk from one end to the other without falling over or having to be carried.

What I noticed, as part of this parade, is that everyone comes down and there are a lot of businesses that put floats into the parade, lots of different community groups, primary schools that get involved, the kindergarten, after-school care, church groups that get involved— and Santa comes along, normally in some sort of ageing Ford ute, tinny in hand, beard on. However, Father Christmas is not the one who gets the biggest cheer: it is actually the CFS truck that comes after him that gets all the kudos. Again, it is not overt. It is not flamboyant.

The CFS station is part of our community but, in our own little way, as a town we pay tribute to the work that CFS station does as well as all the guys who volunteer there. We do our little bit to say thank you and make them realise that they are appreciated, especially after having lived through Eden Valley, Sampson Flat, Pinery and now this small Angaston fire last week. We are constantly reminded of how important these crews are, and that is why this motion is so important.

We cannot replace those volunteer hours. We should not replace those volunteer hours. Instead, what we should do are things like saying thank you, things that make CFS volunteers realise how appreciated they are, that they are an integral part of our community that helps keep our community together and helps keep our community safe when we most need it.

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (17:31):** I rise very briefly today to wholeheartedly support this motion and to add my deep gratitude, respect for and appreciation of our emergency services personnel, particularly our volunteer CFS firefighters, and the many community organisations and their workers and volunteers for their efforts in protecting Yorke Peninsula communities and in supporting people at such an incredibly difficult and frightening time.

As has been spoken about, brigades from across the state pitched in to fight these fires that threatened lives, homes, properties and livestock. My heart goes out to members of these communities who were confronted with such danger, such catastrophe, such loss. These fires occurred under catastrophic weather conditions, and our volunteers again showed their skill, courage and endurance in protecting our regional communities in dreadful conditions.

In so quickly responding to a call for help and action around the country, emergency services personnel, including the volunteers, also absolutely demonstrated the fine values that characterise all their efforts: generosity, kindness, preparedness to give of themselves to serve others, courage and mateship. The brigades from around the country that came to the assistance of Yorke Peninsula communities put those in trouble first, reached out to those who needed a hand at great risk to themselves, and acted with humanity. I thank all these brigades for responding so quickly and with such a wonderful sense of service.

One of our local southern brigades, the Morphett Vale CFS, also answered the call for help. I have been blessed to have many opportunities to interact and support the wonderful people who

make up the Morphett Vale CFS, and I am constantly inspired by their deep commitment to serving others. Morphett Vale CFS brigade captain Matt Bonser told *The Advertiser* how his brigade had been busy monitoring our southern suburbs before getting a call to attend the unfolding blaze near Edithburgh. Despite having worked all day, the Morphett Vale crew returned to the station and were then dispatched to the fire ground.

Arriving around midnight, the Morphett Vale firefighters would have been an incredibly welcome sight for those hardworking CFS crews already on the ground. They worked tirelessly and selflessly; some, whom I had the pleasure of seeing just last weekend, were getting ready to head off this week to offer yet more support. I very much thank every member of this crew for their enormous hearts, their humanity and their willingness to give to others in distress. Our local community, and indeed our whole state, is enriched by their efforts.

Indeed, thank you to members of all crews and thank you to those other support workers and volunteers in various community and other organisations for what they provide to people experiencing their most difficult moments. Their compassion, their organisation, their willingness to walk alongside people and help rebuild lives in the long months ahead is extraordinary and to be commended.

Finally, I offer my thanks also to the many local community members who just pitched in and helped however they could, providing food, shelter, a listening ear, time, a hand with clean-up and repairs—whatever was required and whatever continues to be required.

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (17:34):** I also rise to thank the Premier for moving this motion. I support it wholeheartedly. My memories of fire go back very much to my youth. My grandfather was the district supervisor for the CFS around the Port Elliot and Goolwa areas. He used to look after the CFS in that region, so much so that I even remember the call sign for the radio. VL5GE was the call sign for the Port Elliot CFS when they used HF radios, which ceased in about 1980. I certainly have a very long memory of the work volunteers did in that community.

My first real memory of a fire in the community was after my parents moved to our farm at Mount Compass in 1976. Apparently, everyone who moved to Mount Compass at that time lit up a paddock to try to clean it. They would do this in the autumn. Every farmer learnt that that was the only time they could ever do it because the way the soils worked at Mount Compass was that they kept burning. They burnt down directly underneath each cow pat in the paddock, and they would burn for a week or two.

Several times during that burn-off, which was only four hectares that mum and dad did, we had to call the CFS to help us when the fire broke the containment lines around what had been lit. Probably the most memorable was the one that happened at about half past nine or 10 o'clock on a Saturday night, which also happened to be the CFS wind-up for the year. They happened to be having a black tie show, so the whole CFS rocked up on the trucks dressed in their black ties to put out our fires. Mum really felt quite embarrassed. She did not want to show her face for weeks because a lot of them ruined their dinner suits as they were fighting the fire at our place.

My next big memory was a 1,000-hectare fire, or thereabouts, that was only five kilometres away from our farm. It was quite scary. It was during the school holidays, and I was in year 7 at the time. Luckily, wind conditions were never going to bring it to our place, but it was burning in some fairly horrible terrain with very steep gullies. It was very hard to control, particularly with the fire assets that were available to crews back then. The volunteers at that time certainly risked their lives. We are talking about fighting fires with knapsacks as well as some trucks, but certainly nowhere near the number or the sophistication we have today.

One example of that was a burn-off fire we had. The truck they left with us to look after the fire was a Ford Blitz truck, with no roof on the cab. It was very accessible backwards and forwards, but that made you very exposed to any fires. That was still being used right through to the 1983 Ash Wednesday fire. That truck was destroyed in those fires. Luckily, the crew on the truck survived, but the truck itself was burnt and destroyed. The crew was very lucky to be rescued by another vehicle. The 1983 Ash Wednesday fires I certainly remember very vividly.

During the first lesson after lunch at St Peter's College I was in the second storey building, room 12A, that looked out over the foothills of Adelaide. Looking out of the window, it looked like the most atrocious fire that you could imagine. It seemed like you were standing right next to it but it was kilometres away. The Hills were a glow of orange in amongst the black and brown dust and smoke that were blowing at the time. It is certainly an image that I will never forget.

I realise the trauma and damage that that sort of fire can do and the difficulties in actually stopping a fire like that. Air support that day would not have helped because it would not have been able to be in the air.

That year, the family of one of the boys who was a year older than me and in year 11 lost their farmhouse at Kalangadoo, down in the South-East, when the fire went through. He did not know about it until the next morning, when communications were able to get the news to him. It was a very difficult time for people.

A farmer close to us at Mount Magnificent, just on the other side of Mount Compass, also had his dairy farm burnt out. He did not lose any of his major infrastructure, but he lost most of his herd not because the fire killed the cows but because it burnt their udders. Once the cows' udders and teats are burnt, they are no good because the teat scars over and the cow can never be milked again, so he lost his whole herd through that.

Fires are very devastating to communities, but they also very much strengthen them, and the CFS in Mount Compass and their shed is an example. Probably 30 or 40 years ago now, they built a new shed and decided that they needed some more land. They did not worry about the fact that it did not fit on the CFS-owned piece of land. The shed that is currently there now is actually three-quarters on community land and only one-quarter on the CFS block, but that is the sort of community reaction: 'Don't worry about the approvals you need for where you actually put it. Just put it where it's logical to put it.'

That is the whole thing about the CFS: let's just actually make it work and let's get what we need. I think it is really impressive the way we have supported the CFS over the years. I was reading a bit of information this morning, looking back into the history of the CFS in my area. Back in the 1950s, it was established around the Middleton and Port Elliot areas and known as the 'emergency fire service' at that time. My grandfather was a member of that EFS, as it started back then, and he was key driver in that community. At that stage, they had no trucks. They started with just knapsacks, and they talked about buying their first knapsacks for the brigade.

A few years later, they decided to buy some tanks that would be on stands, which they could drive their own farm trucks under to set up as firefighting vehicles. It gradually progressed, but it was not until the seventies that they got their first truck, so for 20 years they operated without a truck within the EFS itself, as it was then, and it just gradually evolved over time. I read that even as late as the 1980s and early 1990s they bought a four-wheel drive CFS truck for the first time from the Coonalpyn brigade and shifted it up from the South-East.

We have had many important volunteers. There is one I certainly had the privilege recently of presenting an award to on behalf of the minister, recognising the CFS national medals that people receive. Bob Wyatt has just received his 50-year service medal for the CFS and is still involved to a limited extent even today. It is wonderful that these people have committed so much of their lives to the CFS and to protecting the community.

I was really pleased to see the brigades of Finniss help in the Yorketown fires, as well. We saw the Hindmarsh Valley and Victor Harbor-based trucks head across there to help, and we saw members of the Hindmarsh Valley brigade, as well as members from Port Elliot, head over to New South Wales to help in those fires and in others as well. I very much thank them for the work they have done in those particular fires.

After last Wednesday's fire in Yorketown, on Thursday night I went to the Tatchilla valedictory service, which started at 7.30. I was talking to the principal and he told me that at 3.30pm he was still in Yorketown. He had been over there as a volunteer and he decided he should get back for the speech night and he got himself a ride back to Tatchilla school to make sure that he was there for the speech night. Cain McDonald, as the principal, going over there even though he had a

very important event of his own, thought protecting the community was more important than that, so thank you very much to him for making that effort.

There are many other brigades, likewise, in some of the adjoining areas that have done wonderful jobs. Some of the Yankalilla people in the neighbouring seat, likewise, have gone across there to help. Many members of the CFS from the Fleurieu have gone over to help in these fires and it is always wonderful that we have this great community support to see this happen. Thank you to those people who have helped. Thank you very much to those people who have helped us in the past. We have had three fires on our farm in 40 years. We have probably had about 10 within five kilometres of the farm and every single time those volunteers were out there helping, making sure that they protected people and the assets, etc. of the area.

It is quite daunting. I certainly remember one of the fires coming through. I would have been in about year 8 or 9. It started not long after we had gone down the road, and we got out of the car and looked back and this fire is coming and it is heading straight towards the hay shed. Dad said, 'Get a wet bag, jump in the ute and we will go and save our hay shed.' We were battling, my brother, dad and I, with wet bags. When the CFS arrived they just went straight past us and put it all out and saved the shed. It was very much needed, we thanked them very much and it was well deserved. I would like to finish by saying that they are always there to protect us and we should help them and protect them. So thank you.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (17:47):** I also rise to wholeheartedly welcome this motion from the Premier. It is at times like that which occurred on 20 November that communities are brought together, and it brings this house together as well, because we recognise the work that is done by volunteers. We know that volunteers in many communities provide the fabric of the community, but not all volunteers put themselves in harm's way in the way that our Country Fire Service personnel do, and plus the other emergency services that also assist during days like 20 November.

The fact that on that day there were seven districts with catastrophic fire warnings and 65 fires throughout the state this early in the year is a source of really deep concern. We can all be thankful that there was no loss of life during that day because the risks were huge. But there were losses. People did lose their homes. They lost crops, they lost stock, they lost personal property beyond homes. That is always hard to get over, but communities rally around and provide support at times like that.

I had the privilege of being on the select committee that looked at the fire and emergency services amendment bill, as did the Deputy Speaker. We had the opportunity to go to different parts of our state. One of the focuses was on the CFS and the question about whether powers were delegated to that grassroots level for CFS personnel to stop harvesting. The committee—and I think we will speak about it tomorrow—made a series of what I thought were very sensible recommendations on where that power should lie.

One of the things that select committee brought home to me when we listened to the witnesses—and I guess it was brought home to me because I come from an industrial community that experiences very little in the way of scrub fires or bushfire—was the strength of the grassroots organisation that happens, built on voluntary effort. One of the things that became clear was that communities—farming communities, farmers and others—had in place in most of the state very sensible and increasingly sophisticated approaches to ensuring the protection from and prevention of fires. I look forward to speaking on the select committee findings tomorrow.

I have a number of Country Fire Service units in my electorate. In Whyalla itself, the SES has a very strong presence, and Whyalla has retained fire officers. But Quorn, Hawker, Coober Pedy, Iron Knob, Kimba and Cowell all have their Country Fire Service, which provides, year in year out, a fantastic voluntary contribution. Looking out from Whyalla, the nearest fire we had of any significance, if we do not count looking across the gulf to the Flinders Ranges in terms of as-the-crow-flies distance, would have been when the Mallee went up back in the early 1990s, just south of the Iron Duke iron ore mine.

That was a very significant fire at the time and it took significant voluntary effort to get it under control. No-one was hurt in that, no property was lost, and the Mallee being the Mallee regenerated very well indeed. In other parts of my electorate fire is a constant threat. In the Flinders Ranges,

Quorn and Hawker are incredibly dry at the moment. There are real risks there, and you know that if anything was to happen it will be volunteers who will be there first and foremost.

One area that is not often thought about is the APY lands. Sometimes they have fires in the APY lands that do burn out of control until they essentially extinguish themselves, even though there are people up there who help to fight fires, especially as they come close to communities. One of the issues in the APY lands has been the rapid growth of buffel grass in the area, which burns at a very high temperature, so it represents a real risk in that area.

She probably does not want me to mention this, but the husband of Simonne Reid, who works for me down here in Adelaide, is employed by the Metropolitan Fire Service, and he has just come back this evening from six days of fighting fires in New South Wales. The fires in New South Wales and Queensland have been horrendous. When we talk about those catastrophic fire warnings, they are increasing in size and intensity.

Some fires we have seen burning in areas that have not burnt before. We have seen fires burning in what are essentially wet forests, subtropical forests. A year or two ago, in Tasmania we saw forests that had never burnt in the past. There are indications, but not necessarily the direct cause, of the way the climate is changing. Senior people in the emergency services have flagged time and again that it is changing. That is going to put enormous pressure on volunteers, given the intensity and the extent of these fires, so more resources need to be provided—more heavy duty resources when it comes to appropriate aircraft being provided.

We have had the sharing of resources between different parts of the world, between the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere. We have seen, through this season, the fires in California, as an example, overlapping with the start of what is an early fire season here in Australia. These things are going to get worse. The World Meteorological Organization today put out a press release on the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases, which continue to track upwards. So there is no respite.

We are on track for an increase in average global temperatures of anywhere between 3° or 4° over the coming years, which will have an incredibly profound effect upon the globe that we live on. In countries like Australia, those inexorable trends, coming in on top of our climate variability, are going to have potentially devastating consequences, and we are only in the early days of those changes.

The success or otherwise of what happens with policy at the global level, the national level and the state level when it comes to addressing climate change is ultimately going to have an impact on those people we call upon: those people who volunteer their time and their effort to fight fires. It is going to get worse unless we seriously mitigate on a national level and ensure we have policy on a local level. With those few remarks, I will conclude, except to say well done to all the volunteers. The effort that you put in, year in and year out, and the time that you give to your communities and your state are to be commended.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Pederick.

*Bills*

**HEALTH CARE (HEALTH ACCESS ZONES) (NO 2) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

**CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

**STATUTES AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND  
COMPUTER GAMES) BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 17:59 the house adjourned until Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 10:30.

*Answers to Questions***METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONSE TIMES**

**1488 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (12 November 2019). What is the target response time in the metropolitan area for:

- (a) Grade 1 tasking?
- (b) Grade 2 tasking?
- (c) Grade 3 tasking?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

- (a) 15 minutes.
- (b) 30 minutes.
- (c) There is no measured benchmark for grade 3 events. This type include scheduled events where patrol attendance is not required for up to 8 to 12 hours.

**METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONSE TIMES**

**1489 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (12 November 2019). What was the average response time in the metropolitan area, for each month of the 2017-18 financial year for:

- (a) Grade 1 tasking?
- (b) Grade 2 tasking?
- (c) Grade 3 tasking?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
July 2017	9:05	18:44	28:33
August 2017	7:55	18:37	28:47
September 2017	9:02	18:47	28:35
October 2017	7:19	19:21	29:21
November 2017	10:11	19:28	29:34
December 2017	8:35	19:01	28:04
January 2018	8:30	19:01	28:35
February 2018	8:08	19:39	29:04
March 2018	8:20	19:09	29:36
April 2018	11:36	18:53	28:31
May 2018	8:02	19:19	28:42
June 2018	8:04	19:05	28:54

**METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONSE TIMES**

**1490 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (12 November 2019). What was the average response time in the metropolitan area, for each month of the 2018-19 financial year for:

- (a) Grade 1 tasking?
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- (c) Grade 3 tasking?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
July 2018	8:52	18:00	28:14
August 2018	8:12	18:02	27:51
September 2018	7:43	18:15	28:35
October 2018	8:01	18:23	28:57
November 2018	8:20	18:07	29:48
December 2018	8:04	18:10	28:50
January 2019	8:13	18:22	29:16
February 2019	8:49	18:50	29:57
March 2019	8:57	18:53	29:37
April 2019	8:03	18:52	28:51



	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
May 2019	9:03	18:39	29:18
June 2019	7:57	18:26	29:08

#### METROPOLITAN EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONSE TIMES

**1491 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (12 November 2019). What was the longest response time in the metropolitan area, for each month of the 2017-18 financial year for:

- (a) Grade 1 tasking?
- (b) Grade 2 tasking?
- (c) Grade 3 tasking?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

Data is sourced from the South Australia Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD) electronic time stamps which record key time data including event creation, dispatch, arrival, and resume from scene. This data is electronically stamped as a result of the patrols using their in-car mobile rugged tablet or by the communications dispatcher entering data via police radio.

There are occasions where the patrol does not update their status due to operational urgency or not advising the dispatcher of their status in real time. Therefore, electronic time stamps do not reflect the true nature of response times.

The only way of providing incontrovertible data in response to 'longest response time' would be for South Australia Police to interrogate tens of thousands of SACAD events manually and individually.

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